



ACA News

The Newsletter of the Academy of Certified Archivists Issue 93 Summer 2016

President's Message

Mott R. Linn, DA, CA
Clark University
Worcester, MA



Helping others not only assists the other person, but is often very rewarding to the volunteer. This is even more true when you help a new archivist because it feels great to pass a long what you have learned about the profession. In addition to benefiting both participants, it also strengthens the profession.

SAA provides two formal methods of helping other professionals in this way. One is the Navigator Program, which matches new attendees of the SAA Annual Meeting with somebody who has attended before (by the time you read this, it might be too late to sign up for that this year).

The other formal method is the Mentoring Program (<http://www2.archivists.org/membership/mentoring>). I have been a part of this for two decades and I recommend it to all of you. The volunteer gets paired with a newer archivist who has similar archival interests. You are officially paired for one year, although sometimes the two of you might stay in contact longer. As a bonus, you can earn certification maintenance credits by doing this.

There are other ways to recommend to others to become a Certified Archivist. One example is when you are coaching a new archivist. When I was first hired, my company hired an experienced archivist, Hamilton Elliott, as a consultant since I was a lone arranger with no-on-the job experience. Among the great pieces of advice he gave me was recommending that I become a Certified Archivist. He is now retired and we

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President's Message

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have not been in contact for decades, but he is still a CA. Thanks for recommending that I become a CA, Ham.

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From the Regent for Certification Maintenance



Tara Laver, CA
Louisiana State University
Special Collections
Hill Memorial Library
Baton Rouge, LA

Taskforce to Review Recertification Credits Formed

In response to the recommendation of former Regent for Certification Maintenance Pamela Nye, CA and issues that arose during the course of petition review this year, at its March meeting the Board created a taskforce to review the requirements, definitions, and credits for the process of recertifying by petition.

Always keeping the Role Delineation Statement in mind and as its point of reference, the Recertification Credit Review Taskforce will review and revise the "Recertification Definitions and Credit Values" document (<http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Definitions-and-Credit-Values-combined-1.pdf>). Areas slated for review include (but are not limited to) the following:

Balance of points awarded--are equivalent activities given equivalent credit. Are there activities that should count for fewer or more points?

Are there new activities that should be added or others clarified?

Recurring questions about the distinction between what is done for work and what is not, and so what is eligible for points in Sections B-E.

Generally clarifying language and any inconsistencies.

Submission instructions, documents and forms.

Thank you to Mary Beth Herkert, CA (Oregon State Archives), Claire Jenkins, CA (Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta), Stephanie Malmros, CA (University of Texas-Austin), Cheryl Oestreicher, CA (Boise State University), and Kristy Sorenson, CA (Austin Seminary) who have agreed to serve on the taskforce. Regent for Certification Maintenance Tara Laver will act as chair.

Please send any thoughts, recommendations, or suggestions for the group to certificationmaintenance@certifiedarchivists.org.

Lansing, Michigan – Nearly 200 industry professionals convened in the state's Capitol last week to participate in the Annual Conference of the **National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA)**.

Highlights of this year's successful conference include implementation of new and innovative Local, State and Federal Networking Groups, over 25 salient workshops and issue sessions and two off-site evening receptions held at the state's iconic Capitol Building and the Michigan Historical Museum, respectively.

The Association was honored to present the *2016 Bruce Dearstyne Distinguished Service Award* to Ms. Kaye Lanning Minchew, and the *2016 Program Excellence Award* to the Greene County Records Center & Archives, under the direction of Ms. Robin Heise.

NAGARA looks forward to a robust year of continued growth and expanded programming, the launch of a new and improved website, and working with newly-elected Board Members Rebekah Davis, Casey Coleman, Jerry Lucente-Kirkpatrick and Cherry Lawson.

To learn more about how NAGARA champions and advances the government archives and records administration profession, visit www.NAGARA.org.

**From the Vice President/
President Elect**

Louis E. Jones, Ph.D., CA
Wayne State University
Walter P. Reuther Library
Detroit, Michigan



Serving as Vice President/

President Elect has been an illuminating experience that has widened my perspective on and insights about the Academy. Examples abound. My service as a member of the Exam Administration Committee has given me a sense of the variety and depth of qualifications held and provided by applicants while in the course of applying to take the exam. Membership on the Exam Development Committee has broadened my understanding of the finer points of exam development, which requires in depth reading in an area of the archival literature as well as thoughtful consideration of proposed questions for all seven ACA domains.

And then, of course, there are task forces on which I have served. The first is one I conceived and about which you'll be hearing more in the coming weeks and months. That task force, the ACA Oral History Task Force, will be submitting a proposal to the Academy's board shortly for an oral history project focusing on the Academy. This project will provide a cache of primary sources upon which others can draw as they further our understanding of the Academy while sharing lessons learned from those who contributed mightily to its development. The more recently formed Class Pre-Approval Task Force on which I have also served, has initiated a process that will result in the designation of courses that the Academy will accept as part of an exam applicant's application. And then, of course, I have served as the organization's Ombudsman. Fortunately, there have not been disputes of note that I have had to mediate. Instead, I have mostly answered questions about application requirements of those wishing to take the cer-

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ACA Officers

President (2015-16)	Mott R. Linn, DA, CA Clark University Worcester, Massachusetts
Vice President/ President-Elect (2015-16)	Louis E. Jones, Ph.D., CA Wayne State University Walter P. Reuther Library Detroit, Michigan
Treasurer (2014-16)	Todd Welch, CA Cline Library Northern Arizona University Flagstaff, Arizona
Secretary (2015-2017)	Emily Dominick, CA University of Washington Libraries Special Collections, Allen Library Seattle, Washington
Regent for Examination Administration (2015-2017)	Marcus Robyns, CA Northern Michigan University Marquette, Michigan
Regent for Examination Development (2014-16)	Tomaro I. Taylor, CA FMHI Research Library USF Libraries Tampa, Florida
Regent for Certification Maintenance (2015-17)	Tara Laver, CA Louisiana State University Special Collections Hill Memorial Library Baton Rouge, LA
Regent for Outreach (2014-16)	Elizabeth Scott, CA Lafayette College Easton, PA
Immediate Past President & Re- gent for Nominations (2015-16)	Daphne O. DeLeon, CA Nevada State Library & Archives Carson City, Nevada

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

2016 ACA Election Results

From the Regent for Nominations

Daphne O. DeLeon, CA
Nevada State Library & Archives
Carson City, Nevada



The 2016 ACA Election results are in. Thank you to the ACA members who agreed to run on the 2016 Ballot and members who cast a vote.

Join me in welcoming the incoming officers and regents. Their terms begin immediately following the Annual Business Meeting August 4, 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia.



Vice-President/President-Elect
Todd Welch, CA
Digital Access and Preservation Archivist
University of Northern Arizona

Treasurer

Gerianne Schaad, CA
Director, Dickinson Research Center
National Cowboy & Western Heritage
Museum



Regent for Exam Development
Rebecca Hankins, CA
Assoc. Professor/Archivist/Curator/
Librarian
Texas A&M University

Regent for Outreach
Elizabeth Scott, CA
Project Archivist
Lafayette College



Nominations Committee Member

John Slate, CA
City Archivist
Dallas Municipal Archives



Vice-President/President Elect's Message

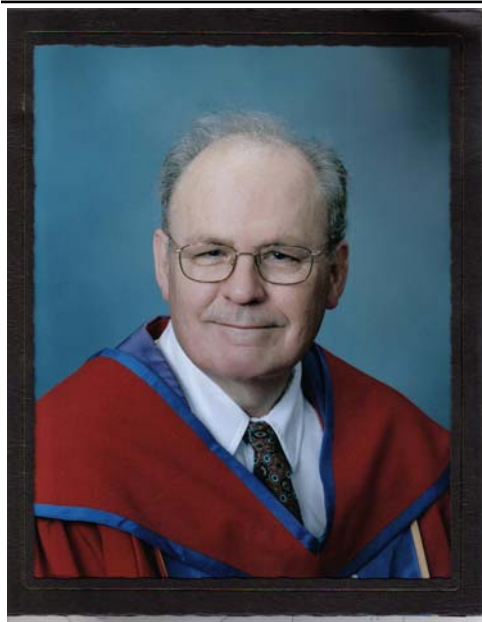
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tification exam. Weekly telephone meetings with ACA President Mott Linn, moreover, have played an important part in my orientation as have conversations with long-time and soon-to-be-retired ACA Secretariat Steve Grandin whose insights, perspective, wisdom and generosity of spirit will be missed as much as it has been appreciated.

Through the work of these committees, task forces, and other responsibilities, I leave the office of Vice President/President Elect with a greater appreciation of the Academy's amazing talent found in its leadership and overall membership. Thoughtful, considerate, conscientious, intelligent and hard-working, they/you are professionals whose commitment and dedication to the ideals of the Academy and archival field are deserving of praise. As I enter the presidency, I look forward to continuing my work with the leadership and overall membership as we build upon a solid foundation and, together, envision the possibilities for the future. To that end, I thank the membership for entrusting me with this responsibility and the one to come.

See you in Atlanta?

If you are going to the SAA Annual Meeting, remember to sign up to attend the ACA luncheon. You can either pay \$30 for lunch (only a small number of these seats remain) or attend for free if you bring a "brown bag" lunch (many of these remain). Either way, you need to RSVP by contacting us at aca@caphill.com or (518) 694-8471. It is a great opportunity to get to know more about ACA and meeting other CAs. We hope to see you there!



Academy Profile: John Smart, CA
Library and Archives Canada and Archives
Technician Program, Algonquin College,
Ottawa, Canada (Retired)

By Ruth E. Bryan, CA

After his graduate work in history in 1974, John expected to find work in the Canadian history field in a university setting, but before he began looking seriously for an academic position, he was offered a job as a historical researcher at the History Division of Canada's Museum of Man in Ottawa. A little while later, he obtained a position in the Public Archives of Canada (PAC, now Library and Archives Canada/LAC).

I liked the work immediately and stayed in the archives field until my full retirement in 2012. Before I went to work at the PAC, I had done a lot of research in various archives for my thesis, but now I had whole collections at my disposal. I loved the experience of reading and describing records no one else had seen except the persons who had created them.

In addition,

I came to love doing research in original records, and I was bowled over by the quality and richness of the holdings of the PAC when I began work there. I wanted to be part of the process of adding to those holdings and making them available to researchers. As a Canadian nationalist, I wanted our national archives to be a first class institution, holding the records that fully told the story of Canada. I also came to like the archival mind, that way of looking at the world.

John sought ACA certification at mid-career, but would have become certified earlier had the option been available.

From the start of my career in archives I was always trying to improve my qualifications. Neither of my parents had the opportunity to go to high school, but they inculcated into all their children a respect for education and a belief that you could improve your life through schooling. The step I took first as an archivist was to take French lessons so that I could better help my Francophone researchers at the PAC. During the 1970s and 1980s, I tried to take every course and workshop available to me in the archives field. I did a night school diploma program in records management at our local college. In the 1980s I became especially interested in computers and their applications to archives. In 1983-1984, I directed the PAC's national training course in archival principles and administration which brought together young

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Academy Profile *Continued from Previous Page*

archivists from all over Canada for a one month residential course in Ottawa. I was also active in the Ontario Association of Archivists. One of the things we did was to design and offer a multi-course, post-appointment training program for Ontario archivists beginning in 1991. It was while I was helping to launch that program that I heard of the ACA certification system, and I decided to study for the exam and to try to become certified. I chose to become certified because I wanted the satisfaction of proving that I could meet the ACA standard and the chance to enjoy the recognition that would follow.

John believes certification is a valuable process for new archivists to go through. He notes that while many other professions have certification systems, when he began working as an archivist in 1974 at the Public Archives of Canada, the only professional requirement for the position was that candidates had to have a BA in history. No formal training in archives or records management was required.

The young archivist will have richer and more secure career if they seek certification. They should also have a conscious plan for themselves as to how they are going to stay up-to-date in the field and take advantage of the technical advances that seem to be made in our field constantly nowadays. The effect of certification on my career was certainly positive. I mentioned certification in my CV and always made sure every boss I had knew of my certification. Certification means that you have met professional standards set by your peers. The fact that I obtained certification in a United States-based system impressed some people up here.

Although John is now retired, he identifies three phases to his archival career. From 1974 to 1990, he was an archivist in the government records division of the PAC, where he was responsible for acquiring, organizing, describing, and assisting the researching public with using the permanent, historically valuable records of a number of federal government departments, most notably the Department of Labour.

The federal Department of Labour records are a key source of information for anyone researching Canada's labour or working-class history. The department was designed after 1900 by Mackenzie King, then a civil servant, but later Canada's longest serving Prime Minister. He wanted the department to collect all the information needed for the government to know what was going on among the unions, what the labour market was like town by town, and where any trouble spots were. When he became Prime Minister, he relied on the Department of Labour to carry out new programs such as unemployment relief and relief camps in the 1930s and employment insurance after 1940. As a result, today a historian looking for information on a small strike in a small Canadian town in say, 1906, can find a government file on that strike in the Department of Labour records. If a union contract was signed at the end of the strike, a copy of that contract will be in the files as well. The federal Department of Labour's role in government has been much reduced over the past thirty years but its historical records remain to be of crucial importance.

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Academy Profile *Continued from Previous Page*

For the following two years, from 1990 to 1992, he directed a team of archivists responsible for the records of Canada's national police and security agencies as well as the records of the Parliament of Canada and the federal Department of Justice. "These individual collections were very large, often very sensitive in nature but essential to an understanding of the history of law, order, justice, and good government in Canada."

John then moved into a professorial role in Algonquin College, first serving as a Professor in the then newly-established two-year, full-time Archives Technician Program at Algonquin College in Ottawa from 1992 to 2000. In that role, he designed and taught courses that prepared students to work as archival technicians in archives and other institutions. Then, after retiring from that position and entering and completing a Ph.D. program in History at Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario) from 2001 to 2004, he returned to Algonquin College on a part-time basis to teach courses in archives and records management until 2012.

What I liked as a Professor in the Archives Technician Program at Algonquin College was the immediacy of the task and the freshness of the students. That program was designed to give workers in archives a deep familiarity with the technical aspects of archival work, then beginning to depend so much on the use of computers and the Internet. I liked teaching and, in the college system at the time, a professor could discern the need for a new course one year, design it, get it approved, and teach it the next year. There was an emphasis on giving students knowledge they would need at their jobs. I also liked the discipline of organizing my ideas in such a way as to make them intelligible to my students.

John identifies several areas of challenge throughout his archival and teaching career:

At the PAC/LAC the most challenging part of the job was trying not to become overwhelmed by the bureaucratic procedures then in place, the need to report endlessly on what you were doing, the demand for statistics, and for attendance at meetings that had little point. When I was there the place was over-managed and, as governments became stingier, there was a false belief that more reporting and constant reorganization of staff would save money and increase efficiency. I estimate that I spent one-third of my working hours at PAC/LAC satisfying bureaucratic requirements. Unrelated to that concern, it was hard for PAC/LAC to persuade some government departments to send us their historical records. Often, the higher the office, the harder it was to get those records. Finally, although PAC/LAC early on knew the importance of the digital records being created in the departments, we never, while I was there, figured out a way to archive those records and make them available to researchers.

At Algonquin College, professors were given teaching loads that were too heavy. We spent too many hours in class week by week. And we faced pressure year by year from college management to attract more students to our program and teach larger classes.

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Looking back over his 28-year archival career, John notes two major changes:

Unquestionably the personal computer and the Internet have had the most profound effect. When I started in archives in 1974, basically, archives existed to house original documents which existed nowhere else. With some exceptions, if you wanted to see a document held by an archives, you had to travel to that archives to see it. Since roughly 1994, an archives has been technically able to put any document it holds up on the Internet for anyone to see on their personal computer in their own home. We are all still reacting to that change. A second profound effect on archives issues from the changed climate over the past forty years with regard to the funding of governments and, especially, to the funding of cultural activities. Archives are seriously underfunded today.

In addition to his membership in the Academy of Certified Archivists, John is a member of the Ontario College of Teachers and the Archives Association of Ontario Organizational History Project Committee. He is currently working on a history of the Ontario Association of Archivists, predecessor to the Archives Association of Ontario.

Ruth E. Bryan, C.A., is Director of Technical Services & University Archivist at the University of Kentucky Special Collections Research Center, Lexington, KY, USA

Steve Grandin's Retirement

If you contacted ACA's office for about the last 20 years, you were almost certainly dealing with Steve Grandin, ACA's Secretariat. Along with much else, he answered questions, oversaw our bookkeeping, sent out our mail and email, provided sage advice, and coordinated our meetings and exams. If you want to thank Steve for the help he provided you over the years, you will have a chance in Atlanta on August 3rd when he will be making things run smoothly for us one last time as well as "showing the ropes" to his replacement.

Notice!

Have you received ACA's annual mailing in early July? If not, ACA does not have your current mailing address, so please contact us at aca@caphill.com or (518) 694-8471. Thank you.

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

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