



## From the President

*Chris Meekins*

My first presidential message: and I must say that I did not imagine such an opportunity would be mine. So, I plumbed the back issues of our newsletters - seeking the wisdom of past presidents. There I discovered old friends. Friends who cheered SNCA on, cajoled our members toward participation, and encouraged support of SNCA through our endowment fund (still a great idea!). But more than all else, I found presidents who led SNCA forward. With their encouragement, and your assistance, I am ready to follow and to lead.

The time-honored season of change is upon us. Spring brings the hope of a new year and holds out the promise of growth, renewal, and change. For growth we hope to expand our membership. Student members are a vital link to the next generation of archivists and public historians. As a professional organization, SNCA offers newly-minted archivists and public historians the opportunity to publish in a peer-reviewed journal or present at a professional conference. We should take every opportunity to promote SNCA - as I know our membership does.

In renewal we hope to expand our own abilities through workshops and through networking, either in meetings or on our listserv. And renewal also means staying current in your membership dues to support SNCA year-round! Change is, ironically, the one constant in our organization. Our membership changes, our board changes, and our profession changes. And this year brings SNCA an opportunity for change not seen in previous years.

After some thoughtful discussion, the board has decided to ask the entire membership to weigh in on a potential major change in our organization. Instead of making a decision to present a change to our constitution and then holding a vote on that change, we decided to first ask the membership what they think.

Let me give you some details. The idea is simple enough - instead of having two conferences a year, the board wants your feedback on having just a single conference per calendar year. The proposal is to have an annual spring conference that would serve as the business meeting, and to continue to rotate meeting locations through the state (eastern, central, western).

This is, of course, a significant departure from our current two-meetings-a-year format. And one primary reason for discussing this proposal was feedback from you, the SNCA membership. On many occasions I had been approached by members who expressed a wish to explore the one-meeting-a-year option.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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MEMBERS AT LARGE

## President's Message, cont.

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On one hand, two meetings a year allows for greater exchange of ideas in person. We have more opportunities to meet our fellow SNCA members, and we have a chance to attend more workshops and presentations. Smaller archives and cultural heritage institutions can rotate sending some staff to the spring and some to the fall conferences, thus allowing all their employees to attend one meeting a year. It has been a good system and it has worked well.

On the other hand, attendance is down. There have been complaints about the quality of programs - some on feedback forms, some directly to board members. SNCA members at some smaller institutions must choose which conference to attend, because going to both events can place a burden on the institution.

But one of the main reasons for asking our membership about the change is because of how large and different SNCA is now than when it was first created. Just in my time on the board we have added an Electronic Resources chair, a Development chair, an Archives Week chair, and made *J-SNCA* a subset of Publications. There was a lot of change and growth in those years. It must also be noted how demanding of time and energy it is to be the Program chair and plan two events in a single year. By moving to a single event a year, the board believes it would allow the Program chair more time to plan and deliver a quality conference. What we hope you will see, and what I am trying to convey, is we believe the change would be positive - giving the Program chair more time to plan a single event. SNCA has maintained a high standard for its conferences and we believe that a single event a year would maintain, if not raise, that standard, while addressing the reality of the time demands on Program Committee volunteers.

Having stated our belief that moving to a single meeting a year would bring many positives, we, as your board, also realize this might not be the way the membership wants the organization to change. Thus, we have created a survey to get your feedback on this idea. This is **not** a vote for the change or against the change. It is your board asking for **your input** on the idea. If the membership expresses a desire to move forward with the idea, then we will present it for a vote to the entire membership at our business meeting. A link to the survey will be sent to you in an email on the listserv and will be posted on the SNCA homepage. Or you can access it by using the following URL:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ujFiR4bn9X7WMRncP\\_2fZZvQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ujFiR4bn9X7WMRncP_2fZZvQ_3d_3d)

Please take a moment and complete the survey. We will leave the survey open through the end of May. If you cannot access the survey for any reason, please send an email response to me at [chris.meekins@ncmail.net](mailto:chris.meekins@ncmail.net) or write us using our PO Box address.

Remember - growth, renewal, and change - SNCA remains committed to serving its members.

Best Wishes in the coming year,  
Chris

## Exhibit Review

Mira Waller

### ***Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Assassination Investigation***

<http://register.shelby.tn.us/mlk/index.php>

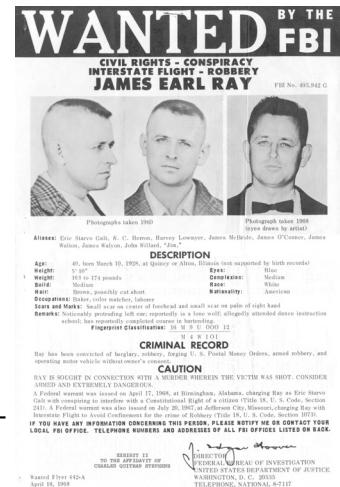
Online exhibits are created for many reasons. Some are created to highlight a certain theme, individual, or event, while others are designed around a particular set of artifacts and/or images. In most cases, the web is a vehicle for reaching a larger audience and promoting materials which might otherwise remain hidden. To that end, most online exhibits provide visitors with a roadmap that includes an introduction, explanations for the various sections, and a guideline for how best to view the exhibit. The exhibit *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Assassination Investigation*, created by the Shelby County Register of Deeds, provides no guidance, no explanations, not even an introduction to the online display, but due to its powerful subject matter and compelling content, manages to capture and hold visitor interest.

The introductory page consists of the title and six images, with text organizing the exhibit into the following themes: Crime Scene, Evidence, James Earl Ray, Audio Files, Reports, and Court Records. There is no other information on this page except for a header navigation bar of the Shelby County Register of Deeds web site. Once a visitor clicks through the six images, it becomes clear that the exhibit consists of crime scene photographs, evidence photographs, sketches, mug shots, items related to James Earl Ray, audio clips from the court proceedings and arraignment of James Earl Ray, and scans of court reports and records.

Although the site contains little text, it does provide some nice features that make it easier to navigate through the photographs, sound clips, and scanned records. The crime scene, evidence, and James Earl Ray images can be viewed as a slide show. The audio clips can be saved to your PC, and the time needed for loading the file is clearly indicated next to the clip. While the scanned records are in tiff format, there is an option to download a free program if the visitor has problems viewing the images.

While the design and layout of this exhibit is stark and very "bare bones", there is no denying the impact of its content. Although visitors to this site are probably familiar with Dr. King and online exhibits in general, it would have been helpful—and made the site easier to navigate for those who are less web savvy—if an introduction and some explanations had been provided in the display.

Ease of navigation and good design often help an exhibit, but some displays contain such compelling substance that very little is needed to augment the actual content. Although a succinct and minimal introduction would have been helpful, visitors to this virtual exhibit will find a rich source of information about the investigation into Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination.



## Spring Meeting Roundup 2007

*Karen Paar*

The Society of North Carolina Archivists spring 2008 meeting in Raleigh drew participants from all over the state, as well as speakers from New York and Washington, D.C. Some SNCA members gathered at North Carolina State University's D.H. Hill Library on March 6th for workshops on motion picture film preservation, exhibition creation, and document preservation. Others enjoyed the beautiful March day with afternoon tours of the J.C. Raulston Arboretum and the architecture of the N.C. State campus. That evening, the State Archives hosted a reception for SNCA, and Assistant Attorney General Karen Blum presented a fascinating account of the long journey of North Carolina's copy of the Bill of Rights from its disappearance from the State Capitol building during the Civil War to its return to the custody of the State, as well as lawyers' efforts to prove this is North Carolina's copy. Following Ms. Blum's talk, SNCA members and guests enjoyed the opportunity to view our Bill of Rights in the State Archives reading room during a special showing.



Mira Waller, Duke University Medical Center Archives

On the morning of March 7, SNCA President Blake Tyner, NCSU Libraries Special Collections Research Center Head Lisa Carter, and Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Susan Nutter welcomed some 110 SNCA members to the North Carolina State University campus for the main day of the spring meeting. Rob Christensen, political columnist for the *News and Observer* newspaper, delivered the keynote address on North Carolina politics as an introduction to his new book on the topic, researched in part in the state's archival repositories. A morning session followed, with breakout sessions on medical archives and marketing archival collections, as well as a tour of the NCSU Libraries Special Collections Research Center and exhibition gallery. The first part of the program ended with the opportunity to visit vendors' tables and view two poster sessions presented at the meeting.

During the lunchtime business session, SNCA officers gave reports, then members elected the new slate of officers to the Executive Board. Members also approved an amendment to create an Archives Week Chair position on the Executive Board. The business meeting concluded with Blake Tyner passing the president's gavel to Chris Meekins, who in turn honored Blake for his service with an N.C. State Wolfpack cap signed by Executive Board members.



Passing of the president's gavel:  
Meekins and Tyner



The meeting concluded with one breakout session on branding and promoting programs and another on archiving e-mail, presented by members of the Collaborative Electronic Records Project (CERP) of the Rockefeller Archive Center and the Smithsonian Institution.

Kelly Eubank of the State Archives discusses e-mail archiving

## Spring Meeting Roundup 2007

Photos by Stephen Fletcher

SNCA thanks all our workshop instructors, tour leaders, and presenters whose participation made this a strong program. Thanks also go to our vendors, the History Press and the Hollinger Corporation, with special thanks to the Hollinger Corporation for providing two \$100 gift certificates as door prizes, as well as additional funding for the meeting. UNC Press shared another great door prize, *The Encyclopedia of North Carolina*. Finally, SNCA thanks our hosts for this meeting, the NCSU Libraries and the State Archives, along with the excellent program committee who worked with Karen Paar: David Chiswell, Linda Jacobson, Dawne Howard Lucas, Chad Morgan, and Lea Walker.



Dean Rhoades, UNCG



Participants browse vendor displays



Tom Harkins,  
Duke University Archives

## News from SAA

**Katie Nash**, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at Elon University, is the new Society of American Archivists (SAA) Key Contact for North Carolina. If you have any questions about SAA, please feel free to contact her. Many thanks to Hal Keiner for his work in this capacity over the last five years.

Registration is now open for the **72nd Annual SAA Conference**, entitled ARCHIVES 2008: Archival R/Evolution & Identities. This year's meeting is scheduled for August 26-30 at the Hilton San Francisco. Make your reservations soon, as the host hotel can fill quickly! Early-bird registration ends July 7. See you in San Fran!

## Appointments, Promotions, and Awards

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**Mary Hollis Barnes**, c.a., has changed duties at the State Archives in Raleigh. Previously serving as State Agency Services Unit supervisor in the Government Records Branch, she is the first program coordinator for the recently created Cemetery Survey and Stewardship Program. Joining Mary in this joint program of the Office of State Archaeology and the Office of Archives and History, Division of Historical Resources is archaeologist R. Kevin Donald, PhD.

**Beth Ann Koelsch** was appointed as the Curator of the Women Veterans Historical Collection at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro in February. She previously worked as a project archivist at the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture at Duke University. Koelsch has an MLS from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of New Orleans. She has a BA in Psychology from Duke University. Koelsch has a great affection for the Duke Women's Basketball Team, her Ipod, and mid 20<sup>th</sup> century American Popular Culture.

In January, **Jennifer Motszko** joined the University Archives as Special Project Archivist and is currently processing the Department of Theatre records and the University Photograph Collection. Motszko previously worked at the Harley-Davidson Archive and Museum as a Museum Technician. She has a MLIS with a concentration in Archival Administration and MA in History from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and a BA in History from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Motszko enjoys sewing and reading and in her spare time takes care of her cat Cicero.

In April, **Ann Stringfield** of InfoCrofters received the Meritorious Achievement Award of the North Carolina Chapter of the Special Libraries Association, presented to a Chapter colleague who has made outstanding, notable contributions to the Chapter and to the profession.

## New Acquisitions

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The Rare Books and Rare Maps Collections of **East Carolina University** have seen quite a few very influential purchases recently, including the *Remain of Sir Walter Raleigh* printed in 1675, *Admiranda narratio, fida tamen, de commodis et incolarvm ritibvs Virginiae ... Anglico scripta sermone à Thoma Hariot* by Theodor DeBry, and the rare map *Mappa Aestivarum Insularum alias Barmudas dictarum*. The Hoover Collection on International Communism has also seen a large growth in its holdings, including many original pamphlets printed by communist organizations around the world. Lastly, the newly established James H. and Virginia C. Schlobin Fantasy Collection will be showcased for the very first time. The exhibit will be up in the Special Collection Department from mid-April to July 2008.

## Publications

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The **Historical Publications Section** of the **North Carolina Office of Archives and History** announces the following new books:

Dr. Harley E. Jolley discusses the establishment of the CCC in North Carolina in *That Magnificent Army of Youth and Peace: The Civilian Conservation Corps in North Carolina, 1933–1942*. Recounting camp life in great detail, Jolley examines the lasting accomplishments of the Corps with period illustrations and stories. *That Magnificent Army* (167 pages, paperback, illustrations, index [2007]) is available for \$29.35.

The tenth edition of the *Guide to North Carolina Highway Historical Markers*, edited by Michael Hill, presents the full text of all 1,513 markers with 107 photographs illustrating the new volume. The markers are arranged by county for easy reference to all state waysides as approved through March 2007. The *Guide* (265 pages, paperback, illustrations, index [2007]) is available for \$24.00.

Do you know the name of the state carnivorous plant? Find it in the new, revised edition of the popular *Old North State Fact Book*. Need more trivia? Find entries for the state collard festival, the state dances (both folk and popular), the state Christmas tree, the official salute to the North Carolina flag, and the official food festival of the Piedmont Triad region among many others. New color pictures and a revised index compete this new edition. The *Old North State Fact Book* (103 pages, paperback, illustrations, index [2008]) is available for \$16.68.

Order these titles from the Historical Publications Section by calling (919) 733-7442, ext. 0, or by visiting the secure online store: <http://nc-historical-publications.stores.yahoo.net>.

## Projects

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The University Archives is proud to announce the completion of a timeline which chronicles the history of **The University of North Carolina at Greensboro** from its founding in 1891 to the present day. The Timeline of UNCG History includes interesting facts, archival photographs, and other related media documenting significant events in the University's development. As an ongoing project, the Timeline will continue to expand and include new media and facts. Visit the timeline at <http://library.uncg.edu/depts/archives>.

Joyner Library of **East Carolina University** is working with the campus Centennial Task Force to prepare an oral history of first-generation graduates of the university. Twenty interviews will be conducted this spring and early summer with alumni who were the first members of their families to graduate from college. The interviews will be made available for scholarly research at Joyner Library's Special Collections Department and through the Web site of the University Archives. For more information, please contact Maury York at (252) 328-0252 or [yorkm@ecu.edu](mailto:yorkm@ecu.edu).

## Exhibits and Events

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**SNCA** was proud to be a sponsor of **ASIST's** "Institutional Repositories: The Great Debate" event on April 17 at Wilson Library, UNC. The Carolinas Chapter of the American Society for Information Science and Technology organized the debate between UNC-SILS' Dr. Helen Tibbo and Duke's Kevin Smith, in which the two discussed how topics like scholarly communication, copyright, institutional memory, digital libraries, metadata, intellectual property, digital preservation, and OAI-PMH fit with implementation of institutional repositories.

Mark your calendars for the **North Carolina Preservation Consortium** Annual Conference, *Cultural Respect in Preservation and Conservation*, which will be held November 20, 2008 UNC's Friday Center. This year's NCPC conference will focus on issues of cultural respect and heritage preservation. Invited speakers include Michele Cloonan of Simmons College, the Smithsonian's Marian A. Kaminitz, Karen L. Jefferson from the Robert W. Woodruff Library at Atlanta University Center, and Corine Wegener, president of the non-profit U. S. Committee of the Blue Shield. Additional information and registration materials can be found on the NCPC website, <http://www.ncpreservation.org>

"The Outer Banks Now and Then: Where We Are, Where We've Been," an exhibit at the **Outer Banks History Center** (OBHC) in Manteo, examines ways that life at the edge of the sea has changed over time. Topics such as boat-building, fishing, midwifery, geology, entertainment, and weather prediction are presented with a broad perspective and a light-hearted touch. This retrospective promises to inspire laughter, nostalgia, and reflection. The exhibit will be on display through Dec. 31, 2008. For more information contact Kaeli Spiers at (252) 473-2655 or email [obhc@ncmail.net](mailto:obhc@ncmail.net).

## Upcoming SAA Workshops

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June 2 : Basic Electronic Records - The Bryn Mawr School, Baltimore, MD

June 2: Grant Proposal Writing - Pennsylvania State University, PA

June 3: Oral History: From Planning to Preservation - The Bryn Mawr School, Baltimore, MD

June 12: Project Management for Archivists - Denver, CO

June 12-13: IT Training for Practicing Archivists Series - Haverford College, PA

June 26-27: Security in Archives & Manuscript Repositories - Filson Historical Society, Louisville, KY

## Advertisement

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Your announcement or advertisement could have been

# HERE!

To advertise in the *North Carolina Archivist* or the *Journal for the Society of North Carolina Archivists* (J-SNCA), please contact the Publications Chair, Cat McDowell, [csmdowe@uncg.edu](mailto:csmdowe@uncg.edu)!

## Society of North Carolina Archivists

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P. O. Box 20448  
Raleigh, NC 27619

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[HTTP://WWW.RTPNET.ORG/  
~SNCA/](http://www.rtpnet.org/~snca/)

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The Newsletter is published semi-annually, and this issue was designed using Microsoft Publisher 2003.

### **Editor:**

Cat Saleeby McDowell  
UNC Greensboro

The Society of North Carolina Archivists is an organization of individuals and institutions who share a common concern in the preservation and use of archival and manuscript materials.

The purpose of the society is to promote cooperation and exchange of information among individuals and institutions interested in the preservation of the archival and manuscript resources in North Carolina; to share information on archival methodology and the availability of research materials; to provide a forum for discussion of matters of common concern as they pertain to the archival profession in North Carolina; and to cooperate with professionals in related disciplines. Dues are \$25.00 per year.

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