

# Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2008

## LAMA Annual Meeting Held Last October

**Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association  
Annual Meeting  
October 12, 2007  
Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge**

President Cliff Theriot called the Business Meeting to order, welcomed attendees and introduced the current officers and board members.

Cliff presented the organization's accomplishments in 2007. Secretary Irene Wainwright and Treasurer Bruce Turner worked on getting the membership list back into shape after interruptions caused by the 2005 hurricanes. The first printed, post-Katrina/Rita newsletter was published. Dr. Elizabeth Dow and the students of LSU SLIS worked on updating the LAMA Directory. Pati Threatt updated and reprinted the LAMA brochure.

LAMA sponsored a session at the Louisiana Historical Association meeting on political papers, presented by members Laura McLemore, Mary Linn Wernet, and Phyllis Kinnison.

LAMA co-sponsored SSA's "Building Digital Collections" workshop at the Louisiana State Archives.

Business Meeting:

I. Officer's Reports:

a. The minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux were reviewed and approved.

b. Vice-President's report: Rose Tarbell  
Rose reported that the 2006 Scholarship recipient was Howard Margot of The Historic new Orleans Collection. Howard used the scholarship to attend the Society of Southwest Archivists' annual meeting.

c. Treasurer's report: Bruce Turner  
Bruce distributed the Treasurer's Report, showing that LAMA's bank balance stood at \$7343.19 as of October 12, 2007. In view of this comfortable balance, Bruce suggested that the the collection of professional titles deposited at the Louisiana State Library for use of LAMA members be updated. Bruce's report also included a breakdown of the membership, indicating that the majority of members currently are from academic libraries. Jean Kiessel moved and Carol Bartels seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted.

d. Secretary's report: Irene Wainwright  
Irene reported that as a result of the confusion post-Katrina/Rita, the board decided to count anyone who paid dues after September 2006 to be paid up for both 2006 and 2007. Dues notices were sent out in April of 2007 to those on the membership list who had not paid dues for 2006. The 2008 dues notice was included in the annual meeting registration packet, getting us back on the normal dues year track.

e. Newsletter Editor's report:  
Editor Phyllis Kinnison was not present, but Cliff reported that the Fall newsletter was nearly done and would be mailed shortly.

(Continued on page 2)

*Inside this issue:*

LAMA Annual Meeting	1-2
News from LAMA Institutions	3-9
Events/Exhibitions	9-10
LAMA Officers	11

## LAMA News (Continued from Page 1)

### 2. Old Business: LAMA Directory

Dr. Elizabeth Dow reported on the progress of the revision of the LAMA Directory. She demonstrated the "Phase I" prototype directory, created by Vermont programmer who has volunteered his services, and asked for comment. The "Phase I" directory includes only the 10-year old data from the original directory. Phase II of the project will include directions on how to update information and maintain it. Members made several suggestions:

- change the name from "LAMA Directory" to something that does not suggest that the directory is limited to LAMA member institutions only
- use the LAMA "pelican" logo rather than the (clever) photo of a llama that the programmer used
- change page colors to cream and brown
- choose a sans-serif, proportional font such as Arial

### 3. New Business:

#### a. Southern Archives Conference (SAC)

SAC will meet March 27-28, 2008 in Nashville.

The program is being developed. Alabama is responsible for the program; Tennessee, for local arrangements; Mississippi, for finances; and Louisiana, for publicity.

#### b. Election of officers

Cliff thanked out-going secretary, Irene Wainwright, and board members Pati Threatt and Melanie Counce for their service.

Rose presented the slate of officers:

- Vice-President/President-Elect: Trish Nugent, Loyola University
- Secretary: Neil Guilbeau, Nicholls State University
- Board: Peggy Carter, Louisiana Tech University
- Board: Doug Harrison, Louisiana State Archives

There being no nominations from the floor, Tara Laver moved that the slate be accepted. Bruce Turner seconded the motion, and the officers and board members were elected by acclamation.

#### c. Additional Discussion:

Laura McLemore proposed that LAMA put together a program on archival resources for each Louisiana Historical Association meeting. She suggested that we pick a theme and ask representatives from three institutions to talk about their holdings. The deadline for 2008 program submissions has passed, but a session could be developed for the next year. Bruce noted that the time slot given to LAMA's 2007 program (Thursday afternoon)

usually draws a smaller audience, since Thursday afternoon programs traditionally target high school teachers rather than academics. It was suggested that the board discuss the possibility of a LAMA session at the next board meeting and consider making the development of a program the duty of one of the officers. Lee Leumas suggested that travel costs for the presenters could be offset in some way by LAMA.

Bruce Turner urged that LAMA members attend the upcoming regional public meetings of the La. Historical Records Advisory Board designed to solicit public input into LHRAB's Strategic Plan.

Laura McLemore reminded members that the 2009 SSA meeting will be held in Shreveport, May 20-23. Tara Laver noted that the 2008 SSA meeting will be held nearby in Houston and urged members to apply for the LAMA or SSA scholarships to attend.

Tara noted that archives are potentially being better represented in state-wide emergency planning since the State Archives has a "seat at the table" with emergency operations planners. Additional information will be provided for the newsletter.

The business meeting adjourned.

-- Respectfully submitted, Irene Wainwright, Secretary

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## Message from the LAMA Treasurer

by Bruce Turner

LAMA has about 66 current dues paying members for 2008 compared to 75 in 2007. Forty eight paid as individuals and 18 are named by organizational members. Forty six of these are renewals and 21 are initial memberships. Twenty six members (about 40%) are employed in academic institutions. Other employment settings are ten in historical societies (15%); seven in government (11%); six in religious archives (9%); six students (9%); 5 retired (8%); two in public libraries; and one each from museums, medical facilities, and a commercial enterprise. Also one is unknown. The Historic New Orleans Collection is the single institution with the largest LAMA membership. 31% of our members come from the Baton Rouge area and 28% from greater New Orleans. Other regions of the state are 12% from north Louisiana; 11% from Acadiana; 8% from Imperial Calcasieu; and 5% from both Central Louisiana and the Lafourche region.

Oh yes, the LAMA treasury is in good shape.

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## LAMA Website

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

## LAMA News (Continued from Page 2)

### LAMA Co-hosts Workshop with LSU's SAA Student Chapter

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) "Basic Electronic Records" workshop will be held April 23, 2008, in the auditorium at the Louisiana State Archives located at 3851 Essen Lane in Baton Rouge, LA. This workshop is being co-sponsored by the Louisiana State University Student Chapter, Louisiana State University, Louisiana State Archives, and the Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association. This workshop gives you the basics. You are introduced to the principles of appraising, accessioning, preserving and providing access to records in digital formats.

#### *Upon completing this workshop you will have:*

- ✦ Identified goals and objectives for addressing electronic records within your own institution's mission

- ✦ Discussed and examined various technical and organizational issues
- Developed a tentative plan for action within your organization

**Who should attend?** This workshop is intended for archivists who have a good understanding of archival principles and techniques, but who need basic training in how to apply those principles to records in electronic form. For additional details or to register, visit [www.archivists.org](http://www.archivists.org) and click on Education. Questions? Contact us at [education@archivists.org](mailto:education@archivists.org) or 1-866-SAA-7858.

*Founded in 1936, the Society of American Archivists is North America's oldest and largest national archival professional association. SAA's mission is to serve the educational and informational needs of more than 5,100 individual and institutional members and to provide leadership to ensure the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value. For more information, visit [www.archivists.org](http://www.archivists.org).*

## News from LAMA Institutions

### The Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies and Archives at Southeastern Louisiana University New Collections and Current Projects

*By Sam Hyde*

The Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies and Archives at Southeastern Louisiana University has recently acquired several new collections detailing specific aspects of Louisiana history. The enhanced Congressman John R. Rarick Collection is now available to researchers. The collection includes highlights from Mr. Rarick's service in Congress as well as notes on critical international events during the period 1960-1990, Masonic records, and numerous items highlighting regional history and politics.

The Judge Leon Ford Collection is now catalogued and also available for public perusal. The Ford Collection includes an immense railroad section with special emphasis on regional railroads as well as significant information on the timber industry in southeast Louisiana and regional and statewide politics.

The recently acquired Donald Sharp Collection includes meticulous records on the colonial period in the Florida Parishes with a special emphasis on St. Tammany Parish.

The Center staff are currently shooting their new coastal erosion film funded by an Environmental Protection Agency grant. Copies of past Center produced films including "Reluctant Americans: The West Florida Revolt, Completing

the Louisiana Purchase," and "The Manchac Swamp: Man-made Disaster in Search of Resolution" are now available for purchase to the public.

Episodes of the Center produced cable television program *The Florida Parish Chronicles* will soon be available to the public in package sets through the Southeastern Channel.



**Above:** Illinois Central Locomotive # 1311.



**Left:** Bringing strawberries to Market in Amite Louisiana, 1926.

### Hurricane Rita Bibliography Webpage Created by Frazar Memorial Library

By Paul Drake

McNeese State University's Frazar Memorial Library has created a new resource for scholars interested in Hurricane Rita resources. The Hurricane Rita Bibliography is a webpage listing print and electronic documents pertinent to studying the issues surrounding the catastrophic hurricane and ensuing recovery efforts. The Bibliography covers a wide range of subjects, from environmental science to artistic endeavors.

On the evening of Friday, September 24, 2005 and into the next day, Hurricane Rita ravaged Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas and added to the flooding woes in New Orleans. Hurricane Rita, the third Category 5 hurricane of 2005, was a life-changing event for the people, communities, and natural environment of the area.

The Bibliography features resources available at McNeese State University's Frazar Memorial Library or on the Internet and is divided into four sections: Books and Other Print Resources, Journal and Newspaper Articles, Internet Resources, Media Resources.

Because Hurricane Rita is a rapidly developing field of interest, the Bibliography is a preliminary compilation. As the scholarly community creates more resources, the Library will continue to update the Bibliography. The Bibliography is available from the Library website at <http://library.mcneese.edu/depts/archive/rita.htm>.

For further information, please contact:

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Box 91445  
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### Ochsner Archives on the Move

By Jessica Delgado

The Ochsner Archives is currently working on a moving project which will allow its collection to be housed in the Medical Library at Ochsner Medical Center – New Orleans. A year and a half ago the Archives collection was moved to an off campus storage unit due to space issues. Since that time Archives staff members have been working on finding a suitable home on campus. Due to the Medical Library's growth in the form of branch libraries, particularly at Ochsner Baptist Medical Center, part of the Library's journal collection was able to move

and the Archives collection will now be housed in that area.

Much work has yet to be done in preparation for the collection's return. Nital Sheridan, Library Manager, has been working closely with Associated Office Systems to get the compact shelving layout organized in a manner that will utilize the space for the collection's size and growth. A display exhibit area will also be incorporated into the overall layout, allowing staff members to display significant items from the collection. Once all of the hardware is in place, the collection can finally be moved on the shelves and organized accordingly.

Some of the items in the collection include photographs, annual reports, medical instruments, manuscripts, and oral history interviews. The Archives staff is looking forward to having the collection close at hand once again, and will keep you posted on this important project.

### 2000<sup>th</sup> Digital Image Cataloged

By Pati Threatt

The McNeese Archives recently cataloged its 2,000<sup>th</sup> image for the LOUISiana Digital Library.

The Archives began digitizing its photographs in 2003. The 2,000<sup>th</sup> image depicts a raucous celebration at the Charleston Hotel marking the end of Prohibition on April 13, 1933. Isaac Murrey, a local professional photographer, captured the scene of L.S. Wharton and C.C. Suttle raising their glasses of Jax beer in a toast. Newspaper articles accompanying the photograph feature reporters recounting the joys of eating sandwiches and drinking cold beer in the afternoon.

The original image is part of the Maude Reid Scrapbooks. Miss Reid was the first public health nurse in Calcasieu Parish and established several free clinics for the poor. In addition to her work in public health, Reid served as the unofficial historian of Lake Charles, collecting photographs, postcards, pamphlets, and clippings into scrapbooks. Today her materials give researchers insight into daily life in Lake Charles in the early 1900s. Images like this one help our community understand the history and culture of Southwest Louisiana and illustrate the importance of preserving these images and presenting them to a wider audience.

The digitization project is an on-going project to make the Archives Department's photograph collections available via the Internet. The Digital Library is accessible from the Archives Department website at [library.mcneese.edu/depts/archive](http://library.mcneese.edu/depts/archive).

**For further information, please contact:**

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(continued on page 5)



## News from LAMA Institutions (continued from page 4)

(continued from page 4)



**Above:** Raucous celebration at the Charleston Hotel marking the end of Prohibition on April 13, 1933

### New Assistant Curator of Books Joins LSU Libraries Special Collections Staff

by Phyllis Kinnison

Michael Taylor joined LSU Libraries Special Collections in January 2008 as the new assistant curator of books. Originally from Terre Haute, Indiana, Michael attended Indiana State University where he worked in the library's special collections department as a student. He attended graduate school at Indiana University in Bloomington where they offer a specialization in rare books and manuscripts librarianship. While in Bloomington he got a part-time job as well as an internship at the Lilly Library, one of the largest special collections libraries in the United States. Michael stepped into a full-time position there in 2005 after his supervisor was promoted. He earned his MLS and an MA in history in May 2007.

As a part of his internship, Michael designed an online exhibit of a collection of early cycling books. That project piqued his interest in the subject and he is now building his own collection of books, manuscripts and ephemera related to the early history of the bicycle. Among his other interests are the history of books and manuscripts, language study, and the history of travel and transportation. He also has a background in photography and some of his photographs have been published in the *New York Times*, *Fine Books & Collections Magazine*, and on CBS *Sunday Morning* as part of its program on miniature books.

As assistant curator of books, Michael's duty is to develop the Rare Book and McIlhenny Natural History Collec-

tions as well as the book holdings of the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections. His other duties include promoting special collections materials through exhibitions and presentations and contributing to the Special Collections blog with a monthly column on new acquisitions. Michael's latest entry, regarding his exhibit on the history of the freedom of the press in Louisiana, is available at <http://hill.blogs.lib.lsu.edu/>. His current project is to develop a CONTENTdm database of LSU's medieval manuscript facsimiles. In the future he hopes to design a similar database for LSU's collection of nineteenth-century New Orleans music imprints.



**Left:** Michael Taylor, Assistant Curator of Books, LSU Libraries Special Collections

### SAA Contest Winner

by Phyllis Kinnison

In October 2007, SAA held its first annual "Best Elevator Speech" contest to celebrate American Archives Month. The instructions stated: Imagine yourself on an elevator with a friendly stranger who innocently inquires what you do for a living. You say with enthusiasm, "I'm an archivist!" The stranger gives you "that" blank look and you know she's thinking, "Say what?" Seizing the opportunity to evangelize, and knowing there are precious few seconds left before the elevator arrives at your floor, you eloquently explain your professional calling....Tell SAA – in 30 words or fewer – what you would say in this situation.

The first place winner was Lisa Lewis, associate archivist for the Diocese of Baton Rouge and LSU SLIS alumna. Her winning entry was: Archivists bring the past to the present. They're records collectors and protectors, keepers of memory. They organize unique, historical materials, making them available for current and future research.

Lisa's prize was a complimentary one-year membership to SAA and a \$50 coupon for books.

Lisa graciously agreed to answer some questions for the LAMA Newsletter about her contest experience. Here are the questions and her responses.

(continued on page 6)

*(continued from page 5)*

## **Where did you hear about the contest?**

Ann Boltin, our department head, e-mailed it to me and Katie Tessier with somewhat of a challenge that went something like this: "see if you girls can write an elevator speech." So, I took a few minutes and gave it a shot. I basically used the ideas from Dr. Elizabeth Dow's basic archives class, so I'd like to give her the credit.

## **How long did it take you to write the speech?**

About 10 minutes. I wrote a quick draft, printed it out, scribbled on it a little, and sent in the edited version. I didn't seriously think I would hear anything else about it.

## **Have you ever had such an experience on an elevator...or anywhere similar?**

Yes, and though I can't specifically remember a significant setting like an elevator, the conversation usually goes something like this: PERSON: "so what do you do?" ME: "I'm an archivist." PERSON: "A What??" And I think, "Well, that's a great opening!"

## **Do you think the archives profession is not well understood by the general public?**

Yes, somewhat. If you say "Archivist" they say "What?" In fact, Chuck Nolan, retiring Archivist for the Archdiocese of New Orleans (who we in Baton Rouge got to know well after they shared offices with us for a year or so after Hurricane Katrina), likes to tell a story about that. A young woman selling insurance to him in his early years with the Archdiocese asked him what he did; he said he was an archivist. She then asked him what kind of arcs he sold. That's pretty misunderstood, I think. But, if you say something like "I work in an archives and we keep old documents and papers" they get that. Some of the solution is just to say it in a way that average people understand. However, some people do think that it would be dusty, boring and dull, but I find the variety of the work we do interesting and rewarding for the most part.

## **Do you think is there a need for the public to be aware of the work we do?**

Yes, and there are opportunities all the time for us to reach out and explain what we do and why it is important. I really like to share the information with anyone who is willing to listen. This heightened awareness will help more significant records to end up in archival facilities, and thus become available for research down the line. I like to keep the emphasis on the future and help people realize that we archive not only so we can research what others have done in the past but also so that future generations can research our contemporaries. Personally, I love the outreach opportunity. Also, many of our repositories have holdings that are vastly unknown to the public. It's important as well as fun to find ways to let people know what we have and inspire them to use available archival materials.

## **Have you done anything in SAA...belonged to committees, attended conferences or workshops, etc.?**

I'm really pretty much an "archives newbie" and have

not yet joined a committee, but I have done some conferences. I first attended the Pre-conference program in Washington DC in 2006, Planning New and Remodeled Archival Facilities, when I sat for the Certification Exam. It was terrible to have to go home after the pre-conference when most others were just arriving, but that's all I could swing at that point. Of course, I was glad I could even go take the test and the pre-conference course. I attended the 2007 Conference in Chicago and plan to be at the 2008 Conference in San Francisco. For local SAA-sponsored workshops, I attended Building Digital Collections in 2007 and I plan to attend Basic Electronic Records coming up soon in 2008.

## **Do you have any SAA goals?**

Yes, I'd like to join a committee, but I need to find a good fit for me.

I stay busy with my duties in the Special Libraries Association. I am the president-elect of our local chapter LaSoMi (Louisiana and Southern Mississippi), so I'm supposed to take over the local chapter presidency in 2009. But, we have not yet found anyone who wants to commit to taking on the newsletter, so I'm continuing that for now. It's an enjoyable task and one where you get all the news and have a lot of contact with regional membership. For 2009, however, I'm only taking on one job or the other.



**Right:** Lisa Lewis, Associate Archivist for the Diocese of Baton Rouge

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## **LSU Libraries offers Enhanced Access to Microfilm Collections**

*By Gina Costello*

Thanks to grant funding from the Louisiana Board of Regents, LSU Libraries Special Collections was able to purchase three new microfilm reader/scanners in 2007. These new digital reader/scanners give Library patrons more flexibility and ease of use by allowing them to save or e-mail scanned images from the microfilm. The Library can now offer the many researchers, genealogists, professors, students, and general public who visit the Special Collections reading room a technology that is currently in use at a select number of large research libraries.

*(continued on page 7)*

## News from LAMA Institutions (continued from page 6)

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LSU Special Collections, which is located in historic Hill Memorial Library, houses thousands of reels of microfilm including reels of over 100 titles of historic and current Louisiana newspapers, manuscript microfilm from the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley collections, University Publications of America (UPA) microfilm collections, and many others. In-house filming of current newspapers and preservation filming of manuscript collections provide a steady flow of new microfilm to the Hill collections.

Microfilm continues to be in demand even in this digital age, and it remains the most acceptable form of preservation in the archives community. Overall microfilm use in the LSU Special Collections library and through interlibrary loan requests have not abated, however patrons, and especially student patrons, often expect to have more options and increased flexibility when viewing microfilm. The advent of more technologically advanced microfilm readers has helped to make microfilm more accessible and patron friendly.

In response to the increasing interest and need for digital access to microfilm, Hill Library purchased a Canon MS-800 and two ST-Imaging ST200 reader/scanners for the reading room. Using one of the three new machines, Special Collections patrons can view microfilm in the reading room where they have the option of saving scanned images from the reel to a USB drive, e-mailing the files to themselves, or printing the images.

The Canon and the two ST200 machines each have customized software that allows the patron to crop and manipulate the images to achieve the best results. These features often help a patron get a better quality image from poor quality microfilm. Patrons also have the option of saving their scans and using image editing software to achieve better results and increased readability.



Above: Researcher using the Canon MS-800.



Above: ST-Imaging ST200 reader/scanner using the Remote Film Access

LSU Special Collections was able to purchase an additional component, the Remote Film Access System, for one of the ST200 machines with the grant money. The remote access capabilities enable patrons who cannot visit the reading room to view film. Utilizing remote desktop software and a unique remote film access system created by ST-Imaging, Inc., Special Collections patrons are now able to view, scan, e-mail, and print from reels of microfilm in the comfort of their homes.

Individuals from around the state and the country who have used this LSU Libraries service are very pleased with the results. Special Collections provides the remote access service for a nominal fee of \$20 per session/reel. A session with one reel is offered from 5:00 p.m.- 9:00 a.m. (central time) Monday through Thursday, which is outside regular business hours to allow for in-house patron use of the machine.

Additional information about the service is available on the Special Collections website: <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special>. Please contact Judy Bolton, Head of Special Collections Public Services ([jbolton@lsu.edu](mailto:jbolton@lsu.edu)) or Gina Costello, Digital Services Librarian ([gcoste1@lsu.edu](mailto:gcoste1@lsu.edu)) if you would like further details about Special Collections' microfilm services for library patrons.

### Related Links:

S-T Imaging, Inc. <http://stimaging.com/> (Louisiana ST200 vendor is C&A Associates, Inc.)

Canon MS Series brochure: [http://www.usa.canon.com/cpr/pdf/Brochures/ifs\\_ms\\_full\\_line\\_brochure\\_011508.pdf](http://www.usa.canon.com/cpr/pdf/Brochures/ifs_ms_full_line_brochure_011508.pdf)

# Join LAMA



### The Challenge of Icons

by Lisa Lewis

The Archives Department is the repository for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge and serves primarily as an institutional archive; however, in recent years some donations have been accepted. Our collection, about 200 linear feet, consists mainly of the historical sacramental registers of our parishes, bishops' papers, photographs and slides, reports and correspondence of parishes. Although a large part of our collection is paper, we also house microfilm, digital media and a fair amount of artifacts. Most of our workload is generated through institutional requests, though genealogists and researchers also use our collection. Although our office participates in historical television programming and occasional exhibits have been put together for presentations, our building currently has no permanent secure space devoted to exhibits.

In August 2006, our Diocese received 21 Russian icons from the estate of Reverend James Kinkead. Father Kinkead traveled extensively in Eastern Europe and was a collector of religious art and artifacts. The icons themselves are pictorial representations of holy figures, saints or scenes taken from the Scriptures. They were not intended as decoration, but were instead revered as holy and sacred objects. The Diocese was pleased to acquire these unique, interesting and potentially valuable items.

The icons were rehoused in archival boxes and wrapped with acid free tissue, but not before being carefully measured, photographed from several angles, described and added to our computerized tracking system.

Education about the history of icons was essential. Our archivists had limited knowledge of religious iconography, so we went on an information-gathering mission. Books from the East Baton Rouge library and its inter-library loan program helped us to obtain more specific information and develop our appreciation for this art form. We searched the web for information, and we located an Atlanta collector whose collection was being exhibited at the New Orleans Museum of Art under the title "Windows of Heaven." We traveled to New Orleans to meet with the museum curator to view the exhibit.

Inspired by the beautiful "Windows of Heaven" display at NOMA, we asked ourselves whether we might also display our collection of icons. Expanding outreach is a dream of our archivists, and this seemed like the perfect opportunity. After all, we didn't accept this donation to keep these icons locked in our vault. We believe they are a very moving and meaningful part of religious history, and we want others to have the opportunity to view them.

The Diocesan administrative building has no secure space for displays at this time. We contacted local museums for names of recommended national and local case-makers to request estimates. A display case proposal was included in our recently-submitted budget, and we hope for approval. Part of

our proposal includes hiring an appraiser and using a professional conservator to clean some of the icons. We want to refrain from restoring them. At least one of them is damaged, with the faces of the saints being partly obliterated. This, however, speaks to the social and political history of Russia at the time and is part of their provenance.

Improving outreach has been one of our long-range goals, and we feel that appropriate and professional exhibits will offer ongoing opportunities to showcase our collection to the community. An update on the progress of our icon display will be provided in the future.



Some of the icons have metal covers called rizas, each custom made as a protector, since touching an icon was an important part of its prayer value. Rizas consist of sheets of metal worked into fashionable decoration with small apertures for the faces, hands and feet which remain visible. A traditional icon is believed to be the physical embodiment of prayer, an important fact to keep in mind when dealing with them.

*(continued on page 9)*



(continued from page 8)



This icon depicting St. George may be the oldest in our collection.

SSA Houston 2008



Magnolias & Megabytes:  
21st century stewardship

## SSA 2008 Annual Meeting Houston, TX May 21-24

## Events/Exhibitions



Above: Logo for SSA 2009 Annual Meeting

## Society of Southwest Archivists Returns to Louisiana in 2009

By Laura McLemore

Society of Southwest Archivists will again enjoy Louisiana hospitality May 20-23 next year on the Red River when Shreveport hosts its annual meeting. The theme for the 2009 meeting will be "Into the Future-Full Steam Ahead." The local arrangements committee already has plans for some great events that range from riverboat tours to ghost hunts to Cane River plantations. In the coming months, be thinking of proposals for the 2009 program, and contact any member of the local arrangements committee with ideas for sessions and workshops you'd like to see offered and for sponsors. Members are Mary Linn Wernet, wernet@nsula.edu; Nita Cole, Nita.Cole@sos.louisiana.gov; Michelle Riggs, mriggs@lsua.edu; Peggy Carter, Peggy@Library.latech.edu; Emily Hyatt, ehyatt@consolidated.net; and Laura McLemore, Laura.McLemore@lsus.edu.

You might want to make plans to extend your stay in Shreveport for a day or two. Mudbug Madness will be going on that weekend, and our hotel will be right in the middle of it all. You may access more information about that event at <http://www.mudbugmadness.com/>.

### LSU Libraries Special Collections Exhibits Lytle's Photographs

"Andrew D. Lytle's Baton Rouge: Photographs, 1863-1910" showcases the life and work of 19<sup>th</sup> century photographer, Andrew D. Lytle. The exhibition opens in Hill Memorial Library on Monday, March 31, and runs through Saturday, June 28, 2008. Curated by Mark E. Martin, the exhibition is based on his newly released book of the same title, published by LSU Press. Martin is a processing archivist in the Photographic Services department of LSU Libraries' Special Collections.

With his roving camera, Lytle captured the city's history in all its facets, from formal portraits of leading citizens to hilarious group shots of amateur theatricals. The Federal occupation of Baton Rouge during the Civil War is chronicled, as well the annual spring Fireman's parade. Lytle photographed the cadets at LSU, as well as inmates of the state penitentiary. The exhibition offers views of the evolving landscape of Louisiana's capital city through more than sixty years. Lytle's photographs are, according to Martin, "the only visual record of that period of the life and times of Baton Rouge and its people."

The exhibition is free and open to the public. The library is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. When classes are in session, the library is open Tuesday evenings until 8 p.m. For more information, visit the Special Collections' Web site at [www.lib.lsu.edu/special](http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special).



Above: A. D. Lytle, Sr., 1857-1917

### LE COMITÉ DES ARCHIVES DE LA LOUISIANE

By Judy Riffel

Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane will hold its annual membership meeting on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge. Following a short business meeting, Robert de Berardinis will speak on the Cuban Papers and Judy Riffel will discuss some little-known genealogical collections at the State Archives. The meeting is free to members. Non-members may join at the door.

The organization has recently published a new book, *A Guide to Genealogical Research at the Louisiana State Archives*. Compiled by Judy Riffel, this guide lists and describes the genealogical collections at the State Archives.

The society's 2008 officers are: Damon Veach, President; Louis Altazan, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Karen Ortolano, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Cheryl Forbes Montgomery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President; Doris Falkenheiner, Secretary; and Judy Riffel, Treasurer. Board members at large are: Ann DeVillier Riffel, Margie Luke, and Audrey Nabors Jackson.

For more information, contact Judy Riffel at [rjf-feli@bellsouth.net](mailto:rjf-feli@bellsouth.net) or visit the society's website at: <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/tabid/79/Default.aspx>.

### 72nd Annual Meeting of the SAA to Be Held in San Francisco

The SAA will hold its annual meeting in San Francisco from August 26 to August 30. Pre-conference programs will be held August 24-27 with the exposition occurring August 28-29. The conference will take place in the Hilton San Francisco. Conference rates and further information may be accessed at <http://www.archivists.org/conference/sanfrancisco2008/index.asp>.



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www.louisianaarchivists.org](http://www.louisianaarchivists.org)

## **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. Please send items to Phyllis Kinnison, Louisiana State University, Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. E-mail: [pcasti1@lsu.edu](mailto:pcasti1@lsu.edu).