



the Florida Archivist

Archives Spotlight

The Annie Russell Collection at Rollins College

by Darla Moore, Archival Specialist



Portrait of Annie Russell, Rollins College Archives

The Annie Russell Theatre, dedicated in 1932, was given to Rollins by Mary Curtis Bok in honor of her longtime friend, actress Annie Russell. Miss Russell, an internationally-known star of the London and Broadway stage, had retired in 1918, but had taken an interest in theatre programs at the College after moving to Winter Park. She came out of retirement to perform at the Theatre, also serving as its director until 1935.

The Annie Russell Collection in the College Archives contains many photos, correspondence, and news clippings, as well as some of Miss Russell's personal items, such as costume jewelry and a pair of her shoes. The shoes are so small that they prompt questions about whether they were actually worn by an adult. (Miss Russell was quite petite and portrayed young women on stage for many years; to read more, please see our blog post, "My Business is to Play Young Girls' Parts," at <http://bit.ly/1qNf588>).

Message from the President



*Sandra Varry
SFA President*

Hope you had a great American Archives Month! This year's Archives Month Committee did a fantastic job of sharing highlights from across the state to raise awareness of Florida collections. In early October, the Executive Board met to discuss several items that have resulted in great news to share. We have sealed the deal with the Society of Georgia Archivists and secured a location for the joint meeting. I am pleased to announce the SFA-SGA 2016 Joint Annual Meeting will be held at the Hilton DeSoto Hotel in Savannah, Georgia, October 13 & 14, with a preconference workshop on the 12th. Details will be forthcoming in the next few months. In lieu of our regular meeting in May 2016, we are in the process of scheduling a weeklong session of Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) classes through the Society of American Archivists; stay tuned for further developments.

Congratulations to Mike Pezzoni for his winning entry to the logo contest! We are very pleased to have a new logo to represent SFA, and as the final piece of the overhaul of our print and online presence.

We regret to inform you of the passing of Sister M. Dorothy Neuhofer. Sister Dorothy was the university archivist and special collections librarian at the Daniel J. Cannon Memorial Library at Saint Leo University. We are honored to have had her as a member of SFA for many years, and she will be fondly remembered.

Congratulations to Garret Kremer-Wright on his new position at the as the Research and Scholarly Communications Archivist at the Center for Arkansas History and Culture in Little Rock. He will be greatly missed as Membership Chair, and we wish him the best.

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Early Bird Special for the Academy of Certified Archivists Certification Exam!

The Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) is making the certification exam more affordable by offering a reduced application fee as part of an early bird special!

Register for the exam before February 15 and receive half-off regular registration. The rate increases to the standard fee of \$50 after February 15.

The early bird deadline also lowers the threshold for selecting pick-your-site locations! Instead of requiring 5 takers per site, the ACA will only require 3 during the early bird period. This change makes it easier for many candidates to have an exam site in a more convenient and affordable location. But, like the test application fee, the required number of test participants will increase to the standard number of 5 after the early bird period ends.

This year's Certified Archivist exam will be held August 3rd. The predetermined locations are: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

Questions? Contact the ACA Secretariat:

secretariat@certifiedarchivists.org



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Member & Institutional News

UCF Welcomes New Head of Special Collections

David Benjamin joined the University of Central Florida (UCF) Libraries as Head of Special Collections & University Archives in September 2015. David comes from University of Arizona where he was the



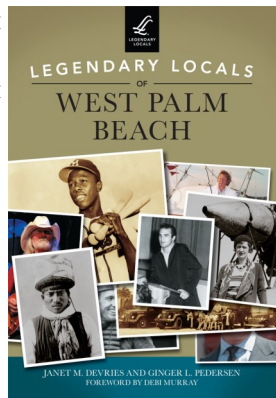
Assistant Director of the Volkerding Study Center at the Center for Creative Photography. Prior to that he was the Visual Materials Archivist at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

David has a Masters of Library Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison as well as a Masters of Architecture in American Architecture and Landscape History from the University of Kansas. An archivist for twenty-five plus years, David is involved with a number of regional, national, and international organizations including the Society of American Archivists, chairing their Visual Materials Section from 2010-2012; Association of Moving Image Archivists; Museum Computer Network; Midwest Archives Conference; and Society of Southwest Archivists.

New Book on Historic West Palm Beach Citizens

Legendary Locals of West Palm Beach by Ginger Pedersen and Janet DeVries will highlight the lives of West Palm Beach's most notable citizens. It will be released on November 30, 2015.

Images from the book were culled from the rich archival photo collections held by the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, the Palm Beach Post, Palm Beach State College, the State of Florida Archives, the Library of Congress and from private individuals and corporations. Debi Murray, chief curator at the Historical Society of Palm Beach County wrote the forward and features stories, brief biographical sketches and tantalizing tidbits of information on a myriad of interesting people including 'the Dixie Witch,' 'Dolphin Donna,' 'Toppie the Elephant,' Jack the Bike Man, world record holding shortest twins Greg and John Rice and local historians, authors, archaeologists and architects. This is another book that would never have happened without the collections curated by local archival institutions.



In Memoriam



Sister M. Dorothy Neuhofer passed away on Wednesday, October 14.

Sister Dorothy, as she liked to be called, was the university archivist and special collections librarian at St. Leo University's Daniel J. Cannon Memorial Library, and she held the rank of full professor. Sister Dorothy worked for the university for a remarkable 50 years, and was honored for that

special milestone in August 2015.

Sister Dorothy and her many siblings grew up in the neighboring agricultural community of St. Joseph. Her father was a German immigrant, and her mother was the daughter of German immigrant parents who had moved from Minnesota to St. Joseph. She graduated from Holy Name Academy and joined the Benedictine Sisters of Florida in 1949.

She originally began working at Saint Leo College on August 15, 1965, after serving as an educator at a number of parochial schools in Florida. When she joined Saint Leo College as a cataloger and reference librarian, she already held her bachelor's degree in education from Barry University in Miami and a master's degree in library science from Rosary College (now Dominican University) of River Forest, IL. She progressed in her career at our library to fulfill a number of roles, and also served as a member and officer of various professional library associations. She continually advanced in her own scholarship. She earned a master's degree in church administration from the Catholic University of America and her doctorate in library studies from Florida State University. For her dissertation (eventually a book) she studied two Midwest Benedictine college libraries that illustrated the connection between the love of learning and the Benedictine tradition.

Sister Dorothy resided at Holy Name Monastery among the other Benedictine Sisters of Florida, including her sibling Sister Mary Clare Neuhofer. At the time of her passing, Sister Dorothy held the role of archivist of the monastery. She had served as prioress of the community at an earlier time.

Information from Saint Leo University.

Florida Citrus Hall of Fame Fellowship Program

by Gerrienne Schaad, College Archivist, Florida Southern College

FLORIDA CITRUS HALL OF FAME



significant contributions to the Florida citrus industry. Since 2009, the records of the organization have been housed at the McKay Archives, Florida Southern College (FSC). Because of our location in central Florida and our proximity to current and former groves, collecting citrus related materials is an easy task.

In 2008, Hall of Fame board members came together to create the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame Fellowship Program to give opportunities to FSC students to work with archival materials related to citrus. Through describing, preserving and digitizing citrus documents, students are exposed to the history of the citrus industry. Two of the fellowships are named after late Hall of Fame members, Frank S. Bouis and D. Victor Knight, Sr., with the third named after the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame.

Meredith Kaffee, a senior psychology major, has been a fellow for three and a half years. She has organized books and helped to catalog them, digitized citrus labels for inclusion in the archives' CONTENTdm Collection (at <http://cdm15558.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/labels>), and arranged



"Picking oranges in Dr. Garnett's orange grove, St. Augustine, Fla.", McKay Archives

archival documents. Kaffee says "Through this job, I have learned about the history of citrus in an engaged and hands-on way." Citrus Fellows also have the opportunity to create displays in the Archives gallery space. A citrus themed exhibit is on display from early January leading up to the Hall of Fame's yearly induction luncheon held in March. Citrus Fellows use arti-

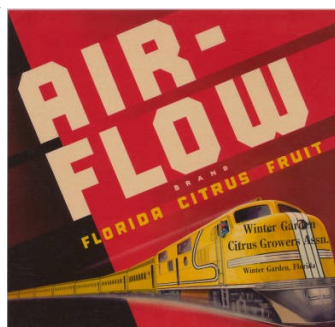
The Florida Citrus Hall of Fame was established in 1962 to honor distinguished leaders who have made signifi-



Chase & Co. brand crate label,
McKay Archives



Justice brand crate label, McKay
Archives



Air-Flow brand crate label,
McKay Archives

Florida Celebrates American Archives Month:

To celebrate American Archives Month, the Society of Florida Archivists solicited submissions detailing items from collections across Florida. Here are some of the submissions we received:

I found it in our Florida Archives:



A tradition going on two decades, UCF's Spirit Splash is celebrated during homecoming week with students plunging fully clothed into the Reflecting Pond. Beginning in the early 2000s, rubber ducks commemorating the event were handed out every year and are a much sought after item.

Submitted by : Mary Rubin , University of Central Florida

Furniture refinishers discovered a ca. 1880 crayon portrait in a display case in the Boynton Beach City Library archives. The cabinet's provenance is traced to a long closed feed store. Archivist Janet DeVries collaborated with photo detective Maureen Taylor to identify the bearded gent as Confederate Civil War soldier Charles Lee Andrews who had lived in a ca. 1902 home a few blocks from the library. DeVries sometimes features Andrews on her guided moonlight history tours of Woodlawn Cemetery in West Palm Beach.

Visit SFA's Spring 2011 Newsletter for an earlier article on this subject by Janet DeVries: http://www.florida-archivists.org/Resources/Documents/Newsletter/2011/SFA_Spring2011.pdf



Submitted by : Janet DeVries

Found it in the Archives

A group of items took on special significance when Vizcaya Museum & Gardens hired a new public relations and marketing director earlier this month. By a strange coincidence, we were investigating a gardener who had been hired by James Deering, agricultural industrialist and patron of Vizcaya, at the same time that we were interviewing candidates for the PR position.

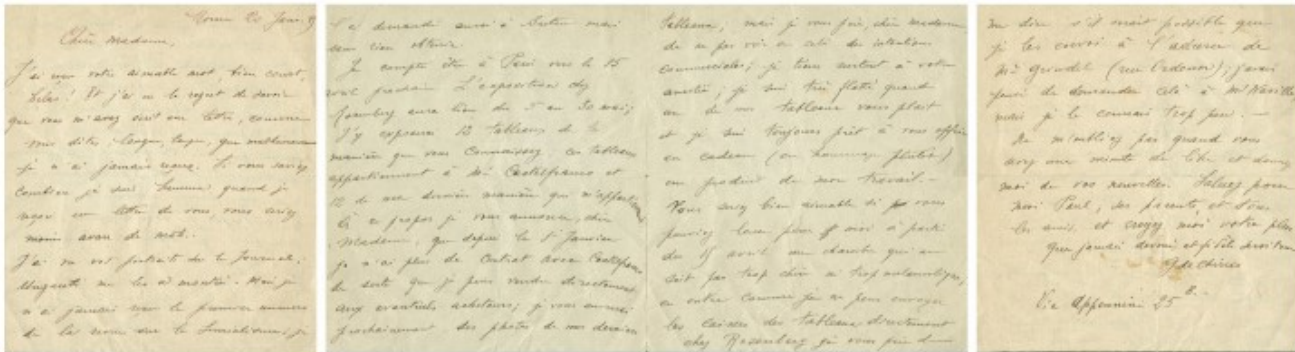


The Exotic Gardens truck transporting a palm tree near Vizcaya, Miami, FL, 1921, William Dunn Sturrock Photograph Collection, Vizcaya Museum & Gardens Archives.

The name of the gardener was Alec Donn. His brother founded "The Exotic Gardens," a small landscaping company in Miami, around 1914. As a manager of The Exotic Gardens in 1915, Alec would have helped with the construction of Vizcaya's formal gardens and Village. We know from correspondence that, among other things, he was responsible for managing the garden of the "Blue Dog pier," a pier no longer in existence that lead up to the luxurious houseboat of James Deering's artistic director for Vizcaya, Paul Chalfin. We also have an archival photo that shows a man who may be Alec in a The Exotic Gardens truck transporting a palm tree.

Fast forward one hundred years to 2015 and imagine our surprise when we discovered that the new Public Relations and Marketing Director that we hired turned out to be Alec Donn's great grandniece! A family connection as old as Vizcaya: we found it in the archive!

Submitted by : Emily Gibson , Vizcaya Museum and Gardens



Hand-written letter from Giorgio de Chirico to Gala Éluard (later Gala Dalí), dated 1928-01-20. It mentions other surrealists, Andre Breton and Paul Éluard. De Chirico tells Gala about his upcoming exhibition and asks her to rent him a room, "...which would be neither too dear nor too melancholy."

Submitted by : Shaina Buckles, The Dalí Museum Library/Archives

Florida Celebrates American Archives Month:

To celebrate American Archives Month, the Society of Florida Archivists also solicited submissions about collections or new acquisitions of Florida archives. Submissions included:

Florida Archives Spotlight

The Dr. William Straight Collection held in the Special Collections and University Archives Department at Florida International University is an extremely fascinating and well researched collection that contains an extensive history of the first and founding doctors in Miami beginning in the late 1800's. This collection was the personal research of Dr. William Straight, who was a prominent cardiologist and internist for over 40 years in Miami, FL, as well as a published historian and enthusiast of Florida medical history. Dr. Straight was born in Philadelphia, PA and moved to Miami in 1924. Distinguishing himself early he became an Eagle Scout, gradu-

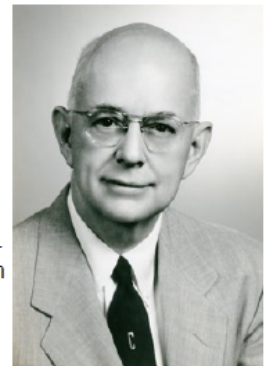


His collection is the result of years of comprehensive research about individuals, organizations, and topics such as James M. Jackson, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Victoria Hospital, various medical societies throughout the state of Florida, epidemics, military medicine, South Florida memoirs, and other unique and interesting memorabilia and ephemera relating to Florida doctors, history and medicine. This collection contains 19 boxes of personal research and papers, 2 boxes of photographs, antique medical cases, and index card filing cabinets with historic and biographical information on each topic that Dr. Straight researched.

Submitted by : Gena Meroth and Rhia Jones, Florida International University

The Joseph L. Brechner Research Center housed within the Orange County Regional History Center in downtown Orlando, Florida holds the papers of former Orlando Mayor Robert S. (Bob) Carr. The span dates of his collections are 1920-1982. While the bulk of his collection contains scrapbooks highlighting his term as mayor from 1956 to 1967, other material includes correspondence during his campaigns for office, scrapbooks relating to his civic involvement in the community, and several scrapbooks relating to his time spent in support of World War II.

Through the preservation of Mayor Carr's papers at the Orange County Regional History Center, visitors can learn about the life and work of this important man who single-handedly transformed Orlando, brought it into the modern age, and put it on the map. In addition to the papers of Bob Carr, the research center also contains other special collections from the Historical Society of Central Florida. A complete version of this Archives Spotlight by archivist **Garret B. Kremer-Wright** can be found in [SFA's Spring 2015 newsletter](#).



Archives Spotlight

Radiation Inc. Archives contains an eclectic combination of historical materials saved by several of the company's original engineers and sometimes handed down to their descendants. Known as the "Radiators", these men and women worked for Radiation Inc. from 1950 to 1967, when the company officially merged with Harris Corporation.

Radiation Inc. founders Homer Denius and George Shaw attracted some of America's finest minds from all over the country to work on high tech tracking and telemetry systems in Melbourne, Florida, a small town south of Cape Canaveral. The miniaturized electronic tracking and pulse code technologies they developed worked hand-in-hand to support the early efforts of the space program. Communication and weather satellites produced by Radiation Inc. were needed for military missile systems and helped facilitate America's first manned space flights and Apollo moon missions.



Submitted by : Diane Newman , Florida Institute of Technology

November Exhibit: Artist Joy Postle: Inspired by Nature, 1896-1989

Joy was a rare bird. She rather resembled the long-legged, wading birds found near Florida's seacoast, lakes, marshes, and glades. A plein air artist, Postle patiently painted wildlife, enduring harsh environmental conditions, using watercolor, gouache, and pen and ink. To see Florida through the eyes of Joy Postle is to see breathtaking landscapes of a vivid, natural era. Detail, light, color, and even a sense of humor mixed with fantasy capture the imagination of viewers, reminding us of nature in its early, unblemished form.

The Joy Postle collection is located at the University of Central Florida in Special Collections and University Archives at the John C. Hitt Library. This collection of her life's work includes artwork from the 1920's to the 1980's as well as ephemera highlighting aspects of her personal and professional life. Joy Postle was not only a self-supporting artist, she was also an entertainer, a writer, and an environmentalist.

The Joy Postle exhibit will be on display on the main floor of the John C. Hitt Library from November 1st - November 30th.



Joy Postle's Rhapsody in Rose number 7.

Submitted by : Nadeen Kiwan , University of Central Florida

American Archives Month in Florida

State Archives of Florida

Elizabeth Loeffelman



The State Archives of Florida hosted two events in honor of Archives Month, encouraging the public to make the most of our state's archival treasures. The State Archives' reference room was open with extended hours from 9:00am – 8:00pm to accommodate patrons who are unable or less likely to visit during our usual business hours. Staff members conducted behind the scenes tours of the restricted stacks area to demonstrate how the Archives protects Florida's archival resources, and to show off examples of our rarest holdings.

The events featured a series of staff-led workshops with tips on conducting genealogical research and preserving archival materials at home. State Archives historian Joshua Goodman encouraged attendees to "think outside the census" by demonstrating how to take advantage of unusual sources for researching family history. Photo archivist Adam Watson explained the basic principles for preserving documents and photographs at home, and archivists Miriam Gan-Spalding and Delbra McGriff explored creative strategies for tracing African-American ancestors.

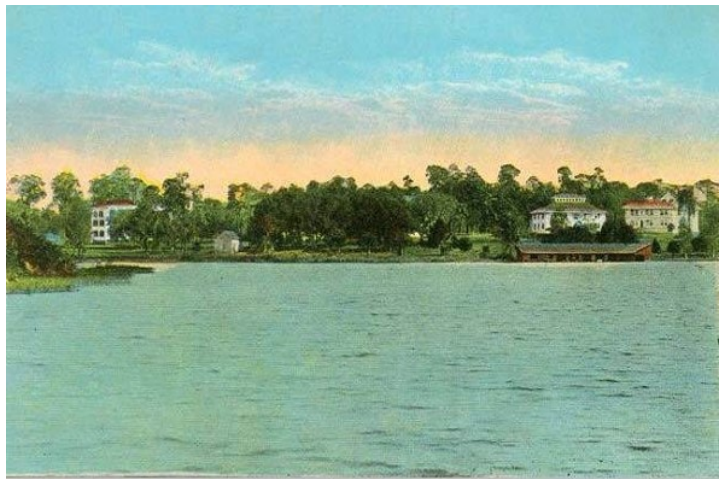
Local news outlets assisted in promoting the events, and a number of patrons expressed interest in attending similar programs in the future. Due to inquiries received from around the state, Archives staff are now exploring options for condensing the information shared in the workshops into tutorial videos that can be shared online.

Rollins College

Rachel Walton

Rollins celebrated American Archives Month by extending their web and social media presence in order to increase their connection with the campus and alumni community, who represent a rich reservoir of intuitional history and personal stories.

The web portal Rollins Reminisces was debuted, which allows anyone to electronically submit memories (and photos!) about their time at Rollins to the archive. All appropriate submissions will be collected and preserved by the College archives for future gen-



Rollins College Archives

erations to learn from and enjoy.

The Archives also engaged with users through social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and Wordpress. For American Archives Month, they coordinated their efforts with themed posts around archives topics such as "Did you know [blank] about archives?," "Hidden Archival Gems," "Non-traditional Archives," "Archival Accidents," "Archivists and Activists," and of course, #AskAnArchivist Day on October 1st. They used Hootsuite to plan posts and their virtual intern Anna Ton (MLS) helped to come up with post content including phrases, hashtags, pictures, and shout-outs to other institutions' pages.

Archives Spotlight Continued

Annie Russell was the first actress to portray Barbara Undershaft in George Bernard Shaw's play, *Major Barbara*, produced in London in 1905. One of the most striking items in the Collection is this photo of Shaw, inscribed to Miss Russell with an upside-down heart:



George Bernard Shaw, Rollins College Archives

In 1926, a reporter asked what the inverted heart represented. Miss Russell replied, "Why, it means that I turned his heart upside-down" (Shambow, Wallace. "Away From Applause And Bright Lights Happiness In Sunshine City," *Evening Independent* 9 January 1926).

The Collection also includes some of Miss Russell's speeches and writings, including an article on "What it Really Means to be an Actress." Written in for *The Ladies' Home Journal* in 1909, the article describes the "serious side" of an actor's work: rehearsing "on her feet for hours every day, for days at a time, going over and over the same scenes," becoming fatigued "from the constant tension of extreme concentration," going without sleep, missing meals, and enduring separation from home and loved ones. Annie Russell, who had gone on stage as a child to help support her family, stressed that "the actress' work is constantly teaching her self-control. . . This wonderful control is one of the great lessons which her profession teaches the actress."



Annie Russell in 1901, Rollins College Archives



Annie Russell at the Annie Russell Theatre dedication in 1932, Rollins College Archives

Miss Russell notes that this kind of discipline is indispensable to an actress's artistic development, as "she grows more and more capable of touching our hearts, uplifting our vision and giving us tender beautiful touches of art." Though she wrote of the day-to-day hardships of a stage career, she also took pride in being an artist. At the dedication of the Annie Russell Theatre many years later, she said, "I hope it is significant that the initials of the name of the theatre spell ART and so I devote my art and soul to Rollins College and her beloved President Holt." Following her death in 1936, an article in *The Rollins Alumni Record* summed up the feelings of many who came to know her at the College: "Annie Russell. . . is no longer with us in person, but the beautiful spirit of such a gentle and great woman and artist can never go entirely from the place to which she meant so much." Her legacy lives on at Rollins.

Society of Florida Archivists

P.O. Box 2522

Orlando, FL 32802-2522

The Society of Florida Archivists seeks to connect, educate, and empower archivists and those working with historical records to preserve and promote Florida's documentary heritage.



www.florida-archivists.org



Society of
Florida Archivists

SFA's professional journal is under development!

The Society of Florida Archivists is planning a peer-reviewed journal to cover topics including archival theory, history, and research; metadata; digital humanities; and social media.

Stay tuned for a journal survey to be released shortly! We will need your feedback to make the journal relevant for all SFA members.