



# The Ohio Archivist

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## “Light is the task when many share the toil”

-Homer

It's hard to believe, but 2006 will soon be “winding down” and as I look back over the year thus far, I realize what a busy and productive one it has been for SOA. We hosted an extremely successful spring meeting, offered numerous classes and workshops, participated in Archives Week and offered a well-attended Fall Workshop on DACS. (which you can read more about in this issue.) In addition to doing all of the above, we also engaged in our everyday duties of working in and advocating for archives (of course!)

And 2007 looks to be even busier and better! One of the most exciting things on the horizon is our joint meeting with the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) that will take place in Columbus, Ohio May 2-5. This co-sponsored MAC/SOA conference will be a great way for many of us to meet new colleagues from across the region and will offer an opportunity for SOA members to attend a regional conference right here in Ohio. It's a statewide *and* a regional conference – a two-for one!

The conference theme is BRAIN FOOD FOR ALL and the preliminary list of sessions to be offered is extremely exciting. Sessions will cover everything from **digital preservation** to **student records access** to **collections-based outreach programs**. And of course, we shouldn't forget the session on **public speaking** – by yours truly. (\*\*shameless self-promotion warning\*\*) But seriously, you'll find numerous topics of interest no matter what your focus. And even though May seems like a long way off, it will be here before you know it – so plan ahead, because I'd love to see all of you here in Columbus in the spring.

And speaking of Spring, since the next SOA newsletter won't come out until then, let me be the first to wish you a Happy New Year!

--Beth A. Kattelman, editor





## President's Message

SOA has had a busy and successful summer and fall of 2006. SOA members have been working together with Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) to plan our joint meeting in the spring of 2007 in Columbus. The meeting dates have been set for May 2-5, 2007 and it looks to be quite a learning opportunity. Just think a regional conference in Ohio! You can keep your costs down and expand your knowledge. The conference will have more than 20 sessions as well as tours and special events. I hope all of you consider attending.

In September SOA held a workshop on Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) at the Hudson Library and Historical Society. With 78 people in attendance, the workshop introduced the new content standard to archivists throughout the state. This topic was requested on a comment form at our Spring Conference and it was obviously a great one. If you have any suggestions for a workshop topic, please feel free to contact me or any other council member.

As we moved into October things got really exciting. Governor Taft made a proclamation for Archives Week and SOA Council had the privilege of meeting the Governor and getting our photo taken with him. Look for the photo of the event in this issue of the Ohio Archivist. Thank you to the Archives Week Committee, outgoing chairperson, Lonna McKinley, and the stuffing party folks for all of your hard work to get over 2000 posters distributed to Ohio archives, libraries, & museum, Ohio state legislatures, SOA members, and all the state archives in the US.

The Education Committee has also been very active this year, even with the departure of Co-Chair Mary Manning. Charlie Arp has been working with The M.J. Smucker Company and Fred Lautenheiser did an Archives 101 Workshop in the Cleveland Area. Workshop brochures will be going out soon. If you are looking for training, this is an excellent opportunity. We could also use additional trainers. Please contact Christine Schmid [cschmid@huc.edu](mailto:cschmid@huc.edu), Education Committee chairperson, if you are interested.

You can see SOA's summer and fall has been quite eventful. Have you ever considered being a part of it all? Now is your chance! In April of 2007 we will be holding elections for president, vice president, secretary, and 2 council seats. If you are interested in running, please do not hesitate to take that step forward. If you have any question or want to know what is involved, please feel free to contact me or nomination committee chair Erik Mayer [mayere@oclc.org](mailto:mayere@oclc.org).

## **Leigh A. French 2006 Scholarship Winner**

Attending my first SOA Conference last spring was an enlightening experience. I've been a librarian for over 10 years but am slowly studying to be an archivist--and while the two fields complement one another, there are different goals, innovations and projects.



At the 2006 SOA Conference, I had the opportunity to learn about these goals, innovations and projects through the generosity of the SOA Council's Continuing Education Scholarship. I was able to take advantage of the rich agenda of sessions to gather information about basics such as preservation, exhibits and privacy issues. I also explored innovations such as digital archives and jpeg 2000—which gives me an idea of the future of the archives field.

In addition to gaining knowledge, I had the pleasure of meeting the members of SOA who were welcoming and friendly. It was wonderful to see a gathering of people who believe in their field and are interested in moving forward to bring together historical methods and new technologies. I appreciated the opportunity to take part in the conference and look forward to attending in the future.



# News and Notes



## Lemelson Center's MIND Brings Together Invention Information

A new database from the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center will guide researchers on where to find invention-related documents and collections. The MIND (Modern Inventors Documentation) database identifies the invention-related holdings of hundreds of archives across the United States and is the nation's first database devoted exclusively to such documents. The collections in the database cover a variety of subjects, with many from medical, consumer, scientific, household and legal fields. With more than 1,700 records when it debuted in May, it is continuing to grow daily as more archives, museums, libraries and historical societies report the contents of their invention-related collections to the Smithsonian for inclusion in the MIND database. Users simply submit a key word to search and if the invention is in the database it will note what materials exist about the invention, which museum, archive or library holds the collection, and how to contact them for more details. Where possible, there is also information on how to access the collection and a direct web link to the collection or its holder. Advanced search options allow the user to search by repository, inventor name, or collection title. Users can also search for inventions from a list of over sixty subjects.

To access the MIND database, please visit: [invention.smithsonian.org/MIND](http://invention.smithsonian.org/MIND) Repositories with relevant collections are invited to contribute information about their holdings. Requests to participate in the database can be sent to: Alison Oswald at [oswalda@si.edu](mailto:oswalda@si.edu).

Alison Oswald  
Archivist, Smithsonian Institution

## **Research Request Leads to Multi-Cultural Conference**

In 1938, noted psychologist Abraham Maslow engaged in relatively little-known field research among the Northern Blackfoot Indians located in Alberta, Canada. It was during this time that it is suggested Maslow may have found sources based on the Blackfoot cultural tenet of “Kimmapiiyipitssin” or habitual kindness to later develop his Hierarchy of Needs theory. This, together with Blackfoot tipi design elements reflecting similar hierarchical structures in Blackfoot society is, thought to have greatly influenced Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs structure and theory in American psychology.

Fast forward 67 years to Akron, Ohio. In August 2005, the Archives of the History of American Psychology (AHAP) in Akron, Ohio received a relatively simple research request to locate materials within the Abraham Maslow papers that are housed there. The request, received from Ryan Heavy Head, a prominent Canadian Blackfoot scholar, was made in order to research any existing materials that would shed further light upon the Blackfoot/Maslow connection. A rich exchange of correspondence describing at length Blackfoot cultural concepts and societal structure followed. From these exchanges a multi-cultural conference was born, and on September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the Archives of the History of American Psychology presented a conference examining the influential role of the Blackfoot Indian culture on the work of Abraham Maslow. In addition to examining this role, the conference also explored the elements of ethically responsible research among ethno-cultural populations. The conference was funded in part through grants from the American Psychological Association’s Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs and the Ohio Humanities Council.

The structure of the conference used a collaborative effort between the Archives and the Akron-Summit County Public Library to involve the community and the general public as much as possible. This was necessary if the original mission of the Archives and the goals for the conference were to be realized. This included the support of teaching and research of the historical record of psychology and the social sciences through education and outreach. The goals for the conference also included creating a forum for scholarly discourse as well as an educational experience for the general public.

Rhonda Rinehart, MLIS  
Archives of the History of American Psychology  
The University of Akron

### **Wanted: Historic Photos**

The Division of State Fire Marshal's Ohio Fire Academy is looking for historic photos from Ohio's fire service. We need fireground, department and apparatus photos for use in the gallery of the new dormitory currently under construction. We are looking for historic 5x7, 8x10 and larger photographs. High resolution scans of these photographs are acceptable and can be e-mailed to [Wyvonne.Page@com.state.oh.us](mailto:Wyvonne.Page@com.state.oh.us). Scans should be at least 300dpi and printable at 8x10 or larger. Spectacular modern photos also may be considered. **Photos cannot be returned.**

### **OhioLINK**

The Database Management and Standards Committee's EAD (Encoded Archival Description) Task Force will soon distribute a draft "Content Guidelines for EAD" for comment. The initial method of draft distribution will be via the SOA and OHIODIG Listservs. The guidelines are part of a larger effort to build a repository of EAD finding aids for institutions across Ohio at OhioLINK. The repository will include tools to simplify encoding and a search engine that will allow users to search across the entire repository of finding aids, or browse individual finding aids one at a time. For task force information contact Amy McCrory at [mccrory.7@osu.edu](mailto:mccrory.7@osu.edu). <http://www.ohiolink.edu>

### **Ohio University Library**

Two staff members at the Mahn Center for Archives & Special Collections, Ohio University Libraries have departed recently. Genealogical specialist Karen Jones retired at the end of April after nearly 20 years in the department. Records Management Associate Shelia Curtis has taken a post in the Libraries administrative office; her position is scheduled to be replaced.

### **Sandusky Library**

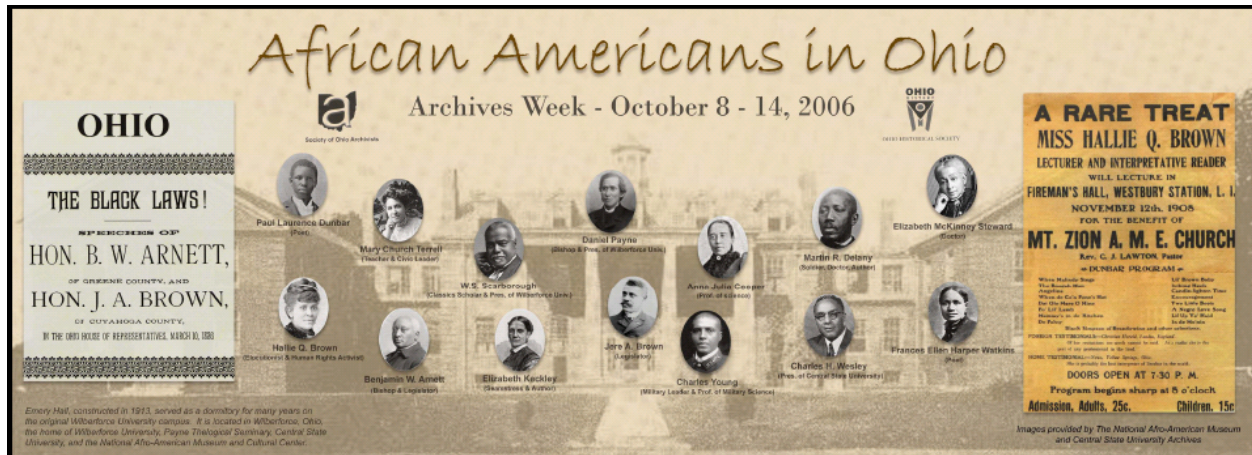
The Archives Research Center has created "Sandusky History," a local history blog dedicated to topics regarding the history of Sandusky and Erie County, and inspired by the collections of the Archives Research Center and Follett House Museum. The blog, <http://www.sanduskyhistory.blogspot.com/>, offers brief descriptions of historical events and themes, both major and minor, and opportunities for readers to respond and provide their own interpretations of local history. <http://www.sandusky.lib.oh.us/>

### **Bowling Green State University (BGSU)**

BGSU's Center for Archival Collections is partnering with the Toledo-Lucas County Library, the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections at the University of Toledo, and the African-American Legacy Project to gather and preserve materials related to the history of the northwest Ohio African-American community. The African-American Legacy Project, founded in Toledo in 2002, is a repository of information about the region's black history. The agreement calls for the partners to work together to professionally preserve materials donated to the Legacy Project, while making vital documents available to the public. The coalition sees it as an important step in preserving local history. <http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/cac/>



## Archives Week 2006 October 8 - 14 "African Americans in Ohio"



Poster design by the National Afro-American Museum and Central State University, Hallie Q. Brown Library

The Ohio Historical Society, Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board and the Society of Ohio Archivists observed the 14th annual Archives Week in Ohio the week of October 8 - 14, 2006. The theme for this year was "African Americans in Ohio." Governor Bob Taft issued a proclamation officially designating October 8-14, 2006 as Ohio's Archives Week.

According to Jane Wildermuth, President of the Society of Ohio Archivists, "Ohio's archives hold a multitude of records relating to the African American struggle for equality, as well as their contributions to business, politics, the military, and the social fabric of the state." The state is also home to the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center near Dayton, which documents the legacy of African Americans throughout the nation.

Archives Week in Ohio was established in 1993 to increase the general public's awareness of archival materials and archival centers and to inspire citizens with records of enduring value to properly preserve those materials for posterity. "Ohio's archivists are dedicated to collecting, preserving, and making these records of enduring historical value available for use by scholars, family historians, teachers, government and the general public," said State Archivist, Jelain Chubb. "We encourage Ohioans to use the records, diaries, letters and photographs in our collections to connect to the past, not only during Archives Week, but throughout the year".

### **Public Relations Kit**

In addition to containing Archives Week, October is also American Archives Month. This year the Society for American Archivists has put together the [American Archives Month Public Relations Kit](#). The kit is chock-full of practical information on how to make your archives “more visible and more appreciated.” This useful resource can be downloaded for free at

<http://www.archivists.org/archivesmonth/index.asp>



### **Greene County to Digitize Register**

In honor of Archives Week the Greene County Public Library and the Greene County Records Center and Archives have initiated a project to digitize the original *Register of Free Blacks in Greene County, 1805-1845*, and to make these records available online. The project is well underway and a public announcement will be made as soon as it is completed. In the meantime, the original record book has been deacidified and encapsulated and can be viewed and researched at the Greene County Records Center and Archives (937)562-5366.

### **Speakers Enliven Archives Week**

In recognition of Archives Week in Ohio, Miami University Archives, Western College Memorial Archives and the Miami University Libraries Diversity Committee were host to a lecture by Dr. Sherman Jackson, a Professor of History at Miami University. Dr. Brown's lecture topic was “Black Skin, Red Blood, White Power: The Legal Status of Blacks in Ohio, 1803-1895.” A display is also being organized with the theme “Beyond the Law: Progress Toward Equality in Oxford.” For more information contact the Miami University Archives at (513)529-6720.

The Ohio University also hosted speakers as a part of their archives week events. On October 9<sup>th</sup> Professors Phillip Mallory Jones and Mark Leff gave a talk on “Finding and Saving the African American Record” at the Lindley Cultural Center, and on October 11<sup>th</sup> Dr. John E. Fleming spoke on “Documenting the African American Experience: A Personal Journey” at Walter Hall.



# *Fall Workshop Follow-up*

## **“Just the DACS” Workshop Draws a Crowd!**

by Gwen Mayer  
Acting Archivist  
Hudson Library & Historical Society

On Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Hudson Library & Historical Society SOA hosted their annual workshop which featured Dr. Karen Gracy from the University of Pittsburgh addressing DACS (Descriptive Archival Content Standards). Many were in attendance, in fact, one could say it was more than a workshop with an attendance of 78. The audience was quite a mixture of cataloging librarians, students, archivists and interested parties. Food was plentiful.



Dr. Karen Gracy addresses a full house at  
“Just the DACS” workshop.  
(Photograph courtesy of the Hudson Library and Historical Society .)

Karen began by addressing the strengths and weaknesses of content standards and structural standards used in the descriptive process (such as AACR2, APPM etc) and went on to explain the principles of DACS. She stressed that DACS accepts that archival records possess unique characteristics, that *respect des fonds* is the basis of archival arrangement and description, that arrangement involves identification of groupings within the materials and finally, that description must reflect arrangement. The day was filled with technical information concerning DACS and how DACS emphasizes creatorship as opposed to authorship in the way that AACR2 does. Dr. Gracy had many handouts and has made her information available to any who may request it from [gmayer@hudson.lib.oh.us](mailto:gmayer@hudson.lib.oh.us). In all it was an interesting and informative workshop filled with much information on description and arrangement. It was also a wonderful opportunity for SOA members to reach out to those new in our field and touch base with old friends. For additional information regarding Fall workshops or to offer suggestions for future topics, please feel free to contact SOA council member Gwen Mayer.



“Just the DACS” workshop participants  
(Photograph courtesy of the Hudson Library and Historical Society .)

# *MAC/SOA Conference* *is Coming Soon!*

## **Joint MAC and SOA Annual Meeting, 2007, in Columbus: Brain Food for All**

Grab a knife and fork and whet your appetite for the delicious and filling offerings to be served at the joint Midwest Archives Conference and Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA) annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on May 3–5 at The Columbus, A Renaissance Hotel. Columbus has something to please every Midwestern taste. The hometown of such culinary inventions as sliders and Frostys, and restaurants such as Bob Evans, White Castle, and Wendy's—Columbus is also home to a plethora of ethnic dietary delights. It also is rumored to have the most Chinese restaurants per capita in the U.S.

The Program Committee is cooking up sessions in a multi-course bill of fare that will entice all MACers—from those with junior-sized tastes up to the demanding gourmand. A daylong preconference workshop sponsored by ARMA will serve as the conference aperitif, with the always-tasty half-day MAC workshops as the appetizers.

The Local Arrangements Committee, likewise, has been whipping up yummy options to meet all budgets and palates. We invite you to taste-test the city by exploring all that Columbus has to offer. Situated in the heart of the downtown area, the newly renovated Renaissance hotel is ready to be a gracious host to all. It's an easy after-dinner stroll or drive to many downtown attractions, including the Ohio State House, the Ohio Theater, the Columbus Museum of Art, German Village, the Brewery District, the Arena District, and the Short North Arts District. Those with a hunger to wander outside of the downtown area will find easy access to all that central Ohio has to offer, including the Ohio Historical Society; The Ohio State University's Wexner Center for the Arts; the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium; COSI Columbus, a science center; the Franklin Park Conservatory; shopping at the Easton Town Center ("over 160 best of class retailers"); and many other sites and attractions.

Of course, no meal would be complete without dessert, and this year's sugary concoction will be the celebration of MAC's 35th anniversary, a sweet archival success story. All guests are invited to bring their party hats and noisemakers and wish MAC a happy birthday!

We hope this feast sounds too tempting to pass up, so we encourage you to mark your calendars and make your reservations early! The 2007 MAC and SOA joint annual conference is sure to be a delectable masterpiece that will tempt conference goers from near and far to the Buckeye State. Stay tuned as our menus are finalized at <http://www.midwestarchives.org/>.

# MAC/SOA Conference

## Conference Details

**Theme:** Brain Food.

**Tentative Preconference Workshops:**

1. basic preservation
2. ARMA
3. Film

**Tentative Tours:** Columbus Dispatch and State House.

**Hotel**

**The Columbus, A Renaissance Hotel**

50 North 3rd Street

<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/CMHBR>

This year's conference home away from home is **The Columbus**. Situated in the heart of the downtown area, the newly-renovated hotel is close to many downtown attractions, including the Ohio State House, the Ohio Theater, the Columbus Museum of Art, German Village, the Brewery District, the Arena District, and the Short North Arts District.

Rates are \$129 for a single, double, triple, or quad. Call 1-800-hotels-1 for reservations. Be sure to mention you are with the Midwest Archives Conference/Society of Ohio Archivists Conference.

**Roommate Matchup**

A list of attendees searching for roommates for the conference will be maintained and distributed to interested parties. Please forward your contact information (name, telephone number, and E-mail address), roommate preference (male/female, smoking/nonsmoking), and dates a roommate is needed to Janet Carleton (carleton@ohio.edu) by April 20, 2007, if you wish to use this service.

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

MAC and SOA welcomes individuals with disabilities to participate in its activities. If you have a visual, aural, or other impairment that is defined as a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact one of the Local Arrangement Committee co-chairs to discuss your needs.



# MAC/SOA Conference

## Spring 2007 Program Committee Chairs:

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Kimberly Hieronimus Brownlee  
Janet Carleton, Ohio University  
Shari Christy, AFRL/HO General Dynamics, IT  
Jelain Chubb, Ohio Historical Society  
Tamar Chute, The Ohio State University  
Carrie Daniels, University of Louisville  
Michelle Drobik, The Ohio State University  
Kathleen Feeney, University of Chicago  
Adam Groves, Illinois Fire Service Institute  
Kevlin Haire, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Stacia Kuceyeski, Ohio Historical Society  
Erik Mayer, OCLC, Online Computer Library Center, Inc.  
Chad Owen, University of Louisville  
Eric Schnittke, Ohio Historical Society  
Cathy Stanley, Battelle Memorial Institute





# SOA Council

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Wright State University

Paul Laurence Dunbar Library

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Greene County Records Center and  
Archives

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Digital Projects Manager

Ohio Historical Society

### Treasurer

2006-2008

Stephen Paschen

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Kent State University

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Head, Archives & Special Collections

Youngstown State University

2006-2008

Erik Mayer

OCLC Online Computer Library Center,  
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The Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

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The Ohio State University

2006-2008

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Product Manager, Museums and  
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Hudson Library & Historical Society