

Archival Issues

Journal of the Midwest Archives Conference

Volume 21, Number 2, 1996

CONTENTS

Memory And History: What Can You Believe?

W. Walter Menninger, M.D.

"Mind and Sight": Visual Literacy and the Archivist

Elisabeth Kaplan and Jeffrey Mifflin

Managing Intellectual Assets: The Identification, Capture, Maintenance, and Use of the Records of Federally Sponsored Scientific Research.

Kimberly J. Barata

The Importance of Being Diverse:

The Archival Profession and Minority Recruitment

Kathryn M. Neal

Love Me Or Leave Me: Getting Businesses Interested In Archives

Steven L. Wright



Archival Issues

Journal of the Midwest Archives Conference

Volume 21, Number 2, 1996

CONTENTS

ARTICLES

- Memory And History: What Can You Believe?*
W. Walter Menninger, M.D. 97
- "Mind and Sight": Visual Literacy and the Archivist*
Elisabeth Kaplan and Jeffrey Mifflin 107
- Managing Intellectual Assets: The Identification, Capture, Maintenance,
and Use of the Records of Federally Sponsored Scientific Research.*
Kimberly J. Barata 129
- The Importance of Being Diverse:
The Archival Profession and Minority Recruitment*
Kathryn M. Neal 145
- Love Me Or Leave Me: Getting Businesses Interested In Archives*
Steven L. Wright 159

PUBLICATION REVIEWS

Society of American Archivists Case Study Series:

Electronic Records Management As Strategic Opportunity
Prison Inmate Records in New York State:
The Challenge of Modern Government Case Records
Policy and Politics: The Archival Implications of Digital Communications and Culture at the University of Michigan
Using Information Technologies to Build Strategic Collaborations: The State of Alabama as a Test Case
 reviewed by Frank Boles 169

Universal Access to E-mail: Feasibility and Societal Implications
 reviewed by Bruce Henstell 172

RLG Digital Image Access Project
 reviewed by Greg Kinney 174

Debates & Discourses:
Selected Australian Writings on Archival Theory, 1951–1990
 reviewed by Valerie S. Komor 176

Conversion of Microfilm to Digital Imagery: A Demonstration Project
 reviewed by Bill Landis 178

Guide to Architectural Records in the Oberlin College Archives
 reviewed by Tawny Nelb 180

Research Guide to the Turner Movement in the United States
 reviewed by Matthew T. Schaefer 182

Historical Consciousness in the Early Republic: The Origins of State Historical Societies, Museums, and Collections, 1791–1861
 reviewed by Luke Gilliland-Swetland 184

EDITORIAL POLICY

Archival Issues, a semi-annual journal published by the Midwest Archives Conference, is concerned with the issues and problems confronting the contemporary archivist. Submissions relating to archival theory and current practice are solicited. Diversity among topics and points of view is encouraged. Ideas and opinions expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of the Midwest Archives Conference or its Editorial Board.

Material in a wide range of formats—including articles, review essays, proceedings of seminars, and case studies of specific archival projects or functions—will be considered for publication. Guidelines for authors of articles and case studies are available upon request from the editorial board chair. Manuscripts should be sent to the board chair, Dennis Meissner, Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102. The editorial board uses the current edition of *Chicago Manual of Style* as the standard for style, including footnote format. Decisions on manuscripts will be rendered within ten weeks of submission. Offers to review books or suggestions of books to review should be sent to the book review editor, Nancy Bartlett, Bentley Historical Library, 1150 Beal Ave., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2113.

MAC members receive *Archival Issues* and the *MAC Newsletter* upon payment of annual dues of \$20; institutional memberships are \$40. Single issues of the journal are available at \$3.50, plus fifty cents for postage and handling. An index to Vols. 1–8 (1976–83) is available at the single-issue price. Inquiries regarding membership or purchase of journal copies should be directed to Becky Haglund Tousey, MAC Secretary, Kraft General Foods Inc., Archives Dept., 6350 Kirk St., Morton Grove, IL 60053: 847/646-2981.

Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in *America: History and Life* and *Library Literature*.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Dennis Meissner (1996–1999)
Board Chair

Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Blvd. W.
St. Paul, MN 55102
Phone: 612-296-2496
FAX: 612-296-9961
E-Mail: dennis.meissner@mnhs.org

David A. Haury (1995–1998)

Production Editor
Kansas State Historical Society
Kansas History Center
6425 SW 6th
Topeka, KS 66615-1099
Phone: 913-272-8681
FAX: 913-272-8682
E-Mail: dhaury@hspo.wpo.state.ks.us

Nancy Bartlett (1996–1999)

Book Review Editor
Bentley Historical Library
1150 Beal Ave.
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2113
Phone: 313-764-3482
FAX: 313-936-1333
E-Mail: NBart@umich.edu

Paul Eisloeffel (1994–1997)

Nebraska State Historical Society
1500 R. Street
P.O. Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501
Phone: 402-471-4750
FAX: 402-471-3100
E-Mail: pje@inetnebr.com

Peter Gottlieb (1996–1999)

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706-1488
Phone: 608-264-6480
FAX: 608-264-6404
E-Mail: Peter.Gottlieb@cmail.adp.wisc.edu

Sandra Taylor (1994–1997)

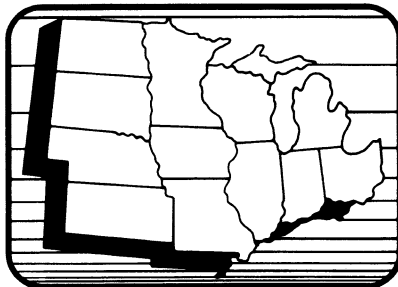
Indiana University
Lilly Library
Bloomington, IN 47405
Phone: 812-855-2452
E-Mail: TaylorS@ucs.indiana.edu

Sheryl Williams (1995–1998)

Curator, Kansas Collection
University of Kansas Libraries
Lawrence, KS 66045
Phone: 913-864-4274
FAX: 913-864-5803
E-Mail: swilliam@ukans.edu

MAC

MIDWEST ARCHIVES CONFERENCE



© Midwest Archives Conference, 1997
All Rights Reserved

To the Editor:

Three cheers for David E. Horn's reply to Frank Boles's essay regarding archival education (*Archival Issues*, Vol. 21, No. 1, 1996)!

Can it be a coincidence that those advocating the supremacy of the M.A.S. are almost always instructors in similar programs? No better example of a vested interest could be found. More disturbing, however, is the slap in the face that such dogmatic attitudes deliver to those nongraduate archivists whose "enthusiasm, intelligence, and dedication," to use Horn's words, are responsible for preserving and making accessible the vast majority of records extant in this country.

Given that a general education in the humanities (the B.A.) is one of the best preliminary preparations for an archivist, perhaps the problem here lies in the perceived qualitative difference between a "profession" and a "craft" or "trade." Why should archivists be afraid of being regarded as craftsmen? No one would say that a baker or a car mechanic is inherently less skilled at his work than a physicist or an English professor. Few would claim that one kind of effort is more necessary to the welfare of society than another. But many believe that the "professional" is entitled to more esteem, and that this prestige automatically translates into greater financial benefits. Putting aside the fact that today the last point is questionable in many cases, why should archivists, whose mission is to guard the legacy of the community as a whole, choose to lend themselves to this or any other kind of intellectual snobbery?

The pursuit of a "profession" too often entails half a life spent trapped in an academic shell, enormous debts upon graduation, a lack of practical knowledge that becomes painfully evident upon starting one's first job, and unmet expectations of salary and job availability fostered by the academic machine. "Craft" training in the style of an apprenticeship includes on-the-job education that provides immediate concrete skills, usually requires a more manageable outlay of time and money on the part of the prospective craftsman, and often results in a more realistic view of the job market. As for those people who are thrust with no warning into the archivist's role, an approximation of craft training through workshops and mentoring schemes is most germane to their needs and to the needs of the records in their care.

This society already sacrifices too much talent, enthusiasm, and innovation on the altar of academic specialization. Must archivists, too, become the victims of such a brain drain?

Christine Froechtenigt Harper
Archives Assistant
Saint Louis University

