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Ohio Archivist

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The Society of Ohio Archivists: 1994-2003

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by Charlie Arp

Author's Note: This is first of two articles detailing the history of SOA during the last ten years. The second article will be published in the Fall 2003 Ohio Archivist. This first article is in draft form, so if I have missed someone or something of importance please email me with any information you might have.

The last ten years of SOA can be viewed through two different lenses. The first being the traditional historic view; that of terms of office, statistics, and administration. The second lens being those individuals, activities, or technological advancements that have influenced the SOA. Using both these lenses I hope to relate a balanced history of the organization during the last ten years.

Before going on, I would like to take a moment to mention those individuals who have maintained their memberships in SOA since 1977: Gary Arnold, Ann Bowers, Laura Chase, Rai Goerler, John Grabowski, Dennis Harrison, Andrea Lentz, John Miller, Kermit Pike, Tom Reider, and Paul Yon. Please take the opportunity to thank these individuals for their long participation in SOA. I also want to apologize in advance for any mistakes or omissions I may make in this essay. Since all we can do for those individuals who work for SOA is to publicly thank them, such errors are particularly loathsome.

I want to start this essay by trying to define SOA. SOA is an independent, voluntary organization that exists to meet the needs of its membership – Ohio's archival community. There are two significant parts to this definition that we need to keep in mind. The first is that SOA is a voluntary organization. No one gets paid, we all have jobs and lives that we need to keep in good working order before we can give time to SOA. Those of us who work for the organization do so because we feel a professional obligation to do so. The second significant part of the definition is that the needs of the membership and the membership itself are in constant change. What the membership needed from SOA in 1968 is different from what we expect from the organization today, and our needs are different from those who will come after us. As well, the membership of SOA is in constant change. Not only have the occupations of individuals who join SOA changed over the years as reported by Dr. Goerler, but the level of involvement with SOA that members have changes as their lives change.

Young members full of vitality enter the organization and seek to make names for themselves while older more established members go on to work within national organizations or get burned out by trying to sustain a high level of activity within the organization while living their lives. Defining SOA is difficult because it is a moving target, in constant change with no institutional anchor to stabilize it.

Administrative Matters

SOA has had five presidents during the last ten years. Mike McCormick held office from 1993 to 1995, George Parkinson from 1995 to 1997, Ken Grossi from 1997 to 1999, Dawn Dewey from 1999 to 2001, and Maggie Yax from 2001 to 2003. I am not going to relate the normal course of business activities that take up most of the time and energy of council members. This would include the publication of the Ohio Archivist and the putting on of the annual and fall meetings every year. Instead I am going to concentrate on the unique activities that took place during the last ten years.

Before examining administrative activities during the last ten years I want to look at money and membership, the base line of health for any organization. The following table illustrates membership and the balances in SOA accounts for 1994 through 2002

Year	Individual Memberships	Account
1994	165	\$5,833
1995	164	\$3,854
1996	179	\$3,064
1997	136	\$5,625
1998	102	\$5,963
1999	107	\$2,896
2000	100	\$3,285
2001	109	\$4,362
2002	198	\$5,155

Considering the differences in membership categories and the varying times the account balances were given within a year it seems that the organization has been fairly stable over the last ten years with around 150 members and a balance of around \$4,500. Essentially as documented by these statistics SOA is a healthy, mature, and stable organization. I will leave it to you to decide if stable and mature are pejorative or complementary terms.

During Mike McCormick's administration one of the significant activities undertaken was a strategic planning retreat held on February 26th 1995 in Columbus. Twenty-five members of SOA met for five hours to deliberate the future of the organization . Consensus was reached on six goals that included numerous objectives. The six strategic planning goals reached at this meeting are:

1. SOA will do whatever feasible to advance archival institutions and the archival profession within Ohio.

2. SOA will make a concerted effort to recruit members from similar organizations and from the ranks of the amateur archivists of Ohio.
3. The SOA education program should continue to provide quality continuing education to the state's professionals while seeking to provide basic archival education to all the state's amateur archivists.
4. The current procedures for dealing with legislative concerns and similar issues are adequate and need not be changed.
5. SOA should seek to enhance its visibility through "Archives Week".
6. SOA should adopt administrative measures to encourage the completion of long range goals. Such administrative measures include committees, work groups, or task forces headed by council members to facilitate activities.

While I suspect that these goals and objectives have seldom been reviewed since the publication in the fall 1995 Ohio Archivist, the organization has nonetheless followed them. In my opinion this is because the goals detailed in 1995 reflect the organizations often unspoken purpose and consciousness. In other words, SOA has continued to pursue these goals and objectives not because they were agreed upon at a meeting, but because they continue to make good sense for the organization. The strategic planning goals and objectives arrived at in 1995 adequately describe what we all think SOA should do.

The SOA Merit Award was also adopted during the McCormick administration. To date seventeen individuals have been given the award and all were very worthy of that honor. Recently there has been some discussion within SOA about the Merit Awards, specifically the self-congratulatory nature of awarding the honor to SOA members. I disagree with this line of thought. The Merit Award was created to recognize those individuals outside the profession who have contributed to it. In this respect the award has a public relations function. However, the award was also created to recognize those archivists who had contributed in some special way to SOA or the profession. In this respect the award has a motivational function. Both these rationales are valid. In many respects all SOA can do for those SOA members who work for the organization is say thanks and the Merit Award is one way of doing that. To deny the internal motivational aspect of the award or to downplay this aspect of it runs counter to how the award has been given out in the past and is in my opinion foolish. The criteria for the Merit Award is:

1. This award shall be given to individuals who have by excellence in deeds, actions, or initiatives improved the state of archives in Ohio over the past year.
2. The Merit Awards shall not be limited to any one scope of endeavor that benefits the work of archivists in Ohio or limited in the number of awards that may be presented each year.
3. The sole criteria for this award shall be excellence in the furtherance of the

purposes of SOA as stated in section 2 Part I of its Constitution and Bylaws in any manner considered appropriate by the council of the Society of Ohio Archivists.

4. Council will encourage the membership of SOA to nominate individuals for the Merit Awards and these nominations will be the basis for the council's action in designating recipients.

There were two significant administrative activities during George Parkinson's term as President. The first was the passage of a SOA Constitutional amendment to split the Secretary/Treasurer position on Council into two separate positions. The second was the creation of the SOA web-site.

In April 1997 the position of SOA Secretary/Treasurer was split into two positions. This was done to lessen the burden placed on the individual who in the past held the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Both the secretary and the treasurer may now serve unlimited terms. The SOA Constitution defines the activities of the offices as:

The treasurer shall follow the budget presented by the president and approved by the council, shall have custody of all monies belonging to the Society and pay them out only upon the authority of the council, and shall collect the membership dues. The secretary shall keep an accurate list of all members and take minutes of all meetings. At the annual meeting the treasurer shall present a financial report and the secretary shall make a report on the membership status of the Society .

Splitting the position of Secretary/Treasurer has had a beneficial effect on Council and made life easier for the people holding these positions.

To compliment the SOA electronic list started by the staff of the Ohio State University staff in 1993 Elizabeth Nelson, acting as the first SOA Public Affairs Officer, started the SOA web-site sometime during late 1995 or early 1996 . At this point the SOA web-site was a first generation web-site containing brochure type information including a calendar, links, membership information, minutes of Council meetings and reports to the Council. Matt Benz with the assistance of Janet Carleton took over the administration of the SOA web-site when Ms. Nelson left OHS in June 1996. I will say more about the SOA web-site later.

During Ken Grossi's presidency a constitutional amendment was initiated, voted on, and accepted. The amendment proposing a change in the SOA constitution regarding the number of people who can be nominated for office from one institution was passed. The change was as follows:

Previous language:

No two nominees should be from the same institution, or from an institution represented by a continuing council member.

Approved language:

Nominations should be structured so that no institution can have more than two representatives on council at the same time. When a single institution does have two representatives on council, no more than one of them can be an officer.

There were two major reasons for amending SOA's constitution in this way. First of all, it had become increasingly difficult to put together a slate of candidates together. SOA could not afford ruling out many qualified individuals because they had a colleague who was already serving on Council. The second reason given for this amendment was that the previous language often kept qualified people from serving on Council for too long. It has become standard in SOA that Vice-Presidents, after serving two years, succeed to the Presidency for two years. This locked out anyone else working for that same institution as the Vice-President from holding a position on Council for four years. It is also evident that the offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same people for numerous consecutive two-year terms. This, of course, can lock any colleagues of the Secretary or Treasurer out of consideration for holding a position on Council for a longer period of time.

The two constitutional changes, the adoption of the Merit Award, the start of the SOA web-site, and the Strategic Planning Retreat were among the significant administrative activities that took place during the last ten years. I have not yet covered two important activities undertaken by SOA during this time period – the work of the Education Committee and Archives Week. These activities will be covered in Part 2 of this history, to be published in the fall 2003 Ohio Archivist.

I want to turn now to the individuals, activities, or technological advancements that have had an impact on SOA during the last ten years. Specifically the creation, maintenance and evolution of the SOA web-site and SOA's involvement in international archival affairs – the Cuban Project.

The SOA web-site

As I stated earlier the SOA web-site was initially created by Elizabeth Nelson and then handed off to Matt Benz and Janet Carleton. Janet was the SOA web-master from 1996 until her departure from OHS in 1998. At that point Laurie Gemmill, Jane Wildermuth, and Judy Cobb took over and administered the web-site as a group project for about a year. In 1999 Ms. Wildermuth left OHS for a position at Wright State University and Ms. Gemmill took on the SOA web-site alone as Ms. Cobb had additional responsibilities added to her job description. Ms. Gemmill added information on Archives week, History day, the SOA Manual of Procedures, revised the SOA Constitution, and managed the web-site during this period.

In 2001 the SOA Public Information Committee was re-formed with the intent of mounting more information on the SOA web-site in a timely fashion. While there are always many good ideas of what to do with a web-site there is often a lack of help in implementing those ideas. Given the pressure to do more with less time to spend on SOA web-site Ms. Gemmill resigned as SOA web-master in late 2001. Judy Cobb took over the SOA web-site while also taking on the role as editor of the Ohio Archivist. The first on-line edition of the Ohio Archivist came out in Fall 2001.

To the best of my knowledge SOA was the first archival organization to publish its newsletter on-line. The reasons SOA took this bold step were first and foremost financial. The costs of publishing a hard-copy version of the Ohio Archivist were becoming just too big a burden for the organization to handle. There are issues with the Ohio Archivist being an on-line publication. Many members liked having a hard-copy edition of the Ohio Archivist and the long-term preservation of the publication is difficult. However, SOA like most organizations in this age of computers must find a way to deal with the preservation of its on-line presence.

From a technical standpoint the first SOA web-site was created as a sub-directory of the Ohio Historical Society's web-site mounted on the State Library of Ohio's WINSLO server. In 1998 the SOA web-site resided on the OHS server and in 1999 the SOA web-site was moved to the Ohio-Junction directory within the OHS server to distinguish it from the OHS web-site. The SOA web-site remains in the Ohio-Junction directory on the OHS server to this day.

The Cuban Project

One of the individuals that have had a lasting impact on SOA is Fred Lautzenheiser of the Cleveland Clinic Archives. Not only was Fred the editor of the Ohio Archivist for eleven years but he was responsible for one of the most ambitious SOA project to date, that of bringing the Cuban archivist Carlos Suarez Balseiro to the United States for a speaking tour.

Contact between SOA and Carlos Suarez Balseiro began in 1993 when the Cuban archivist wrote SOA requesting help in obtaining records management reference publication for use at the University of Havana. In 1994 various publications including the SAA "Archival Fundamental" series were sent to the University of Havana. SOA funded its involvement in the project by selling tee shirts proclaiming that "Archivists Make It Last Longer" at the annual SAA conference. Although many people involved with archivists proclaimed the tee-shirt assertion as false, the tee shirts sold remarkably well nonetheless. In 1995 Fred Lautzenheiser authored an article in the Ohio Archivist on the Cuban archives and visited the University of Havana to meet Carlos Suarez Balseiro. At some point in 1996 Mr. Lautzenheiser came up with the idea of sponsoring a trip by Senior Suarez Balserio to the United State to address SOA. A number of archival organizations joined SOA in sponsoring the speaking tour including the Cleveland Archival Roundtable, the University of Michigan School of Information, the University of Wisconsin, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, MAC, the Georgia Records Association, and the NARA Center for Electronic Records. The trip was postponed and then canceled by Carlos Suarez Balseiro after he accepted a yearlong research grant to study in Spain .

The failure of the Cuban project can in no way be attributed to Fred Lautzenheiser. It is to Fred's considerable credit that he sought to make SOA active within the international archival community. Fred Lautzenheiser, through his efforts on the Cuban Project and as Editor of the Ohio Archivist, Janet Carleton, Laurie Gemmill and Judy Cobb through their efforts on the SOA web-site are examples of the influence individuals can have on SOA. We should all aspire to the level of commitment that Fred, Janet, Laurie, and Judy have had to SOA over the last ten

years.

During the next installment of the History of SOA from 1994 to 2003 to be published in the Fall 2003 Ohio Archivist I will draw some conclusions about our activities over the last ten years and recount the activities of the Education Committee and Archives Week.

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Building Connections: Ohio's 2003 Conference on History and Preservation

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The Ohio Historical Society is coordinating a three-day history conference that will bring together some of the major history organizations in the state, including the Ohio Historical Society and its Ohio Historic Preservation Office, the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums, Heritage Ohio/Downtown Ohio, Inc., the Ohio Preservation Alliance, National History Day in Ohio, and the Society of Ohio Archivists. This event promises to be the largest gathering of members of Ohio's historical community, including historic preservationists, local historians from historical societies and history museums, archivists, teachers, and others interested Ohio's history.

The conference will take place November 6-8 at the Columbus Athenaeum on 32 North Front Street (downtown). Built in 1896 as the home of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, this former Masonic Temple, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a special and unique conference center.

The conference features:

- Thursday, November 6--twelve workshops that focus on operational aspects of museums, historic preservation, teaching, and archives, followed by an evening reception at the Statehouse
- Friday, November 7--eighteen sessions that provide opportunities for professionals and the general public to discuss significant issues related to the historical community, followed by an evening reception at the Columbus Cultural Arts Center
- Keynote and plenary speakers
- Saturday, November 8--fifteen sessions related to the historical community and three history seminars to talk about Ohio history topics, with award luncheons to recognize outstanding history projects
- In addition, there will be opportunities to tour the Ohio Historical Center, the renovated OHS Adena complex in Chillicothe, and downtown Columbus

This first ever-statewide history conference comes together during Ohio's celebration of its 200th anniversary. Mark your calendars now--it is a conference for you. Additional conference information will be coming to you soon.

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Candidate Statements

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President

Q. As President, what would be your primary goal(s) for the coming year?

Doug McCabe

There is no better and worse time than now to bring back the activism that spawned the founding of the Society of Ohio Archivists thirty-five years in that troubled year of 1968. Now, as then, there reasons to push ahead to make a better world for archives, archivists, and the state's great historical past. Then, there were the crises of war and financial turmoil. Now, it is no different.

A crisis in the preservation of Ohio's history -- its records, manuscripts, papers, and audio-visual materials -- is at hand. Let us re-dedicate ourselves -- long-time members and newbies -- and take the initiative to get serious about funding a drive to preserve Ohio's history. The entire Society needs to endorse, provide the grassroots efforts, and find the coalitions to make "Preserve Ohio's Records" happen. This initiative would create a new records board, revive the Ohio Network of American History Research Centers, provide re-grants for research libraries and private institutions, and create an electronic records archive. SOA and its individual members must take a leadership role in this initiative to bring it to fruition.

Vice-President

Q. What recent issues and developments in the archival community, especially in the state of Ohio, do you feel need to be addressed by SOA?

Charles Arp

Funding is the biggest issues facing the archival community today. Funding for archival programs at the local, state and national level has fallen and will continue to fall as our nation digs its way out of this latest fiscal crisis. I think this situation presents SOA with two opportunities. First SOA can help make the case for the importance of historical records and what archivists do so that we can advocate for increased funding for our programs. Second SOA needs to continue to deliver high quality educational programs to its members. We need to understand and act upon the premise that SOA will offer the only continuing educational programming that most of our members can afford to attend.

To make the case for the importance of Ohio's historical records and to advocate for increased funding SOA must act in concert with other archival and historical organizations. Organizations like SAA, MAC, the Council of State Historic Records

Coordinators, the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums, the Ohio County Archivists and Records Managers Association, and the National Association of Government Archivists and Records Administrators must become our allies. SOA needs to voice our concerns and issues in cooperation with these organizations. We must also have the facts to make a compelling argument for our programs if we are to succeed in influencing those who decide the budgets we all depend on. Communication among ourselves, with allied organizations, and with resource allocators will be the key to our success or failure in advocating for our programs.

The strength of SOA has always been delivering high quality educational programs to its members at a reasonable price. We need to continue to do this and to expand our educational offerings so that archivists never have to leave Ohio to get the continuing educational courses they need to stay current in the field. In the recent past many of our members were fortunate enough to be able to attend SAA, MAC, or NAGARA meetings. The travel budgets that supported these out of state activities no longer exist. SOA either is or will be the only educational opportunity available to most of our members. SOA needs to bring in national speakers and revitalize our programming efforts to meet the needs of our members. Commitment from those who volunteer for programming committees and from our members who volunteer to speak at our conferences is the key to our success or failure in offering educational programming.

I see the health and vitality of SOA directly related to communications and commitment. The organization will not prosper unless all of us communicate better with each other and with allied organizations. SOA will not prosper unless all of us have a commitment to it. It is not enough for those on Council to communicate well and to make a commitment to SOA. That will just make Council a better administrative unit. If we want SOA to be an organization that we get something of value out of, if we want to make SOA an organization we can all be proud of we all need to communicate better and we all need to make a commitment to SOA. By commitment I mean we all have to work for the organization - a volunteer organization like SOA will not accomplish anything without the involvement of its membership.

Secretary

Q. *"What skills would you bring to SOA Council as Secretary?"*

Kerrie Cross

A. The Office of the Secretary has a crucial role in recording the activities and policies of the organization. I believe that my past experience as secretary of the University of Dayton Roesch Library Coordinators Committee (1990-1995) and recording the meeting minutes of the University of Dayton Honorary Degree Committee (1998-) has qualified me to run for this important office.

In addition to secretary experience, I also have strong record of service with the Society of Ohio Archivists. I was appointed to the Local Arrangements Committee

(Fall 1991) and twice to the Program Committee (Spring 1996 and Fall 1999.) I was also elected to Council in 1997 and assumed the duties of Treasurer from 1998-2000.

Gillian Hill

Records and Information Manager / Archivist, Greene County. Degrees: BA and MA, Wright State University. Member: SOA (Council 1996-98, Secretary 2001-present), SAA, MAC, Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (Chair 1995-98), Society of Archivists (UK), West Sussex Archives Society (UK) (Treasurer 1983-91), ARMA International (Archives ISG Leader 1999-2001), ARMA Greater Dayton Chapter (Director 1994-95, Secretary 1995-97, Vice-President 1997-98, President 1998-99, Chair 1999-2000), Records Management Society of Great Britain, SAA/ARMA Joint Committee (Vice Chair 2000-01, Chair 2001-present).

I believe that in my work as Secretary to the SOA during the past two years I have demonstrated the necessary organizational and communication skills the position requires. During this time, I have prepared detailed minutes of all SOA meetings in a timely manner for posting on the Society's website. This, I believe, is essential in order for Council to provide accountability to all members. In addition to taking minutes, I have thoroughly enjoyed the debating and discussion of issues with others on Council in furthering the work of the Society.

I would like to use my records management skills to prepare a long overdue records retention schedule for the Society's papers. This would enable outgoing Council members to more easily determine which records are operational (to be passed on to their successors), which have enduring value (to be sent to the Society's archives), and which are merely ephemeral papers (to be considered for destruction). In addition, once the Society has such a schedule, the material that has already been deposited in the archives can be systematically appraised and appropriately cataloged. I would welcome the opportunity to accomplish this goal if elected to another term of office.

Council

Q. What new ideas and projects would you like to see SOA pursue in the next year? How would you contribute to these projects?'

Christine Crandall

First and foremost we need to expand our membership rolls. We cannot continue to rely on the same core group of people to do everything - even if they offer to do it all happily! Part of the problem is our sporadic outreach to a few important groups, namely graduate students, their professors and the staff and dedicated volunteers at small archives, libraries and historical societies scattered throughout Ohio. I know that there are SOA members that try to personally reach out to these groups and that there have been initiatives in the past as well. The problem is that there is no coordinated effort right now to address these perspective members. Part of the solution lies in doing what we have been doing and in making a few changes. I propose that we either set up a committee of the heads of library and archives programs as well as a few people willing to represent the lone arrangers out there that

cannot make it to meetings. This committee could come up with ideas for reaching all archivists in Ohio and then submit their report to council who would then come up with concrete plans to achieve greater membership diversity. Our profession only improves with archivists from a variety of backgrounds, specialties and ages coming together to work. Or we could give this job to one of our existing committees to work on with the assistance of the aforementioned people. Either way we need to do this or else we will continue to see the same people doing everything.

We should also utilize the Ohio Archivist to send out a call for members. This call should be specific, not just a call to send in your membership fee and then be left alone. We should explicitly detail the types of work that we need people to help out with, including things that can be done without attending meetings, such as helping out with Archives Week or one of the many other activities SOA engages in.

Another initiative that I would like to see is more political involvement for SOA. I applaud Maggie Yax's and SAA's Steven Hensen's letters regarding President Bush's Executive Order 13233 and the right of the public's access to presidential records. I believe that we should be doing more of this on a local level. I propose, and would be happy to initiate it here in Cincinnati, a regular, perhaps monthly, letter to the editor. Since it is difficult to get a column in larger newspapers we could also petition journalists and newspaper columnists to cover our stories, issues and activities. We could also take better advantage of our website and post a regular column by council members addressing pressing archival issues.

All of these ideas take more than just one person to do them, though I am more than happy to initiate them. That is the task that faces council members - do actually get out there and get dirty doing the hard work. But while we're doing that we need to be constantly recruiting others, mainly new members, to help. The best way to get someone involved is to give them a task and show them the meaning behind it and how it will affect others and their profession. Were I to be elected to SOA's council I would try to be the impetus for these improvements.

Brian DeLuca

I would like to see SOA adopt a three-prong program for the following year. These three prongs would involve awareness, education and mentoring, and outreach.

1. Awareness- The current political climate has created a dangerous and unstable environment for archives, especially in regards to de-classification, release and access to government documents. SOA should engage in an awareness campaign to inform the public of the dangers of restricting access to public records and government documents. This campaign should also include contacting and allying with groups who share SOA's views and interests, like OLC, OHS, ALA, and even NEA. This awareness program should also seek to actively educate the public and elected officials about the dangers posed by the PATRIOT Act and the so-called Domestic Security Enhancement Act. Archives play a vital role in the proper maintenance of a free, open, democratic society, and we should be proud of that role and try to increase public awareness of it. This initiative would be my top priority.

2. Education- A single library school exists in our state, and as a recent graduate, I can attest to its lack of attention to archival and associated studies. Classes are offered infrequently and a few in number. This leaves archival professional education to SOA, Ohio's premier professional archival organization. Efforts should be made to partner with Kent State University School of Library Science in order to offer all its students professional archival workshops. Likewise, linkages with other programs in history and preservation would be desirable, as their students may have an interest in our field. A local mentoring program, similar to SAA, but with an emphasis on local archivists, would help students gain experience and help archives with projects and back-logs. Finally, SOA should work with OHS and local organizations like the Cleveland Archival Roundtable, to bring professional education to the grassroots level of historical society volunteers and workers.

3. Outreach- To me outreach should focus on two areas. Creative and beneficial partnerships with local historical organizations and the willingness to present programs for local civic organizations, which may not use or be aware of their local archive. SOA could play a vital support role in these types of programs. First, by providing technological and professional planning support for organizations that have a need for it, perhaps with digitization or web projects. Secondly, providing a forum for professionals who are interested in such projects to learn from others in the field that have completed similar successful project. This would hopefully ensure projects would be completed with goodwill on all sides. These projects could also be highlighted on the SOA web-site.

These three goals are all inter-related and would each help support the others in the goal of elevating the status and position of archives in general and SOA in particular.

Anna Truman

I would like to see SOA pursue more aggressive community outreach. We've made good progress with Historical Societies and similar organizations through our workshop program. I would now like to see us reach out to the educational community and make ourselves known as a resource to encourage increased use of archives by students and other researchers.

I have been involved with an SOA project to create online scrapbooks from the Ohio Memory Project that match the criteria for the achievement tests given to students in the state. The OMP has gathered together premier materials from archives and special collections around the state. This was designed to foster greater interest in primary source material and hopefully get people interested enough to visit an archives or museum. But, we, as archivists, have to help get the word out about such projects to ensure increased traffic and awareness. SOA can play a vital role in this effort.

Related to this, I have submitted a presentation proposal for the Ohio Library Council Conference in November concerning outreach for special collections. The SOA/OMP project will be mentioned specifically in that presentation. Additionally, I have spoken with colleagues in education about getting the news out about this scrapbook project. If SOA can assist in demonstrating the usefulness of OMP and similar websites teachers will be able to construct teaching tools for their own purposes and

may be inspired to visit an archive, or take their classes to archives to use primary source material. Everyone can benefit from such a project, but we need a little boost to make this happen.

This is the direction I would like to see SOA take – a step toward slowly but surely increasing the visibility and strengthening the viability of our membership and profession.

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Spotlight On Cleveland Memory Project

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A vast photo archive, a virtual reading room, a photographic reproduction service, and a showcase for Cleveland's collections. Here serious researchers and casual browsers will find thousands of historical photographs, as well as a growing collection of ebooks documenting the history of greater Cleveland and the Western Reserve region of northeastern Ohio, its industries and its people.

Cleveland Memory's major attraction is images. The collected holdings include the Cleveland Press Collection, a newspaper archive of 500,000 photographs, spanning decades of local history and events, and the Cleveland Union Terminal Collection, including hundreds of photographs chronicling the construction of the Terminal Tower project in the 1920s. Included are images of:

Eliot Ness
Sam Sheppard
Garrett Morgan
Jesse Owens
The Cleveland Indians
Downtown Department Stores
League Park
Disasters in Cleveland History

The digital production unit provides digital and photographic reproductions of the images to help users. Services include scanning photographs, clippings, and other media; print photo reproductions on glossy paper; or burn the selections to a CD.

E-Books & Other Digital Texts

Visitors will also find plenty here to read: Check out the political autobiographies of Carl Stokes and Tom L. Johnson. Although these two dynamic Cleveland Mayors served over 60 years apart, each man's administration was marked by progress and controversy.

Journalism holdings are complemented by two books by two remarkable local newspapermen: Cleveland Press editor Louis Seltzer and Plain Dealer executive editor Philip Porter.

Also included is information about the immigrant experience. Cleveland's Irish-American communities and Ed D'Alessandro's memories of growing up in Big Italy. More is being added to this series - look for new books soon on the Hungarian, Polish, and Arab communities.

Racism is portrayed from two different centuries: in John Stark Bellamy's gruesome

e-book on hangings in Cuyahoga County and an account of the Hough Riots written only two years after the riots.

The images and text used on this site are mostly taken from historical materials held in the Special Collections of the Cleveland State University Library. Special Collections provides a comprehensive facility for scholars, students and the general public. The collections cover many topics within the field of Cleveland history, with special concentrations on the industrial history of Northeast Ohio, Cleveland journalism, and the infrastructure of the city.

Cleveland Memory Site: <http://www.clevelandmemory.org>

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Mahns' gift supports Ohio University Libraries

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ATHENS, Ohio -- Robert Mahn's legacy of devotion to Ohio University continues after his retirement from the university. A \$1 million gift from Mahn and his wife, Jean, will support the Ohio University Libraries with the establishment of the Robert E. and Jean.

R. Mahn Center for Archives and Special Collections. The Mahns reside in Athens.



Ohio University Libraries are

research libraries in North America and the Mahns' gift will create an equally elite archives and special collections department by providing funds to aid in the recruitment and retention of top-notch staff, support acquisition of new material, renovate the facilities and enhance technology to make more of the collections

available electronically.

"This gift, one of the most generous ever received by the Ohio University Libraries, is especially gratifying for me, because of my great affection and respect for Bob and Jean Mahn," University Libraries Dean Julia Zimmerman said. "Many years ago, Bob founded our archives as the university's historical repository, and Jean has become a passionate advocate for this unique part of library."

"With their generosity, the Mahns have given us the means to transform the center's physical space, to enrich our collections, to enhance our technology for better control and access and to develop and recruit a top-notch staff. In sum, they've given us the ability to maximize the potential of this outstanding facility as a center of teaching, learning, and preservation of our cultural and historical legacies."

Robert Mahn's name is synonymous with administrative excellence and integrity at Ohio University. During his 51-year career, Robert Mahn filled a variety of posts at Ohio University while serving under seven presidents. In 1967, he accepted the position as university archivist and records officer, relying on skills he acquired during his former position as a junior archivist with the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Even after a full-time archivist was hired in 1972, Robert Mahn continued to be actively involved with the University Archives. As assistant to the president and secretary to the Board of Trustees, he managed the paper flow in the president's office and was responsible for all official records of the board.

In the early 1980s, he visited the archives on a regular basis to research issues for the president and the board, to retrieve critical documents or to ensure they were being properly organized and preserved. To this day, large sections of the archives reflect Robert Mahn's faithful attention and organizational skills.

"I've witnessed many eras at Ohio University, eras that brought great changes in technology, infrastructure and enrollment. While I firmly believe that you must embrace change, the university's history is priceless. And much of this history is in the university archives waiting to be discovered. Currently, the libraries are working to enhance the Archives and Special Collections; we wanted to be a small part of that," Robert Mahn said.

Robert Mahn earned his bachelor's degree in history from Miami (Ohio) University and his master's degree from the University of Kentucky. He received an honorary alumnus award from Ohio University in 1955 and earned the title Secretary Emeritus of the Board of Trustees in 1984.

Jean Rohde Mahn was born in Saskatchewan, Canada, and earned her bachelor's degree in music from Wheaton College and master's degree from the University of Delaware. She has been involved in philanthropic activities throughout her life, including helping to raise funds for Canadian hospitals. In 1989, the Mahns married and spent five years in Canada before she returned with him to Athens.

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Women's Archives Project Directory

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The Women and Leadership Archives at Loyola University Chicago invites you to publicize your collections relating to women in the Mapping Women's Archives Project Directory that is available to potential donors and researchers on its website. To fill out an online submission form, to update an existing submission, or to view and search the Directory, please visit the following website:

<http://www.luc.edu/orgs/gannon/archives/donordirectory.html>

About the Project

Begun in 2001, with initial funding provided by Irene Tinker, this directory is an ongoing effort to map archival repositories with collections relating to women. This directory is intended to provide potential donors with information that will assist them in placing their materials.

[Search the Directory](#)[Browse the Directory](#)[Top of Page](#)

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American Jewish Archives

NEH Grant

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives has been awarded a first-time National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant in the amount of \$500,000 to support the construction of its new education building. In addition to providing ample space for additional programs and exhibits, the new Edwin A. Malloy Education Building will house the planned Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati International Learning Center for the Study of the American Jewish Experience.

Jewish Foundation Grant

The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati has awarded the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives a grant for up to \$1.5 million for the purpose of underwriting the construction and equipment costs associated with creating the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati International Learning Center for the Study of the American Jewish Experience—a technologically advanced learning facility unique to The Marcus Center. The facility will be located in the new Edwin A. Malloy Education Building to be constructed soon at The Marcus Center.

The new Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati International Learning Center will include an electronic classroom capable of accommodating up to 100 participants on-site and thousands more throughout the world. The classroom will be equipped with satellite transmission and receiving capabilities, a large video monitor, telephone, fax line, and high-speed Internet access. The electronic classroom will enable The Marcus Center to share its remarkable resources with other educational institutions, historical organizations, and organizations that seek to have access to the American Jewish Archives' valuable repository of over 10 million documents.

An electronic lecture auditorium at the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati International Learning Center will allow instructors to provide enhanced learning experiences for up to 30 students on-site and hundreds more at remote locations around the world through the use of state-of-the-art computer and Internet technology as well as enhanced

interactive video projection and sound systems. It is expected that regional universities, Jewish day schools, synagogue-based religious schools and Jewish organizations could also utilize this outstanding venue for education and outreach programming.

Employee News

Christine A. Crandall was recently promoted to the position of Associate Archivist for the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives. Ms. Crandall is a 2001 graduate of Wright State University and also served as the Resident Archivist at the AJA for two years.

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives is also proud to announce the hiring of Allison Stankrauff for the position of Resident Archivist. Ms. Stankrauff is a recent graduate of Wayne State University and comes to the AJA from the Walter P. Reuther Labor Archives and the Temple Beth El Archives in Detroit, Michigan.

Synagogue Archiving Conference

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives is proud to announce that it is sponsoring Going Beyond Memory III: A Conference on Synagogue Archiving, which will be held at the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, Ohio on August 24 and 25. The conference will bring together synagogue archivists and librarians from across the country for two days of workshops. In addition to engaging in a hands on approach to archival work with the professional archivists from The Marcus Center, participants will also have the opportunity to study with Dr. Greg Bradshear, Director, Holocaust-Era Assets Records Project of the National Archives & Records Administration. In addition to the workshops, participants will have the opportunity to learn from guest lecturer Dr. Jonathan Sarna of Brandeis University.

All persons involved or interested in attending the workings of synagogue archives are invited to attend. Further information concerning the conference and how to register can be obtained by contacting:

Devhra Bennett Jones

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

3101 Clifton Ave.

Cincinnati, OH 45220-2488

Tel. 513-221-7444, ext. 369

Fax: 513-221-7812

The Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History

The Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History exists to foster and sponsor a variety of historical activities that advance our understanding of the American Jewish experience as it marks this milestone anniversary. The Commission is comprised of four national research institutions whose collections provide the public with access to the records that document the history of American Jewry: The American Jewish Historical Society, The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of

the American Jewish Archives, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives and Records Administration. A Joint Resolution of Congress has been introduced to recognize the efforts of this Commission which strives to honor the past, celebrate the present and anticipate the future of Jewish communal life in North America by achieving the following programmatic objectives during the celebration years of 2004-2005:

- A national archival exhibit on 350 years of American Jewish history sponsored by the Library of Congress. The exhibit will include documents and records from all of the institutions in the Commission.
- A traveling exhibit on 350 years of American Jewish history that will open in a select number of communities in the United States of America.
- An Internet website. The website will commemorate and serve as gateway to the impressive historical resources that currently exist on the Internet.
- A series of public media productions that advance the public's awareness of the history of Jewish life in the American nation.
- A series of educational initiatives, electronic and in print, that will serve all organizations, institutions and individuals who are interested in the study and teaching of American Jewish history.

Cleveland Archival Roundtable

The fall meeting of the Cleveland Archival Roundtable (CAR) was hosted by Kristen Pool at the Shaker Heights Public Library on September 12, 2002. Kristen gave a very informative presentation on Ohio Memory, with a demonstration of searching techniques. She also gave the group a grand tour of the library. There was a discussion on various current topics, and old members met quite a few archival newcomers to Cleveland.

CAR had a winter meeting hosted by Bill Barrow in Special Collections at the Cleveland State University Library on January 30. Some members met early across the street at the famed Rascal House for pizza and camaraderie. Bill Barrow gave a short overview of his collections and then an interesting demonstration of the [Cleveland Memory Project](#).

Members then held a discussion of current topics, as they had in the fall, including: effects of the Patriot Act and homeland security on libraries and archives; updating the CAR website and using the CAR arms; a discussion of session topics for the MAC meeting in Dearborn next fall; the Crile Archives (Cuyahoga Community College/West) program on the history of the African-American nurse; archival collections in libraries and historical societies; History Day; and projects for the Ohio Bicentennial and Archives Week, including NASA's program on the centennial of flight, which is linked to events in Dayton as well as Cleveland. CAR members voted to support the History Day competition by giving a \$50 prize for the best use of local archives.

The next CAR meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 23 at Stan Hywet, the historic Seiberling house and gardens in Akron. It was felt that it was time for a CAR meeting in a "south-of-480" location to accommodate members living in the Akron area and points south. For more information, contact any member of the CAR Steering Committee: Joyce Litzler (Cyrilwill2@aol.com), Kristen Pool (Kris.Pool@shpl.lib.oh.us), Brian DeLuca (bkdeluca@hotmail.com), Bill Barrow (w.barrow@csuohio.edu), or Fred Lautzenheiser (lautzef@ccf.org).

CAR is proud to sponsor an offering of SOA's Archives 101 workshop at the Shaker Heights Public Library on Saturday, May 10. This will be an all-day workshop taught by Anna Truman. For more information contact Kristen Pool or any other member of the Steering Committee (see email addresses above).

Greene County Time Capsule Book

While preparing for celebrations of the centennial of the Greene County courthouse in 2001, a small copper box was found buried under the cornerstone. Much excitement ensued! The box was opened at a public meeting of the Greene County commissioners in February 2001, with local press and media in attendance. The items enclosed were in pristine condition. Newspapers, hand written church and organizational histories, school class lists, brochures, calendars, and catalogs looked brand new.

As co-members of the Greene County Bicentennial Committee, Deanna Ulvestad and Gillian Hill decided to join together to produce a book about the items enclosed in the time capsule as our contribution to the county's and the state's 200th birthday. With photographs of many of the documents themselves, supplemented with photographs borrowed from other local historical institutions of the people and places mentioned in the documents, the book shows the county at approximately halfway through the 200 years between its founding and the present. The book, which will be available at the Spring Meeting book sale table, is dedicated to all past and present residents of Greene County, Ohio, and especially to the Sophomore Class of Xenia high School in 1901, who enclosed a paper in the time capsule asking, "Now good friends remember our good deeds and us While we lie sleeping under the dust."

Ohio Historical Society

In March, the [Local Government Records Program](#) (LGRP) presented workshops to Local Health Department Nurses and to Municipal and Township Clerks through the Auditor of State's Local Government Officials Conference. Additionally, "Just the Basics" and "Managing Electronic Records" workshops open to any local government records officers are scheduled for April 1 at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland and April 23 at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus. Work is also still in process on the "Just the Basics" video workshop which will be the first of the video

workshops to be completed.

The Ohio Historical Society is one of three partners in History WORKS (Working On Rigorous Knowledge for Students), a three-year, \$1 million professional development program for middle and high school American history teachers in Columbus, Ohio. It is funded by the United States Department of Education through the Teaching American History program. The project is designed to strengthen teachers' content knowledge in American history, improve research skills, and provide access to primary sources through a partnership between Columbus Public Schools (CPS), Ohio State University, and the Ohio Historical Society.

The program seeks to enhance assets the school district currently possesses while addressing gaps in the American history content knowledge of teachers. The three major components of History WORKS include monthly seminars, summer institutes, and a web-based resource center. The program's content focuses on improving teachers' understanding of six core themes in American history: Ohio history, the Constitution and American democracy, foreign relations, people of America, economic history, and social movements and change.

The History WORKS program partners present teachers with the latest scholarship, access to important primary source materials, support innovative teaching strategies, and collaborate in the development of curricula that effectively meets the unique urban educational challenges faced by CPS teachers.

The Ohio Historical Society launched a second phase of the Ohio Memory Project in October 2002. Phase two will add twentieth-century materials to the [Ohio Memory Online Scrapbook](#). The December 15 submission deadline resulted in contributions from 181 historical societies, public libraries, museums and archives throughout Ohio, bringing the total number of participating institutions to over 320. Staff members are currently processing over 1300 submissions and are starting to add new material to the site. Ohio Memory is an online database of over 20,000 images of letters, documents, artifacts, photographs and other primary source materials relating to Ohio history.

In early 2002 the [Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board](#) and Ohio's Network of American History Research Centers decided to address the problem of access to local government records of enduring historical value. The problem will be dealt with by making MARC records of them available through Ohio Historical Society's Online Collections Catalog (OCC) regardless of who holds them. Discovering the location of these local government records is one of the major problems facing researchers in Ohio. Such records can be found at local historical societies, county records management facilities, public libraries, the Ohio Historical Society (OHS), or at one of the eight Network of American History Research Centers found throughout the state. This project, called the Network Access project, has had several difficult issues to deal with. First this is a voluntary project, meaning that it is desirable for those institutions that hold local government records of enduring historical value to create MARC records for those holdings. Second, the MARC records that will reside on the OHS OCC have to be complete (i.e. contain subject headings, complete titles, etc.). This means that while efforts are being made to make the process as simple as possible for

those institutions volunteering their resources, that same process needs to create complete MARC records that use the OHS authority control file.

These issues are being addressed in two ways. Those institutions that have MARC records or some bibliographic information for local government records of enduring historic value will be able to submit that information to OHS via an Access database comprised of six fields. OHS staff will take that information, add subject headings to it, verify and perhaps revise titles and author information against the Society's authority control file, and then use MARCMaker software to convert the information into MARC records. The second method of creating MARC records will be an online form. This will be used by those institutions that do not have bibliographic information on their local government records holdings. The online form will contain pull down menus for several of the fields that will promote the use of the terms in the OHS authority control file. Again, OHS staff will review the information submitted via the online form before the MARC records are created. Currently the project is entering a test phase with two institutions (Ohio University and Wright State University) supplying test information via an Access database while the Greene County Records Center will test the online form once it is completed. The goal is to have the system and procedures in place for the Network Access project by mid-summer 2003.

The Ohio Electronic Records Committee (ERC) met January 9 at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus. The membership voted to change the mission statement to read as follows: "The goal of the Electronic Records Committee (ERC) is to draft model policies, recommendations, and guidelines for the creation, maintenance, long term preservation of and access to electronic records created by Ohio's state and local governments." Previously, the mission statement had not included anything about local governments. The membership may be expanded to reflect this change. More details about this committee's activities in 2003 will appear in an exclusive article in the fall issue of this newsletter. Updates on the committee's activities are available at <http://www.ohiojunction.net/erc/>.

Stacia Kuceyeski, who previously worked as archival research assistant in the Manuscripts/Audiovisual department, returned to the Ohio Historical Society in December as Content Development Assistant for the Ohio Memory project. She received her bachelor's degree in history from The Ohio State University.

Roger Klare also joined the Ohio Memory staff as Digitization Specialist in February. He has a bachelor's degree in botany and a master's degree in journalism, both from Ohio University and is also an Adobe Certified Expert in Photoshop. Klare is also the author of *Gregor Mendel: Father of Genetics*, published in 1997 by Enslow Publishers as part of the Great Minds of Science series, written for students in Grades 5-6. In addition, he was the chief science writer for *Mission to Mars: A National Traveling Exhibition for Science Education* that was featured in twelve science museums across the United States from 1990 to 1995. In 1990, he was elected to membership in the National Association of Science Writers.

Iody Blankenship-Walden joined the Manuscripts/Audiovisuals Department in

December as History WORKS project archivist. Previously, he was assistant curator at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio and Education Programs Associate at the New York State Historical Association in Cooperstown, New York. He has a bachelor's degree in history from Ohio Northern University and a master's degree in history museum studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program, State University of New York, College at Oneonta. As part of his training, Blankenship-Walden served internships at the National Baseball Hall of Fame, the Strong Museum in Rochester, New York, and the Heatherbank Museum of Social Work in Glasgow, Scotland.

Travis Kokas began work as Stack Manager for Research Services in the Archives/Library in October. His major responsibility is the oversight of circulation activity to and from the stacks. Kokas has a bachelor's degree in Japanese from The Ohio State University. While attending Ohio State, he worked in the Stacks Management Department in the Main Library there.

Kevin May moved into the position of public records technician in the Archives/Library in February. May came to the position with extensive experience in the field of cultural resource management. Having graduated from the Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in Ancient History and Classics, he worked briefly for the Society before moving on to Boston University, where he earned a master's degree in Historic Preservation Studies in 1995. Since then, he has worked in numerous positions within the Society, including the collections, museum, and education departments, but has primarily worked for the Ohio Historic Preservation Office in various capacities (projects involving maritime history, GIS/GPS, and architectural surveys) from 1996 through 2002.

Recent accessions of the State Archives include environmental law enforcement cases from the Attorney General's Office (1971-1988) and community plans and executive correspondence from the Department of Mental Health (1995-1997). The State Archives also accessioned the records of twelve state representatives and two state senators who left office at the end of the 2001-2002 General Assembly.

Recent accessions of the Manuscripts and Audiovisuals Department include the Jackie Mayer Collection, the Charles W. Shock Collection, the Republic Steel Corporation Negatives, and the records of the Dixie Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Jackie Mayer was an Ohio native who was crowned Miss America in 1963. Her memorabilia from this and the other titles (Miss Ohio 1962, Miss Vacationland 1962) she held is the primary component of this collection. This includes correspondence, photos, magazine article, scrapbooks, and marketing materials. More recently, she has served as a spokesperson for the National Stroke Association and the American Heart Association. Charles W. Shock was a farmer in Jefferson City, Ohio, who kept journals of his daily life from his teens until his death in 1954. The collection includes fifteen journals with descriptions of daily life in Ohio, school activities, farming, social events and comments on national events such as World War I and World War II. The negatives from Republic Steel cover the years from 1941 to 1975 and document the corporation's operations in northeastern Ohio, including their facilities in Youngstown, Niles, and Warren. The collection also includes the logbooks the photographers kept that describe the images. The Dixie Chapter is the Columbus

Ohio chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and was established August 8, 1914. The records include admission petitions that contain biographical sketches of the Confederate veterans through which membership was claimed, along with meeting minutes, convention programs, and correspondence. The collection also includes material related to the chapter's dedication of a Confederate memorial at Camp Chase in Columbus in 1954.

Ohio University Libraries

Shelia Curtis has joined the staff of the Mahn Center for Archives & Special Collections as a Records Management Associate serving under the direction of Bill Kimok.

Staff members of the Mahn Center are planning to mount a series of exhibits on the university's history as part of the Ohio University Bicentennial celebration that will begin this summer. The series of six exhibits will run from early summer 2003-fall 2004.

anet Carleton, Digital Projects Librarian, has been appointed Editor of the Midwest Archives Conference Newsletter, for a term of three years. Anyone interested in writing for the newsletter (<http://www.midwestarchives.org/macnewsletter.htm>) should contact her (carleton@ohio.edu)

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Ohio and the World Lecture Series

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To commemorate the Ohio Bicentennial, The Ohio State University will sponsor an Ohio Bicentennial Distinguished Lecture Series entitled "Ohio and the World" in collaboration with the Ohio Bicentennial Commission, the Ohio Humanities Council, and other institutions around the state. The series commences with an Inaugural Lecture that provides an overview followed by seven lectures that highlight the major themes that substantially define the State's history at different dates.

The lecturers are distinguished scholars and thinkers, both from around the nation and from within Ohio. The series begins in March 2003 and ends in June 2003. All but the first and last lecture will be presented twice, once in Columbus and once in a venue elsewhere in Ohio. All lectures are free and open to the public.

Inaugural Lecture

R. W. Apple, Associate Editor, The New York Times

Circa 1753

R. David Edmunds, Watson Professor of American History University of Texas, Dallas

Circa 1803

James O. Horton, Benjamin Banneker Professor of American Studies and History, The George Washington University

Circa 1853

Eric Foner, DeWitt Clinton Professor of History, Columbia University

Circa 1903

Kathryn Kish Sklar, Distinguished Professor of History and Co-Director, Center for the Historical Study of Women and Gender, SUNY Binghamton

Circa 1953

James T. Patterson, Ford Foundation Professor of History, Brown University

Circa 2003

Herbert B. Asher, Professor of Political Science Emeritus, The Ohio State University

Circa 2053

William E. Kirwan, Chancellor, University System of Maryland

For specific dates, times, venues, and topics, please visit any of the following web

sites:

The Ohio State University:

<http://www.osu.edu/bicentennial/>

The Ohio Bicentennial Commission:

<http://www.ohio200.org/>

The Ohio Humanities Council:

<http://ohiohumanities.org/>

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Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board Update

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During the last year OHRAB has spent much of its time planning for a Bicentennial conference on the status of Ohio's historical records. This conference entitled "The Future of Our Past: Ohio's Historical Records at 200 Years" will be held on September 26, 2003 at the Ohio Historical Center auditorium.

The goal of the conference is to develop a collaborative agenda for strengthening the historical records programs in Ohio via the activities of the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board and to revitalize the enthusiasm of those who create, use, and preserve these records. As well, the summit will be used to solicit public comment on the draft goals and objectives that came out of the June 2001 OHRAB Strategic Planning Retreat. These public comments and the draft goals and objectives from the June 2001 Strategic Planning Retreat will be used to create the updated OHRAB strategic plan tentatively entitled The Ohio 2010 Plan.

The conference will be split into two parts. During the morning speakers will address the conference to provide context for the afternoon's focus group discussions. Due to space considerations, the focus groups will be limited to one hundred invited guests representing Ohio's records creators, records users, archivists, and allied organizations. The morning's presentations will be open to the public.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. with a brief (20 minute) keynote address on the importance of the historical record to Ohio's history. Following the keynote address Dr. John Grabowski of the Western Reserve Historical Society and Case Western Reserve University will speak on the beginnings of Ohio's historical records program and the current state of those programs. Dr. Ken Thibodeau, Director of the Electronic Records Archives (ERA) Program at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) will address future records issues.

"The Future of Our Past: Ohio's Historical Records at 200 Years" conference will be partially funded through the OHRAB administrative support grant received from National Historical Publications and Records Commission. OHRAB regrets that not every member of Ohio's archival community will get to take part in the conference's focus group discussions. However, OHRAB will create other opportunities for archivists to comment on the draft goals and objectives from the June 2001 OHRAB Strategic Planning Retreat to ensure that we hear from all of SOA on these issues.

OHRAB would like to cordially invite all of Ohio's archival community to hear Dr. Grabowski and Dr. Thibodeau speak on the past, present and future of Ohio's historical records programs at this conference. Their presentations will provide archivists a rare opportunity to hear two great intellects analyze the past and future of

archives in Ohio. We hope to see you there.

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President's Message

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Happy Anniversary, Ohio Archivists!

By now, you're all aware that 2003 is not only Ohio's Bicentennial, but also SOA's 35th anniversary, so we have a lot to celebrate. Our Spring Conference, "Archivists and Anniversaries: Celebrating 200 Years of Ohio History," is a great place to start. Kristen Pool and the Program Committee have put together an interesting program that commemorates both anniversaries and features excellent speakers. You will also want to attend the 35th Anniversary Banquet and Awards Ceremony the evening of April 10th where we will honor colleagues and associates who have made momentous contributions to Ohio archives and archivists. I hope to see everyone in Columbus!

Also on the topic of our anniversary, I'd like to share the news that SAA has issued a [resolution](#) in recognition of our 35th. In January I received the resolution along with a congratulatory [letter](#). The letter states in part, "Your organization has done much to advance the archival endeavor within and outside of the state of Ohio especially in the areas of outreach, professional development, and education." The resolution specifically mentions our involvement with archives and archivists in Cuba, our workshops, newsletter, website, listserv and many of our other accomplishments. These documents make one proud of SOA and its many achievements. Take a look at them; you can view both the letter and resolution on our website. Congratulations to all of you – SOA has much to be proud of!

On a different note, I want to take a moment to tell you what a pleasure it has been for me to serve you and SOA as President during the last two years. The officers and members I have worked with over the course of my tenure have been most generous with their time and commitment to SOA and I can't thank them enough for their efforts to help our association maintain its vitality and momentum. SOA exists because its members are willing to volunteer their precious and scarce time and resources to see that it does. The future of SOA depends on each and every member to take part in ensuring that future. There are wonderful and varied opportunities to get involved. As one of my last acts as President, I'd like to encourage you to invest in your association and join a committee, run for office, become a workshop instructor, join our mentor program or intern project, do whatever you can because SOA needs you in its future. What's in it for you besides the occasional "thanks," an entry for professional activity on your resume, and extra work? – an opportunity to work with colleagues toward sustaining one of the oldest regional archives associations with a proud history. Do it – you'll be glad you did!

Maggie Yax

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