

Date: January 1, 2007

Name of Section/Roundtable: **Labor Archives Roundtable**

The mission of the Labor Archives Roundtable is to promote communication among archivists and institutions concerned with records in the field of labor and develops cooperative strategies and guidelines to ensure comprehensive documentation of the labor movement.

Officers:

Alan Harris Stein, 2007 Chair
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Report from annual meeting:

- Number of attendees: 25-30
- Election results: Chair: Alan H. Stein, Vice Chair: William Jordan Patty

- Summary of meeting activities: **SEE ATTACHED REPORT**
(or attach minutes or newsletter accounts)

Membership list was circulated for corrections and additions.

Jim Quigel held elections. Al Stein, Chair-elect, assumed the role of Chair and Jordan Patty was unanimously elected Vice-Chair/Chair-elect.

Stein spoke briefly about laborradio.org and Labor Beat's video archives, but due to time the A-V demo was skipped.

Catholic University Reading Room Tour/ W. Jordan Patty, Catholic University of America

- 1) processing the Msgr. George G. Higgins papers,
- 2) held a lecture (named in honor of Higgins) on Labor issues
- 3) provided a grant for a researcher to use the CIO records

Meeting ended with screening of “Labor’s Troubadour” documentary labor biog about the life and career of the late Joe Glazer (The Great Labor Arts Exchange).

Completed projects/activities

**Labor Archives Retreat - Pam Hackbart-Dean, Southern Illinois University Special Collections
Pam Hackbart-Dean reported on the success of the retreat.**

Ongoing projects/activities

**"How to Keep Union Records" re-publishing project - Michael Nash, New York University
Tamiment Library**

Labor mergers and archives:

Barb Morley reported that a small subcommittee group met prior to the LAR meeting and that the subcommittee will need to continue plugging away at this issue outside of the SAA meetings. It was suggested that the subcommittee include more LAR members: Lauren Kata, Mike Smith, Al Stein, Suzan Alteri and Jordan Patty agreed to be the subcommittee and work ongoing on this issue.

New projects/activities

Update Labor Archives Directory

Walter P. Reuther Library will launch “Walter Reuther Online” to celebrate 100th anniversary/birthday of UAW, also, Cesar Chavez Online

**Stein proposed panel on "Labor Beat: Chicago film archives and labor media for 2007
SAA Program with LAR endorsement**

A future subcommittee of the LAR may be formed to address the issue of how can labor archives be more or better represented, especially at ICA meetings? The next ICA meeting is in Edinburgh, and then the following meeting will be in Australia.

Diversity initiatives (no formal report)

Note: Labor history appeals to diverse audiences, one of the keys to diversity initiative is to highlight the multicultural collections in labor archives, e.g. Cesar Chavez Online at the Walter P. Reuther Library.

Questions/concerns for Council attention:

In making Labor archives more visible during this conference we suggest doing an SAA newsletter article (or journal article) about Labor Archives/research in Chicago in light of the annual conference and high concentration of labor history organizations and archives in the Midwest and Chicago (e.g. Center for Working Class Studies, Illinois Labor History Society, Chicago History Museum). Would like to ask for assistance of Peter Gottlieb, liason to LAR in this undertaking.

Supporting correspondence:

1. Lauren Kata's notes from meeting

2. LAR-endorsed panel

3. Correspondence with Chicago Center for Working Class Studies

1. Lauren's notes from the LAR meeting, SAA 2006, DC

**Agenda, SAA Labor Archives Roundtable Meeting
Wednesday, August 2, 2006, 5-7pm
Chevy Chase Room, Hilton Conference Hotel**

Welcome, Lauren Kata, Georgia State University, Chair

SAA Announcements, various

Introductions - Al Stein, California State University – Fresno, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

- **Introductions commenced for the first part of the meeting. Some items that folks mentioned:**
 - **IALHI (International Association of Labor History Institutions)**
 - **University of Connecticut labor history projects**
 - **NYU/Tamiment Library is now venturing into archiving union websites and digitizing NY labor oral history interviews**
 - **Southern Illinois University will be collecting union records (mostly LIUNA, which represents SIU staff) and will digitize mine workers materials**
 - **Catholic University of America—Reading Room Tour; processing Msgr. George G. Higgins papers; Higgins lecture on Labor issues; provided grant for researcher to use the CIO record**
 - **ICA (International Council of Archives): efforts on how to make labor archives more visible**
 - **Walter P. Reuther Library will launch “Walter Reuther Online” to celebrate 100th anniversary/birthday of UAW, also, Cesar Chavez Online**
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Report of LAR Projects/Update on ongoing initiatives, 2005-2006 - Lauren & others

*Labor Archives Retreat - Pam Hackbart-Dean, Southern Illinois University Special Collections

Pam Hackbart-Dean reported on the success of the retreat.

*"How to Keep Union Records" re-publishing project - Michael Nash, New York University Tamiment Library

Michael Nash reported that the group will be meeting during SAA meeting and will be submitting drafts by the North American Labor History Conference in October. Hopefully a first draft will be ready by the end of the year.

* Merger Resolution for Labor Archivists - Barb Morley, Cornell University

Barb Morley reported that a small subcommittee group met prior to the LAR meeting and that the subcommittee will need to continue plugging away at this issue outside of the SAA meetings. It was suggested that the subcommittee include more LAR members: Lauren Kata, Mike Smith, Al Stein, Suzan Alteri and Jordan Patty agreed to be the subcommittee and work ongoing on this issue.

During this discussion, it was also suggested that a session be proposed for SAA 2007 about the merger issue. Lauren, Al and Jordan will follow up.

A future subcommittee of the LAR may be formed to address the issue of how can labor archives be more or better represented, especially at ICA meetings? The next ICA meeting is in Edinburgh, and then the following meeting will be in Australia.

* SAA Website – Patrizia Sione, Cornell University

Patrizia Sione, who has been serving as Webmaster since 2002, asked if anyone else would be willing to volunteer to take over this responsibility. No one volunteered, so she will continue in this role.

New Business: *Elections (nominations/volunteers from the floor) — facilitated by past chair

Jim Quigel held elections. Al Stein, Chair-elect, assumed the role of Chair and Jordan Patty was unanimously elected Vice-Chair/Chair-elect.

*ideas for sessions for 2007 SAA Meeting - Al/Lauren takes notes for follow up proposals

Labor and film/labor media; mergers

*preview of next year's LAR program in Chicago - "Labor Beat" (a-v demo)

Al spoke briefly about laborradio.org and Labor Beat, but due to time the A-V demo was skipped.

*Distribution of DC Labor History tour and Illinois Labor History Trail Map

Handouts of local labor spots in DC were distributed.

*Catholic University Reading Room Tour — Jordan Patty, Catholic University of America

Anyone interested in visiting the CUA reading room and learning more about labor collections at CUA is welcome to visit Saturday morning.

Special Screening: "Labor's Troubadour" (37 minutes — press release attached)

Meeting ended with screening of "Labor's Troubadour." Documentary biog about the life and career of the late Joe Glazer.

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