

# Archival Issues

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Journal of the

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Midwest Archives Conference

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Volume 26, Number 2, 2002

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at the Western History Collections*

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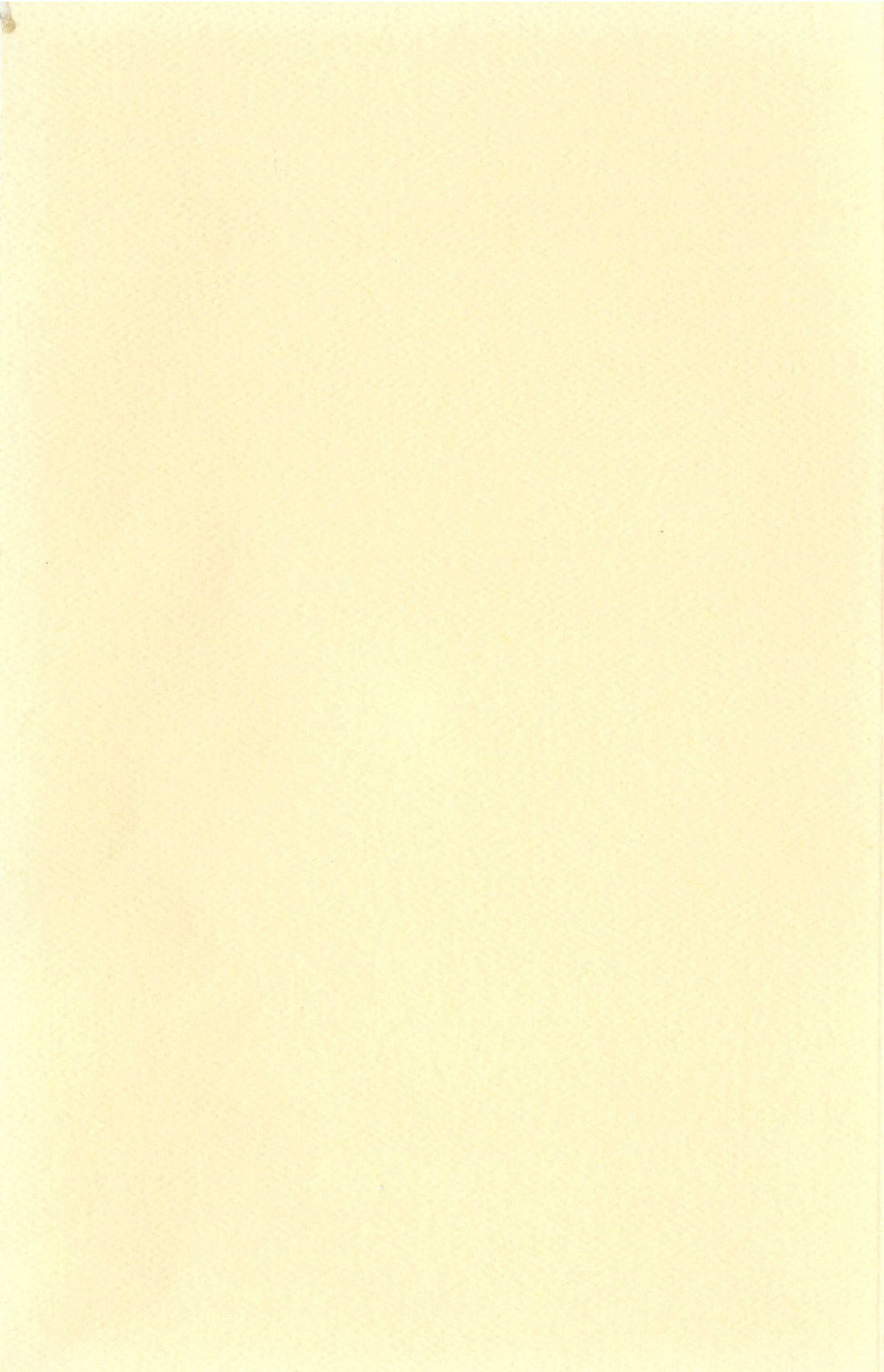
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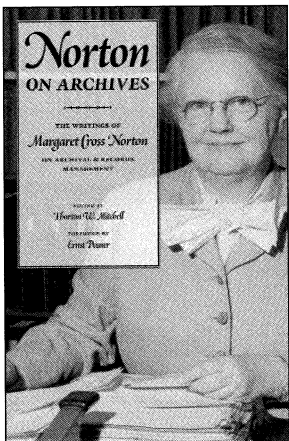
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## EDITORIAL POLICY

*Archival Issues*, a semiannual journal published by the Midwest Archives Conference since 1975, is concerned with the issues and problems confronting the contemporary archivist. The Editorial Board welcomes submissions relating to current archival practice and theory, to archival history, and to aspects of related professions of interest to archivists (such as records management and conservation management). We encourage diversity among topics and points of view. We will consider for publication submissions of a wide range of materials, including research articles, case studies, review essays, proceedings of seminars, and opinion pieces.

Manuscripts are blind reviewed by the Editorial Board; its decisions concerning submissions are final. Decisions on manuscripts will generally be made within 10 weeks of submission, and will include a summary of reviewers' comments. The Editorial Board uses the current edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* as the standard for style, including endnote format.

Please send manuscripts (and inquiries) to Board Chair Mark Greene. Submissions are accepted as hard copy (double spaced, including endnotes; 1-inch margins; 10-point or larger type), or electronically (Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or .rtf files) via 3 1/2" diskette or as an E-mail attachment.

### *Publication Reviews*

*Archival Issues* reviews books, proceedings, Web publications, and other materials of direct relevance or interest to archival practitioners. Publishers should send review copies to Publication Reviews Editor Kevin Proffitt. Please direct suggestions for books, proceedings, Web publications, other materials for review, and offers to review publications to the Publication Reviews Editor.

### *Subscriptions*

Subscriptions to *Archival Issues* are a part of membership in the Midwest Archives Conference; there is no separate subscription-only rate. Membership, which also includes four issues of *MAC Newsletter* and reduced registration fees for MAC's two yearly meetings, are \$30 per year for individuals and \$60 per year for institutions. Members outside of North America may elect to have the journal and newsletter mailed first class rather than bulk mail, at additional cost.

Single issues of the journal are available at \$15, plus \$1 shipping and handling.

Please direct inquiries regarding membership and purchase of journal copies to MAC Secretary Menzi Behrnd-Klodt, Klodt and Associates, 7422 Longmeadow Road, Madison, WI 53717. Phone: 608-827-5727; E-mail: menzi.behrnd-klodt@pleasantco.com.

## *Advertising*

Display advertisements in black ink are accepted at the following rates: full page, \$250; 1/2 page, \$150; 1/4 page, \$75; 1/8 page, \$50. These rates are discounted 20 percent for a one-volume (two-issue) commitment. Ads supplied as E-mail or on disk are preferred; camera-ready black and white acceptable. No bleed pages.

*Archival Issues* is pleased to consider exchange ads with other archival publications and with publications of other organizations that may be of interest to our readers.

## *Awards*

### **Margaret Cross Norton Award**

A panel of three archivists independent of the journal's Editorial Board presents the Margaret Cross Norton Award in odd-numbered years (alternating with the New Author Award). The Norton Award recognizes the author of what is judged to be the best article in the previous two years of *Archival Issues*. The award was established in 1985 to honor Margaret Cross Norton, a legendary pioneer in the American archival profession and the first state archivist of Illinois. The award consists of a certificate and \$250.

Cowinners were selected for volumes 23 and 24. Francis Blouin was recognized for his article, "Archivists, Mediation, and Constructs of Social Memory," 24:2, 101–112. Blouin's thoughtful and intellectually engaging article states that the role of archives in the formation of social memory is an area of study with wider practical reaches than that of a purely academic exercise. Blouin's article suggests that the study of archives and the representations of history within them bring the question of the integrity of archives to the forefront. The idea that archivists may play more than a completely objective role in the formation of the historical record strikes directly at the core of our theories and practices of archival appraisal and accountability. Through opening this discussion, Blouin opens the possibility for archivists in collections of every size and specialization to carefully consider the larger issues implicit in each collection-related decision that we make.

The other winner of the Margaret Cross Norton Award is Philip C. Bantin for his article, "Strategies for Managing Electronic Records: A New Archival Paradigm? An Affirmation of Our Archival Traditions?" 23:1, 17–34. Our colleagues who develop theoretical solutions for profound problems that face us in fulfilling our professional mandates often challenge us to rethink previously held convictions or develop practical solutions. In recent years, nowhere has this been more apparent than the complex issues facing electronic records. For many in our profession, the very subject "electronic records" seems to be a Promethean task introduced by cruel gods to haunt our dreams and impede our progress. Rarely are archivists presented with such a clear synopsis of the theoretical framework, an analysis of the crucial issues, and a series of practical suggestions as in Phil Bantin's article.

**New Author Award**

A panel of three archivists independent of the journal's Editorial Board presents the New Author Award in even-numbered years (alternating with the Margaret Cross Norton Award) for articles appearing in a two-year (four-issue) cycle of the journal. The award was instituted in 1993 to recognize superior writing by previously unpublished archivists, and may be awarded to practicing archivists who have not had article-length writings published in professional journals or to students in an archival education program. Up to two awards may be presented in a single cycle. The award consists of a certificate and \$250.

For volumes 23 and 24, the New Author Award winner was Mark Shelstad for his article, "Switching the Vacuum into Reverse: A Case Study of Retrospective Conversion As Collection Management," 23:2, 135-153. The article discusses in detail the situation at the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming as it undertook the retrospective conversion of the collections' finding aids to electronic format. The project, as is typical of such endeavors, became more than retrospective conversion: it became a massive reappraisal, documentation, and deaccessioning project. The article includes extensive tables on the time required to revise a collection as well as a detailed discussion of the methodology used. It is a well-written and well-documented article on potential problems almost any repository might face when doing retrospective conversion and how one institution responded to these challenges.

## THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Mark Greene (2001–2002)

Chair

American Heritage Center

University of Wyoming

PO Box 3924

Laramie, WY 82071-3924

Phone: 307-766-2474

Fax: 307-766-5511

E-mail: mgreene@uwyo.edu

Todd J. Daniels-Howell (2001–2003)

University Library

Indiana University Purdue

University–Indianapolis

755 W. Michigan Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202-5195

Phone: 317-274-0466

Fax: 317-278-2331

E-mail: tjdaniel@iupui.edu

Steve Gietschier (1999–2002)

*The Sporting News*

10176 Corporate Square Drive, Suite 200

St. Louis, MO 63132

Phone: 314-993-7787

Fax: 314-997-0765

E-mail: sgietsch@sportingnews.com

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The Library of Virginia

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Richmond, VA 23219-8000

Phone: 804-692-3635

Fax: 804-692-3556

E-mail: AGressitt@lva.lib.va.us

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Western Washington University

Bellingham, WA 98225-9056

Phone: 360-650-3139

Fax: 360-650-7789

E-mail: Rand.Jimerson@wwu.edu

Kevin Proffitt (1998–2001)

Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the

American Jewish Archives

3101 Clifton Avenue

Cincinnati, OH 45220

Phone: 513-221-7444, ext. 304

Fax: 513-221-7812

E-mail: kproffitt@cn.huc.edu

Margery N. Sly (2001–2003)

Department of History

Presbyterian Church USA

425 Lombard Street

Philadelphia, PA 19147-1516

Phone: 215-928-3896

Fax: 215-627-0509

E-mail: mslyare@hslc.org



