



ACA News

The Newsletter of the Academy of Certified Archivists Issue 79 Fall 2012

President's Message

Laura Lyons McLemore, Ph.D., CA

Noel Memorial Library

Louisiana State University



Bonjour from lovely Louisiana! Congratulations to the 88 individuals who passed the certified archivists examination in August! Welcome to the Academy! Congratulations also to those of you who recertified in 2012.

This year, I look forward to fostering and participating in the ongoing conversation within the organization on archival issues such as advocacy, diversity and international archival standards. The task force on diversity and the task force analyzing the exam item bank, commissioned last year by President Brenda Gunn, CA, have both completed their initial charges and have submitted their respective reports. In upcoming newsletters, I'll be reporting on their findings and follow-up by the board on their recommendations.

At the same time we have been looking inward, the Academy of Certified Archivists is reaching outward through its cooperation with the Society of American Archivists and its participation in the International Council on Archives (ICA). Former president of the Society of American Archivists, Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, CA, served as ACA and SAA's representative to the International Council on Archives Section of Professional Associations (ICA-SPA) at the 2012 Congress in Brisbane, Australia, August 20-24. Read his full report in this newsletter. Our heartfelt thanks goes to Trudy Peterson, who retired this year after ably and generously representing ACA in the international archival

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President's Message

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community for the past several years. I will be working with SAA executive staff and Council to retain a strong connection between archivists in the United States and the rest of the world going forward.

In September, it was my sorrowful duty to write on behalf of ACA and fifty-one members of the Academy in Georgia to protest the closing of the Georgia State Archives to the public on November 1, 2012. Such actions are a sad commentary on modern government, but underscores the importance of archival advocacy.

This promises to be a very productive year for the Academy of Certified Archivists. I look forward to welcoming you to my backyard, The Big Easy, next summer. Stay tuned for updates and laissez les bon temps rouler!



Recertification Forms Coming Soon!

Updated forms to recertify by petition or by exam will be available on the ACA website at: <http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/members-area/89.html> by January 1, 2013. Contact Kristy Sorensen, CA, Regent for Certification Maintenance, at ksorensen@austinseminary.edu with questions about recertification.

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

Exam Development Committee

Tomaro I. Taylor, CA
Regent for Examination Development



The Exam Development Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members, Jeanette Hoskinson Berard, CA, and Richard Shrake, CA.

Jeanette is managing archivist for the American Radio Archives at the Thousand Oaks Library (CA). A member of the Academy since 2004, Jeanette has actively participated in the annual Item-Writing Workshop since 2005.

Richard is Associate Librarian for Technical Services at the American Philosophical Society (PA) and is responsible for the deployment of all technologies within his repository. He has been an ACA member since 2005 and most recently served on the 2009-2010 Nominating Committee.

Please join us in welcoming Jeanette and Richard to the EDC! They join William Caughlin, CA; Christine de Catanzaro, CA; Matt Szybalski, CA; Leanna Lee Whitman, CA; Tomaro Taylor (EDC Regent and Committee Chair); and Margery Sly, CA (ACA Vice President). The Committee extends sincere appreciation and thanks to outgoing members Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, CA; Emily Hughes Dominick, CA; and Laura McLemore, CA.

From the Regent for Outreach

Courtney Chartier, CA
Atlanta University Center
Robert W. Woodruff Library



I am excited to write to you for the first time as ACA Regent for Outreach. I truly appreciate being elected to this position, and look forward to working with all of you on future outreach projects.

Over the next two years I plan to continue some of the important outreach programs already in place, as well as some new projects that had been proposed by the immediate past Regent for Outreach, Louis Jones, CA.

In 2009 Regent for Outreach Todd Gilliom, CA initiated a program of members speaking to SAA student chapters. Louis continued the program and formed a Committee to create a standardized PowerPoint presentation, complete a document including an in depth background on the history of ACA and tips for presentations. These tools were needed so that members will have an easier time preparing to speak to groups about the Academy, as well as insure that we all share the same information about certification.

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Timothy G. Nutt, CA Appointed Head of University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections

Timothy G. Nutt has been appointed head of Special Collections at the University of Arkansas Libraries. Nutt has served as assistant head of Special Collections since 2009 and as manuscripts and rare books Librarian since 2005. He is president of the Arkansas Historical Association, a board member of the Arkansas History Education Coalition, an executive board member of the Society of Southwest Archivists, and a member of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. He is one of only thirteen people in the state of Arkansas inducted into the Academy of Certified Archivists. The Honors College awarded Nutt the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2011. Previously, Nutt was founding deputy curator of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock and founding managing editor of the online *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*.

Timothy G. Nutt



ACA Taskforces Report Findings

In 2011, ACA President Brenda Gunn, CA appointed two task forces to examine critical aspects of ACA's mission. Both have now made their final reports, which will enable ACA to better serve its members and the archival profession.

The Taskforce on Item Bank Analysis, led by Tomaro Taylor, CA was charged with three questions:

Task 1: Are there a sufficient number of items populating the item bank for certain task and knowledge statements? In short, do gaps in the item bank exist and where are they?

Task 2: Are the gaps a result of a lack of sources in the professional literature?

Task 3: If gaps are a result of an insufficiency in the literature, how can ACA encourage research and publication in the areas needing additional resources?

The Task Force concluded that although each domain has an adequate total number of items, a great deal of discrepancy exists in the distribution of items across tasks and knowledge statements. Many knowledge statements have fewer items than the average for their domain while others have much more. The same problem appears with the tasks for each domain.

Regarding the literature, with the exception of Domains 6 and 7, there appears to be an abundance of literature to choose from when citing item sources. Most domains rely heavily on one or two sources, often representing more than 40 percent of the total number. Another consistent problem across domains is the large number of outdated sources. Many domains are littered with sources over twenty years old that could be replaced by more recent citations. For more detailed information, please refer to the indi-

vidual domain report in Appendix A. Each report also includes an evaluation of the continued relevance of cited sources and a proposed bibliography for each domain.

The taskforce concluded that the gaps in the number and distribution of items among tasks and knowledge statements are not the result of an insufficiency in the literature, and recommended that the ACA create a Literature Review Committee (LRC) with responsibility for maintaining an up-to-date and relevant bibliography representing a wide selection of archival sources. Although the Taskforce concluded that the archival literature was sufficient to sustain each domain, difficulties and weaknesses do exist that provide opportunities for future research and publication. Consequently, the Taskforce recommended that the ACA establish and develop a fund to support research and writing in targeted subject areas of archival management. The LRC would be in a good position to identify weaknesses in the archival literature and make recommendations for future research.

The Task Force on Diversity, co-chaired by Jessica Lacher-Feldman and Wesley Chenault was charged with compiling answers to diversity-related questions that might lead to actionable steps. With assistance from President Gunn, the co-chairs drafted a set of questions and divided the task force into three teams, each charged with investigating one or two questions and providing recommendations for action.

In answer to the question what might ACA contribute to the larger question of diversity within the profession, the task force observed that diversity of collections is directly related to diversity among archivists, and recommended that

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Task Forces *(continued from previous page)*

ACA work towards diversifying the pool of archivists through outreach, education, recruitment and retention of people of color, people of differing economic backgrounds, sexual orientation, beliefs, gender, and age. The task force recommended getting a clear sense of the make-up of ACA the "larger profession" as a whole in terms of ethnicity, economics, gender, nationality, etc., and arriving at an understanding of what we mean by "diversity." It also suggested that ACA reach out to SAA's diversity committee, create a connection, and evaluate where ACA might work with SAA.

With regard to official language ACA should adopt with regard to diversity, the task force suggested that ACA might first consider a general diversity statement rather than one on value. Diversity language could be included in a mission statement, but currently since the organization's mission is implicit, ACA might want to consider a stand-alone mission statement first. The task force also recommended diversifying ACA's leadership by encouraging the membership to be its chief ambassadors and by forming special interest groups or e-forums that SAA does not currently provide in order to reach out to potential candidates.

Ideas from ACA's members are welcome. The board will be considering strategic steps in both these areas of concern at its mid-year board meeting in February.



Outreach

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I have used these tools for presentations three times: to the staff of the Georgia Archives in April, to the SNAP Roundtable of SAA with ACA Regent for Examination Development Tomaro Taylor, CA, at the annual meeting in August, and most recently to students in the Master of Archival Studies program at

Clayton State University. Already having slides and a narrative of ACA to inform my remarks was invaluable. All of the information I needed to present had been compiled, vetted and provided for me, allowing me to incorporate my own experiences with certification and really make the presentation my own.

I would like to extend a special "thank you" to all of the Academy members who have already contacted me to volunteer to speak to student or other professional groups. I had not even officially taken the reins from Louis when I started receiving messages from members eager to offer their services. Since I became Regent in August, there have been several presentations given, and more scheduled for the upcoming months. The following members have given/plan to give presentations: Lucinda Cockrell, CA; Mary Herbert, CA; Jack Kormos, CA; Natalie Morath, CA; Helen Wong Smith, CA; and Dr. Jane Zhang, CA.

If you are interested in speaking to a student or professional group, please do not hesitate to contact me at cchartier@auctr.edu Many of you may be contacted with a request that you volunteer for a presentation. Informing students and encouraging non-certified archivists to join our ranks is essential to strengthening the Academy and profession as a whole.

Online Tools

Don't forget to visit the ACA facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/ACArchivists>.

Add your

own pictures of ACA events or connect with colleagues.

Visit the ACA website at:

<http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/>

And now you can join ACA on Linked In at:

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?>

mostPopular=&gid=1799847



**Report to the SAA Council on the International Council on Archives
2012 Congress held in Brisbane, Australia from August 20-24, 2012
and the Section on Professional Associations activities.**

**Gregor Trinkaus-Randall
2012-2013 SA and ACA Representative to ICA SPA
October 1, 2012**

With Trudy Peterson's, CA retirement as SAA's and the Academy of Certified Archivists' (ACA) representative to the International Council on Archives Section of Professional Associations (ICA-SPA), the two organizations asked me to serve as their 2012-2013 representative—and attend the ICA Congress in Brisbane, Australia, August 20-24, 2012. Trudy's shoes truly are difficult to fill, as she has been a prominent leader in ensuring a strong connection between archivists in the U.S. and around the world. We're very grateful for her service.

Although there are many similarities between the ICA Congress and our own Annual Meeting, there are also some marked differences: An incredible opening ceremony celebrated the aboriginal origins of Australia in music and dance; each morning a single keynote speaker was followed by a keynote panel before sessions began; and, of course, there was morning tea and afternoon tea—complete with pastries. Most sessions were between 30 and 45 minutes long and many had only one speaker. Although English and French are the official languages of the Congress, most sessions were presented in English. Simultaneous translation into one of six languages (English, French, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, and Russian) was available for many sessions.

Given my own professional interest in preservation, I was fortunate to participate in a full-day workshop on disaster preparedness that yielded some interesting new sources of information and techniques employed elsewhere in the world. I also attended sessions focusing on digitization and electronic records, open government, and connections between and among cultural communities, including a fascinating discussion of archival issues following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011. There was also an informative session on the Universal Declaration on Archives, which both SAA and

UNESCO endorsed last year. There is currently a strong push to get individuals to register their support of this document. The more “registrants”, the stronger will be the message to the non-archival community throughout the world.

The purpose of ICA's sections is to encourage debate, stimulate research, and develop solutions for key archival issues. Sections present papers and author articles to disseminate their findings throughout the profession worldwide. SPA represents associations that are interested in the administration, preservation, and use of records and archives. It was established in 1976, has more than 80 members, and is managed by a Steering Committee. The group's longer working meeting occurs each April. The SAA/ACA Representative is a member of the SPA Steering Committee, and, as such, can play an important role in moving the SPA forward, especially given the size and influence of our two organizations (SAA and ACA).

The Section of Professional Associations met twice during the Congress, and I was able to gain a better understanding of the organization's roles and activities in those meetings. The first meeting was held on Monday, August 20, 2012 was divided into two parts: the current and outgoing members of the Steering Committee, and the current and incoming/new members of the Steering Committee. I attended the second part, as I was also attending the disaster preparedness workshop that morning. This was essentially an orientation for the new



Gregor Trinkaus-Randall

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members in general terms. The second meeting was convened on Wednesday, August 22, 2012 and was chaired by the outgoing Chair, Henri Zuber. Elections were then held, and Fred van Kan, Fred van Kan, Koninklijke Vereniging van Archivarissen in Nederland (KVAN) and the previous vice-chair, was elected to chair the SPA for the next four years. Bernhard Post, VdA - Verband Deutscher Archivarinnen und Archivare was elected vice-chair. Cristina Bianchi, Association des Archivistes Suisses (AAS-VSA) and Claude Roberto, Association des Archivistes du Québec were elected Secretaries.

Prior to the meeting, Colleen McEwen, one of the outgoing Joint Secretaries, distributed the 2013-2016 Strategic Objectives and Business Plan. There were some modifications to this document at the ICA SPA meeting, but they were mostly expansive and clarification changes. Once this document was approved at the meeting, Fred van Kan distilled the major points and distributed an Excel spreadsheet to the members to on which to indicate their areas of interest. The results of this survey will serve as the basis for the discussions and assignments in the Netherlands at the April 2013 meeting. The spring meeting is always the working/business meeting of the Section. It occurs over several days and focuses on the proposed objectives of the Section.

The ICA SPA was the Section that initiated the Universal Declaration on Archives (UDA), and Trudy Peterson worked with the Section on Human Rights to develop the Principles of Access, which was approved unanimously at the Annual General Meeting in Brisbane. The responsibility for UDA has now been passed along to the ICA Secretariat in Paris, France. The ability to form a UDA Working Group for 2013-2016 and a budget to go with it was approved in Brisbane. The main thrust - and expenditure - involves seeking professional input from PR / Promotions people to develop (or further develop what has been created so far) a strategy to leverage the momentum that is growing for the UDA. I have been asked to be a member of this group because of the impact that the SAA can have on this activity. Meetings will be virtual. The current members are Kim Eberhard (Australian Society of Archivists), Colleen McEwen

(Australian Society of Archivists), and tentative agreement from Christine Martinez (ICA, Paris). All activities will be reported to Henri Zuber, new head of The Program Commission of the ICA (follows Lew Bellardo in this role). ICA has agreed that UDA sits best with this group.

I have only had the opportunity to attend the SPA meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland in 2011 and this year's two meetings in Brisbane, Australia, so the depth of my involvement so far has been minimal. However, I have already been in a position to raise the ACA's concerns about the competency document that has been developed by ICA. It turns out that underlying this document is the understanding that it really applies only to European archives, especially since, like the ACA, there is movement afoot in several other countries to develop their own competency models. Several of us emphasized that this distinction needs to be made crystal clear and that there needs to be a statement to the effect that there are a number of other competency models in existence, with reference to them. We will see where that goes.

Even with my little exposure to the workings of ICA and ICA SPA, I think that it is important for the SAA and ACA to continue to participate. We are a significant force in the archival community for a number of reasons, including our publications, our educational offerings, our (ACA's) certification program, and our membership numbers. As is witnessed by Trudy Peterson's involvement in the Universal Declaration on Archives and the Principles of Access, the background and involvement of SAA and ACA has had a significant impact on the international scene. Consistently, delegates have commented on SAA's activities as a model to be emulated. That being said, I think that there is much to be gained from the international scene for SAA and ACA. ICA SPA is an active group. As you can see by the 2013-2016 Strategic Objectives and Business Plan there are a number of initiatives planned for the next four years. It will be instructive and informative to SAA and ACA to learn what is going on in

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Editor's Endpaper

ICA Report *(continued from previous page)*

other countries and to determine whether these initiatives can be implemented in or modified for the Society and for American archivists. One only has to look at the activities of the National Archives of Australia, as one example, to understand where other important activities are occurring on the international scene. I think that it is important that the SAA and ACA be represented in addition because it is crucial that our activities be clearly represented abroad.

It should be noted that the fall 2013 ICA Annual Conference was scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. However, the Brazilian delegation has withdrawn from hosting the meeting. It is now tentatively scheduled for Paris, France in the fall of 2013. Given that rescheduling, I offered that the SAA and ACA (i.e. the United States) would like to host the ICA SPA meeting in the spring of 2014.

I know that the SAA and ACA will be developing transparent criteria for choosing the SAA/ACA representative to ICA SPA during this upcoming year. I look forward to representing these two organizations in April 2013 and plan to submit my name to continue to have the opportunity to do so through 2016.



ACA Board Meeting, August 2012

Photos courtesy of Laura McLemore



The ACA officers convened in San Diego to discuss the issues you read about in this issue!



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

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