

Plant Museum Benefits From IMLS Grant

Tampa-Museum conservators from around the nation converged on the Henry Plant Museum over the course of the past two years to create an object-by-object survey of paper documents, furniture, paintings, ceramics and sculptures. Over 1,000 permanent collection objects were photographed, measured, and carefully examined to determine condition; after which conservation priorities were established. Although the survey took two years to complete, the actual conservation work on the collection will take over a decade.

This project was made possible by a \$43,494 matching grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Henry Plant Museum's collection is from the Tampa Bay Hotel that operated from 1891 to 1931. Forty years of use and abuse from hotel guests as well as University of Tampa (they share the same building) art classes mistreating objects has resulted in much necessary repairs.

Walter Newman, Director of the Northeast Documentation Center completed the first



Susan Buck examines original chair from Tampa Bay Hotel

conservation survey. He was on site for three days and examined framed works on paper, books and original Tampa Bay Hotel brochures and documents. He found newer acquisitions added over the past few decades were in relatively good shape. However, many of the framed works from the early museum years and hotel time period are in need of conservation. His findings will also be incorporated into the

Museum's permanent collection records for the individual objects.

Susan Buck, a conservator from Williamsburg, Virginia examined furniture and other wooden objects. Each artifact was carefully examined, measured and graded on a five-point priority scale based on stability and conservation needs. During the survey, Dr. Buck discovered evidence of live termites in a large Japanese cabinet with gilt panels. This piece was immediately taken to the vault at T.R. Young Pest Control for fumigation. Dr. Buck also



Rusty Levinson examines back of painting with the help of Museum curator Susan Carter.

provided hands-on training for the curatorial staff regarding care, cleaning and repair of the objects.

Rustin Levinson, renowned paintings conservator, (formerly with Fogg Museum at Harvard and now in private practice in New York and Miami) made careful observations of the Museum's paintings including detailed condition data and treatment recommendations. She examined a very large 10' x 12' painted tapestry that once hung in the hotel's art gallery mezzanine. Her recommendation was to include a textile conservator for the intricate framework and they could work jointly on the project.

Claudia Deschu of Gulf Coast Art Conservation was given the largest task of surveying the three dimensional art objects from

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John Nemmers
SFA President

Presidential Address

Dear SFA Members,

The site for the 2010 SFA Annual Meeting was selected during the September board meeting, and I'm pleased to announce that SFA will be returning to Tampa in Spring 2010. We will work with the local arrangements committee to determine the dates and let you know as soon as possible. The minutes for the board meeting are available on the web site. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the current officers and committee chairs: Vice President Mike Zaidman (and Newsletter Editor Extraordinaire!), Treasurer Kathy Turner Thompson, Secretary Judith Beale, Directors Flo Turcotte and Wenxian Zhang, Past President Burt Altman, and Mary Flekke (Membership Committee).

As long ago as August (it really does seem like ages ago already!) several SFA members were able to participate in the SAA annual conference in Austin. As usual, the sessions covered a wide variety of subjects, and you may be unsurprised to learn that two of the most discussed topics were electronic records and minimal level processing. I attended multiple sessions focusing on other topics in which the discussion ultimately switched to one or both of these hot subjects.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, one of my major goals while serving as President is to encourage passage of the American Historical Record Act (PAHR). The bill, H.R. 2256, will be considered by the House Subcommittee on Information, Census, and the National Archives, on which Rep. John L. Mica serves. If it passes, this act will change significantly the amount of federal funds used to support archives and other repositories in Florida. I am happy to report that I have formed a special task group charged with the following responsibilities:

1. To contact Rep. John L. Mica and encourage his sponsorship of the bill.
2. To identify other Representatives who should be encouraged to co-sponsor the legislation, and identify Society members who could be tasked with contacting those Representatives.
3. To discuss the possibility of arranging repository visits for key Florida Representatives and/or their staffs.
4. To recommend additional activities and strategies for the Society and individual members.

In addition to myself, the task group members include Burt Altman at Florida State University, Esperanza de Varona at the University of Miami, Gerard Clark at the State Archives, Carl Van Ness at the University of Florida, and Wenxian Zhang at Rollins College. The group will consult, as necessary, with representatives from other organizations and agencies including the Florida Association of Museums, the Florida Historical Society, the Florida Library Association, and the State Historical Records Advisory Board.

I encourage you strongly to write letters to members of Congress in support of the bill. Information about PAHR, including a draft letter you can use to write your Congressperson, is available at <http://www.archivists.org/pahr/>.

Professionals Collaborate At FAM Conference

As part of the 2009 Florida Association of Museums (FAM) Annual Conference, which took place recently at The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota, members of the Florida Connecting to Collections (C2C) Steering Committee hosted a panel session titled *Florida Connecting to Collections: Past Due*. The panel addressed the statewide survey that was sent to all public collecting institutions to identify preservation priorities among Florida's collections. Session attendees also learned the outcomes of three C2C educational forums held late last year in Miami and early this year in Orlando and Tallahassee.

Panelists included session leader Graig Shaak, Steering Committee Chair and Associate Director Emeritus, Florida Museum of Natural History; Melissa Kendrick, FAM Board Member and Executive Director of the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum; Burt Altman, Immediate Past President, Society of Florida Archivists and Librarian/Archivist, Special Collections, Florida State University Libraries; Corinne Jörgensen, Florida Library Association Board Member and Professor, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Research, College of Information, Florida State University; and Myriam Springuel, Program Manager FAM Foundation.

Graig Shaak spoke about the Heritage Preservation Heritage Health Index, the guiding principle behind the development of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) survey; the survey instrument and the IMLS implementation grants; and the three FAM C2C forums. As of late August, there has been a 50% response rate for the survey, mostly from museums and libraries. Both Shaak and Myriam Springuel noted that, as a result of the forums, professionals want to see regional networks with centralized leadership evolve so that their institutions can get assistance with protecting their collections. In addition, forum participants expressed a need for additional training. As the deadline for the next IMLS statewide implementation grant approaches



Panelists (L-R): Corinne Jorgensen, Burt Altman, Melissa Kendrick, Graig Shaak and Myriam Springuel.

(December 15, 2009), the C2C Steering Committee will be exploring ways to collaborate. Awards of up to \$250,000 will be available for projects that can serve as models for states that have begun their own planning process, helping other institutions achieve the recommendations of the Heritage Health Index through appropriate and achievable plans of action.

Following Shaak's and Springuel's presentations, Burt Altman discussed how SFA has engaged in collaborative activities and projects with other Florida cultural heritage institutions, accomplishing a principal goal of the C2C project. One example he gave was the education of legislators and public officials on the importance of preserving and conserving Florida's archival collections, which resulted from seeking Congressional sponsorship for the Preserving America's Historical Record legislation. To emphasize the diverse opportunities available for collaboration, he pointed out that SFA members represent a broad spectrum of college and university, corporate, museum, historical society, and public library constituencies. He noted that the SFA Directory includes a list of institutions and members with specialized interests, including those willing to lead workshops and topics. SFA has provided training opportunities at its annual meetings and workshops, such as sessions on EAD, copyright, digitization, and disaster planning, and Florida archivists and SAA trainers have presented Opening Archives workshops on EAD and Archon. Altman added that one of the Opening Archives project goals has been to increase archival information sharing in the state by encouraging cultural heritage repositories to contribute copies of their EAD finding aids to the statewide database hosted by FCLA, "Archives Florida."

The panel session concluded with comments by Corinne Jörgensen on the survey and the importance of talking to legislators about Florida's collection preservation needs, particularly through personal site visits. In addition, Melissa Kendrick informed the group about the treasure trove of maritime artifacts that have been discovered and the need to safeguard these precious resources. Following the presentations, the panelists entertained questions from the audience.

Many thanks to the Florida Association of Museums for hosting this panel.

Submitted by Burt Altman

Communiqué

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October is American Archives Month, and many archives and archivists around the country are holding special events to Celebrate the American Record! To enter the Best "Astonishing Idea" contest, see what your colleagues are doing, and view the 2009 *American Archives Month Public Relations Kit* for additional ideas, visit <http://www.archivists.org/archivesmonth/index.asp>.

... SAA has developed the "Visitors2Archives Survey" to gather information about the impact of archives. Please help us collect the BIG statistic that tells us how many people—nationwide—visit archives during October 2009. See the survey at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=K0JgdtkKPAf0KAo9QUU06w_3d_3d.

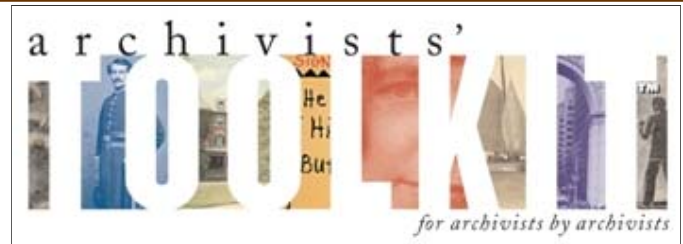
... Please Do Your PAHRt! Goal is 50 House sponsors by December, H.R. 2256, Preserving the American Historical Record (PAHR) legislation, has a great chance of being considered in the second session of the 111th Congress – but only if we obtain 50 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives by December! Please encourage your member of the House to be a co-sponsor (see list of co-sponsors at <http://www.archivists.org/pahr/index.asp>). Particularly important to the future of the legislation are the following members of the House Subcommittee on Information, Census, and the National Archives, who have not yet signed on as co-sponsors: Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), Steve Driehaus (D-OH), Paul Kanjorski (D-PA), Patrick McHenry (R-NC), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Diane Watson (D-CA) and Lynn Westmoreland (R-GA).

... *Florida Cattle Ranching: Five Centuries of Tradition*, the first exhibit to open in the Tampa Bay History Center's new 3,000 sq. ft. 3rd Floor Gallery. This exhibit (below) chronicles the history and culture of one of Florida's oldest industries.

Southern pioneers, Florida "Crackers" and Florida Seminoles all play a part in Florida's ranching legacy, which began when Spanish



explorers brought cattle and horses to Florida in the 16th century. To date, cattle ranching remains an integral part of the state's economy. This exhibit features oral histories, Florida folk music, cowboy art and documentary footage. ... In response to an invitation from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the New York University Libraries, University



of California, San Diego Libraries, and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Libraries have agreed to submit a collaborative project proposal for the purpose of combining the best features of the Archivists' Toolkit and Archon into a single hybrid application that will support description, collection management, and access of archival materials.

It is intended that the development process for this integration be shared with, and input be solicited from, the archival user and developer communities during the project work.

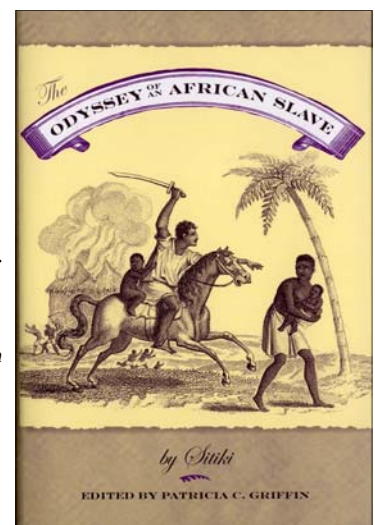
AT and Archon have been highly successful in their short product lives. They anticipate that this integration project will capitalize on those successes to build a more sustainable application and one more satisfying to a broader segment of the archives community.

An important element of the Mellon Foundation proposal will be a request for bridge funding to ensure the continuing support of both applications and their respective communities during the transition. Please send comments and questions to: info@archiviststoolkit.org or to digitalibrary@archon.org.

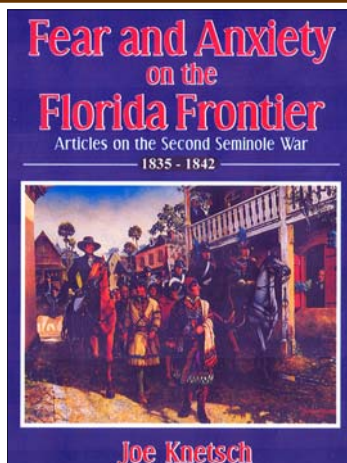
BOOKS

The University Press of Florida has released two new texts: *The Odyssey of an African Slave* (right) by Sitiki, edited by Patricia Griffin, ISBN 978-0-8130-3391-4, \$24.95; *Key West Hemingway, A Reassessment* edited by Kirk Curnutt and Gail Sinclair, ISBN 978-0-8130-3355-6, \$45. Contact Stephanie Williams, Publicity Manager, 352-392-1351x. 243 or sw@upf.com.

... *From Farms and Fields to the Future: The Incredible History of North Miami Beach* by Seth Bramson will be published in November by The History Press, historypress.net. This is Seth's 17th book, his 12th dealing with the villages, towns, cities and people of Miami-Dade County and he is now the single most published Greater Miami history book author in the country. Containing rare photographs (more than 90% of them never before published), 160 pages, the book will be the first-ever complete and up-to-date history of the place once known as Fulford. Contact Seth at 305.757.1016 or sbramson@bellsouth.net.



... *Fear and Anxiety on the Florida Frontier: The Second Seminole War* by Joe Knetsch, Ph.D., has been published by the Seminole Wars Historical Foundation, hardcover at \$29.95. The cover by noted Orlando/Deland artist, Jackson Walker depicts Osceola and Wildcat being led by General Thomas Jesup and General of the Florida Militia, Joseph Hernandez through the streets of Old St. Augustine on their way into captivity at Fort Marion (Castillo San Marcos). Published by Past Perfect Florida History, Inc. The book represents many articles and papers never published before (cover at right).



... The 2010 AAM Annual Meeting will be in Los Angeles, May 23-27.

... The 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 15-19, will be held in Boston. The 2010 ALA Annual Conference will take place June 24-29 in Washington DC.

... UW-Madison SLIS Calls for Applications to the Third Archives Leadership Institute, July 18-24, 2010. Selected archivists will spend the week in a mix of panels, workshops and small group discussions. Most of the costs are covered by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and a registration fee of \$600. Scholarships will be

awarded, so don't let a lack of funding keep you from applying! Info at <http://www.slis.wisc.edu/continueed/archivesinst.html> or contact Meredith Lowe at 608-890-0364 or mclowe@wisc.edu.

NHPRC
DOCUMENTING DEMOCRACY

CAREER NEWS

The Historical Society of Palm Beach County has named John McDonagh, a nationally prominent executive in the field of cultural heritage, to be its new President and Chief Executive Officer.

... Job Opening: Assistant Archivist (*Full-Time*), Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta, Office of Archives & Records, Atlanta, GA. To apply, mail or email cover letter/resume to: Marquita Richburg, Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta, HR, 680 W. Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308 catholicjobs@archatl.com.

... Are you a voracious reader of the professional literature? Do you have your finger on the pulse of the latest archival research? Is surfing the Web for online exhibits a favorite pastime? The *American Archivist* invites applications for the position of Reviews Editor. Details: <http://www.archivists.org/news/2009-AAReviewsEdSearch.asp>

... David S. Ferriero, Andrew W. Mellon Director of the New York Public Libraries, has been selected as Archivist of the United States.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

AAM is offering a series of online Advocacy Training classes for the museum field through Nov. 9. The first session, Advocacy and Legislation 101: Understanding the Basics of Advocacy, was a terrific success, with over 400 registered. The recorded session and slides are now available at www.speakupformuseums.org/advocacy_trainings.htm. Register for upcoming sessions: Budget and Appropriations 101: Understanding the Process and Timelines (Oct. 23); Building Relationships with Elected Officials: Strategies for Getting to Know Your Elected Officials (Nov. 9); Making Your Case 101: What to Say, How to Say It, and Getting Your Staff and Visitors Involved in Your Museum's Cause (Nov. 9) at www.aam-us.org.

... The Southeastern Museums Conference is hosting the 10th annual Jekyll Island Management Institute, Jan. 19-26, located in Georgia. Apps due Oct. 31, info at www.semcdirect.net.

... The Florida Library Association's 2010 Annual Conference in Orlando is April 7-9.

RESEARCH

The Orange County Regional History Center is pleased to announce that the first round of collections records are now available to search online. To date, 149 books, over 700 archival collections, over 2000 photographs, and over 1000 artifacts are searchable via the online database. To search the collections, please visit <http://thehistorycenter.pastperfect-online.com/>.

... <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flwwdar/flwwdar> — Winding Waters Chapter (FL DAR), updated Freepages.

... The International Foundation for Art Research (www.ifar.org) has launched two important new resources for the art community: The Art Law/Cultural Property Website and the Catalogue Raisonné Database. The Art Law/Cultural Property Website, funded in part by a National Leadership Grant from the IMLS, was designed to help museums and others navigate the complex body of legislation and case law relating to the acquisition, ownership and authenticity of art objects. The Catalogue Raisonné Database comprises two integrated electronic databases, one for published catalogues raisonnés and the other for catalogues in preparation.

FUNDING

The Natural Hazards Center is accepting proposals for the 2010 Quick Response Grant Program until November 15, 2009. The program provides funds for researchers to quickly travel to disaster-affected areas to capture perishable data. The program promotes innovation in disaster research by favoring students, new researchers, and novel areas of study.

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Complete list: www.florida-archivists.org/officers_committees.htm

For more info, visit <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/research/gr/guidelines.html>.

... AAM is pleased to announce that Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad 2009–2011, an innovative program of museum-based exchanges that strengthen connections between the people of the U.S. and people abroad through direct community engagement, is now accepting applications from U.S. museums. Grants from \$70,000 to \$125,000 are available to support a new round of creative, community-based partnerships between U.S. museums and those abroad. Visit <http://www.aam-us.org/mcca/apply.cfm> for info. Proposals deadline Nov. 23. ... The Division of Preservation and Access at the National Endowment for the Humanities announces a new preventive conservation grant program, [Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections](#), with a deadline of Dec. 8. The program offers U.S. nonprofit museums, libraries and archives, as well as state and local governmental agencies and tribal governments with humanities collections either planning and evaluation grants or implementation grants, with awards up to \$400,000 for each. E-mail preservation@neh.gov or call 202-606-8570 for more information. ... The Target Corporation will award 5,000 field trip grants of up to \$800 each for the coming K-12 school year. Managed by Scholarship America, funds may be used for visits to art, science and cultural museums; community service or civics projects; career enrichment opportunities; and other events or activities away from the school facility. Funds may also be used to cover field trip-related costs such as transportation, ticket fees, resource materials and supplies. Grants will be awarded in February 2010. Applications must be completed online by Nov. 3 at <http://action.lulac.org/r/3122/8586/0>.

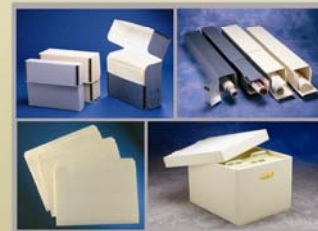
OTHER

“Orphan Works: Statement of Best Practices” is available as a PDF on SAA’s website at <http://www.archivists.org/standards/>. Orphan works are pervasive and challenge those who are managing risk and liability when a copyright owner cannot be identified or located.



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“I love indexing!”

*Joan Mickelson,
Hollywood Historical Society*

We invite you to join the Society of Florida Archivists. Don't miss the continuing education opportunities offered by SFA each year, information about what's happening in archives in Florida in **The Florida Archivist**, and the chance to mix with other archivists at the SFA Annual Meeting.

Specific benefits of Individual Membership are:

- ◆ Reduced registration fees for all of the Society's events.
- ◆ Subscription to *The Florida Archivist*
- ◆ Full voting privileges in elections and at the annual business meeting.
- ◆ Eligibility for leadership positions in the Society.
- ◆ Discount on selected archival publications.

Membership in the **Society of Florida Archivists** helps all of us keep in touch with important archival developments and make a valuable contribution to the profession in the State. We hope you will become a part of this effort!

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Claudia Deschu cleans an alabaster clock while her assistant Ben Sims transcribes the results.

bronze sculptures to majolica vases. Claudia served as project manager for the grant and was in charge of preparing a list of priorities that could be used by all four conservators and the final reports of all findings.

The \$86,988 Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant only covers the cost of the survey. Conservation monies must be raised by the Museum. The Henry Plant Museum curatorial staff has taken the survey findings and will determine which objects fit the criteria for conservation. By the Museum protecting and continually stabilizing the collection, the visitors of the Museum experience the beautiful and elegant lifestyle that so defined the Victorian period. They provide a “surround yourself and get absorbed” encounter, allowing the visitor’s imagination to put them back in time as a guest at the Tampa Bay Hotel.

Submitted by Sally Shifke, Museum Relations, Henry B. Plant Museum, 401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33606, visit www.plantmuseum.com.

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The Society of Florida Archivists is an organization of individuals and institutions who share a concern for the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value. It is dedicated to the dissemination of information about such records and about sound archival methodology.

Find the latest issue on our website. To opt-out of receiving your issue in the mail, please e-mail:
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DELRAY BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANT

The Delray Beach Historical Society recently received a grant from the Florida Humanities Council and National Endowment for the Humanities. The title of the grant project is "Samuel Ogren Sr. ~ Delray's National Register Architect". Sam Ogren Sr. is credited with being Delray's first registered architect, working here from 1924 to 1950. Some of his outstanding designs still exist in the City. The grant is a FHC Mini-grant in the amount of \$2,000 to be matched in kind by the Delray Beach Historical

Society. Historical Society staff and volunteers are working to accomplish the objectives of the grant project.

A portable exhibit will be created from the Delray Beach Historical Society's collection of architectural drawings by Sam Ogren Sr. This exhibit will be on display for 30 days at each of these locations: the Sandoway House Nature Center (designed by Ogren), the City Hall lobby, and the Ethel Sterling Williams History Learning Center. Each location will also host a one-night-only public discussion on

Sam Ogren Sr.'s architecture and Delray Beach architecture in general. Dates are: March at the Sandoway House Nature Center; April at City Hall; and May during Preservation Month, at the Ethel Sterling Williams History Learning Center. The discussions will be facilitated by local historians and architects including Dr. Donald Curl, Dan and Donna Sloan, and Roger Cope.

All programs are free and open to the public. The Florida Humanities Council is dedicated to fostering

community and a sense of place in Florida.

The Delray Beach Historical Society was founded in 1964 to preserve local traditions and provide opportunities for the community to learn about Florida's heritage. The DBHS manages several sites in Delray Beach that enable it to educate the public regarding local history and preservation. For more information, call (561) 243-2577 or visit www.DB-HS.org.

Submitted by Dottie Patterson



This is a 1925 rendering by Ogren of the Arcade Building on Atlantic Ave.