

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
January 25 – 27, 2012
Chicago, Illinois**

**75th Anniversary Task Force Report
(Prepared by: Teresa Brinati)**

The party may be over, but the memories linger from the Society of American Archivists' 75th Anniversary celebration in 2011! All of it was made possible by the hard work of many SAA members and, in particular, the 75th Anniversary Task Force, which coordinated a multi-faceted approach to planning and implementing the diamond jubilee activities. Here's the scoop on the year that was . . .

1) Task Force – Co-chaired by David B. Gracy III (University of Texas at Austin), Lee Stout (Penn State), and Helen Tibbo (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). Also included Bruce Ambacher (University of Maryland), Greg Colati (University of Connecticut), Michael Doyle (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Lauren Kata (Archives of the Episcopal Church), William Landis (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), John LeGloahec (National Archives and Records Administration), Jennifer Davis McDaid (Norfolk Southern Corporation), Leslie Waggoner (University of Wyoming), Jan O'Donnell (University of Texas at Austin student), Stefanie Rose, and April Sullivan (University of Texas at Austin student), Rosalye Settles (U.S Department of the Treasury), and SAA staff members (in *ex officio* roles) Nancy Beaumont, Brian Doyle, and Teresa Brinati. Task force members represented *The American Archivist* Editorial Board, Publications Board, 2011 Program Committee, Oral History Section, Archival History Roundtable, Communication Technology Working Group, Council, and the membership at large.

2) Logo – More than 50 themes for commemorating SAA's diamond jubilee were submitted by SAA members to the "Theme It!" contest sponsored by the 75th Anniversary Task Force in spring 2010. Rick Blondo's cheery and succinct entry—SAA@75: Then, Now . . .WOW!—was ultimately selected by the Task Force to brand the year-long celebration. Next Year's News, a graphic design firm in Toledo, Ohio, designed the elegant logo. Blondo, a management and program analyst at the National Archives and Records Administration, received a complimentary "anniversary membership" as a reward and can now revel in his entry being one for the archival ages!



3) **“75 for 75” Fundraising Campaign** kicked off in January 2011 and marked 75 years of supporting, promoting, and advocating for the archives profession. SAA’s vision across this very special year was for each individual member to consider donating \$75 to the SAA Foundation. A total of 63 members responded to the campaign, and their generosity resulted in \$14,904 in donations to the SAA Foundation.

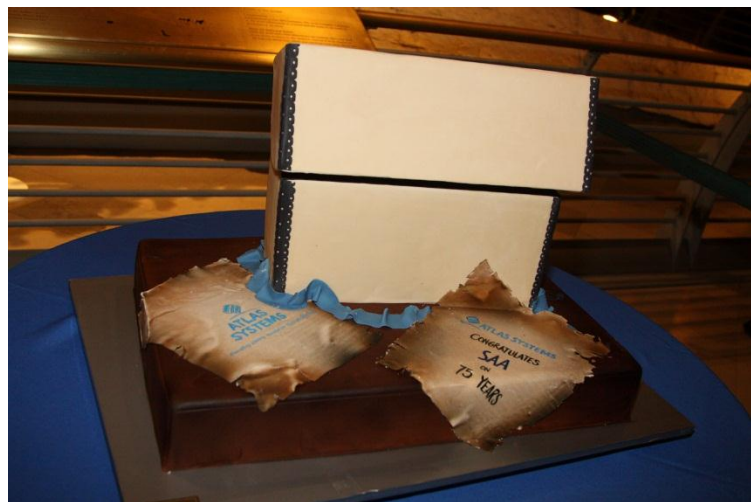
4) **Commemorative Magnetic Bookmark** highlighting 75th Anniversary activities was co-mailed to all SAA members with the newly redesigned January/February 2011 issue of *Archival Outlook*.

5) **Timeline** – Brad Houston (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) and SAA Archivist Michael Doyle led the charge to populate the timeline with information about significant people, places, and things in SAA’s history. The Archival History Roundtable, the “trading cards,” the SAA website, and back issues of *The American Archivist* proved sources for content. The timeline was designed to be evergreen and grow as we go. Check it out at <http://www2.archivists.org/history>.

6) **ARCHIVES 360^o Anniversary Sessions** – The 2011 Program Committee Co-Chairs Nancy McGovern (Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research) and Richard Marciano (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), together with the Program Committee, paid tribute to the milestone with 10 sessions devoted to the anniversary celebration and covering the many facets of archives that fall within SAA’s scope. These sessions included presentations on the emergence of records management as a profession; early leaders in the archives profession; descriptive standards; reference, access, and outreach; efforts to educate about archives; the roles of regional archives associations; and international women’s collections, and the *pièce de résistance*—the perspectives of seven past presidents of SAA.

7) **ARCHIVES 360^o
All-Attendee Special**

Reception – More than 1,400 attendees flocked to Chicago’s Field Museum for the historic reception in the Great Hall. In addition to enjoying the Field’s exhibits and a delicious buffet, attendees were treated to a splendid cake (complete with frosting shaped like documents and a Hollinger box) provided by Gold Sponsor Atlas Systems and SAA supplied cupcakes to sweeten the celebration.



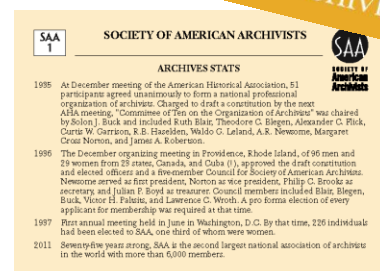
8) Oral History Project – Lauren Kata (Archives of the Episcopal Church) was the driving force and project leader for the 75th Anniversary Oral History Project, which honors individuals who have shaped SAA by documenting their stories and experiences. Video interviews and transcripts are being deposited in the SAA Archives at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Since the launch of this Oral History Section initiative at the end of 2009, video interviews of 18 SAA leaders have been recorded:

Frank Boles	David B. Gracy III	William Maher
Amy Cooper Cary	Mark A. Greene	Karen Paul
Daria D'Arienzo	F. Gerald Ham	Cynthia Pease-Miller
Charles Dollar	Fred Honhart	Daniel Pitti
Elsie Freeman (Finch)	Rand Jimerson	Mary Jo Pugh
Edward Galvin	Kris Kiesling	Thomas Wilsted

Thrilled and encouraged by the success of this two-year project, the Oral History Section would like to continue the program of interviewing SAA leaders for at least another three years. In the process of coordinating the project, the Section noted that close to 90 recommendations for potential interviewees were submitted from across sections and roundtables.

9) Trading Cards – The much-heralded SAA version of baseball cards took a village to make happen—a village of archivists! Ideas for content and images were submitted by members in 2010, then vetted and voted on by the Task Force. Design and production was done by SAA staff. Here are the 75 numbered cards featuring prominent people (deceased), places, events, organizations, and ideas that have played a major role in the association's history:

1. SAA
2. Albert Ray Newsome (1894–1951)
3. Historical Records Survey (1935–1942)
4. Luther Harris Evans (1902–1981)
5. Committee on the Training of Archivists (1936–1938)
6. Washington, D.C.
7. Theodore Calvin Pease (1887–1948)
8. *The American Archivist*
9. Curtis W. Garrison (1901–1979)
10. R.D.W. Connor (1978–1950)
11. Waldo Gifford Leland (1879–1966)
12. Morgan P. Robinson (1876–1943)
13. A.J.F. Van Laer (1869–1955)
14. Montgomery, Alabama



15. Terminology
16. är 'kîvz
17. Victor Hugo Paltsits (1867–1952)
18. FDR (1882–1945)
19. Margaret Cross Norton (1891–1984)
20. Julian Parks Boyd (1903–1980)
21. The Hollinger Box
22. Vertical Filing
23. Solon Justus Buck (1884–1962)
24. Philip Coolidge Brooks (1906–1977)
25. Dwight Hillis Wilson (1909–1962)
26. Ernst Maximilian Posner (1892–1980)
27. Theodore R. Schellenberg (1903–1970)
28. Lester Jesse Cappon (1900–1981)
29. William D. Overman (1901–1970)
30. Lucile Kane (1920–2009)
31. SAA Fellows
32. Oliver Wendell Holmes (1902–1981)
33. Mary Givens Bryan (1910–1964)
34. NUCMC
35. Harold T. Pinkett (1914–2001)
36. W. Kaye Lamb (1904–1999)
37. Dolores Renze (1907–2002)
38. Clifford Kenyon Shipton (1902–1973)
39. SPINDEX
40. Charles Edward Lee (1917–2008)
41. Wilfred Irvin Smith (1919–1998)
42. Committee for the 1970s
43. Regional Archival Organizations
44. Chicago, IL
45. NHPRC
46. Judge Charles R. Richey (1923–1997)
47. Archival Outlook
48. Macho Heroes
49. Robert Mark Warner (1927–2007)
50. SAA Basic Manual Series
51. Graduate Education Guidelines
52. Hugh Alexander Taylor (1920–2005)
53. Leonard Rapport (1913–2008)
54. SAA and China

55. Ruth Helmuth (1918–1997)
56. Mary Walton Livingston (1914–2007)
57. Code of Ethics for Archivists
58. John Daly (1934–2009)
59. Linda J. Henry (1944–2008)
60. SAA Logo
61. Documentation Strategy
62. National Archives Independence
63. Resource Allocators
64. Harold Naigler (1942–1992)
65. Working Group on Standards for Archival Description
66. J. Franklin Jameson (1859–1937)
67. Academy of Certified Archivists
68. Montreal, Canada
69. SAA Student Chapters
70. SAA Website
71. EAD
72. A*CENSUS
73. Archivists Make It Last Longer
74. American Archives Month
75. Archival Science

Five additional unnumbered cards promoted current activities:

- The “I Found It In The Archives” campaign,
- Five SAA books produced during the anniversary year,
- The SAA@75 anniversary logo,
- A tribute to SAA members in general (“You!”), and
- Atlas Systems Inc., which sponsored production of the cards.

These historic cards were randomly pre-packaged in packs of 20 and initially made available for sale—and trading—during the 75th Annual Meeting in Chicago. Packs were \$6 each or two for \$10. Attendees had plenty of fun with this activity and supported it by purchasing more than 1,000 packs—that’s 20,000 cards!

The balance of the packs printed (480) were added as an inventory item to the online SAA Bookstore and may be purchased at <http://saa.archivists.org/4DCGI/store/item.html?Action=StoreItem&Item=2227>.

10) 75th Anniversary Collectible Tin – This limited-edition tin is emblazoned in blue with SAA’s 75th Anniversary logo. Measuring 2.75” (width) by 4.25” (length) by 1.5” (deep), it is ideal for storing business cards, stowing trading cards, or stashing odds and

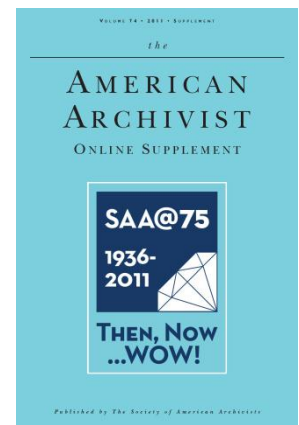
ends. Of the 1,068 available for purchase during the 75th Annual Meeting and online in the SAA Bookstore, only 497 remain.

11) *The American Archivist* – The Fall/Winter 2011 issue, edited by Mary Jo Pugh, commemorates the 75th anniversary year with a special section of research articles:

- “The Society of American Archivists at Seventy-Five: Contexts of Continuity and Crisis, A Personal Reflection,” by Brien Brothman.
- “ARMA v. SAA: The History and Heart of Professional Friction,” by Kathryn A. Scanlan.
- “National Archives and International Conflicts: The Society of American Archivists and War” by Douglas Cox.
- “Open Access Publishing and the Transformation of *American Archivist* Online” by Paul Conway and William Landis.

12) *American Archivist Online Supplement Vol. 74* – Guest edited by William Landis, this first-ever supplement to *The American Archivist* is available only online (<http://archivists.metapress.com/>.) and features content from nine of the 75th Anniversary sessions at *ARCHIVES 360*:

- “Which Hat Are You Wearing: ‘You Need What? When?’” (Session 208), Russell L. Gasero, Chana R. Kotzin, Lisa M. Sjoberg, and Alison Stankrauff.
- “The View From Here: Perspectives on Educating About Archives” (Session 306), Brenda S. Banks, Paul Conway, Nancy Zimmelman Lenoil, Donna E. McCrea, and Michael F. Suarez, SJ.
- “Roundtables as Incubators for Leadership: The Legacy of the Congressional Papers Roundtable” (Session 309), Connell B. Gallagher, Mark A. Greene, Leigh McWhite, Naomi Nelson, and Linda A. Whitaker.
- “Founding Brothers: Leland, Buck, and Cappon and the Formation of the Archival Profession” (Session 404), Richard J. Cox, Charles Dollar, Rebecca Hirsch, and Peter J. Wosh.
- “Reference, Access, and Outreach: An Evolved Landscape, 1936–2011” (Session 406), George Bain, John A. Fleckner, Kathy Marquis, and Mary Jo Pugh.
- “75 Years of International Women’s Collecting: Legacies, Successes, Obstacles, and New Directions” (Session 506), Rachel Miller, Danelle Moon, and Anke Voss.
- “Exploring the Evolution of Access: Classified, Privacy, and Proprietary Restriction” (Session 602), William C. Carpenter, Charlene Nichols, Sarah A. Polirer, and Judith A. Wiener.
- “*E Pluribus Unum?* SAA and the Regionals” (Session 606), Danna C. Bell-Russel, Teresa Brinati, Brenda S. Gunn, Dennis E. Meissner, Michael J. Paulus Jr., and Tanya Zanish-Belcher.
- “Thirty Years On: SAA and Descriptive Standards” (Session 706), Steven L. Hensen, William E. Landis, Kathleen D. Roe, Michael Rush, and William Stocking.



13) Haiku – Leslie Waggoner (University of Wyoming) spearheaded a contest in summer 2011 to engage the poetic skills of SAA members by inviting them to put their thoughts into haiku—a Japanese poetry form using five syllables, seven syllables, five syllables. More than 125 haiku written by archivists about the profession were captured in a clever collection made available at the 75th Anniversary conference in Chicago as well as a downloadable PDF at <http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/HaikuPoster.pdf>. And the contest winners were . . .

Seven cubic feet
Enticing, what mysteries!
Wooden cart awaits . . .
by Kate Mollan

Marg’ret, don’t be cross:
archives now proliferate
like lakeside bunnies
by Ann Heinrichs

Hey, handsome stranger
Saw your pic in the archives
Too bad you’re dead now
by Rebecca Goldman

14) “Then-Now-Wow” Fun Facts – Issues of *Archival Outlook* and *In the Loop* included fun facts about SAA’s history. Quick: How much were individual membership dues in 1947? Hint: Less than a sawbuck, but you’ll have to scan page 21 of the March/April 2011 *Archival Outlook* for the answer! Luckily, the issue is available online at http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/AO-MarApr2011_0.pdf.

15) Proclamations and resolutions congratulating SAA were received from:

- The City Council of the City of Chicago, and signed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, noted among other things that “Chicago has benefitted directly from archival research in the rediscovery of the City’s original charter, long believed lost in the Great Fire of 1871.”
- Illinois Governor Patrick Quinn, who proclaimed August 22–27, 2011, as “Society of American Archivists Week in Illinois, in celebration of SAA’s 75th anniversary and in recognition of the contributions it has made to the preservation, study, and appreciation of our history.”
- Illinois State Senator Maddie Hunter (who mistakenly referred to SAA as the Society of American “Activists” and the “leading professional association for *activists* in the United States”!) thanked SAA “for the study and contributions it has made to understanding our history.”
- State of Illinois Office of the Secretary of State, Jesse White (who is also titular figurehead of the State Archives) recognized SAA for “its 75th year of promoting and professionalizing the study and practice of archives,” and also highlighted Illinois’ contributions to SAA’s history by noting that one of the Society’s founders, Margaret Cross Norton, was the first superintendent of the Illinois State Archives, and that two of SAA’s past presidents, Maynard J. Brichford and William J. Maher, are both from the University of Illinois.