

African-American and Third World Archivists Roundtable

NEWSLETTER

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March 1991

AATWAR in Seattle

Lynda DeLoach, AATWAR Chair

The African American and Third World Archivists Roundtable (AATWAR) met on August 31, 1990 during the 54th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) in Seattle, WA. Highlights of the meeting follow:

Vice Chair -- Deborra Richardson (Smithsonian Institution) volunteered to become Vice-Chair, to succeed as Chair at the 1991 annual meeting.

Membership Survey -- Carol Rudisell (University of Delaware) reported AATWAR's receipt of \$95 for development and publication of an AATWAR Membership Directory.

AATWAR Newsletter -- Karen Jefferson (Moorland-Spangarn Research Center) reported that Moorland and Afro-Info, Inc. will continue to

subsidize two annual issues, in March and August. She solicited information for inclusion in the newsletter. The mailing list approaches 300.

SAA Forum/SAA Fellow Selection -- At the request of Lori Hefner, Chair, SAA Committee on the Status of Women (CSW), the AATWAR agreed, generally, to foster greater cooperation regarding program proposals and other areas of joint concern. Specifically, Carol Rudisell agreed to speak at the forum on behalf of AATWAR in support of the CSW/Women's Caucus call for the revision of selection guidelines for SAA Fellow. NOTE: The Professional Standards Committee (PSC) has selected only one African-American Fellow in the history of the award: Harold Pinkett.

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Meet the 1990 - 91 AATWAR Co-Chairs

Completing her last year as co-chair of AATWAR, Ms. Lynda DeLoach has served as an Archivist at the George Meany Memorial Archives in Silver Spring, Maryland since 1988. Leaving her hometown of Savannah, Georgia, she studied at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree. She moved to New York City where she received her Masters Degree in Library Science from New York University. While liv-

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AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND THIRD WORLD ARCHIVISTS ROUNDTABLE

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AATWAR Participation in SAA -- Brenda Banks (Georgia Department of Archives and History) elected to Council, 1990-93; Florence Borders (Center for African and African American Studies) elected to Academy of Certified Archivists Nominating Committee, 1991; Lynda DeLoach (George Meany Memorial Archives) AATWAR Chair, 1990; Joellen El-Bashir and Karen Jefferson, (Moorland-Spingarn Research Center) co-editors AATWAR Newsletter; Diana Lachatenere (Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture) appointed to 1991 Program Committee; Deborra Richardson (Smithsonian Institution) AATWAR Vice-Chair, 1990; Daniel Williams (Tuskegee University) appointed to Awards Committee, 1990-93; Wilda Willis (National Archives and Records Administration) appointed to Membership Committee, 1989-91, Academy of Certified Archivists Nominating Committee, 1990, and Committee on the Status of Women, 1990.

The **AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND THIRD WORLD ARCHIVISTS ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER** is published twice a year. Questions? Contributions? Contact co-editors: Karen L. Jefferson and Joellen El Bashir, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D C 20059 (202) 806-7480/FAX 202-806-6405.

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ing in New York Ms. DeLoach served as an archivist for the Bowery Savings Bank and for the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation. In 1987-88 Ms. DeLoach was the NHPRC Administration Fellow at the Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

Ms. Deborra Richardson began her first year as co-chair of AATWAR at the SAA annual meeting in Seattle this past September. A native of Long Island, New York, Ms. Richardson received a Bachelor of Music from Howard University, Washington D.C., and a Masters in Library Science from the University of Maryland, College Park. Currently, Ms. Richardson serves as an Archivist with the Duke Ellington Collection at the Archives Center of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History, Washington D.C. Prior to her appointment at the Archives Center Ms. Richardson served as Music Librarian at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University; and Art Specialist at the Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries, Maryland.

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preparing manuscript and archival collections for microfilming and for related reference services; participates in projects designed to identify and acquire manuscript and archival collections/M.A. in Library Science, the Social Sciences or Humanities, additional graduate degree or formal archival training desirable, 2 years archival experience, knowledge of Black history and culture/\$27,357 or \$25,140 (Specialist I)/ Lauren Botwick, Personnel Rep., New York Public Library, 8 W. 40th, New York, NY 10018.

Blessed Brotherhood of Black Bibliophiles

(Excerpts from Chapter 3 of Arthur Alfonso Schomburg, Black Bibliophile & Collector, A Biography, by Elinor DesVerney Sinnette. The New York Public Library & Wayne State University Press, 1989.)

Early black bibliophiles were predominately males living on the east coast of the United States. Most were free men or the sons of freed slaves. They were gainfully employed, and above all they shared a profound animus against racial prejudice and social injustice. This kindled their passion to collect materials that would prove their worth and that of their forebears. Many black bibliophiles became lay historians and used their knowledge to address public gatherings, to establish newspapers, and to write articles in opposition to racial bigotry.

David Ruggles (1810-1849), abolitionist and journalist, was the earliest known Afro-American collector and bookdealer. Ruggles was born of free parents in Norwich, Connecticut and later moved to New York where he owned a grocery store. In 1834 he opened a bookshop near Broadway in lower Manhattan where he stocked a large col-

lection of antislavery and anti-colonization literature. Here he also maintained a circulating library from, which for a small fee, readers could borrow materials for use at home.

In the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the city of Philadelphia was a hub of black literary and research societies, which fostered the work of many pioneer black bibliophiles. The earliest known was the Reading Room Society, founded in 1828. Another early group was the Banneker Literary Institute, named for Benjamin Banneker, the black eighteenth-century mathematician and compiler of almanacs. It was established in 1854 with thirty-seven members who were expected to deliver papers on various aspects of black life and history and to participate in debates on racial issues. Two of Philadelphia's pioneer bibliophiles were inspired by the activities of the Banneker Institute.

While still quite young, Robert Mara Adger (1837-1910) joined the Banneker Institute and began his lifelong mission as a bibliophile.

Adger, who was born free in Charleston, South Carolina, was brought by his parents to Philadelphia at the age of six, and lived there for the rest of his life. A businessman and political activist, Adger was one of the founders of the Afro-American Historical Society in 1897. He amassed a large collection of books and

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other materials concerning the antislavery movement. In his collection were autograph letters, prints, and engravings totaling some eight hundred items. A dealer in rare books and prints, Adger compiled two printed catalogues of his collection. Each item listed in his later catalogue, dated May 1906, is priced, thereby revealing the market value of this type of material at that time; no item listed cost more than five dollars... Adger was active in Philadelphia church and community affairs and served as

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 first president of the American Negro Historical Society and as a trustee of the First African Presbyterian Church. He died in Philadelphia at the age of seventy-three on June 6, 1910.

[A close friend of Adger, was] Bolivar, affectionately known as "Billy" or "Uncle Bill"... Bolivar's family had

antislavery movement in a collection housed in a ten-by-twelve foot third-floor room of his home at 761 South 15th Street... Bolivar was a founding member of Philadelphia's American Negro Historical Society and a Member of the American Negro Academy... [William Bolivar] died on November 12, 1914. Opinions

vary concerning the disposition of Bolivar's collection, but evidence indicates that at least part

of it was sold to Henry Proctor Slaughter.

Slaughter was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1871. His mother a former slave, refuted much that her son Henry read aloud to her about the circumstances of black people in slavery and during the Civil War. Henry in turn was fascinated by the tales his mother told him about slavery, especially the rebellions, and before long he developed a deep sense of pride in his people's heritage and history. Slaughter moved to Washington in 1896 and studied law at Howard University, receiving the Bachelor and Master's of Law degrees in 1899 and 1900, respectively. He did not practice law, however, preferring instead to work as a compositor in the Government Printing Office, a position from which he retired

in 1937... Although he was said to have been a sharply perceptive speaker and writer during his early career as a newspaper editor, Slaughter disliked public speaking. He turned down requests to describe his famous library or to address audiences about black history. He did, however, permit scholars and other persons referred by librarians at Howard University or the Library of Congress to consult his collection. His library was of course always open to fellow bibliophiles. Throughout his lifetime Slaughter collected rare documents of Afro-American history, particularly those having to do with slavery, the antislavery movement, and the Civil War. As he grew older his interest broadened, and he acquired books and materials pertaining to other areas of black history and culture. His library, when it was inventoried in the mid-1940s, contained approximately ten thousand books as well as pamphlets, portraits, photographs, prints, letters, and sheet music... Atlanta University purchased Slaughter's collection for twenty-five thousand dollars in 1946. He died at the age of eighty-seven on February 14, 1958.

The black bibliophiles' desire to collect was not motivated solely by a need to own

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The black bibliophiles' desire to collect was not motivated solely by a need to own rare books and treasures.

lived in Philadelphia since 1800 and proudly traced its ancestry back to the American Revolution. William Bolivar was born on April 18, 1849 and studied at Philadelphia's Institute for Colored Youth. He was an avid reader of history and served for a time as director of the Department of Negro History at Downingtown Industrial and Agricultural School in Philadelphia. In 1866 he contributed his first column about the city's black community to the Philadelphia Tribune; it was followed by other articles on the same subject written under the pen name "Pencil Pusher." Bolivar gained a reputation as a socialite and bon vivant as well as a collector and bookdealer. He amassed over three thousand books, pamphlets, prints and manuscripts dealing with the

JOB

Librarian, African-American Collection, Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh/Provide specialized and general reference service, library instruction, database searching; responsible for collection development in African-American, African and Caribbean history and culture; serve as active liaison to Black Studies Department/M.A. in Library Science and background in African-American studies or collections/Faculty appointment, \$20,000-\$30,000/Closing date: March 15/Secretary, Search Committee (Afro-American), 271 Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260/

Curator, Melville J. Herkovits Library of African Studies/Direct operations, services and collections of Africana/M.A. in Library Science or equivalent experience in library, archival or academic administration plus advanced degree; five or more years of library or equivalent experience in African Studies; two or more foreign languages/\$40,000 min/Closing date: April 30, 1991/Rachel P. Blegen, Library Personnel Manager, Northwestern University Library, 1935 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Illinois 60208-2300

Archives and Records Manager, Kentucky State University/Administer the University Archives and Special Collections Unit; appraise, collect, preserve, organize and describe official records of the University; develop and implement policies for the preservation of all library and archival records; develop disposition and retention schedules for specific University units; acquire materials of historical value to the institution /M.A. in Library Science or History with course work in archives management/Salary dependent upon experience/Open until qualified applicant found/Karen C. McDaniel, Director of Library Services, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Executive Director, Amistad Research Center/Provide leadership, develop organization, coordinate activities including fund raising, collection development, supervision of appraising, arranging, describing, preserving archival and manuscript collections and making them available for research use/Graduate work in American history (Ph.D. preferred), and knowledge of ethnic history and archival

procedure, administrative experience/\$40,000 min/Application review: September 1, 1991; beginning employment January 1, 1992/George A. Owens, Search Committee, Amistad Research Center, Tilton Memorial Hall, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 865-5535.

Reference Archivist, Amistad Research Center/Provide reference service to visiting scholars, answer telephone and mail queries, supervise preparation of finding aids for manuscript collections, report bibliographic records for manuscript collections to NUCMC and OCLC/Graduate degree in history, knowledge of American ethnic history and experience in archives administration; knowledge of USMARC AMC format is preferred/\$26,000 min/Must be filled by June 1, 1991/Clifton Johnson, Director, The Amistad Research Center, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 865-5535.

Specialist II (or Specialist I on a training basis) for Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture/Responsible for accessioning, processing, and

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Announcements

"Black Wings" is the new exhibit prepared by the Oral History Department of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. Focussing on Black pioneers in aviation, the two case display features trailblazers Eugene Bullard, who flew for the French in World War I, Bessie Coleman, Willa Brown and the Tuskegee Airmen. Military artifacts were loaned to the exhibit by Lt. Col. Woodrow W. Crockett, USAF (ret.), a former member of the 332nd Fighter Group which was trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field. Transcripts and tapes of the experiences of some of the veterans of World War II are available for research through the Black Military Oral History Project. For more information contact Avril J. Madison, Oral History Librarian, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington D.C. 20059, (202) 806-7480.

On display in the James Madison Memorial Building of the Library of Congress is the exhibit "Daniel A.P. Murray: A Collector's Legacy". Initiated by the Daniel A.P. Murray African-American Culture Association, the exhibit highlights the life and contributions of Daniel Murray (1852-1925), who worked at the Library of Congress

from 1871 to 1922. A prolific writer and researcher, and a prominent businessman and civic leader, Murray compiled extensive bibliographies on black literature that gave national awareness to the contributions of black people. Murray's efforts and bibliography was a primary source for the "negro exhibit" in the American pavilion at the Paris Exposition in 1900. The exhibit won gold, silver, and bronze medals for its portrayal of "the history of the American Negro, his present condition, education and literature". For more information contact the Daniel A.P. Murray Association, P.O. Box 75638, Washington D.C. 20013.

The Library of the Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee, held its second annual Sam Cameron Memorial Black Medical History Lecture on February 6, 1991. The guest speaker, Mr. Nathaniel Wesley Jr., President of NRW Associates spoke on "The Historical Significance of the Black Hospital and the Black Hospital Administrator." The lecture is named in honor of Sam Cameron who served as Archi-

vists at the Library before his untimely death in 1988.

Dr. E. J. Josey, past president of the American Library Association and founder of the Black Caucus ALA is the guest lecturer for the Third Annual Dorothy Porter Wesley Lecture. Sponsored by the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, the lecture will be held at Howard University's Blackburn Center Auditorium, on Thursday April 18, 1991 at 2:00 pm. Dr. Porter-Wesley served as Supervisor of the Moorland-Spingarn Collection from 1930-1973. Preceding the lecture, on Wednesday April 17th at 9:00 am in the Blackburn Center Forum, Dr. John C. Tyson, State Librarian of Virginia and President of BCALA will discuss plans for the 1992 National Conference of Black Librarians to be held in Columbus, Ohio.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has received funding to begin a four-year project entitled African American Newspapers and Periodicals: A National Bibliography and Union List. This project is expected to result in a two-volume work detailing 3,600 to 4,000 extant publications and will include newspapers and periodicals covering

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Acquisitions

Former Representative George W. Crockett, D-Mich., has donated his papers to Howard University's Moorland-Spangarn Research Center. The 129 linear feet of records include speeches, photographs, press releases, correspondence and other memorabilia of Mr. Crockett's legislative activities. The Crockett Papers complement the papers of former Michigan Congressmen Charles C. Diggs Jr, acquired by MSRC in 1977. Together the two collections document over fifty years of Black leadership in Congress. As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1980 - 1990, Mr. Crockett served on the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and the Select Committee on Aging. A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Crockett distinguished himself as a lawyer, civil rights activist, and judge

before being elected to Congress. The Crockett Papers are open and available for research.

The Museum of African-American Life and Culture in Dallas, Texas recently acquired the *Sepia Magazine* Collection. Totalling over 43,000 items the collection includes a large selection of photographs and slides. *Sepia Magazine* was published from 1952 - 1983, and chronicled African-American life during that time.

Former Delegate for the District of Columbia, Walter E. Fauntroy, donated his papers to George Washington University's Special Collections Department of the Gelman Library. During his ten years in office from 1979-90, Mr. Faun-

troy served on the House Committee on the District of Columbia, the House Banking Finance and Urban Affairs Committee, and he was Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus from 1981-83. The papers total 450 cubic feet and in addition to the congressional records include documentation related to Mr. Fauntroy's tenure as Director of the Washington Bureau of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1960-71.

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the spectrum from general to specialized and from popular to scholarly. Information about the holdings of other institutions are welcomed. For more information about the project contact James P. Danky or Maureen E. Hady at the Society, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706, (608) 262-3266.

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rare books and treasures. Their passion to acquire books and materials about people of African descent was fired by a missionary zeal not only to assemble their private libraries but also to share with others the contents of their collections. They were drawn together by a common cause and shared a common passion for

searching out evidence of the historical accomplishments of black people. Theirs was a close, friendly network of men who corresponded with each other, visited each other's libraries, went book hunting together, and enjoyed the camaraderie of mutual interest. [They] were motivated in large measure by a need to combat racial prejudice. Their

collections provided irrefutable evidence that blacks could achieve. In most cases these black bibliophiles eventually sold or donated their collections to historically black institutions where they became the nuclei of rich resources of black literature and history.