

SGA Newsletter

A newsletter of the Society of Georgia Archivists

Rally

Photographs by Andrea Jackson



**The Society of
Georgia Archivists:**
preserving the past
for the future.

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Washington Beat

By James Edward Cross

NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUDGET:

On September 13, 2012, the House passed House Joint Resolution 117 (Continuing Appropriations Resolution 2013) which would fund federal agencies at FY2012 levels for six months. The Senate passed H.J. 117 on September 22, 2012, and the bill was sent to President Obama for his signature on September 25th.

OTHER ARCHIVES NEWS:

The watchdog group Cause of Action filed a lawsuit against the National Archives in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on August 14, 2012, to force the release of documents from the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission. The Commission was tasked with investigating the causes of the 2008 financial meltdown. The Archives had planned to close the records for five years. ... On August 23, 2012, NARA dedicated a new facility in Broomfield, CO, that includes a Federal Records Center, public research rooms, and program event space. The 162,000 square-foot building can store 750,000 cubic feet of records and employs forty Federal employees. ... The National Archives and the Office of Management and Budget ordered a major overhaul of federal record-keeping practices on August 24, 2012. The directive states that agencies must begin managing their records—including emails—in electronic form by the end of 2019. It also directs that a high-ranking agency official be assigned to oversee an agency's records management program and that all appropriate staff receive records management training. The designation of a records management official for each agency is to take place by November 2012; plans to manage records in electronic format are due in 2013; management of email in electronic format must take place by 2016 with NARA to issue guidance in doing so by 2013; and all employee records management training must be in place by the end of 2014. ... On September 4, 2012, NARA announced that increases in copying fees would go into effect October 1, 2012. On September 10, 2012, the National Archives released 1,000 declassified documents relating to the Katyn Massacre, which occurred between April and May 1940. The materials document a cover-up by the U.S. government concerning Soviet responsibility for the massacre.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NEWS:

On August 29, 2012, the Veterans History Project launched the next installment of its "Experiencing War" website presentation entitled, "Vietnam War: Looking Back, Part 2." It highlights the stories of seven Vietnam veterans: three former POWs, two nurses, an Army veteran, and a Navy veteran. It is the second of four Vietnam-related installments to be released over the next year; Part 1 was released on May 25, 2012. ... The Library released a beta version of Congress.gov on September 19, 2012. This site will eventually replace the public THOMAS system and the congressional Legislative Information System as the site for accessing fact-based legislative information.

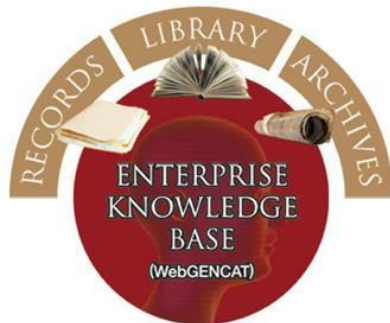
DECLASSIFICATION AND FOIA:

The National Declassification Center (NDC) issued its fifth biannual report on July 19, 2012. The report noted the NDC had assessed 90% of the classified records backlog and had cleared 55% for final processing. The NDC has also started a review of special media records; so far it has reviewed 1,341 motion pictures and 235 sound recordings. Over 1.3 million pages from papers of the Truman through Carter administrations have been prioritized for completion of referral review through Remote Archives Capture. The main challenge for the NDC is atomic energy information covered by the Kyl-Lott requirement; an interagency team has been collaborating on those reviews. ...

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Washington Beat (continued)

Organizing data for eloquent presentation!



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DECLASSIFICATION AND FOIA (CONTINUED):

On August 30, 2012, the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) released the first Fundamental Classification Guidance Review covering 25 agencies with significant classification programs. Overall, the review found that agencies are streamlining classification guidance and more clearly defining categories of classified material.

OTHER NEWS:

On September 26, 2012, the Medical Heritage Library announced that it had received over 800 digitized annual reports and other program materials from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Library. The material, which dates from the 1950's to the 1990's, will be available both through the NIH Library catalog and the Internet Archive. ... The Government Accountability Office released a report on September 12, 2012, looking at agency implementation of the electronic Government Act. It found that, while most provisions had been implemented, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) had not created a repository and web site for access to information on government investments in research and development, nor had it provided guidance to agencies participating in the site. In addition, the report found that in its annual reports to Congress the OMB did not require that agencies report on their compliance with all provisions of the Act. ... On September 3, 2012, the Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, PA, received three separate collections from Syracuse University, including the papers of Samuel Sloan, president of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad (DL&W) and corporate records of the DL&W, the Erie, and the Lackawanna and Wyoming. The acquisition increases the size of the Site's archival holdings by 40% and makes it one of the largest collections of any National Park Service Unit. ... Mississippi State University's Ulysses S. Grant Collection is now recognized as the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library by the Ulysses S. Grant Association.

Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta Inherits Mitchell Estate

By Carolyn S. Denton

There are certain moments in an archivist's career that are exciting. It doesn't happen often. In my case, after twenty five years in the archives business, it definitely takes a lot to peak my interest, especially since "exciting" is relative.

The thrill began in October of 2011 when I was copied on an email sent out by our CFO that referred to a "Joseph Mitchell Estate." Later that day I got the low-down that Joseph Mitchell was Margaret Mitchell's nephew and her last direct heir. Yes, that is Margaret Mitchell of *Gone With the Wind* fame. The Archdiocese of Atlanta was named in the Joe Mitchell will as the primary beneficiary of his estate, which included Margaret's personal furniture, silver, jewelry, and books. It also included half the ownership of the *GWTW* copyright. Even though I am not a native of Atlanta, I immediately understood the significance of the multi-million dollar Mitchell bequest.

In November I was asked to go to the Joe Mitchell house on Habersham Road in Atlanta to photograph the contents of all the rooms and to assist appraisers. There was an appraiser for the furniture and silver, one for the *GWTW* books, and another one for the rest of the books in the house. Unfortunately very few items were specifically identified as belonging to Margaret herself. Research conducted at the University of Georgia's Special Collections turned up invaluable lists and inventories in the John Marsh Collection and in the Stephens Mitchell Collection. The most helpful resource in identifying furniture was the Lane Brothers Photographic Collection at Georgia State University. The Lane Brothers had photographed the old Mitchell house and the interiors of the Mitchell apartment sometime after Margaret's death in 1949.



Margaret Mitchell Portrait



Margaret Mitchell Foreign Titles

Margaret Mitchell, including a first edition of *GWTW* inscribed to her father, her driver's license that shows she lied about her age, her billfold that was in her purse when she was killed, family photographs, her mother's silver tea service, and an unpublished history of the Mitchell family handwritten by Eugene Muse Mitchell, Margaret's father.

Interesting items acquired from the Mitchell estate include books signed by

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Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta Inherits Mitchell Estate (continued)

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The one question I am most often asked is, “Why and how did the Archdiocese of Atlanta end up inheriting the Mitchell estate?” Joe Mitchell was Catholic and a devout member of the Cathedral of Christ the King. His father, Stephens, the brother of Margaret, was also a faithful Catholic. In fact, the Mitchells were descendants of the early Catholics who established the Purification Church in Locust Grove, the first Catholic church in the state.

Margaret Mitchell herself was not Catholic, even though she was raised as one. Neither of the two men she had married were Catholic and she did not have children. When she died, her estate went to her husband, John Marsh. When John died, the entire estate passed on to her brother, Stephens, who set up a trust for his two sons. The sons, Margaret’s only heirs, did not have children. As a result, the Archdiocese received the bulk of the unexpected bequest. It is considered an important Catholic legacy going back generations.



Margaret Mitchell Collection



Margaret Mitchell Wallet

A separate entity has been established by the Archdiocese to protect its 50 percent stake in the literary rights of Margaret Mitchell’s Pulitzer prize-winning novel, *Gone With the Wind*. The book was published in 1936, with the remainder of the U.S. copyright term ending in 2031. Simon and Schuster still publishes the book and sells approximately 75,000 copies every year. The owners of the two Mitchell trusts, of which the Archdiocese is one, benefit from the royalties of the book, merchandising, and at least \$100,000 per year from the movie rights.

As an archivist, I occasionally must put the bits and pieces of a life in some sort of order after someone dies and tuck them away. Because I touch the remnants of that life, the job of determining what is significant often becomes emotional. Keeping everything is not possible – the meaning held by certain things becomes lost at death. The passing

of Joe Mitchell and Margaret Mitchell is sad. We may only know them by the things they kept about themselves when they lived, by their words, by the words of others, and by what remains in our keeping.

Society of Georgia Archivists Preservation News

By Alix Bentrud

For this issue I wanted to share a few newsletters, blogs and calendars that you might find to be useful.

Climate Notes Newsletter

“Climate Notes” is a free e-newsletter published by the Image Permanence Institute and designed for those who care for collections in cultural institutions. It covers a range of topics related to managing the environment for preservation. The newsletter is published quarterly and can be delivered to your email address. All issues can be read at <https://www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org/environmental/climate-notes-newsletter>

The Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

The “Digital Preservation Newsletter” is from the National Digital Stewardship Alliance, the Digital Preservation Outreach and Education initiative, and the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program. It includes articles on their programs and ongoing research and training opportunities. It can be delivered to your email address or can be read at <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/>

Another great source from the Library of Congress in the Digital Preservation blog, “The Signal.” The focus of the blog is to discuss digital stewardship in an informative and engaging way. It also discusses computer technology, most especially the management, transmission, and use of data. The blog is a way to share news about the development of new technologies, as well as changes that have an impact on digital preservation and access.

Archival Products NEWS

Though the tagline states that the newsletter is specifically written for libraries, it is just as relevant to archives. Published quarterly since the Spring of 1992, this newsletter contains a mixture of preservation techniques, issues of preservation management, and case studies. It can be delivered to your email box or you can read all of the issues at <http://www.archival.com/newsletters/index.shtml>

Regional Alliance for Preservation

For those looking for educational opportunities, check out the Regional Alliance for Preservation (RAP). RAP members are preservation and conservation institutions throughout the United States and this site provides a joint calendar of their in-person and online educational offerings. http://www.rap-arcc.org/educational_opportunities

Membership Spotlight on Cary Wilkins

By Mary Katherine Barnes

How long have you been an SGA Member?

Since 1999

What attracted you to the library/archives profession?

I've always been drawn to books, both the content and the physical objects. I've also enjoyed doing research and organizing and arranging books and other sources of information.

Where do you work, and what's your current position?

I work at the Morris Museum of Art in Augusta and my title is Librarian/Archivist.

How long have you been at your institution, and what roles have you had there?

I've been at the Morris for fifteen years as the Librarian and Archivist. The museum is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year, so I've been able to oversee and direct the library's growth from a small collection to a much larger one. I also copy, edit, and proofread the museum's publications and much of the other written material that it sends out.

What is your favorite part of your job?

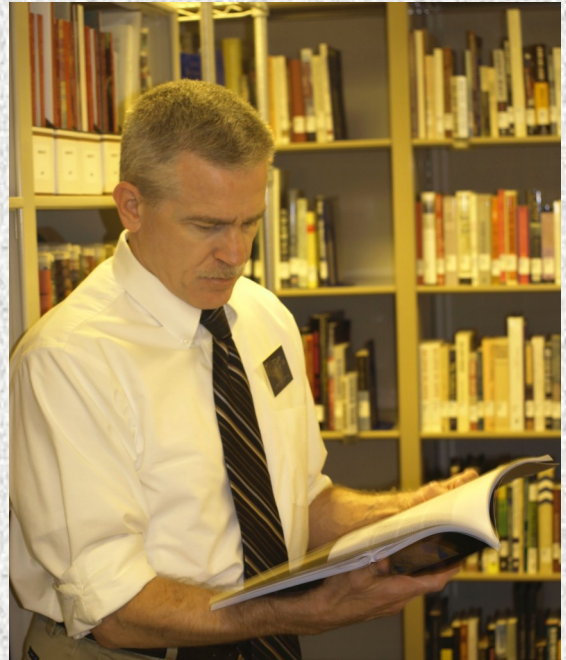
I enjoy helping people find the information they need and also tracking down books and other items and acquiring them for the library.

What's the most interesting piece/artifact that you have come across?

It's probably a photograph of writer Dawn Langley Simmons holding her child. What makes it interesting is that she began life in England as Gordon Langley Hall, whose parents worked at Sissinghurst Castle, the estate of Vita Sackville-West. Hall moved to Charleston, South Carolina, in the 1960s, where he scandalized society by undergoing one of the earliest gender-reassignment surgeries, marrying a young African American man, and insisting that she was the biological mother of the child in the photograph. Having inherited money and papers from artist and heiress Isabel Whitney, Simmons corresponded with art collector Dr. Robert P. Coggins of Marietta, Georgia, whose collection of southern art formed the core of the collection of the Morris Museum of Art. The library acquired a small collection of these papers of Whitney and Simmons. Edward Ball used these papers in his research for his book *Peninsula of Lies: A True Story of Mysterious Birth and Taboo Love* (2004).

Did you have an alternative career path (if so please elaborate)?

Yes, I first worked in a bookstore and then worked in book publishing in New York City, where I also pursued an interest in bookbinding and hand press printing. An MFA degree in book arts then led to more publishing work and an MSLS degree.



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Membership Profile on Cary Wilkins (continued)

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What are your hobbies or favorite past times?

Reading, biking, and other exercise. I recently read two great biographies: *Fire in the Belly: The Life and Times of David Wojnarowicz*, by Cynthia Carr, and *Every Love Story Is a Ghost Story: A Life of David Foster Wallace*, by D. T. Max. Although not very active lately, I'm trying to continue work with book arts; I've printed and bound four small editions over the years. I'm still binding some of those books and hope to start another project in the near future.

What advice do you have for new members just coming into the profession?

I'm more familiar with libraries than archives, but I would say to generalize if you're still in library school and learn as much about the technology as you can. Continuing education courses are important for everyone, but especially for recent graduates.

Education:

College of Library and Information Science, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky., MSLS, 1989.

Institute for the Book Arts, Graduate School of Library Service, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Ala., MFA, 1986.

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., BA, English, 1976.

Other Employment Experience:

R. M. Cooper Library, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C., 1991–1997. Special formats cataloger.

Kentucky Oral History Commission, Frankfort, Ky., 1990–1991. Project archivist (temporary position).

King Library Press, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky., 1988–1989. Printer (part-time).

Institute of Real Estate Management, of the National Association of REALTORS, Chicago, Ill., 1987–1988. Project editor.

American University Press Services, New York, N.Y., 1981–1984. Director of publications and cooperative advertising.

Crown Publishers, New York, N.Y., 1977–1981. Production editor.

B. Dalton Booksellers, Littleton, Colo., 1976–1977.

Professional Activities:

Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) and the Southeast chapter (ARLIS/SE): SE newsletter editor since 2000.

Society of American Archivists and their Georgia chapter.

American Library Association, Georgia Library Association.

Publications:

The Guide to Kentucky Oral History Collections, editor (1991).

Honors:

Graduate Council Research Fellowship, University of Alabama, 1985–1986.

Fellowship, University of Kentucky, 1988–1989.

Elected to Beta Phi Mu (library society).

Institutional Focus

By Rebecca Landel-Hernandez

This month's "Institutional Focus" profiles the Georgia Archives. As of November 1, 2012, the Georgia Archives will be closed to the public. All research requests will be handled on an appointment-only basis and all operations will be performed by the three remaining permanent staff members: Chris Davidson, Director; Steve Engerrand, Assistant Director; and Adam Parnell, Assistant Director for Operations.

Loss of regular access will have enormous repercussions for the general public and for governmental agencies, immediately and in the future. The Georgia Archives serves as the custodian of the records which document the activities of the state government. Presently, the Georgia Archives' holdings consist of some 85,000 cubic feet of records. Out of this, approximately 70,000 are official state records, 6,000 are local government records, and 9,000 are non-governmental records. These records are largely unpublished, original source materials in their original formats. In addition to the records of state government, Georgia's rich historical records, dating back to the start of the Colonial era in 1732, are maintained and preserved by the Georgia Archives.

This article is the first in a series. The issues are complex and not easily covered in a short newsletter. The relationship between the Georgia Legislature and the office of the Secretary of State is an important story in its own right. This month's "Institutional Focus" is dedicated to the beginnings of the Georgia Archives and how nearly a century ago, one man's passion helped to rescue the valuable records of the state's history.

Does History Repeat?

Dr. Lucian Lamar Knight was the first director of the Georgia Archives and the State Historian. Mr. Knight was a well-educated man who served as an ordained minister, a lawyer, and a reporter and editor for the *Atlanta Constitution*. He was also the associate editor of the *Atlanta Georgian*. Mr. Knight had been appointed as the Compiler of Georgia State Records in 1913 at the time of the death of Governor Northern. Knight was given a budget of \$7,200 to work with a stenographer. He requested an additional \$1,800 to publish the materials and to pay for the stenographer but his request was denied. Knight spent much of his own time typing the first two volumes of "*Reminiscences of Famous Georgians*".

At that time, the Georgia Archives were being housed on the 3rd floor balcony in the state capitol building. Many records were also located in the basement. Because most of the state agency offices were overcrowded, they dumped their records into various corners on the floors of the Capitol. It was during his tenure as Compiler of the Georgia State records that Knight noticed the condition of the records and began his legacy of preservation advocacy. Many of the original colonial records were either sitting in the corners of the third floor or scattered about the basement. Knight famously recounted an occasion in the basement when he saw historical records being hurled into the furnace as fuel. An act was introduced in 1918, the General Assembly Law No. 434, which created the Department of Archives and History. Once the department was created, it occupied four rooms in the top floor of the Capitol. Records were relocated throughout the Capitol and placed in cabinets under glass. The historical records occupied the entire basement and a greater portion of the second floor. When created, the entire budget allowed for the Department of Archives totaled \$8,000: \$2,000 to establish the department and \$6000 for yearly maintenance.

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Institutional Focus (continued)

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The initial Act creating the Georgia Archives set forth a limit of three years for its existence. Knight lobbied and was able to get the three-year limitation removed in August 1919. At the time the Georgia Archives was established in 1918, at least four states had already established state archives. The movement for forming state archives began in the Southern states, with Alabama becoming the first in archives in the country, established in 1901. Mississippi's archives were established in 1902, North Carolina's archives were established in 1903, and South Carolina's archives were established in 1905. Knight fought the legislature for funding. When the legislature cut the budget, Knight guaranteed uninterrupted operations by paying for archives management out of his own pocket.


In the early days, the Georgia Archives operated with a staff of three to four people, which included Lucian Lamar Knight as Director; Ruth Blair as Secretary; and Eleanor Gay as Restorer of Manuscripts. Knight's second wife, Rosa Talbot Reid, shared his love of history and she donated much of her time to the archives. In later years, Mildred Ham became the Restorer of Manuscripts. In the early days the task was monumental. Records came from the Governor's office and the Secretary of State's office, as well as a substantial number of Colonial materials. The tiny staff began the painstaking process of reviewing, classifying, and arranging the materials. At the same time, they were expected to stay within the narrow confines of a small budget while providing research assistance, identifying series and arranging records, mending and repairing damaged records, and generating pamphlets.

Dating from 1733, many of the old Colonial records were in various stages of decay from vermin and pest damage. Old records, which had been stored and left unopened for over fifty years, were often brittle and deteriorated on touch. Knight and his team created a number of resources, including rosters of the legislative members from 1752 to his period; historical rosters of judges for every level of the state court system; and lists of Revolutionary War soldiers and World War I soldiers, as well as the land grants and headright grants awarded to Georgians who served as soldiers in the Revolutionary War. The Department also identified some 500 packages of records and began the task of unfolding and repairing fragile records so they could be re-housed and transcribed. Numerous records were torn and brittle. By the end of Lucian Lamar Knight's tenure in 1925, some 1,289 of the records had been cleaned, pressed and repaired.

Each year, Knight submitted an annual report to the State Historical Commission, which the Governor chaired. The expenses of the department remained less than \$7,200 for each year Knight served as State Historian and Director.

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Institutional Focus (continued)

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Knight, Lucian Lamar

Atlanta, Ga. July 18, 1922.

Hon. Howell Cone :
Hon. James H. Boykin : Committee of the Senate.
Hon. James R. Thomas :

Senators:

In reponse to your request, under resolution of the Senate, calling upon the heads of all departments of the State, for a detailed statement of expenditures, I beg to submit the following statement under oath:

Salaries---	
State Historian	\$3,000
Secretary	1,620
2nd. Asst. and member of MSS.	780
Maintenance---	
Including porter, postage, stationary, printing, office supplies, etc	600
Amount of Appropriation.	\$6,000

Every penny expended by this department is covered by vouchers. To meet the demands for clerical assistance caused by the increased volume of business, Mrs. Knight has from time to time given her services to the department but has never been on the pay-roll of the state. She has given her services gratis. If there are any expenses, in excess of the amount appropriated, they are paid out of the State Historian's own pocket.

This department, at a minimum of cost, is safeguarding the materials of Georgia's history. It relieves the pressure upon all other departments of the state. Whenever a record ceases to be current, in any department, it automatically reverts to the Department of Archives, for preservation, for classification, and for study. It is the department of conservation. Georgia's history has never been written and it can never be written unless her records are preserved. Most of the states of the Union have such departments; and Georgia's department costs the least.

Respectfully

STATE HISTORIAN

A clear record of Knight's efforts and his correspondence is located at the Georgia Archives in Record Group 004-02-046, *File II Names Collection*¹. In 1922, Governor Thomas Hardwick sought to abolish the Georgia Archives. Knight used his ties to former President Woodrow Wilson to lobby for assistance. He began a passionate outreach effort, which included making speeches, writing senators and the President, and using the press to call attention to the crisis. Ninety-four years later, we as archivists stand in the shadow of his efforts with the responsibility for insuring the continued preservation and access of Georgia's valuable resources. What will we do collectively to rise to the moment and to insure that the trained archivists and staff members, who are the best custodians of these valuable records, are still there to deliver on that promise of preservation and access?

¹ The File II Names Collection was part of a preservation re-housing and digitization project which was funded by a grant from the R.J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation.

Scholarship Winner's Report

2012 Edward Weldon Scholarship for Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting

By Tammi Kim

As a newcomer to the Society of Georgia Archivists, I was honored to receive the Edward Weldon Scholarship to attend the 2012 Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. I was excited to have the opportunity to attend my first SAA conference and first national conference after graduate school. The fact that this year's site was in sunny Southern



California, just a few hours away from my library school alma mater, UCLA, was icing on the cake.

As a first-time SAA conference attendee, I went to sessions that represented the gamut of the conference: pre-conference workshops, roundtable meetings, regular conference sessions, and even the annual SAA baseball game. As a processing assistant for the Arrangement & Description

unit of the Russell Library, I was interested in attending sessions that dealt specifically with arrangement, description, and access to electronic records and hybrid collections. SAA's Annual Meeting offered no shortage of opportunities to attend presentations and to collaborate with archivists to figure out how to preserve, describe, and provide access to hybrid collections.

I attended CURATEcamp as part of the pre-conference workshop program, during which several archivists and digital humanists gathered to engage in discussions about the issues surrounding digital curation and the vast and various tools to work with digital records, including digital forensics and open source and proprietary software. From there I attended SAA's Research Forum, where my SGA mentor, Courtney Chartier, was presenting a poster, watched the San Diego Padres beat the Chicago Cubs at PETCO Park, and then



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Scholarship Winner's Report (continued)

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went on to a full day of roundtable meetings starting with the Congressional Papers Roundtable and then the SNAP (Students and New Archives Professionals) Roundtable. I was excited to meet and to network with other archivists working in political archives like the Russell Library and also to attend the inaugural meeting of SNAP, the first SAA Roundtable devoted to the issues surrounding new archivists entering the profession and giving an official voice for our concerns.



I was also excited to hear opening addresses from David Ferriero, the Archivist of the United States, and Jon Voss, Director of Historypin. In particular, I was awed by Voss's presentation on the LOD-LAM Movement (Linked Open Data for Libraries, Archives, and Museums) that is becoming ubiquitous throughout cultural heritage organizations today. Voss's keynote address and the "Linked Open Data for Libraries, Archives, and Museums (LODLAM)" session, in which archivists talked about implementing linked open data practices

in online finding aids to provide greater access and context to users, left me with a lot of food for thought on how the profession is changing and the different ways we can implement these new practices in our work.

I had a very fulfilling and exciting first-time SAA experience. I am extremely grateful to SGA and especially to the Scholarship Committee for providing me with this amazing opportunity to attend the meeting.

About Us

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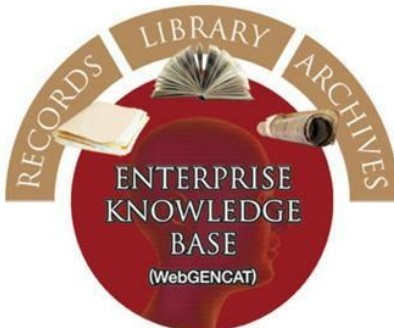
Submissions:

Deadlines for submissions for volume 44 (2012) are March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 17. Material should be submitted by email to Editor Joshua Kitchens at [joshua.kitchens\[at\]gcsu\[dot\]edu](mailto:joshua.kitchens[at]gcsu[dot]edu).

Advertising:

The SGA Newsletter invites advertisements for archival products and services at the SGA Board and editor's discretion. Deadlines for submission are March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 17. For queries or further information, contact material should be submitted by email to Editor Joshua Kitchens at [joshua.kitchens\[at\]gcsu\[dot\]edu](mailto:joshua.kitchens[at]gcsu[dot]edu).



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