



ACA News

The Newsletter of the Academy of Certified Archivists

Issue 71 Fall 2010

President's Message

Pam Hackbart-Dean, CA

Morris Library

Southern Illinois University Carbondale



Howdy from Little Egypt and the land of the Salukis!! Football, changing leaf colors and cooler weather has finally found us.

I would like to first congratulate and welcome our newest members to the Academy. I am especially excited about a crowd of eager archivists who got together in Little Rock, Arkansas (my hometown) as a pick-your-site to take the exam.

On August 11th in Washington, DC and at 13 other sites throughout the United States 134 candidates sat for the certification exam, and 111 individuals passed. I would like to encourage those who were not successful to plan to take the exam next year in Chicago, Columbia (SC), Dallas, Pittsburgh or Seattle. This year we were able to give three travel assistance awards, which provide funds to waive the \$50 exam fee and help defray travel costs incurred to take the exam.

That same week we held our Annual Business Meeting and cookie reception in conjunction with the Society of American Archivists Annual meeting in Washington, DC. At the business meeting, the Academy presented Angela M. Ossar, CA Texas State Library and Archives Commission, with the first awarded Class of 1989 Legacy Award. In addition, Cindy Smolovik, CA and Jane Nokes, CA were honored/honoured (for Jane) with the Academy's Distinguished Service Award. These

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Academy of Certified Archivists
1450 Western Avenue, Suite 101
Albany, NY 12203
Phone: (518) 463-8644
Fax: (518) 463-8656
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President's Message

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two wonderful individuals have given so much leadership and time to the work of the Academy. I can't think of two more deserving people. More information about Cindy's and Jane's award can be found in this issue.

I have always been impressed by the willingness of ACA members to step up to the plate and do what needs to be done. We have committees filled with volunteers who are willing to dedicate their time and effort to our profession. In addition, several of our members volunteer to proctor our certification exam, sit at the ACA tables during local, regional and national meetings, and serve as speakers for the Academy at conferences or student meetings, to name a few—all in support of the Academy. So thank you!

We are also fortunate to have a very dynamic group serving on the Academy's board this year. One of many exciting projects to be aware of is soon members will be able to file their request for certification maintenance online. Be sure to keep connected with the Academy's events and initiatives on Facebook, through the ACA website, or in our quarterly newsletter. More great things are happening, so stay tuned!

The midyear meeting of the Board of Regents will be held in early March 2011 in Houston, Texas. If there are any matters or issues that you wish to bring to the board's attention, please feel free to contact me or Brenda Gunn, CA, Vice President/President elect and your ombudsman, with your ideas or concerns.

I am happy to report that our financial status is sound. As you know, the majority of ACA ex-

pense goes towards crafting and sustaining the exam item bank, guaranteeing its security and integrity, administering the exam, and looking after the needs of our members through certification maintenance. We are also fortunate to have a "home base" with Capitol Hill Management Services and the unparalleled Steve Grandin.

I wish to conclude by telling you how seriously I take the position of president of ACA; I am following in the footsteps of some incredible archives role models and colleagues, and I want to live up to their paradigms. The role of president is really being and serving as a facilitator—to assist the regents, leadership and volunteers to reach their goals and objectives, to make sure we are following the requests of our members and to guide us to be a strong voice in the archival profession. ACA is a special organization and I look forward to a productive and positive year for the Academy.

Pam Hackbart-Dean, CA
President

The Academy of Certified Archivists



Margery Sly, CA Pam Hackbart-Dean, CA and Beth Bensman, CA at the ACA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

From the Regent for Examination Development

Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, PhD, CA

Academy Archivist and Chief, Special Collections
U.S. Air Force Academy
Colorado Springs, Colorado

We are happy to welcome Dr. Christine de Catanzaro, CA from Georgia Tech and Matt Szybalski, CA, Corporate Records Manager and City Archivist for Thunder Bay, Canada, to the Exam Development Committee (EDC). They will join John Fleckner, CA, Jane Kenamore, CA, Tomaro Taylor, CA, Emily Hughes Dominick, CA, Mary Elizabeth Ruwell (EDC Regent), and Brenda Gunn, CA (ACA Vice-President). We bid good-bye with regret to Melinda Curley and Bob McInnes who brought much productive thought to the committee.

Congratulations to all archivists who passed the exam this year! The average score on the exam was 72.89. The passing score was 65%. There seems to be some misunderstanding about how the exam is scored. ACA does not discard questions that everyone misses which then somehow affects the passing score. The Exam Development Committee is guided by Dr. Holly Traver, Professor in the Cognitive Science Department at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, who ensures the reliability and validity of the certification examination. Before the 2010 exam was given, a survey of ten certified archivists was made to rate each item on the exam in terms of the likelihood that the least-competent test taker would get the test item correct (the Angoff Procedure) and this information is used to set the cut score on the exam. Dr. Tra-

ver receives all the exams and electronically scores them. She conducts item analyses to assess reliability. Each item is scored in terms of its difficulty, which is the percentage of test takers who got the item correct. There is also a discriminability index, which is a bi-serial correlation between responding correctly to the item and one's total test score. Only then does Dr. Traver generate a report of the exam results and provide individual scores.

The role delineation statement, which you may recall was recently updated, is crucial in developing the test to ensure that the questions are still relevant to archival work. Dr. Traver has conducted a survey of questions from each domain on the exam to ensure that the content of the exam material matches the requirements of the job of an archivist. The EDC committee members have long discussions about the validity of distractors and what an archivist should be expected to know. The correct answers are referenced within existing archival literature. Please let us know of any questions that you think cannot be found in the literature recommended in the "Selected Readings" at the end of the *Handbook for Archival Certification*.

Thank you to the wonderful professionals who participated in the item-writing workshop this year in Washington, DC. Twelve questions were added to the item bank. One of the participants, Sharon Silengo, commented "I learned more about the test in one day than in all the time I spent studying for it."

**Upcoming locations for the annual meeting
of the Academy of Certified Archivists**
August 24th - 25th, 2011 — Chicago, Illinois

2010 Distinguished Service Awards

The Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) presented the Distinguished Service Award, the association's highest honor, to Jane Nokes, and Cindy Smolovik at a ceremony held at the organization's annual business meeting August 12 in Washington, DC. The Distinguished Ser-



Photograph courtesy of Laura Botts

vice Award is bestowed on individuals by ACA and acknowledges extraordinary services rendered to the Academy by its members. The award was established by the Academy's Board of Regents in 2002 and is conferred annually. ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

Cindy Smolovik is the senior records analyst with the National Archives and Records Administration, Southwest Region (Fort Worth, Texas). She previously served as City Archivist / DMARC Manager in the Office of City Secretary of Dallas, Texas; Archivist in the History and Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library; and Archivist/Librarian at the Dallas Jewish Historical Society Archives at the Jewish Community Center of Dallas. Cindy's service to the Academy includes elected positions such as Vice-President, President, Regent of Nominations, and Secretary. She has also chaired the Role Delineation Review Task Force, and served on the Exam Development and Certification Maintenance Review committees, as well as establishing a professionally designed records management program for the Academy. In 2009, Cindy was appointed, along with Jane Nokes, as the Academy's representative at the International Council on Archives in Geneva, Switzerland. "Cindy Smolovik is an exemplar of professionalism in our field,

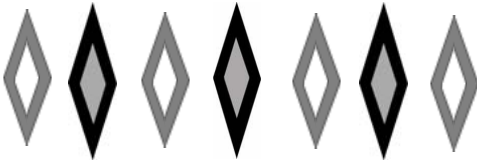
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Jane Nokes is the Director of the Corporate Archives and Fine Art for Scotiabank Group (Toronto, Ontario, Canada). Under Jane's guidance, the Archives department has grown from a one-person operation into a department of six professionally trained archivists. Jane, a Corporate Archivist since 1971, became a member of ACA in 1989, one of the original 200 members who founded the Academy. Her service to the Academy includes elected positions such as Vice-President, President and Regent of Nominations. In addition, Jane was appointed Chair of the President's Ad Hoc 20th Anniversary Committee (2009) and the Academy's representative at the past International Council on Archives in Geneva, Switzerland, where she and Cindy Smolovik made a presentation on role delineation. "Anyone who knows Jane Nokes knows that she is a tireless promoter of the Academy," one supporter stated. One of Jane's greatest services, apart from offices held, has been to be an exemplary archivist, a consummate professional — one who demonstrates, on a daily basis, those qualities to which all Certified Archivists aspire.

Distinguished Service Award - Cindy Smolovik

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and her obvious enthusiasm for the Academy has made her a mentor to dozens of aspiring young archivists,” said one supporter. In comportment, in articulate speeches, but mostly by example, Cindy represents the best of what the Academy produces in executive leadership.



Photos: Laura Botts

Cindy Smolovik (left) and Jane Nokes (right) receive Distinguished Service Awards at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC

From the Webmaster

Laura Botts, CA

Mercer University, Tarver Library
Macon, Georgia

Greetings from a beautiful fall day on the campus of Mercer University in Macon, Georgia! I am excited to be the new Webmaster for the Academy and have enjoyed learning the ropes. Previous Webmaster Jordon Steele has brought me up to speed and has been an invaluable resource during this time of transition. Since the ACA Board meeting in August I have updated the online membership list as well as the list of pre-approved programs for Recertification credits and made a few minor changes to the Web site.

I would encourage you to check out our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/ACArchivists>, and

“like” it if you have not done so already. I am happy to add new content and photographs if you have something to share with the membership. We are now posting job listings for archives positions via the Facebook page, and we invite you to submit these. Please note that the ad **MUST** specify that archival certification is preferred, required, desired, or will be considered during the application review process.

There is also an ACA group on LinkedIn (<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1799847>), and we hope you will join us there. If you have any questions or comments about our Web activities, I would love to hear from you. See you online!



Officers and Board News

President (2010-11)	Pam Hackbart-Dean, CA Morris Library Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Illinois
Vice President/ President-Elect (2010-11)	Brenda Gunn, CA University of Texas at Austin Briscoe Center for American History Austin, TX
Treasurer (2010-12)	Mott R. Linn, DA, CA Clark University Worcester, Massachusetts
Secretary (2009-11)	Shelly Henley Kelly, CA Neumann Library University of Houston- Clear Lake Clear Lake, Texas
Regent for Examination Administration (2009-11)	Daphne O. DeLeon, CA Nevada State Library & Archives Carson City, Nevada
Regent for Examination Development (2010-12)	Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, PhD, CA U.S. Air Force Academy Colorado Springs, Colorado
Regent for Certification Maintenance (2009-11)	Kristy Sorensen, CA Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Austin, Texas
Regent for Outreach (2010-12)	Louis E. Jones, PhD, CA Wayne State University Walter P. Reuther Library Detroit, Michigan
Immediate Past Presi- dent & Regent for Nomi- nations (2010-11)	Mike Bullington, CA McDonald's Golden Ar- chives Elk Grove, Illinois
Chair, Nominating Committee (2010-11)	Richard Shrake, CA American Philosophical Society Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Contact information for the Officers and Regents is available on the ACA website:
www.certifiedarchivists.org/about-us/officers.html

From the Regent for Outreach

Louis E. Jones, Ph.D., CA

Wayne State University, Walter P. Reuther
Library, Detroit, Michigan

Outreach remains an important facet of the Academy. While the organization recently reached a milestone with a membership exceeding 1,000, its strength and vitality are dependent upon continued growth. Current outreach activities include efforts undertaken in previous years and new programs as well. Their success hinges on the support of the membership working together.

Last year, the Todd Gilliom, CA, ACA Regent for Outreach, initiated a program where its members spoke to SAA student chapters about the benefits of archival certification. As an outreach effort, the Academy will continue the effort this academic year. The program's success is contingent upon the assistance of ACA members. Thus far, student chapters based at Indiana University, Simmons College, the University of Illinois at Urbana, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville have expressed an interest in having an ACA member address their group and we are hoping to expand upon last year's success of this program. Those ACA members answering the call to speak to SAA student chapters will receive points toward recertification. Most importantly, they will be sharing important insights that can only strengthen the profession and help guide prospective archivists into and through rewarding careers.

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Report of the Secretary

Shelly Henley Kelly, CA

University Archivist

University of Houston-Clear Lake

The ACA Board of Regents held their annual board meeting at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. on August 11, 2010.

President Michael Bullington, CA informed the board that the 2010 Distinguished Service Award would be presented to Jane Nokes and Cindy Smolovik.

ACA has not received any reply from David Ferrero, Archivist of the United States to our requests for a meeting, but Mike remained hopeful that there would be an opportunity to make a connection during the SAA meeting. Louis Jones, the incoming Regent for Outreach, will chair a Task Force on State Archivists to investigate where CAs exist in state archives and how we can coordinate outreach with them. The board authorized the president to investigate trade marking the CA designation.

Angela M. Ossar, CA is the first recipient of the Class of 1989 Legacy Award. Donations to the award fund continue to be received through membership renewal forms.

Pam Hackbart-Dean, ACA Vice President, answered questions dealing with qualifications to sit for the exam and worked with Steve Grandin on responding to our first ADA request for the exam. Mott Linn, CA. ACA Treasurer, reported that ACA has sufficient reserves to cover approximately 18 months of expenses. Thanks to stable income generated from membership dues, certification and exam fees, coupled with conservative expenses, there is no need to raise our dues in the foreseeable future.

ACA shifted our membership notice date to collect most income within the first half of the fiscal year, instead of splitting income between two fiscal years. This change is reflected in our financial reporting. If there are any questions, please contact Mott. The budget was approved as presented.

New officers and Regents received the ACA Board of Regents Handbook. All outgoing board members were asked to review the Records Retention schedule closely to prepare their records for the ACA Archives.

ACA Regent for Exam Administration, Daphne Arnaiz-DeLeon, CA reported that there were 151 requests approved for the exam and nine pick-your-site locations. The 2010 Travel Assistance Award recipients were Megan Hibbitts, Timothy Mottaz, and Alexandra Myers. They received up to \$200 for travel expenses and the \$50 exam fee was
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Upcoming Locations for the Certification Examination

The 2011 Certification Exam will be held August 24th at the following locations:

Chicago, Illinois (SAA site)

Columbia, South Carolina

Dallas, Texas

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Seattle, Washington

[Additional sites can be requested through the "Pick Your Site" Program]

Deadline for the 2011 examination application is May 15, 2011

Applications and additional information will be available on the web site in January 2011:
certifiedarchivists.org/get-certified/application.html

Report of the Secretary

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waived.

ACA Regent for Exam Development, Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, CA reported the EDC developed a new exam that will be used this year and updated the bibliography. They created new sample questions for the workbook.

ACA Regent for Certification Maintenance, Kristy Sorensen, CA reported we had an 81% recertification rate this year. She created an online form for ARC requests, resulting in 122 programs receiving approval. The list of pre-approved programs is available on the ACA website. Kristy requested the board to provide feedback for a draft of the new online recertification petition that will be implemented for the 2011 recertification class. A paper form will continued to be accepted.

ACA Regent for Outreach, Todd Gilliom, could not attend the meeting. A written report was submitted. The results of the state and local government archivist employers reveals that 73% of respondents would prefer to hire a Certified Archivist when comparing two otherwise identical job applicants.

ACA Regent for Nominations, Marty Levitt, CA and Gerri Schaad, CA Nominations Chair, presented the board with election results: **Vice President/President-Elect:** Brenda Gunn; **Treasurer:** Mott Linn; **Regent for Exam Development:** Mary Elizabeth Ruwell; **Regent for Outreach:** Louis Jones; and **Nominating Committee Member:** Tara Laver.

Individual regent reports and complete minutes of the meeting will be available on the ACA web site at the following URL:

www.certifiedarchivists.org/about-us/minutes-and-reports.html

443 ballots were cast in our first electronic election. Trudy Peterson, CA and Jim Byers, CA appeared to represent ACA members wishing to respond to the news that ACA voted not to pay annual ICA dues of \$500 this year. The two made an impassioned presentation on the benefits of continued ICA membership, including that ACA needs to be involved, not only to be receiving information, but also to provide information about how certification works. Other organizations benefit from knowing how our certification program works and we have a broader reach through ICA. The board voted to reinstate

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Learning How to Stay Relevant: SAA 2010 and the ACA Class of 1989 Award By Angela McClendon Ossar, CA

Last year, I left archives work to become a Government Information Analyst with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. In my new position, I'm responsible for providing records management assistance to Texas' 150 or so state agencies and 10,000+ local governments. Towns, school districts, county clerks, state universities, sheriffs, hospital districts, river authorities (and so on) depend on our agency for guidance on legal requirements, retention periods, imaging, emergency pre-

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Angela M. Ossar, CA at the UNC School of Information and Library Science Alumni Mixer



Report of the Secretary

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payment of dues to ICA.

Newsletter Editor, Anselm Huelsbergen, CA, produced four issues last year. Linda Hocking, CA will be the new editor. The board thanked Anselm for his service and dedication in producing an extremely professional, well-edited publication.

ACA Webmaster, Jordon Steele, CA, continued routine maintenance and content update of the website. The board briefly discussed how we can better utilize our Facebook page. Though over 180 applicants joined the ACA exam forum, there were only five postings. Laura Botts will be the new webmaster.

Steve Grandin, representing Capitol Hill Management, reviewed our membership statistics. The board discussed various locations for 2013, selecting: Hartford, CT; New Orleans, LA (SAA); Dallas, TX; Las Vegas, NV; and Indianapolis, IN.

Under new business, the board discussed proposing partnering with archival educators and/or SAA to submit an NHPRC grant that would encourage publication in areas where archival literature is limited. ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Learning How to Stay Relevant

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paredness, and a long list of other topics.

Keeping abreast of current practices is vital to my relevance in this position. When the ACA announced a new scholarship to help certified archivists travel to conferences or workshops, I had to apply. Thanks to the Class of 1989 Legacy Professional Development Award, I could afford to attend SAA this year and receive some much-needed edification.

This could not have been a better year for me to attend this conference. This year, SAA partnered with CoSA and NAGARA again to provide sessions on a broad spectrum of archives and records management topics, many of them quite pertinent to government agencies. Some highlights of the conference for me were:

Session 407: “Trust Me, I’m an Archivist: Transparency, Accountability, and Archival Documentation.” This is a subject that fascinates me. The decisions that archivists make – during appraisal, processing, and even description – are of critical historical significance. They determine, essentially, what documentation of society’s development gets left behind. But how do archivists arrive at those decisions? Isn’t this something that the public has a right to know? And will the publicizing of these decisions perhaps make archivists more visible? This session was totally inspiring, offering very practical advice on how we might tackle some of these big issues.

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Photo: Laura Botts

2010 ACA reception attendees with Regent for Outreach Louis Jones (second from right)

Learning How to Stay Relevant

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Archivist of the United States David Ferreiro’s plenary speech. Ferreiro’s engaging speech and Q&A responses gave insight into some interesting developments and projects happening at NARA. Ferreiro talked about the “citizen archivist” concept, where researchers are able to “deposit” their knowledge of collections to help future researchers – he said that researchers are willing to do this; our job is to find the tools to enable it. In response to a question about NARA’s relationship to K-12 education, Ferreiro discussed the Docst Teach program (see: <http://docsteach.org/>), which provides online access to thousands of documents and lesson plans as well as a forum for teachers to work on developing curriculum.

Session 602: “A Flickr of Hope: Harvesting Social Networking Sites.” Capturing Web content – including content created on social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr – is more critical than ever. One great illustration of this came from the New York State Archives, where they are using OCLC Web Harvester to capture their state agencies’ Web content. A survey revealed that of the 90 New York state agencies that are eligible to transfer records to the State Archives, only 56 actually have. This means: 38% of New York’s agencies would leave behind *no documentation whatsoever* if it weren’t for Web archiving.

Session 302: “So, Like, Byte Me: A Critical Response by Records Professionals to Born-

Digital Records.” Some things I took from this session: that records management is just always going to be an ancillary function of business; it’s never going to be an agency’s core function. In order to work, it’s got to be integrated into business practices, not an add-on, and it’s also got to require little to no effort by end users. I think my favorite quote from the session was: “We will be welcome collaborators when we enhance what our partners do.” A big part of being relevant is just being useful.

The ACA Business Meeting. I enjoyed the behind-the-scenes look at how the ACA functions. I was most interested in certification maintenance, since this is the most relevant topic to me right now. I learned that you can now go to ACA’s website to view a list of pre-approved programs that may be used for Archival Recertification Credits (ARCs). The list includes the number of ARCs you may receive for a particular program, and even what recertification area the program falls under (as in, B.3.c). This will save a lot of time on the recertification application.

Seeing Julia Child’s kitchen at the Smithsonian in person. Wow!

As always, the SAA experience made me thrilled to be an archivist and inspired countless new projects. I took so many pages of notes that I spent the entirety of the flight back to Austin extracting all of these ideas into five pages of bullet-pointed take-aways. I can’t say thanks enough to the ACA for their generosity in awarding me this scholarship.



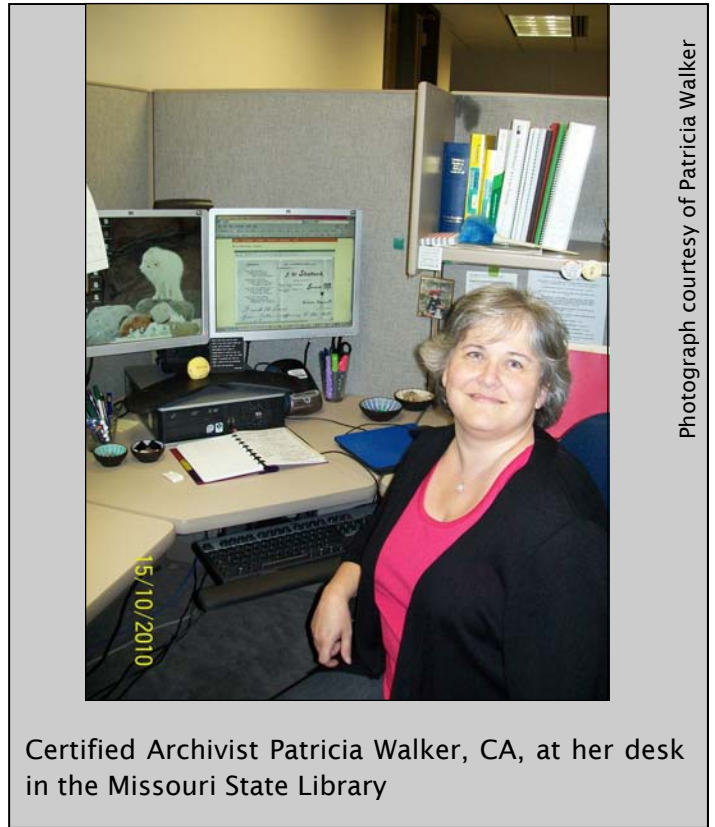
Patricia Walker, CA
Digital Collections Coordinator,
Missouri Digital Heritage Ini-
tiative Website
Jefferson City, Missouri

By Anselm M. Huelsbergen, CA

Patricia Walker, CA, has been aware of the Academy of Certified Archivists and its certification process since graduate school, but it wasn't until actually being out of school and working as a professional archivist that she began to see the potential value of archival certification. "Once I graduated and received first-hand experience with the divide between archivists with MLS degrees and those with MA degrees in a different field, I felt that it was important to have something additional to my MLS that would level the playing field in the profession." Not only did certifying in 2004 make her more qualified – it allowed her to find a new position – it also rewarded her with a better salary.

Originally from Culpeper, Virginia, Walker now works as the Digital Collections Coordinator for the Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative (MDH) website. The MDH helps institutions across the State of Missouri digitize and present collections of historical records and documents online. The staff of MDH works in different divisions of the Office of the Missouri Secretary of State. Walker is based in the Missouri State Library where she administers the CONTENTdm server for the MDH.

In essence, Walker simplifies the technological complexities of online, digital collections for many of the MDH's contributors. She helps institutions identify viable material, facilitates the



Certified Archivist Patricia Walker, CA, at her desk in the Missouri State Library

material's arrangement and description, and assists in digitization and moving the electronic files onto the MDH's servers. The end result, as Walker notes, is that:

I also help the average person, rather than just academics, access their heritage. Some people would never set foot in an archival repository because they don't feel like they belong or have the right to be there, yet they are very interested in history. As a result, it's critical to provide some way for them to access the content that is comfortable for them.

The benefits of certification in such a rapidly changing field have not been lost on Walker. Her choice, in 2009, to recertify by petition "...helped me push myself to do outreach and seek out continuing education opportunities that I might not otherwise pursue." Staying on top of the new technology is crucial. "The work I do with tech-

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Academy Profile - Patricia Walker, CA

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nology is the most dynamic and changeable part of my job. Working in a consortial environment with a wide variety of information professionals and software that was originally designed for item-level description leads to many interesting conversations.”

Even though technology is a focal point of Walker’s current position, it is communication that she singles out as its most challenging aspect:

I work with librarians with no understanding of archival concepts like provenance and original order; historians with no idea how to describe and arrange; and volunteers who are gung-ho, but unclear whose advice to

follow. All of these groups are very dedicated to access, they just have very different takes on what access is and how you go about providing it to researchers. As archivists, we learn to adjust the definition we’re using for a term dependent on context. Other sister professions don’t know they need to do that, and volunteers often have no idea of the terms much less the definitions. People end up walking away from a conversation with a completely different understanding of what needs to happen next, which can have disastrous results for making content searchable online.

Other benefit of her membership in the Academy is that it “...pushes me to actively participate in the profession rather than just work in it.” Walker’s volunteer work for the Academy is one of those

ways she takes part in the profession. She has served as a petition reviewer for recertification, a process that, as she says, “not only helps me see trends in the profession, but it also allows me to network with other archivists from around the U.S. It makes me feel like I’m in tune with the profession’s heartbeat.”

Looking back at certification and the role it has played in her career, Walker comes to the following conclusion:

Certification is valuable for new archivists.

After gaining two years experience, you have a better feel for the practicalities of archival work, but prepping for the exam is a refresher, reminding us of the broader context of our profession. There’s such a wide variety within the archival

world from government records to manuscript collections to business archives with each area having its quirks. Certification reminds us to handle whatever materials are in our custody as professional best practice dictates.

Academy Profile

This feature profiles members of the Academy of Certified Archivists. If you would like to suggest someone to be featured, or if you yourself would like to appear in the column, please contact:

Linda Hocking, CA

archivist@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org

Mary Edith Estes Arnold, CA Retires

Appointed Kappa Alpha Theta’s Fraternity archivist in January 1981, Mary Edith Estes Arnold admitted at the time that she knew “... just a little” about historic resources and their preservation. Today, nearly 30 years later, Mary Edith retires with a wealth of knowledge and experience and a reputation that extends beyond the Greek world. Thanks to her hard work and dedication,

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Mary Edith Estes Arnold, CA Retires

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Kappa Alpha Theta is the proud possessor of an outstanding archives collection chronicling more than 140 years of women's history.

In addition to her volunteer work for Theta, Mary Edith contributed to the development of several corporate archives collections in Chicago, retiring in 2000 as managing archivist of the Motorola Corporate Archives. She worked to help establish the National Panhellenic Conference archives at the Student Life Collection at the University of Illinois, has advised several other Greek groups on their archives, and was appointed to serve on the NPC Archives Advisory Committee in 1990. She is a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists.

"Mary Edith's work in the Theta archives was and is meticulous, and her sensitivity to the history she has helped capture was and is extraordinary," says Diana Turk, associate professor and director of social studies education at New York University and author of *Bound by a Mighty Vow, Sisterhood and Women's Fraternities*. "I am deeply grateful to be able to call Mary Edith a friend, mentor, and fellow scholar of women's history."

"Mary Edith's passion for the preservation of our history was initially conveyed to me as a young traveling consultant in 1987," recalls Amy Hayner Kates, Kappa Alpha Theta president. "It was her ability to highlight the significance of our past that deepened my commitment to help shape the future for Kappa Alpha Theta. Mary Edith has touched countless lives through her many years of service."

Regent for Outreach

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ACA President Pam Hackbart-Dean and ACA members Michael Nash, Lois Kauffman, and Susan Woodland participated in a panel discussion sponsored by the New York Archives Roundtable. Held at New York City's Center for Jewish History on October 18 and attended by approximately 50 people, the discussion centered on the Academy. Panelists discussed the ACA role delineation statement, how to prepare for the exam and the benefits associated with certification. The event provided the ACA with another opportunity to share its thoughts on certification and acted as a venue for discussions of mutual concern. ACA welcomes the chance to address similar gatherings in the future.

Next year's 75th anniversary of the Society of American Archivists and its efforts to celebrate this milestone provide another opportunity for outreach. As stated on SAA's web site, "The SAA 75th Anniversary Task Force is creating trading cards featuring prominent people, places, events, and other noteworthy issues since the association's founding in 1936." One such event is the founding and work of the Academy of Certified Archivists. For the purpose of publicizing its importance, the Academy has submitted a proposed card highlighting the organization's purpose and history. As the task force will only accept 75 such proposals for cards, we are hopeful that the card featuring the Academy will be selected given the important role it has played in archival history.



Editor's Endpaper

Linda Hocking, CA

Helga J. Ingraham Memorial Library,
Litchfield Historical Society
Litchfield, Connecticut

My name may be familiar to some of you from the past *Academy Profiles* I have had the pleasure to work on. As the only archivist in an out of the way repository, I have little opportunity to meet colleagues. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know a handful of you through that feature, and as the new Editor of the ACA News, I hope to hear from more of you. I shall do my best to continue the quality publication my predecessor, Anselm M. Huelsbergen, CA, led you to expect. At the same time, I am open to new ideas about content, improvements, or features you would like to see. This is YOUR newsletter, do not hesitate to participate in shaping its contents!

Please send any comments, ideas, or suggestions about *ACA News* to:

ACA News
c/o Academy of Certified Archivists
1450 Western Avenue, Suite 101
Albany, NY 12203
aca@caphill.com

or contact the editor directly:

Linda Hocking, CA
Litchfield Historical Society
7 South Street, P.O. Box 385
Litchfield, CT 06759
archivist@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org

EMERITUS STATUS

Because the knowledge and experience of retired archivists are invaluable to the profession, the Academy of Certified Archivists offers them emeritus status.

Emeritus status:

- honors their career contributions to the archival profession;
- allows them to remain fully active in the life of the profession to the degree they wish;
- reduces the annual dues to \$10.00;
- permits the member to use the designation **CA Emeritus** upon payment of annual dues;
- once approved requires no further action to maintain emeritus membership.

Those certified archivists who wish to join the ranks of the CA Emeriti must apply in writing to ACA and this application (letter and a CV) must be approved by the Regent for Certification Maintenance. Candidates must have been recertified at least once and be fully retired from *daily archival work* to attain this status.