

ACA NEWS

Issue 44

October/November 2002



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*Upcoming continuing
education from SAA*

... and more!

From the President

(At ACA's Annual Business Meeting in Birmingham, Jane Nokes succeeded Lee Miller as President of the Academy of Certified Archivists. Below is an excerpt from Jane's presidential address — Editor)

I would like to begin by thanking Lee Miller for being an extraordinary example of leadership in action. His vision for the Academy and his determination to turn that vision into real achievements are laudatory. From the website to cross-advertising, to facing down the naysayers on the various listservs Lee has accomplished so much for the Academy and, by extension, the whole archival profession. His dedication is matched by a delightful wit and unfailing civility. Lee, from a Northern fan to a Southern gentleman, a simple but heartfelt thank you.

For those who do not know me, my name is Jane Nokes and I'll be your President this year. In addition to various roles in SAA, from chairing the Business Archives Section and serving on the ART Task Force for Carolyn Geda and the inimitable and much missed Harold Naugler to serving on the Editorial Board of *The American Archivist*. I was President of the Association of Canadian Archivists (the other ACA as we call it) and the founding Chairperson of the Toronto Area Archivists Group.

I am the Director of Archives and Fine Art for the Scotiabank Group, operating two wide-ranging portfolios with a full time staff of 5 plus 4 contract positions. Scotiabank Group operates in 51 countries with a staff of 50,000. The Fine Art collection is one of the leading corporate art collections in Canada. This past year my colleague Matt Szybalski was Vice President of the Association of Canadian Archivists—meaning there were 2 ACA Vice Presidents in one office!

I am thrilled to be your incoming President. In concert with the quite formidable members of the Board of Regents, Committees, and Task Forces, I am committed to taking the Academy forward. Our most important role in the coming year is to be a confident voice to lobby for change and to provide leadership on the issues we face collectively. I love our profession and am convinced that the Academy represents the apex of talent and commitment in our profession.

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Internally, your leadership has moved confidently and competently through a landmark year of a bumper crop of founding members' re-certifications (thanks Judith Cetina and company!) and a record breaking number of exam applicants to the establishment of the Role Delineation Task Force and the Re-Certification Guidelines Task Force. Both of these new task forces are designed to let people know that we keep them up to date. This year, working with the SAA leadership, we added re-certification points as a stated benefit of SAA continuing education programs. In addition Peter Hirtle has asked us to continue to work with SAA on new initiatives.

Our representation at all regional archival association meetings is established and will be enhanced this year with a traveling display unit. The Association of Canadian Archivists met in Vancouver in 2002, with delegates' briefcases sponsored by Scotiabank and stuffed with Academy brochures. The ACA's annual meeting will be in Toronto in June 2003, and I am determined that Toronto will be a site for the certification exam next August. Lee Miller and I will host an information session on the Academy at the Society of Southwest Archivists in New Orleans in May. On the assumption that Outreach is critical to our continued growth and success, Lee has agreed to continue updating the website and supplying items to the listservs and a list of newsletter editors.

Other initiatives this year included a writing to Human Resources consultants, enclosing the two brochures, "In Service to the Profession" and "An Employer's Guide to Archival Certification," which was reproduced in the *ACA News*. As you are no doubt aware, most of our parent organizations rely on a finite list of H.R. consultants when hiring and setting job levels for archivists. Next year, with Beth Bensman, I would like to follow up on this initiative with an expanded writing to H.R. departments and major archival institutions (those who are celebrated for 50 years membership in SAA, for example), reminding them that certification provides employers with a measure of an individual archivist's level of competence and commitment.

A recent book by philosopher Thomas de Koninok, a Laval University professor, entitled *The New Ignorance and the Problem of Culture*, is fascinating on its own and instructive in our context. De Koninok's main thrust is that today's technology and easy access to information have furthered the idea that we know everything—a "confining and deadly illusion" for individuals and for society. Archivists are by our nature and our training in the business of dispelling illusions. The Academy's strength is that it brings rational, articulate, and critical debate to the archival profession. The archival profession's strength is that it counters the increasingly abstract world in which the communications media circulates images rather than ideas. Archival practitioners, and especially certified archivists, undertake arguably one of the hardest things in the world to do: to challenge ourselves, to question ourselves, and the society we live in, and in so doing, become stronger contributors to our profession and society. I would ask each of you to make a contribution to the Academy in 2003. Bring in a new member, wear your CA lapel pins and invite interest in the Academy, write even a short notice or article for your parent organization's newsletter or an archival listserv, represent the Academy at regional archival association meetings, stand for office in one of our professional associations. For yourself, your career, the Academy, and our profession—it's a step in the right direction!

The enthusiasm and energy of our membership, who regularly put forward a roster of leaders which I frankly think is the envy of the profession, feeds my resolve to continue to work for the Academy to the best of my ability.

I welcome the new members of the Board, and with the Committees and the Task Forces' efforts to support us, resolve to take the Academy forward in 2003.

Jane Nokes, CA
President, Academy of Certified Archivists.

The Year in Review

By Lee Miller, CA, ACA Past President

2001/2002 was another successful year for the Academy. Last year we celebrated:

- A record number of new members
- A record number of applicants
- A record number of persons taking the examination
- A record number of examination sites
- A record number of persons attending the Academy's annual luncheon
- A budget in the black and projected to stay that way

The Academy also undertook several new initiatives:

- We recognized founding members with "Charter Member" status and certificates of appreciation.
- Because of the many requests the Academy receives to recommend consultants, the Academy created a consultant referral service.
- The Academy created an "Archival Recertification Credit" program (ARC) that allows organizations to advertise the number of credits Academy members may receive for participating in workshops and meetings. This gives archival groups an additional way to promote their programs while allowing Certified Archivists to know exactly how many ARC points they will receive for their continuing education activities.
- A blue-ribbon task force led by Edie Hedlin was appointed to ensure the Role Delineation continues to accurately describe the archival profession.
- Reciprocal exchange advertisement agreements were reached with several organizations.
- To counter inaccurate information being circulated about archival certification, the Academy added a "Myths vs. Facts" document to its web page and distributed selections from it to archival listservs
- Began two campaigns to reach out to employers through sending information to human resources departments (led by Jane Nokes) and to employers who advertise on the archives listserv (led by Michael Bullington)

2001/2002 was a busy year for the Academy, but it was busy only because the Academy had a record of consistent success to build on.

ACA By The Numbers

- 109 candidates sat for this year's certification exam, in 12 locations—both records for the Academy. 97 of those candidates took the exam for initial certification, 12 for certification maintenance, and 7 were re-taking the exam.
- As of the SAA meeting, 222 petitions for re-certification have been received. Of that number 136 petitions had been reviewed as of the SAA meeting, 71 were under review by the re-certification review teams, 44 were awaiting review, and 12 candidates chose to re-certify by exam (contact Judy Cetina if you have questions about the status of your petition).
- Steve Grandin, in the ACA Office, reports that, as of Birmingham, 700 out of 722 members had renewed their membership—a 97% renewal rate.

Way to go!!

Welcome to the ACA Class of 2002

Regular Members

Leslie Armbruster, CA (Southfield, MI)
Allison Baker, CA (Mansfield, TX)
Laura Beechen, CA (New Orleans, LA)
Matthew Blessing, CA (Milwaukee, WI)
Steven A. Brown, CA (Athens, GA)
Greta Browning, CA (Athens, GA)
Ruth Bryan, CA (Durham, NC)
Karen Caron, CA (Columbia, MD)
Mary Coker, CA (Jefferson City, MO)
Christine Crandall, CA (Cincinnati, OH)
Virginia Davis, CA (Uvalde, TX)
Maria Deptula, CA (Haskell, NJ)
Natalie Drew, CA (St. Louis, MO)
Carrie Fager, CA (Baton Rouge, LA)
Eric B. Fair, CA (Gurnee, IL)
Edward C. Field, CA (Santa Barbara, CA)
Amy B. Filiatreau, CA (Austin, TX)
Nancy Freeman, CA (Fort Collins, CO)
Holly E. Geist, CA (Cheyenne, WY)
Margaret Graham, CA (Philadelphia, PA)
Jennifer Halloran, CA (Poughkeepsie, NY)
Andrew Hempe, CA (Houston, TX)
Sara J. Holmes, CA (St. Louis, MO)
Harold Housley, CA (Emigrant, MT)
Shawna Kennedy-Witthar, CA (Canyon, TX)
Margaret Klinkow, CA (Oak Park, IL)
Anthony S. Kurtz, CA (Ellensburg, WA)
Vincent S. Larkin, CA (Asbury Park, NJ)
Sangmin Lee, CA (Taejon-city, Republic of Korea)
Lori Lindberg, CA (San Francisco, CA)
V. Arel Lucas, CA (San Francisco, CA)
Brenda S. McClurkin, CA (Weatherford, TX)
Donna McCrea, CA (Fountain, CO)
Charles L. Miller, CA (Pasadena, CA)
Linda Morton-Keithley, CA (Boise, ID)
Laura O'Hara, CA (Pacifica, CA)
Ellen Pierce, CA (Peekskill, NY)
Rebecca Rich-Wulfmeyer, CA (Austin, TX)
Joanne Seitter, CA (Audubon, NJ)
Jeffrey Sinnott, CA (Anchorage, AK)
Michael Tarabulski, CA (Moscow, ID)
John Terhorst, CA (New York, NY)
Syndey VanNort, CA (New York, NY)
Michael Vitale, CA (New York, NY)
Rebekah Weber, CA (Jefferson City, MO)
Christina Wolf, CA (Warr Acres, OK)
Larissa Woo, CA (Astoria, NY)
Amanda York, CA (San Marcos, TX)

Janet K. Zastrow, CA (Honolulu, HI)

Provisional Members (passed exam, but need to meet 1-year experience requirement)

Heather Arnold (Menlo Park, CA)
Melinda Curley (Austin, TX)
John Gumbrecht (Fort Washington, PA)
Deborah J. Rice (Ferndale, MI)
Rebecca E. Romanchuk (Austin, TX)
Sally Schwartz (Milwaukee, WI)
Eric Skinner (Pittsburgh, PA)
Kristy Sorensen (Austin, TX)
Jane Zhang (Calgary, AB, Canada)

Get your CA pin!

If you attended the business meeting in Birmingham, you saw (and perhaps received) one of the attractive "CA" pins, which were designed for us by Jostens. They are available for a nominal charge to all ACA members.

Contact Jane Nokes if you would like one.

****Special thanks to Scotiabank Group, for underwriting the cost of the initial run of 100 pins which Jane handed out in Birmingham.**

Meeting Highlights

- Crawfish Etoufee
- Streetcars
- Bread Pudding
- Steamboats
- Gumbo
- Voodoo
- French Quarter
- Pralines
- Shrimp Creole
- Jambalaya

Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Meeting

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

May 22-24, 2003

Cultural Celebrations and Commemorations: Archives, Memory, and History

The theme reflects the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial. Plans thus far include a keynote by **Robert S. Martin**, Director of IMLS, and a pre-session program by **Jane Nokes**, ACA President.

Room rates are for May 21-25 and the hotel is in a wonderful arts, shopping, and museum area next to the French Quarter. Come early, stay late, bring your family or friends, and celebrate the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial in New Orleans.

Visit our web site for more information, including the call for papers.

specialcollections.tulane.edu/SSA/SSA2003.htm

Item-Writing Workshop Held in Birmingham

By Anne Diffendal, C.A., Regent for Exam. Development

The ACA sponsored a second annual Item-Writing Workshop on August 22 in Birmingham, AL. Certified archivists gathered to learn about the process of developing the certification exam and to write new questions for the item-bank from which the test is constructed.

Participants drafted questions according to a "Guide to Preparing Multiple-Choice Items" developed by educational testing professionals. Working from the ACA Role Delineation Statement, they linked each item to a particular domain, task statement, and knowledge statement; and provided to reference for the correct response from an authoritative source in the archival literature.

Bringing their draft questions to the workshop, which was directed by Anne P. Diffendal, Regent for Examination Development, they reviewed each, rejecting some and revising others to be considered for addition to the item-bank by the Examination Development Committee at its meeting in March.

If you would like to take part in a future workshop, watch the ACA website for details about the next one planned for Los Angeles in August 2003.

Participants in the 2002 ACA Item-Writing Workshop were: Burton Altman, James B. Byers, Ellen Garrison, Sarah Canby Jackson, Ellen Morfei, JoAnn Pospisil and Gary Spur.

Upcoming Professional Education Offerings from SAA

Archival Cataloging as a Component of Description

Austin, TX

Co-sponsor: Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin

Monday, February 24, 2003 – Tuesday, February 25, 2003 9:00 AM – 5:00 AM

Continuing Education Units (CEUs): 1.5

ACA Archival Recertification Credits: 5

REGISTRATION FEES:

Early bird (on or before 1/24/2003): SAA Member – \$285; Nonmember – \$365

Regular (after 1/24/2003): SAA Member – \$310; Nonmember – \$390

Archival Perspectives in Digital Preservation

Tucson, AZ

Co-sponsor: University of Arizona Library

Thursday, February 27, 2003 – Friday, February 28, 2003 9:00 AM – 5:00 AM

Continuing Education Units (CEUs): 1.5

ACA Archival Recertification Credits: 10

REGISTRATION FEES:

Early bird (on or before 1/27/2003): SAA Member – \$225; Nonmember – \$295

Regular (after 1/27/2003): SAA Member – \$250; Nonmember – \$320

Advanced Electronic Records: Design, Implementation and Evaluation

Edwardsville, IL

Co-sponsor: Lovejoy Library at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Thursday, March 20, 2003 – Friday, March 21, 2003 9:00 AM – 5:00 AM

Continuing Education Units (CEUs): 1.5

ACA Archival Recertification Credits: 10

REGISTRATION FEES:

Early bird (on or before 2/20/2003): SAA Member – \$285; Nonmember – \$365

Regular (after 2/20/2003): SAA Member – \$310; Nonmember – \$390

Encoded Archival Description

New Orleans, LA

Co-sponsor: Xavier University of Louisiana

Monday, March 24, 2003 – Tuesday, March 25, 2003 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Continuing Education Units (CEUs): 1.5

ACA Archival Recertification Credits: 10

REGISTRATION FEES:

Early bird (on or before 2/24/2003): SAA Member – \$305; Nonmember – \$385

Regular (after 2/24/2003): SAA Member – \$330; Nonmember – \$410

Style Sheets for EAD—Delivering Your Finding Aids on the Web

#0325

New Orleans, LA (Hotel and travel information)

Co-sponsor: Xavier University of Louisiana

Thursday, March 27, 2003 – Friday, March 28, 2003 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Continuing Education Units (CEUs): 1.5

ACA Archival Recertification Credits: 10

REGISTRATION FEES:

Early bird (on or before 2/27/2003): SAA Member – \$305; Nonmember – \$330

Regular (after 2/27/2003): SAA Member – \$385; Nonmember – \$410

Online registration for these workshops is available via the SAA website: www.archivists.org

For more information, contact Solveig DeSutter or Patti O'Hara in the SAA Office
Email: education@archivists.org

For information about Archival Recertification Credits contact Judy Cetina.

ACA Leadership, 2002-2003

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Albany, NY 12207

Phone: (518) 463-8644
Fax: (518) 463-8656



www.certifiedarchivists.org/

**The Nominating Committee
needs YOU!**

**Submit nominations for ACA
Officers to Sheryl Vogt,
Nominating Committee
Chair.**

Exam sites, 2003, 2004, 2005

2003: Los Angeles, CA (SAA), Philadelphia, PA, Atlanta, GA, St. Louis, MO, Houston, TX, and "You Pick The Site" locations around the world

2004: Boston, MA (SAA), Pittsburgh, PA, Chicago, IL, Las Vegas, NV, Charlotte, NC, and "You Pick The Site" locations around the world

2005: New Orleans, LA (SAA), Washington, DC, Kansas City, MO, Memphis, TN, Portland, OR, and "You Pick The Site" locations around the world

Application deadline for the 2003 exam is **May 15, 2003**. For more information, contact Marty Levitt, Regent for Exam. Administration.