

# Baylor Collections of Political Materials



## REPORT: AUGUST 2003



### SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS ANNUAL MEETING Los Angeles, CA August 18-24, 2003

Over 1200 archivists from all over the world convened in Los Angeles for SAA. In addition to archivists from the US and Canada, there were

also archivists from Scotland, Germany, the Netherlands, and Mongolia.

On Wednesday, I toured two film/motion picture archives on a [Film Scholarship](#) tour. First, our group went to the [Cinema-TV Library](#) and the [David L. Wolper Center for Study of the Documentary](#) at USC. Both offered insight into the special collections associated with film and motion pictures. On the second part of this tour, we visited the [Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences Library](#) in Beverly Hills. This library does not contain the films which are in a separate archive, rather printed materials: posters, letters, scrapbooks, etc.

In the afternoon, [The Film Preservation tour](#) visited a film preservation lab, [Film Technology Company](#), in Hollywood. This three-story facility can restore any type of media but not cheaply. A five-minute color cartoon would cost around \$10,000 to restore.

Wednesday evening, I took the shuttle to the Santa Monica Pier (actually the bus stopped about a mile from the pier and I had to walk, walk, walk). The evening was cool and the expansive beach mostly deserted. My luxury purchase was a funnel cake at a food stand on the pier.

Thursday began early with a session by Cinetech Imaging. Their rep led a discussion on film preservation. The Opening Plenary Session began at 10:45, forty-five minutes after "The International Archives and Information Technology Exposition" opened. This is a fancy name for exhibits. I picked up much useful information and have placed it all in a notebook for future reference. The Opening session featured an address by Paul Duguid on issues reflected in the book he co-authored with John Seely Brown, [The Social Life of Information](#). Alas, I wish I could remember what he said.

After lunch at Subway, I attended the session: "[EAD Research: Diffusion, Implementation and Living with Encoded Archival Description](#)." Three speakers addressed various EAD issues. Gina Minks urged the reengineering of finding aids and the creation of a standard everyone could follow; Jihyun Kim wooed us with Everett Rogers' theory of diffusion of innovation; and Katherine Wisser explained how low-cost EAD workshops in North Carolina are being used to educate local archivists about the uses of EAD.

The next session I attended built on the previous one. The Holy Grail for archivists these days is to find a easy way to

implement EAD. In "[Demystifying EAD: Simple Encoding Solution for the Layperson](#)," three tech gurus explained how they created EAD documents using three different methods. Robert Cox, [American Philosophical Society](#), uses MS Word templates to create EAD docs. He still has to use an XML editor however to parse/validate his doc. Amy McCrory, [Ohio State University](#), used a low-cost (\$20) software called NoteTab to encode in EAD. (BCPM has used this too). John Rees, [National Library of Medicine](#), explained how he programed MS Access in C++ to create EAD docs. But he too, must transport them to an XML editor. (He sent us info about this method but we didn't understand it.)

Beginning at 5:15 was the whole point of going to SAA, the Congressional Papers Roundtable. In addition to the usual reports, the guest speaker, Steve Gilheany of [Archive Builders](#), addressed the issue of "Permanent Digital Records." The main area of interest to BCPM was the report by Karen Paul on the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress. This Association is in its formative stage. When it is fully formed, BCPM will certainly petition to become a member.

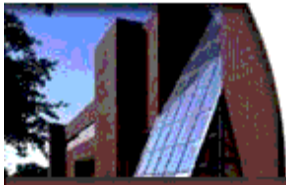
Thursday evening proved to be the highlight of the entire meeting when everyone was bused to the [Getty Center](#) for an evening under the stars reception. The location on a hill overlooking LA on all sides is truly spectacular. The buildings, gardens, and exhibits were something to see and remember.

Friday started another full day with an 8:30 a.m. session by the AGFA film rep. Rather than doing an hour infomercial for his product, he gave a thorough presentation on current micrographic technology for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He also gave the handful of us who attended two rolls of AGFA film each.

At 10:30, I attended "[The Commercial Value of History: Antiques Roadshow, eBay, and What It Means for Archives](#)." Dale Patterson, [United Methodist Church Archives](#), discussed issues related to the illegal selling of church records; Mary Ide, WGBH Media and Archives Preservation Center, highlighted the benefit of television shows about history and the preservation of historic artifacts; and Michael Rose, [Atlanta History Center](#), examined the impact of both of these phenomena on collection development for historical centers and individual collectors.

After another Subway lunch, I sat in on "[Filling in the Margins: Documenting Extreme Social History](#)." Speakers were Rebecca Schulte, [University of Kansas](#), [From the Left to the Right: Documenting Political Extremes in the 21st Century](#). Julie Herrada, [University of Michigan](#), [Collecting Anarchy: Continuing the Legacy of the Joseph Labadie Collection](#); and Amy Cooper, [University of Iowa](#), [Research and the Extreme Right: The Social Documents Collection at the University of Iowa](#). These special collections relate to our own smaller Tiller and Extremists Organizations collections as well as sections in the Ed Lee Gossett and John Dowdy papers. Students in Eric Rust's Historiography seminar will be writing papers in this area also, so this session was very helpful.

The next session was purely for enjoyment: "[Architecture of Fantasy: From Hollywood to Hearst to Home](#)." Three speakers presented slides of the California style or home architecture: Kurt Helfrich traced the work of Luth Maria Riggs in Santa



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Barbara and Hollywood; Nancy Loe highlighted the work of Julia Morgan and San Simeon, or Beaux-Arts Goes Hollywood; and Waverly Lowell tied these together with "Postwar California: The Sunset Fantasy."

Putting off another trip to Subway, I went to what turned out to be an unfortunate choice: "Permanent Digital Archives Liaison Roundtable Organizational Meeting." The man in charge was the same man who had already made a presentation at the Congressional Papers Roundtable. But he also had a guest speaker, a Chinese scientist (with special guests from Mongolia) who gave a highly technical paper on scientific tests by the government on digital tape storage media. This agony went on until 6:30 p.m. I missed the start of the SAA business meeting at 6:15 so decided to miss the rest of it too plus the Cast Bar Reception afterwards. I did make the Society of Southwest Archivist Mixer at 8:30 which had a free bar and lots of free sweets. (don't worry, I didn't take anything from the bar).

I ducked out of the mixer when I realized I didn't know anyone and went to a late night session: "[Spotlight on Archives: The Profession as Depicted on the Silver Screen](#)." Leith G. Johnson, co-curator of the [Wesleyan University Cinema Archives](#), did a fantastic job of culling through dozens of movies to put together clips showing how archivists, curators, and institutions that preserve the historical record are portrayed, for better or for worse, in movies.

Early Saturday morning, the Encoded Archival Description Roundtable started at 8:00 a.m. This meeting included a presentation by Angelika Menne-Haritz, director of the Federal Archives, Berlin, Germany who discussed EAD in Germany and new software tools for authoring and transforming online finding aids. Her software approach looked better than anything we have here but no one asked questions about how to obtain it. I will research this further.

At 10:00 a.m. the [Closing Plenary Session](#) began. [David Rumsey](#) made an excellent presentation: "Giving New Life to Old Records: How Innovative Software, GIS, and the Internet Can Make Archives More Useable and Accessible." Using [his online map library](#), he demonstrated how a mix of software, cataloging and access schemes, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can transform archives into vital public resources.

Following another fine Subway lunch, I attended "[Reel Preservation](#)" which I hoped would have something to do with the 16mm film in the Dowdy Papers. Unfortunately, the cost of doing "real" film preservation is very expensive. A 22 minute film would cost over \$4,000. David Wells of the [National Film Preservation Foundation](#) did indicate that grant funds were available.

The final sessions I attended was "[Digital Preservation: Longevity, Image Quality, and Metadata](#)." This proved to be two hours of information presented at the School for Scanning I attended in 1998.

The final SAA event was a reception at the Santa Monica Pier Carousel on Sat. night. Due to the cost of \$45, I did not attend this event. A final visit to Subway was enough excitement.

## PROGRESS



**Exhibit Area:** Tommy Lou Davis came over to view the exhibit area on August 28 in order to see what she needs to do as the new person in Pres. Sloan's office. She may be coordinating the Formal Opening of the Bob Bullock Papers. She brought Paul Carr from PR with her. He will be helping us with the Guide to the Papers. Ben Renberg and Cindy Dougherty from Development also came as well as John Wilson.







**Bullock Endowment.** The four Bullock Endowment fund raisers met with Carolen English on August 13. They decided to do an initial polling of people they knew for the Endowment Board who might donate \$2,500 each and then put together a traditional Bullock "blue zinger" for the first mailing. John Wilson's office will do the mail outs when the letters are ready.

**Cataloging, June:** Janet Pence: 66 titles, 88 volumes includes 33 World Geography vertical files, 2 CD-ROMs. (7 titles and 33 vertical files were original cataloging). Susan Bowlin: 18 titles, 19 vol. (17 were original cataloging.)

## MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS:

-  **GovConnection, Aug. 5** - Ben
-  **Library Staff Recognition Selection Committee, Aug. 12** - Benna.
-  **Library staff meeting , aug. 13** - Ben and Benna.
-  **Society of American Archivists, Los Angeles, August 19-24** - Ben
-  **Tommy Lou Davis meeting, Aug. 28** - Ben and Benna

## STUDENT WORKERS

-  **Grace Cromeens** worked on the Bullock microfilm analysis, outlines, shelf diagrams, and extra notebooks.
-  **Kenneth Lahnerns** worked on a variety of projects including the Dowdy 16mm film, Jack Hightower materials, and extremist organizations' materials.
-  **Matt Gonzales** completed digital camera images of Bullock framed materials.
-  **Melanie McCalmont** continued to work on updating the BCPM web pages.
-  **Sandra Lee** worked on Bullock comptroller papers and graduated.
-  **Tiffany Tsang** continued matching Bullock microfilm to hard copies for 1997 Forms, Legislators, and Elected officials.

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**SAA next year is in Boston, August 2-4, 2004**

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