The Society of Ohio Archivists

The Ohio Archivist

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Lakeland Community College Sponsors Fall Meeting September 30-October 1

"The Lantern," entrance to the Technical Building at Lakeland Community College in Mentor, where the History Department will be co-sponsoring SOA's fall meeting. PHOTO COURTESY LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Society of Ohio Archivists will hold its Fall 1993 meeting on September 30 and October 1 at Lakeland Community College in Mentor (Greater Cleveland), Ohio. Lakeland, through its Community Education Division, is co-sponsoring the event. Workshops, sessions, and tours have been planned to cover a variety of professional and general historical interests.

OSU Archivist Raimund Goerler and Sinclair Community College Records Manager Gillian Hill will present a workshop on "Records Management for Colleges and Universities," while Dr. David Mould of Ohio University will conduct another on "Oral History Interviewing."

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Fall meeting session will address Public Records Law

Just yesterday, as I wrote this, I went out to review the microfilmed Treasurer's tax duplicate of a northeastern Ohio county. The trip became an object lesson in the difficulties and complexities of complying with the Ohio Public Records Law. Despite the best intentions of the county officials and an active microfilming program, the public's records were being mishandled. While the tax duplicate had been well filmed from a technical standpoint, there were two glaring problems. First, the tax duplicate is scheduled for 10-year retention in the Ohio County Records Manual. Second, the film made available to the public was the master camera negative. In the meantime, the Auditor's general tax list, the source document for the tax duplicate, scheduled for permanent retention, is now being made available by computer terminal, and no longer printed in hard copy! Essentially, the county was preserving the records in exactly the opposite manner to that scheduled.

Situations such as this underline the importance of the changes to the records law now under discussion in Columbus. Many proposals are winding their way through the governmental process, from bills in the General Assembly to the recommendations of the State Attorney General's Records Task Force. All of them will have impact on those repositories that hold public records. All the more timely then, is the major session of the SOA fall meeting. Archivists, administrators, and legislators involved in these changes will present the most current information on the status of records law. With new compliance provisions and penalties under discussion, it is all the more important to keep up to date.

This fall meeting will also be a new venture, a cooperative conference with our host, Lakeland Community College. Lakeland is scheduling concurrent sessions intended to introduce the profession of archives to its student body as a career choice. Certainly the profession can use the visibility! Our other sessions will look at new uses of our holdings in the media and new areas of social documentation. Communities and movements previously ignored rose to prominence in the '80s; curators shall present their strategies to "include in" these groups. Indeed, Dr. Bruce Conforth of the Rock And Roll Hall of Fame has agreed to a live demonstration at the Lawnfield picnic! Finally, the records management and oral history workshops will present substantive and practical techniques. I hope to see you at the fall meeting. There's much to discuss!

Michael McCormick
SOA President

FALL MEETING from p. 1


"What Is This History Business: Careers in the Historical Profession" addresses the frequently-heard student lament, "I love history, but what can I do besides teach it?" by presenting the experiences of professionals from various kinds of archives and alternative historical professions.

Relating to general and local historical interest, Executive Director of the Lake County Historical Society Joan Kapsch will present a slide lecture on the gentleman farmers, country estates, and economic growth of Lake County. This will be followed by a box lunch at Mooreland Mansion, one of the county's country estates, and a tour of this historic home as it undergoes historical restoration.

Special events include a tour of the Kirtland History Library and Historical Site/Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints and a picnic/reception with a tour of Lawnfield, the home of President James A. Garfield. A Conference Roundup breakfast meeting has also been planned for SOA members to share observations from historical conferences and workshops such as SAA, NAGARA, and MAC.

Brochures will be mailed to SOA members in late August. For additional information contact Dr. Bari Oyler Stith, Geauga County Archivist, 231 Main Street, Chardon, Ohio 44024-1299. Tel: 216/285-2222 ext. 276; FAX: 216/285-9549.

The Clock Tower at its main entrance is the symbol of Lakeland Community College in Mentor, site of the SOA fall meeting.

PHOTO COURTESY LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A new Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, recently appointed by Gov. George Voinovich, has been meeting regularly since the beginning of the year. The eleven-member board, which works closely with the NHPRC, is responsible for encouraging, reviewing, and coordinating records preservation and publication activities in Ohio. The board’s long-range objectives and its priorities for the state’s historical records program are summarized in a policy statement entitled “The Ohio 2003 Draft Plan.” OHRAB members include: Gary Ness, coordinator, Ohio Historical Society; George Parkinson, deputy coordinator, Ohio Historical Society; George Bain, Ohio University; Roland Baumann, Oberlin College; Alice Cornell, University of Cincinnati; Bill Crowley, State Library of Ohio; Jonathan Dembo, Cincinnati Historical Society; John Fleming, National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center; Barbara Floyd, University of Toledo; Dennis Harrison, Case Western Reserve University; and Diana Synadinos, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Additional information and copies of the draft plan may be had by writing the Ohio Historical Society’s Archives/Library Division, 1982 Velma Ave., Columbus, OH 43211 (tel: 614/297-2510).

The Ohio Historical Society and The State Library of Ohio received a $49,000 preservation planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The two-year project undertaken by the endowment will identify preservation needs and systematize preservation planning activities in Ohio. The project staff will coordinate its work with a broadly representative, nine-member planning committee. The results of their combined efforts, which will include town meetings and in-depth interviews with archivists, librarians, and historical agency professionals throughout Ohio, will be reviewed and summarized in the Ohio Model Preservation Action Agenda, a document that will serve as a priority statement for future preservation activities in the state. Committee members include project directors George Parkinson and Bill Crowley, as well as familiar SOA members Barbara Floyd, Clara Ireland, Kermit Pike, and others. For additional information, write the OHS Archives/Library Division, 1982 Velma Ave., Columbus, OH 43211 (tel: 614/297-2510).

The Ohio Historical Society submitted a grant application to NHPRC in behalf of the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) for a two-year planning project designed to distribute “The Ohio 2003 Draft Plan” throughout the state and to afford various historical records constituencies in Ohio an opportunity to review and comment on it. This process will result in the drafting and implementation of a long-term strategic plan for Ohio’s historical records program. Activities of the NHPRC project will be coordinated closely with the NEH-sponsored Ohio Model Preservation Action Agenda project.

In a case involving the State Employment Relations Board and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the Ohio Historical Society is not a public employer with respect to the Ohio collective bargaining law. Writing for the majority in a four-to-three decision released on June 23, Justice Craig Wright held that “the Society is not public; it was neither created by the state nor is it subject to state control.” Wright also held that “in both form and substance the Society is a private corporation” and that its relationship with the state is based on contract.”

George Parkinson reported on the State Attorney General’s Task Force on Records. The Task Force, among other things, discussed House Substitute Bill #111. At printing time this was in subcommittee hearings of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee, which was waiting for the input of the Attorney General, who has yet to make his recommendations in respect to the Task Force’s report. The main thrust of the Task Force was to improve to public’s access to its records, which it made a sincere effort to do. In the particulars, however, it gave rise to some disagreement. No distinction seems to have been made between the offices of origin and the archival custodians of the public record. Archives’ mission is to provide access to records, but they were given little consideration. Repositories will not be able to charge for labor, but only for external factors like subcontracting and equipment. This issue was brought up at the last minute and never satisfactorily discussed by the group as a whole. It seems that if someone decided he/she wanted photocopies of a thousand feet of records, the archives would have to comply, while not charging for labor. There is also a 10-day time limit for replying to requests; a notice will have to be sent if it is not possible to fulfill the request that soon.

Good recommendations were also made. A records commission is to be required in each county, charged to deal with access issues. This should make access even across the state and eliminate problems in counties where users were being sent away or presented with unreasonable demands. It provides a place for people with problems to turn, other than the Ohio Supreme Court or the Attorney General. A good aspect of the compliance provisions is that offices of origin will have to have a regular transfer schedule. Until now, government records repositories had no way to force records transfers or prevent the destruction of whatever records an agency was pleased to get rid of.

The legislature did adopt a measure to revise the definition of the State Archives in Section 149.31 of the Ohio Revised Code. This was long overdue and very welcome.

Greater Cincinnati Library Consortium’s History and Archives Interest Group

The History and Archives Interest Group of the Greater Cincinnati Library Consortium is working on new projects. One is a workshop in November on the organization of postcard collections. Katherine Hamilton-Smith will be the presenter, and the group envisions a published guide to postcard collections held by GCLC institutions. The History and Archives Interest Group was started about four years ago by Charles King, Richard Abel, and our own Kevin Grace. Past projects have included a “pathfinder” to guide people to collections concerning Christopher Columbus, in celebration of the Columbian quincentenary, and a guide to resources in Afro-American history in GCLC institutions. At present, the interest group is part of the Consortium, consisting of 44 or so libraries which pay annual institutional member fees. The meetings are not currently open to the public, but outside individuals can attend workshops for a registration fee. There is not a single executive officer, but “co-conveners” who are elected annually; this year’s co-conveners are Karen Kotsky (University of Cincinnati) and Karen Beiser (Cincinnati Public Library). The next meeting will be held at the Lloyd Library and the Cincinnati Fire Museum.
Why was this archivist spending valuable vacation time in an archives, anyway? Family history can exert an inexorable fascination, and I was in Germany to see what secrets I could wrest from the papers in the Landeshauptarchiv Rheinland-Pfalz in Koblenz, at the confluence of the Rhine and the Moselle. Ohioans may find a user’s description of a large German archives interesting.

The Variety of Archival Collections

How does one go about using the archives in Germany? The first problem, and one of the most baffling, is discovering where the pertinent papers are located. One result of Germany’s very complex political history is that there were many overlapping jurisdictions. One must remember that though people in Germany during, say, the 1830s were living lives as modern as those in England or the U.S., the records were still kept in feudal form. There is no one guide to very specific jurisdictional location information, and one has to read, read, read to find out under which jurisdiction specific people came. These often overlap; there may have been one principal lord over a village, but several people in it may have been under someone else; or the same people were under one lord in one aspect of life and under another for a different one. For example, forestry in a given area may have been under the control of one ruler, while the Leibeigenschaft or servitude of peasants fell under one or more different lords.

The most visible archives are the governmental repositories. Koblenz is actually the site of the national archives itself, the Bundesarchiv. When I first asked the location of the archives, people tried to send me there. The next level of governmental records (corresponding to our state archives) are the Landeshauptarchiv Rheinland-Pfalz. The Landeshauptarchiv Rheinland-Pfalz is located in Koblenz too, and that is the one I wanted—I had unwittingly landed in the center of German archivy. With reunification, the national archives may eventually go to Berlin; but each Land (Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg, etc.) will retain its own state archives. As it has always been, the country is decentralized not only governmentally but archivally.

Bona fide state archives in the modern sense can provide information on individual people after about 1848; but for earlier research one goes first to the church archives. Historically, there have been two established churches, the jurisdiction of each being determined by the allegiance of former ruling families: the Catholic and the Evangelisch. There are some extraterritorial religious archives, but they are in the minority. In the Landeshauptarchiv Rheinland-Pfalz there is a published guide to towns and to which parishes they belonged at various times in history.

Private archives are extremely important, even now, in Germany. The last vestiges of feudalism were formally abolished in 1918, but the more prominent aristocratic and former ruling families retain their own archives, some of them vastly large. In the Hunsrück area I passed the Castle of Gemünden, where the Barons of Salis-Soglio still hold the archives of the Schmidtburg family. A friend in Koblenz knew the dynastic archivist of the House of Sayn-Wittgenstein, though I never did get to meet him. These collections, while private property, are really the basis for the political and economic history of some areas and are thus quite indispensable to any historian working in the region. Some of these noble archives have found their way into government repositories, but never to the extent they have in France; one example is the records of the Barons Solemacher of Burg Namedy (I bought an 18th-century cookbook published by the Koblenz archives, a transcription of a manuscript found in the castle).

Some feudal family archives were so much a part of government that they have been considered state archives for the last hundred years; such are the papers of the County of Sponheim, a collection I used over and over. The Counts died out as a dynasty in 1437, yet the County was a unit of government until the French invaded under Napoleon in 1798!

Using the Archives

Once one finds the archives and gets ensconced as cheaply as possible in some reasonably comfortable nearby pension, it is with a feeling of accomplishment that one crosses the threshold of the archives actually to get to work. The hours of these establishments have improved immensely since the early 1970s, when there was a huge forced halt in the middle of the day while everyone went home to eat an enormous meal and sleep for awhile before returning for a rather short afternoon stint. Now, at least in the larger places, it is possible to skip lunch and work straight through when the going is good.
Some Guidelines for Tracing Family Roots in Rheinland-Pfalz

The pursuit of family history demands a step by step approach, beginning with family tradition and papers and passing on to main and then to supplementary record sources. The most successful way to use records is to consult the main sources first, working backwards in time from the most recent to the most antiquated. Even the most devoted family researcher will not reach back to the 11th century, though many of the earlier records are really late medieval copies of documents that no longer exist. Actual original documents become much more numerous as one moves to the early centuries. Though the volume is still nothing like that of 19th century, the reader must decide which to use first, as one cannot use materials from both at the same time. (The Catholic records are still housed in the diocesan archives in Trier.)

The Protestant church archives (Evangelische Kirchenamt, Archivstelle Koblenz) is fairly small, since the headquarters for the Rhine is in Düsseldorf and this is basically an outpost, with its holdings consisting mainly of church registers full of baptismal, confirmation, marriage death materials. The archivist is familiar with the peculiarities of regional church customs and history. The registers themselves were a big step in standardization in the 17th century, but to a present-day person they look very "unstandard."

The archival materials are not expected to be back on the shelf at the end of the day, and one can have a huge stack of items out all at the same time; it is just not possible to use church civil archives at the same time. If one goes out to lunch, notes, documents, and pencils can be left on the table.

Churchbooks are the easiest records to use, but there is a caveat: the earlier ones (there are a few from the 16th century) are almost impossible to read. Also, one needs to use published transcriptions if available, even after using the originals. The absolute lack of standardization, idiosyncrasies in what is omitted/included, personal abbreviations, peculiar "shorthand," and the quirks of script in different eras and between different people mean that only the person who has read all the entries in a particular parish can rule with authority when there is doubt. For example, in the early Simmern churchbooks, surnames are not noted, but the historian who compiled the Ortsregister of the town can frequently tell the user which family name is meant! Feudal terminology (and this was in use in certain situations until amazingly recent times) can be very quirky and particular to quite a small geographical area. I found references to Röderkorn, a term which did not occur in any of the reference works, including the 18th-century Zedler encyclopedia; even Herr Rosenberg, my supervising archivist, had not seen the term before. I later found out what it was (a tax on clearing forest for farming) because a scholarly archivist of the 1850s had noted it in a finding aid I eventually used!

At the end of the day one takes the items to the reading room desk. There is a special room for storage of items reserved for researchers who are not using them at the moment. The user fills out a reserve slip for each item and leaves the stack at the desk. When they are required, a page can retrieve them.

State Archives

His procedure applies as well to the state or civil archives. These are held in a separate part of the building. Records groups are numbered; actually, many of these are separate collections consisting of the archives of a former principality or ruling family. The holdings of the Landesarchiv reach back to the 11th century, though many of the earlier records are really late medieval copies of documents that no longer exist. Actual original documents become much more numerous as one descends through the centuries, and they mushroom in the 17th century, though the volume is still nothing like that of modern archives. The very oldest documents pertaining to the region are held elsewhere, often being found in the large libraries of ruling families (now inherited by state libraries), the older universities, or some diocesan archives.

The researcher is greatly aided by a truly enormous reference library. The library materials can be reserved in the same way as church records and state archives. The one drawback with the library is that the card catalogue contains very few subject headings, so one needs to know the literature already or get references from somewhere else so that title and author cards suffice. It pays to know the names of writers who concerned themselves with a given area, and
especially the names of local history groups, as they do the major part of local history publishing. In Germany it is imperative to know local history before attempting to track down a family; finding the records is not independent of historical development. This is really the principle of provenance all the way! In the U.S. one can use a state census index to find out what county a family lived in. In Germany (at least before the last couple generations) one must know the latest home of the family and work back from there, taking into consideration the oddities of succession in ruling families and the changes of religious denomination in an area. The "quick reference" section of the library is shelved in the reading room for ready availability, and I found that some time spent in just reading the shelves was well worth it to discover leads that I never would have found through the card catalogue. Also, if one is working on the early 18th century, what could be better when a problem is encountered than looking in one of the reference works published at that time?

Our constant companion in American collections, the photocopy machine, is very much out of sight. In the Koblenz archives, it is purposely made so expensive as to be useless. German archivists actively discourage photocopying. This may have something to do with the fact that so many of their records are very old, and so many are bound into huge volumes. They have photostats and even a photographic service, but also for astronomical fees. Besides the fact that copies are horrendously expensive, to the point that I never even considered getting any made, there is a limit on copying—fifty copies during one's entire stay at the archives! Cameras are absolutely not allowed in the building except to go right into the storage lockers near the front door.

Reference help is incredibly good and is always available (if the archivists are there—see note on working hours below), and pages are always ready to retrieve items. As is the usual practice, a reference archivist took my case and stayed with me until completion of the research, which was a wonderful feature; he knew exactly what I was doing and followed my progress. These archivists are experts in the labyrinthine histories of their particular areas, and they often know others working on a particular topic. The archivist is also a great help in unraveling particular problems with old script, as well as being a good second opinion even when one is reasonably certain; language and script were not very standardized until the 19th century, and local dialects make it even more confusing.

Recipe for "Zimnet Tortten" (cinnamon cakes) from a cookbook (ca. 1772) in the Solemacher Papers, donated to the Landesarchiv Rheinland-Pfalz by the Hohenzollern family in 1988

Other Departments of the Archives

From their products, arrangement and description appeared to be a bit different from those in a large American manuscript repository or archives, and I did not observe the process. In the older archives, record groups are similar to gigantic manuscript collections in that they are not as closely related to each other as those in a modern institution. This is because the vagaries of history have brought together (and broken apart) original runs of documents according to the whim of dynastic fate.

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quite as bad as a xerox copy), but I bought a few.

There is a large publication program, with individual books and pamphlets being organized into series. There were a number of joint publications with other archives and with private organizations. Some items were simultaneously part of two series, possibly reflecting funding. There were series which were compilations of all the known inhabitants of a place, from the beginning of records to a given year; the scope and amount of work needed for huge projects like these are incredible. The commonest type of material published by archivists, however, is the historical essay, such as found in scholarly journals, where one detail of history is treated exhaustively. When it comes to publishing, an author has numerous choices of historical newsletters and journals, one for every imaginable specialization and geographical area.

The Archivist's Life

(These comments are from observation only—I spent my time researching, not talking to archivists.)

The working hours seem very kind to the archivists, although the pages seem to work long hours and always stay to close up. The professionals come in fairly late and certainly leave quite early—this should be borne in mind so that one can ask questions in mid-morning and no later than mid-afternoon, even when the archives is open until 9 P.M.

Security is important. There is a fancy glass-enclosed office for the security guard right at the front door, and there is no way to get into the building without passing practically under his nose. There is a camera at the entrance and a sign-in sheet. Just past this in a small lobby is a bank of lockers. Absolutely nothing but writing things can be taken into the reading room. There is only one user entrance to this room; all the others are locked, and only staff with keys can use them. The supervisor of the “holding room” for reserved items has a desk raised about a foot above the level of the reading room, and his duty is to observe the users at work, as well as give out reserved items. I saw no metal strips in the spines of volumes and do not know if there is some other physical way they have to detect theft.

I was not able to see other facets of archival work (e.g., processing, appraisal, and computer facilities); but I got the overall impression of a very pleasant place to work.

With such marvelous collections, the work is obviously very interesting for the archivists. They are very much oriented, in the European fashion, toward publishing research done in their own archives. It seems that the government makes funds available to do this. In addition, the numerous local history groups sponsor quite a few publications. Some types of historical publications are not familiar to us in the States. For example, there is the Heimatbuch, a local history which includes all sorts of folklore, as well as political and artistic history and anecdotes and extensive information on the natural history of a given area. Ortsregister are compilations of all the known inhabitants of a place, from the beginning of records to a given year; the scope and amount of work needed for huge projects like these are incredible. The commonest type of material published by archivists, however, is the historical essay, such as is found in scholarly journals, where one detail of history is treated exhaustively. When it comes to publishing, an author has numerous choices of historical newsletters and journals, one for every imaginable specialization and geographical area.

There did not appear to be a dress code at all, though older and more senior archivists were accordingly more conservatively dressed. Younger ones can be wild—I remember one woman in black tights and a very short black skirt, a big black cube hanging off one ear, and a jet black punked-out hairdo with a ramp on it very like the loading dock at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Cleveland. She was probably an expert on the Archbishopric of Trier in the 15th century. From what I could see, benefits such as retirement seem very generous. The church archivist was to retire a few months after I was there; in this country he would have had a good ten or fifteen more years before he could even think about it, unless he had done something egregiously awful. From his conversation, vacations appear quite ample.

Being a Researcher

As a user, I felt it took an enormous amount of time to get oriented, when compared to using an archive in this country. All orientation is done individually by the archivist who does the initial interview with the user. There are small leaflets describing various aspects of the archives, free for the taking on a rack in the main lobby.

My advice to a would-be user is not to bother going unless you can spend at least two weeks—three seemed barely enough for me. There seem to be stages of orienta-

Up the Rhine: Burg Stahleck and wine vineyards overlooking the town of Bacharach.
The German-American Collection at the University of Cincinnati

The German-American Collection, the largest of its kind in the world, is based on the private library of Dr. Heinrich H. Fick, Superintendant of the German Department of the Cincinnati Public Schools from 1903 to 1918. In addition to being an innovator in bilingual education and a published author, Dr. Fick took special interest in collecting seed books, documents, journals, and other materials pertaining to the German-American experience.

The following list contains several of the theses and dissertations recently completed at U.C., which were based on the collection, and they reflect the kinds of research in progress there.


The title page from a Bible printed in 1776 by Christoph Saur of Germantown, Pennsylvania. This Bible became known as the "Gun-wad Bible," because the pages were used to stuff the muskets of the soldiers during the early days of the Revolutionary War.

GERMAN-AMERICAN COLLECTION, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Contact the author or a good German archivist at the University of Cincinnati, Westem Reserve Historical Society, etc. for lists of publications.

Issues on the Archives Listserv

The listserv has resounded to ringing rhetoric and quivered to sweet nostalgia. For those who are not plugged into the network, here are a few notes on the most luminous of the topics covered. All listserv messages are kept in the electronic archives at headquarters and are searchable. The Editor will be happy to help anyone who would like to get more information on the following topics or wants to know some of the other topics covered. Although it is obviously impossible to do justice to the variety of discussions following or wants to know some of the other topics covered, the listserv messages are an invaluable resource.

ARCHIVAL PROFESSION—This was a major topic, and many aspects came out. The definition of an archivist from the January, 1984 SAA Newsletter reappeared. Rob Spindler said that the best archivist is the one who can design systems that a complete stranger can use to find information in a reasonable time. David Malone countered that the best archivist is the one who knows the collections and the best way to navigate within them.

CATALOGING—The similarity between serials and archival cataloging was pointed out, and archivists discussed whether they cataloged the finding aid or the collection (or both), and why—to what purpose. The research that goes into giving outside world access to their collections. The MARC-AMC format is discussed every week, with numerous bits of advice on how to do it. Some comments posted were the end of MARC's usefulness, just as SPINDEX came into and out of fashion.

COPYRIGHT—This was a big topic, especially in regard to dissertations and theses, as well as student papers, in universities. The Fair Use policy on the listserv discovered some differences; as was the difference between registration of a copyright and the inherent right to control reproduction, etc. in a circle with a name and a year can be enough; perhaps that should be a form for people who are not plugged into the network, vs. donors sign a release when they transfer papers to the archives.

EDUCATION—This sparked some hot debates. The proposed new MARC degree was upheld by Luciana Duranti and Richard Cox. A suggestion was discovered about having a new degree, especially after the certification controversy was so difficult. Arguments between "ivory tower" academics and "knowledge" softsighers flamed. The lack of foreign language requirements, the inaccessibility of archival literature, and the desire for recruitment of archival classes were a few concerns.

INTERNET FINDING AIDS—Complaints about the chaotic situation there were recorded, and many as people throw everything in, full-text searching is slow, and standardization is minimal. However, one of the beauties of the INTERNET, according to some, is its free-for-all nature. The recent merits of OCLC with its wide base and its preservation of the record as it is entered, vs. RLIN, with its more scholarly base and better fit with MARC-AMC, were voiced. Both are used to download MARC records into local online catalogs.

LEGAL MATTERS—The case of Coretta Scott King vs. Boston University was well covered, as was that of the Maryland archives. Legal matters are a major topic. When done right, they add to the collection.

PRESERVATION, PROCESSING, etc.—Ingersen is mentioned as a substitute for environmentally harmful halons, but not much information is available yet. Acid-free storage may not be the "must" it is often thought to be, the "private" rule is not followed, for a remarkable number of archives, and a #3 pencil doesn't smear as much as #2.

SAA—There was as much discussion as well as explanation of fees for meetings and dues, a per­ceived oligarchy may be the result of offices not volunteering. There is a concern about the definition of an archivist from the January, 1984 SAA Newsletter reappeared. Rob Spindler said that the best archivist is the one who can design systems that a complete stranger can use to find information in a reasonable time. David Malone countered that the best archivist is the one who knows the collections and the best way to navigate within them.

THEROLOGY—This, along with related topics of professionalism and education, generated the most heat. Accusations flew on both sides. Is archivists are impractical, or is that the unquenchable thirst for learning? Is it the lack of foreign language requirements, the inaccessibility of archival literature, and the desire for recruitment of archival classes were a few concerns.

We are a small, but growing listserv.
There is a need for reform in two areas. As for finding a place to lock up a laptop computer overnight as well as space where a designated archivist as liaison, who would do an initial accessions that the researcher can peruse. As for special-interest collections in the repository (e.g., the Cincinnati computer users can click away without disturbing others.

Mary Bowman began by stating that 76 percent of the researchers in repositories are genealogists. Their criticisms of many repositories include:

- a lack of security, especially for small items like the estate administration packets in many county facilities.
- a lack of microprint backup so that there is more than one copy of an item in case of theft.
- inadequate finding aids; archivists should consider genealogists when describing collections. Indexing would be good; genealogists do lots of indexing, and they should be used as volunteers to cut the heavy cost.
- lack of good computer connections; we can't afford to live in the past. Make material available on bulletin boards, and get on state and national networks.
- If archivists would tap into genealogical circles, they would find some unexpectedly substantial support.

Ann Fidler, a doctoral student at Berkeley, said that the academic researcher finds two main hurdles on the path to the source material: unfamiliarity with the collection and strict time constraints. A student cannot spend unlimited time at a repository while running up hotel bills. There is a need for reform in two areas. As for finding aids, she suggests highlighting special interests in collections, making checklists of special-interest collections in the repository (e.g., the Cincinnati Historical Society's list of collections with legal interest); and a list of accessions that the researcher can peruse. As for staff members, she suggests a designated archivist as liaison, who would do an initial interview with the user at registration and direct him/her to the most suitable staff member. Allowing only one item to be requested at a time is wasteful. There should be a place to leave materials overnight, so the user can pick up again immediately in the morning, and also a place to lock up a laptop computer overnight as well as space where computer users can click away without disturbing others.

Kenneth Heineman contrasted the "good" of archives with the "bad and ugly." He lauded archivists who pulled flyers off trees during the Vietnam war and branched out into all sorts of collecting. He cited Shonnie Finnegan at SUNY Buffalo. As for poor practice, he named a Church should follow the lead of its major universities (e.g., Notre Dame, Catholic University, and Marquette) in documenting the activity of its clergy in the labor movement and other public action.

Comments and questions involved archival security, getting information out to researchers, collecting the unorthodox and downright dangerous types of papers, the stereotypes which make users reluctant to use, computer access in general, and innovative ways to beat the time restraints. (Canadian archivists tell researchers to stay all night, provided they are LOCKED IN!)

Each of the presenters described his or her experiences with the finances of the respective archival institutions. Highlights included George Parkinson's description of his ten rules on the success of an archival program; the use of volunteers in the administration of an archives where money is not available for full-time (or part-time) staff; the problems and strategies of dealing with a common budget; the preservation of documents in a thrifty way; the automation of services currently requiring staff people; budgets and salaries; and the creation of finding aids to provide the most service in the absence of an adequate number of reference archivists.

The presenters discussed both the present realities and future possibilities of the MARC-AMC format. Hannah Thomas outlined how the MARC-AMC format is currently being utilized in cataloging the variety of archival materials found in research libraries and manuscript repositories. In addition, she noted the current pitfalls still inherent in the structure of the format. These problems include such things as subject access control and the proliferation of added entries. In order to ameliorate some of these problems, she concluded her talk by saying that there needs to be a shared database in a common format across all special collections.

The second half of the session focused on the future of the MARC-AMC format. Pam Kircher explained to the audience the idea of format integration and how it will modify the current structure of the MARC-AMC format. The primary objective of format integration will be to enhance greatly the ability to control archivally all of the different record types found in an archives. But in order for format integration to become a reality, Kircher stated that there must be effective coordination among all of the groups responsible for the MARC-AMC format. Whatever the outcome of format integration might be, both speakers believe that format integration is a necessary step in making MARC-AMC a more viable cataloging tool for archivists.
backbone. This is the INTERNET system, supported by the National Science Foundation and originally a communications link between supercomputers in major cities.

Every machine on the net has a unique address with two parts. The numeric part is specific to one machine and has four segments separated by periods. The alphabetical part has at least two segments (and as many as four), the last showing the type of institution (.edu for universities, .gov for U.S. government, .org for a nonprofit organization, .com for a commercial firm). Addresses outside the U.S. have a two-letter country code at the end. The first segment (before @) is the person with the address.

Network services include: 1) electronic mail, 2) remote log-in (TELNET), 3) file transfers (FTP or file transfer protocol), and 4) discussion groups of various sorts. 1) Email can be used for discussions, e.g., listservs or groups of multiple subscribers (viz., the ARCHIVES listserv). A listserv message goes to all subscribers. USENET, however, employs one single copy of a message at the source; subscribers access that one image, thus using far less energy. 2) With TELNET, one connects directly to another computer with, say, a library catalogue; the user can search within that catalogue. 3) FTP is used to import large chunks of information into one’s own computer. A portion of a personal computer’s memory can be set apart for “anonymous FTP” so anybody can have access to it.

Sawyers discussed using such tools as gophers to interrogate software systems in other institutions. For example, ARCHIE, a directory of anonymous FTP sites gives a user the name of a particular computer and the path to the file. VERONICA is an easy “rodent-oriented” net-wide index to computerized archives with a directory of menu items on over 350 gopher servers. The unique service VERONICA provides is that “she” doesn’t just find the actual text file needed, but makes the actual connection.

Other types of information vehicles are HYPERTEXT, providing access to library catalogues worldwide; WAIS, or wide area information service, and the World Wide Web (WWW). Electronic journals and newsletters are another source of information. The Association of Research Libraries publishes the Directory of Electronic Journals, Newsletters and Academic Discussion Lists, arranged by subject.

Anne Gilliland-Swetland spoke on the future instead of the present. She stressed the importance of talking about this because of its very quick development. Not only are listservs multiplying rapidly and becoming important, but Vice President Gore’s vision of the NREN as a national computer highway is bound to have immediate results. There are already sections of the INTERNET for “Kindergarten through Grade 12.”

The INTERNET has had effects on scholarly research, thus touching archives—eventually, one will have all the papers on a certain topic delivered over the Internet. Researchers will demand new methods such as: 1) a move away from mainframes toward LAN file servers which can communicate; 2) a move to “enriched text”; 3) more emphasis on document control structures—standard formats instead of masses of indiscriminate material; 4) dissemination of multimedia files using voice-processing and photo technology (voice messages translating into words on a screen and vice versa; “icons” and electronic “post-it” notes “clipped onto” documents in a digital format).

Progress has been made at the University of Michigan, where the speaker took part in an NHP/PRC project on electronic conferencing. Informal student forums are organized in groups which are not well-documented in traditional ways—women’s, black, and gay interest groups. One problem was the conflict between right-to-know acts and the confidentiality needed to gain the trust of the various groups. Another conflict was between using a software-dependent form of information to retain the evidentiary value and standardized “flat” files and ASCII.

Another project, at the Historical Center for the Health Sciences at UM, developed a statewide descriptive database in MARC format (with a set of guides) for health science records. How-to guides were to be especially helpful to (e.g.) hospitals that had no archives. A third project transferred images to CDs, thereby creating an excellent access tool. This technology leads toward the eventual imaging of 3-D objects, which combined with text and music, could be used to make educational exhibits.

Innovative archival course work at UM educates cutting-edge archivists in a nonbibliographic environment. With new technology, students can learn at their own speed, and courses can be sent to students who have difficulty getting to campus.

Rai Goerler spoke about the campus-wide information system now at Ohio State (OASIS). One service now available is the “Ask a...” service (ask a librarian, ask an archivist, etc.) For the Archives, this is not a high-volume service, but it publicizes archival services. It also disseminates information on transferring records. The certificate of records destruction is available for the individual office to print out, fill in, and send to the Archives. The records retention manual is on-line, as well as past retention decisions, so one can see what others have done in similar situations. The system also covers mail services and USENET subgroups; the OSU library catalogue, OHIONET, and even non-OSU library catalogues are available. On the menu are worldwide gophers. Some of these have full-text speeches and bibliographies available through TELNET numbers. Some archives, such as Cornell, have put their registers on INTERNET, and the user can go from the MARC record directly to the actual finding aid.

2:00 P.M.

“Education of an Archivist”
reported by Virginia Weygandt

John Stewart, Ohio Historical Society; Robert Smith, Wright State University; Anne Gilliland-Sweetland, School of Information & Library Services, University of Michigan; Elizabeth Adkins, Kraft Archives, Academy of Certified Archivists

One of the most controversial topics on the Archives Listserv at meeting time was certification. John Stewart, moderator for the discussion, noted that, while there may never be an ultimate answer to the certification question, it is central to the future well-being of the archival field. At issue is whether archivists can feel confident that newcomers to the field have the requisite knowledge to function properly in an archives setting. He expressed the hope that the days of sink-or-swim training like that which he received at the Oklahoma State Archives are gone.

Bob Smith sees the archival profession at a critical crossroads. While the field is no longer in its infancy, archivists “are not yet sure what they want to be when they grow up.” Nor are they sure how to educate and evaluate those who desire to do what they do. If archivists are confused, it should come as no surprise that the general public has no understanding of what they do.

While it is not the only type of program, nor one without needed revision, Smith feels that public history programs have strengths lacking in most MLS programs. These include training in handling primary source material and field experience. Although the proposed MAS degree may have potential, it is too costly to institute. A more feasible option would be to accredit existing archival masters programs, revised according to a standardized core of course work endorsed by SAA. Such a program must be designed with enough flexibility to meet the needs of individual institutions.

On the other side of the issue, Elizabeth Adkins advocates individual certification. She admits that the Academy is still a young institution whose long-term effects remain to be seen, but she has confidence that the certification examination has benefitted, and will continue to benefit, the profession and is an accurate indicator of whether or not an archivist has attained a "journeyman's" knowledge of basic archival practice and theory. She outlined the steps for qualifying to sit for the exam, which consists of 100 multiple-choice questions based on the Role Definition Document published by the Academy. It tests knowledge in seven basic areas: selection, reference, preservation, outreach and promotion, program planning, ethical issues, and arrangement and description.

Anne Gilliland-Sweetland, doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan, is one of a small but growing number of archival professionals.
enrolling in library schools. Library schools no longer fit their stereotyped image, especially that at Michigan, which encourages its students to explore a wide variety of interdisciplinary courses. This is one of the strengths of an MLS program, as is the high quality of the students and a growing appreciation by the faculty of archival skills. Despite the school’s strengths in counseling students and encouraging “transferability of skills,” the faculty still do not understand the differences between librarians and archivists. This will happen only through interdisciplinary research. Commenting on the proposed MAS degree, the speaker remarked that it has the potential to address our identity problem and bridge the gap between the MLS and academics. It also carries an inherent danger of segregating students from other disciplines, and lacks flexibility.

Audience questions and comments included clarification on the demographics of Academy examinees, the success rate for placing MLS as opposed to public history graduates, and a perennial grip about the quality of archival education. Most agreed that certification has generated a great deal of animosity. Where and what end of the controversy will be remains to be seen.

3:15 P.M.

“The Last Twenty-Five Years of Ohio Archives”

John Grabowski, Western Reserve Historical Society; Alice Cornell, University of Cincinnati; David Larson, OVAS Records Management; Tom Rieder, Ohio Historical Society; Barbara Floyd, University of Toledo (chair)

1968 was a memorable year, with “one incredible catastrophe after another; the unbelievable became almost routine.” Starting in January, there was the Pueblo incident in North Korea; Eugene McCarthy and Robert Kennedy ran in the primaries against LBJ; Martin Luther King was assassinated, as was Robert Kennedy; the USSR invaded Czechoslovakia after the Prague spring; the Chicago riots occurred; and in November Nixon won the Presidency and Gov. Wallace got 13 percent of the popular vote. “Hair” opened to great controversy on Broadway; the first Big Mac was served; the first airplane hijacking occurred, Arthur Ashe won the US Open, and “Hey Jude” and “Mrs. Robinson” (from “The Graduate”) were popular tunes.

David Larson described the situation in archivists—the “Old Guard” was still in power, and historical societies and archives were bastions of exclusivity. Larson, the new head of the Archives/Library Division at OHS, traveled around Ohio, meeting only about five full-time archivists or manuscript curators: Bruce Harding, the senior Ohio archivist; William Biggestone at Oberlin, Ruth Helmuth at Case Western Reserve, and the staffs at Western Reserve Historical Society, the American Jewish Archives and the Cincinnati Historical Society. He went to 25 states to find ideas for a new OHS building, and found very little proactive collecting in specific areas. Two-thirds of the way through the 20th century, most manuscript curators were still collecting only up through the 19th century. There were institutions might exist in one city with no communication or cooperation. Amid great days for the history of blacks, the labor movement, and a leftist resurgence, repositories were still wedded to the “great white man’s history” of the past. At SAA, Howard Zinn was just raising controversy by suggesting that archivists should actively collect papers.

Ohio, which had always been behind everybody else, was fortunate enough to have a very forward-looking group of new archivists. They supported cooperation, and there were no negative personalities to be divisive. They did not have a grand vision of a new educational vehicle, but simply came back from NARS courses saying, “I didn’t learn what I needed.” From 1964 to 1970 there was an explosion; the Ohio Data Archives was set up to acquire computer-generated records; the Ohio Network of History Centers was founded. SAA had previously been quite active, but it had dropped the ball. Ohio became a model, its constitution being an example for many state organizations.

John Grabowski posited three phases of SOA. The first, described by Larson, was full of excitement and commitment well into the ’70s. The organization’s creators were “still on a high”; SOA was “the only show in town.” In the late ’70s and early ’80s, doubts crept in as to who we were, and people lost the connection with reality. In the last five years, a major revitalization has taken place, with a real relevance to archivists in such areas as education and certification. SOA is very affordable at a time when national and regional meetings are a strain on budgets of time and money.

Ohio archivists in the late ’60s were very aware of the importance of documenting society across the board with information in any format. The accessions column in the Ohio Archivist was the most read part of the newsletter, and the Ohio Network was very much alive. As time went on, the same people became victims of their own success, with mounting accessions and more responsibilities as they moved up in the hierarchy. Archives moved into a custodial phase, which is still with us. We need to get back to the fresh outlook of the time when SOA was founded, to remember that the material in our custody is more than information—it is the dreams, hopes, and fears of real people, the essence of human existence. In these papers we are privy to a past life. We must preserve this life by planning for the future and efforts such as Archives Week, which gain us fiscal and moral support. When people hold original documents in their hands, the experience lets them find out something about themselves and their communities, and they understand why our profession deserves support.

Alice Cornell addressed the idea that everything old is new again. She recalled the “antediluvian” school of archivy, in which archivists mistrusted librarians and records managers and employed the “vacuum cleaner approach” to collecting, sitting in the midst of vast piles of paper trying to follow Schellenberg; the dictum was “collect and protect.” Around 1970, Howard Zinn “rattled the archival cage” by stating that archivists should be activists; there is still a lot of angst about the profession and hostility toward related professions. We must be less concerned about process and more about product, be more versatile, and admit the interdisciplinary nature of information. Increasing specialization and overactive introspection about our work can be detrimental. She suggested that the purposes of SOA were, and are, coordination, networking, and communication, and education. A principal contribution is social—meetings are a reality check for members. One regret is that we used to deal with tangible objects; now we have to face the intangible—electronic records. The speaker noted that preservation was a major topic in 1971 and also in 1993. She left with three lessons: 1) Everything old is new again; 2) Archivists should lighten up; and 3) “Just do it!”

Tom Rieder spoke about state records and the relation of SOA to the state government. He advocated, first, an SOA resolution to support a critical restoration of money and staff to the state records management program, without which serious and crippling effects will take place. Twenty-three years ago the State of Ohio stopped storing records in condemned buildings and chicken coops when the present Ohio Historical Society building was completed. His point was that archivists have to be vigilant where the state is not. State governments come and go; the continuity of the record has to be guarded by our profession. His second point was that the public’s right to see the records has to be defined as well as regulated—note the present bills in the legislature. Rieder emphasized that this is true no matter what technology is current (viz., Allen County, which is no longer producing any paper records). The fact that Gov. Celeste’s administration did not consider email archiving by libraries, especially that at Michigan, which encourages its students to explore a wide variety of interdisciplinary courses. This is one of the strengths of an MLS program, as is the high quality of the students and a growing appreciation by the faculty of archival skills. Despite the school’s strengths in counseling students and encouraging “transferability of skills,” the faculty still do not understand the differences between librarians and archivists. This will happen only through interdisciplinary research. Commenting on the proposed MAS degree, the speaker remarked that it has the potential to address our identity problem and bridge the gap between the MLS and academics. It also carries an inherent danger of segregating students from other disciplines, and lacks flexibility.

Friday, April 16 • 9:30 A.M.

“What Is to Be Done?”

The papers from this session, as well as Rai Goerler’s history of SOA, will appear in the 25th anniversary book announced elsewhere in this issue, so they are not reviewed here.
Miami Valley Archives Roundtable

The MVAR has been a forum for networking in the Dayton area for a little over a year and a half. The group has about 50 people on the mailing list and meets quarterly, and there are no dues. Serving as a way for archivists in the Miami Valley and beyond to meet (some members live in Cincinnati), it has not had a formal structure with officers. Recently, steps to formalize the organization slightly were taken when a Program Committee was set up; Dawne Dewey of Wright State was continued as chairperson/coordinator. The Committee hopes to improve the usefulness of meetings by drawing on local expertise to develop a topic at each meeting. Members of the Committee are: Lucy Mussolino (Air Force Museum Research Division); David Cornelisse (Dayton Federal Records Center); Julie Orenstein (Wright State University Archives, Micrographics); and Jean August (Wright-Patterson Air Force Base).

MVAR will continue to tour local facilities, as it has in the past. In April, it met at the Dayton-Montgomery County Public Library, where a program on conservation was presented. A meeting has been arranged for September 14 at the Dayton Federal Records Center. Projects which the group has undertaken include a calendar, now being constructed by David Cornelisse, which is to include meetings of all organizations of major interest to Miami Valley archivists. It will list exhibits at local repositories as well. Dawne Dewey has been writing a newsletter for the Roundtable. Besides reporting on MVAR meetings, it contains news notes; in the future it will also have articles written by members and announcements of training sessions and workshops. Bob Smith, who originally had the idea of starting the organization, will write a Founder’s Column to discuss current issues. For information contact Dawne Dewey at Wright State University, 513/873-2902.

Asociacion de Archivistas de Cuba

The Editor received a letter from Sr. Carlos Balseiro, President of the Asociacion de Archivistas de Cuba, asking SOA for any literature we can spare regarding records management and related fields. Council authorized the collection of materials for Cuba. SOA has taken on the job of being the US archival conduit to Cuba, in coordination with MAC’s international project, headed by Jim Fogerty. MAC sent materials to Cleveland, which were sent to Havana along with back issues of the Ohio Archivist. Virginia Krumholz, Archivist at the Cleveland Museum of Art and chairman of ARMA’s Non-Profit/Not-for-Profit Section, is active in the project, locating materials on records management and making sure that the continuum of records management with archives is not broken. We can be part of a historic and worthwhile movement in reestablishing connections with Cuban archivists, as we all face a new world together!

SOA members can help by donating past issues of journals, as well as books and other materials that would still be of value to developing archival and records management programs in Cuba. Inquiries can be made or donations sent to your Editor at the address on the back page of this newsletter (Tel: 216/444-2929; FAX 216/445-6868; Internet: lautzel@ccsmtp.ccf.org).

25th anniversary publication

Rai Goerler of Ohio State is overseeing the publication of a commemorative volume containing his history of SOA, as well as the three papers looking toward the future of SOA presented at the spring meeting by Roland Baumann, Dennis Harrison, and George Bain. George Parkinson will provide a commentary on the papers and Goerler as Editor will write a foreword. Past president Barbara Floyd will assist with technical matters. Publication is projected to be around November 15.
For those who were not at the April business meeting, the SOA membership passed three resolutions taking positions on pending legislation. One urges legislation by the Ohio General Assembly to require the use of permanent paper for public records of lasting importance; the second asks the Library of Congress to maintain appropriate funding for NUCMC instead of eliminating it; and the third supports reauthorization of NHPRC by Congress so that it can carry out its plan for national documentary progress in the 1990s.

Between July 29 and September 1, Roland Baumann, Oberlin College Archivist, will be on research leave in order to pursue several research projects and to prepare two entries for the new edition of the American National Biography being edited by John Garraty and published by Oxford University Press.

Lisa Hicks, a 1991 MLS graduate of Kent State University, will be employed as an assistant archivist during Baumann's absence. She will join regular staff members Brian Williams and Tammy Martin. Jeff Zdanowicz is an archives assistant during the summer. Oberlin inquiries should be sent to the attention of Assistant Archivist, Brian Williams, who will direct the program.

The Ohio State Department of Education Title II-C grant to The Ohio State University Archives has been renewed for the second and final year of funding (October 1, 1993 to September 30, 1994). Richard Hite is project archivist for processing the papers of Admiral Richard E. Byrd, polar explorer.

George Bain of Ohio University and Barbara Floyd of the University of Toledo are co-chairs of the MAC Program Committee for the Spring 1994 meeting.

The Ohio Genealogical Society held an open house at its headquarters, the Martin B. Bushnell House at 34 Sturges Avenue in Mansfield, on August 15. This honored the 100th anniversary of the construction of this gracious Richardson-Romanesque landmark. OGS featured historical and genealogical displays and free programs.

With the cooperation of the women's studies program and the library, the Oberlin College Archives has purchased some of the papers of Adelia A. Field Johnston (1837-1910), principal of the women's department and the first woman on the Oberlin College faculty. In over 300 pages of travel diaries and accounts signed by "Madame J.," she gives her impressions of European art and architecture. The purchase more than doubles the size of Oberlin's holdings of her papers. With trustee Charles Hall, she organized the Oberlin Village Improvement Society, which strove to make the town "worthy of the college" by cleaning Plum Creek and creating a park system, among other things. It was through Johnston that the Severance and Allen families, who have given so much to the community, became interested in it.

A dozen Civil War documents, including some Lincoln letters, were returned to the Cincinnati Historical Society in late February, several months after they were stolen. Police were tipped off by a man who said someone offered to sell him a letter written by Lincoln.

Elisabeth Spiro, who set up the library and became the first archivist at the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, resigned in March after nine and a half years to accompany her retiring husband Arthur to the Pacific Northwest. The current level of operation and usage of the collections for research on Mahoning Valley history testify to her work in creating a first-class regional archives repository. On July 1, Pamela L. Pletcher succeeded her as archivist. Ms. Pletcher was most recently the curator of collections at the Chemung County Historical Society, Elmira, New York. She has published articles for Indiana County Heritage and Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage.

Kermit J. Pike, Director of the Western Reserve Historical Society's library, has been appointed Director of the entire WRHS following the retirement of Theodore A. Sande. Pike will serve as director while a national search is conducted for a new WRHS Executive Director.

During the summer Deborah Shell, Jeffrey Zdanowicz, and Tracy Backer worked at the WRHS on the processing and microfilm preparation of the Abba Hillel Silver Papers.

Recent accessions of the Ohio Historical Society include a collection of manuscripts and photographs (c. 1900-1940s) documenting the life of World War I ace and Columbus native Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker; the congressional files and gubernatorial campaign records (1960s-1980s) of Clarence J. Brown, Jr., a former Ohio congressman and deputy Secretary of Commerce; Ohio Attorney General files (1978-1982) documenting the implementation of the Cleveland public school desegregation plan; and patient statistical reports (1942-1976) of the Ohio Department of Mental Health.

Among the larger and more significant runs recently microfilmed at OHS by the Ohio Newspaper Project was a file of the Sugar Creek Budget (1950-1992), a Tuscarawas County paper which circulates among and reports the activities of Amish and Mennonite communities "throughout the Americas."

Our publisher, Mitch Helms, very kindly reported on an American Chemical Society session in March given by Prof. Andrew R. Barron of Harvard's Chemistry Department. Addressing buffers in paper preservation, the session's title was "Saving Books for Posterity: A Practical Application of Inorganic Chemistry." Paper samples treated by either a diethyldizine (DEZ) or magnesium butytriglycolate (MG-3) mass deacidification process were subjected to spectroscopic analysis, using various techniques. In the case of uncoated "plain" paper, the DEZ process produced a uniform distribution of ZnO buffer throughout the paper depth. In contrast, MG-3 treatment resulted in incomplete buffer formation; but a rectifying methodology for the uniform formation of Mg(CO3) buffer is established. Neither process is at present effective in providing a buffer within the core of glossy kaolin-coated paper. For further information on these new techniques, contact Andrew R. Barron, Professor, Dept. of Chemistry and Materials Research Laboratory, 12 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA 02138 (tel: 617/495-9364; FAX: 617/496-7402; Bitnet: Barron@Huchel).

**NUCMC**

Since 1959, the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections has been the main route of discovery for people searching out personal papers and other manuscript collections to be used in their research. The Library of Congress has decided that with OCLC and RLIN and the advent of MARC's archives and manuscripts format, NUCMC may no longer be necessary, especially since LC is now faced with a bigger budget crunch than ever before. A task group was appointed to study the situation, and a decision will soon be made. Interested parties should write or call Sarah Thomas, Director for Cataloging, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-4000 (Tel: 202/707-5333).
COUNCIL ACTIONS

June 4, 1993 • Ohio Historical Society

Membership as of June 4, 1993 was 157 individuals and 40 institutions. Dennis Harrison, heading the membership campaign, is going to target institutions for a membership drive. The question of raising institutional dues will be considered next spring.

A report on the very successful spring anniversary meeting in Columbus prompted suggestions for building on this success: plenary speakers, replacing tours with additional sessions, workshops, or other programming; and varying locations more.

The proposal to establish a central office for SOA in Columbus was tabled for the time being. For now, visibility will be enhanced by using SOA letterhead, getting the SOA address into various directories, and through notices on email.

Council approved SOA's taking on the responsibility of being the liaison with the archivists of Cuba. MAC has its hands full with six other countries and is glad to see us help out on the international scene.

Free history computer workshops

The History Computerization Project offers free workshops and a printed tutorial on the use of computer database management for historical research, writing, and cataloging. The 80-page tutorial is also available by mail. No prior computer experience is required. The project, sponsored by the Regional History Center of the University of Southern California and the Los Angeles City Historical Society, is building a Regional History Information Network. The Los Angeles Bibliography Project has created a database of source materials and a directory of historical repositories. Both projects employ the History Database program, running on IBM-compatible computers. The course textbook is Database Design: Applications of Library Cataloging Techniques by David L. Clark (TAB Books, McGraw-Hill). The Project is also compiling a "directory of directories" for historical departments/organizations nationwide, including archives and manuscript repositories. Contact: History Computerization Project, 24851 Piuma Road, Malibu, CA 90265. Phone: 818/HISTORY; 818/591-9371.

Thank you, Senator Glenn!!

Immediate past President Barbara Floyd (now on a well-deserved sabbatical) reports that Ohio's Senator John Glenn has played a key part in the fight to get NHPRC re-authorized. She has sent a thank-you letter to him on behalf of the Society of Ohio Archivists, citing his chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs. As of the time of printing, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government (Sen. Dennis DeConcini, chm.) voted to increase NHPRC's funds to $6 million.

The entire Appropriations Committee, however, must approve this; then it must go to the Senate as a whole. The corresponding House committee wants to cut NHPRC's budget by $1 million; a committee of both houses will reconcile whatever bills are passed by the House and Senate.

Back issues needed

Rai Goerler, SOA's own archivist, and now officially SOA historian, noted during research for his history of the organization that the SOA archives lacks certain back issues of the Ohio Archivist (also at one time known as the Society of Ohio Archivists Newsletter). The following issues are missing, and any donations would be very much appreciated. It seems that the adage about the cobbler's children going barefoot is very à propos here!

Please check your attic for the following and call Rai at 614/292-2409 if you can spare extra copies:

| Fall 1973 |
| Spring & Fall 1974 |
| Spring & Fall 1975 |
| Spring & Fall 1976 |
| Spring & Fall 1977 |
| Spring & Fall 1978 |
| Fall 1986 |
| Spring 1987 |

Archives Week in Ohio

Archives Week made its debut in this state in April. Project chairman George Bain in a report to SOA Council states that the biggest achievement came from reaching across Ohio and in receiving recognition from the Governor and the two houses of the legislature. The Cuyahoga County commissioners and Cleveland City Council passed resolutions (due to efforts by Martin Hauseman and others), as did the City of Chillicothe. There was activity in all five regions. We received notices in some out-of-state publications from AASLH and MAC; and there was a notice in the OAHSM/OHS publication, The Local Historian. In addition to the chairman, Dawne Dewey, Diane Mallstrom, Jim Marshall and Michael McCormick served as regional coordinators.

In the future, we need to continue with flexible themes that are inclusive and appeal to a broad audience; and they must tie in with current interests in the state. For example, possible themes for 1994 are "sports & leisure" or "Ohio's people and lands" (referring to the various land tracts settled by different groups of people). Council agreed to use the first theme if the new Ken Burns film on baseball is released in 1994; it used Ohio manuscripts collections extensively.

Calendar

September 1-5 (Wed-Sun): SAA annual meeting, Sheraton Hotel, New Orleans. Contact SAA at 312/922-0140.

September 30-October 1 (Th-F): SOA Fall meeting (see cover story).

October 14-16 (Th-Sat): MAC fall meeting, Quad Cities (Davenport, Iowa). Contact: Les Stegh, John Deere Archives, Moline, IL. Tel: 309/765-2763.

The Society of Ohio Archivists was founded in 1968 to promote on a statewide basis the exchange of information, improvement of professional competence, and coordination of activities of archives and manuscript repositories. Membership is open to all interested persons, particularly archivists, manuscript curators, librarians, records managers, and historians. The Society holds two meetings each year and publishes The Ohio Archivist biannually.

Individual memberships are $10.00 per year ($15.00 institutional; $5.00 student). Persons interested in joining the SOA should mail a check or money order made payable to the Society of Ohio Archivists to Kenneth Grossi, Secretary-Treasurer SOA, Ohio State University Archives, 169 Converse Hall, 2121 Tuttle Park Place, Columbus, OH 43210.

THE OHIO ARCHIVIST is a semi-annual publication of the Society of Ohio Archivists. The editors encourage the submission of articles relating to all aspects of the archival profession as well as information concerning archival activities in the state of Ohio. Submission deadlines are January 15 for the Spring number and July 15 for the Autumn number. All materials should be directed to:

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