



# the Florida Archivist

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## Archives Spotlight

**The University of Melbourne Collection**  
**Evans Library, Florida Institute of Technology**  
by Lisa Petrillo, Archives Assistant



*Ralph Borsodi watches as the time capsule is laid in the cornerstone of the University of Melbourne building in 1955.*

The Harry P. Weber University Archives at Evans Library, Florida Institute of Technology, holds the University of Melbourne Collection. The collection spans from 1929-2014 and consists of material relating to the founding of University of Melbourne, which was a school in Florida based on the philosophy of praxeology. The site would eventually become the campus of Florida Institute of Technology.

The founders of University of Melbourne had a common interest in homesteading and getting back to a simpler way of life. Virginia Wood, Elizabeth Nutting, and Margaret Hutchinson were first drawn together in Dayton, Ohio during the Depression in a joint effort to help the poor. Together they devised "The Dayton Plan" that advised the unemployed how to support themselves by using surplus or abandoned materials to create things to sell or trade (Kjerfulff, 1987, p. 1). Around this same time, Ralph Borsodi, an author and advertising consultant in Suffern, New York, came up with a homestead solution that involved self-sufficient living. The three women invited him to Dayton in 1933 to embark on a joint homesteading venture that was ultimately unsuccessful and ended in 1935.

*Continued on page 7.*

## Message from the President



*Sandra Varry*  
SFA President

Spring is warming up as we plan for our first ever joint meeting this fall. Please plan to join us and the Society of Georgia Archivists at the Hilton Savannah DeSoto, October 13-14. The Annual Meeting Committee has been working with SGA to prepare an engaging program themed

*Defining Archives: Ingenuity, Innovation, and New Perspectives.* We are currently working toward securing a keynote speaker and planning the luncheon and reception. This year's meeting will provide a unique opportunity for a regional exchange of ideas and to connect with new colleagues. We hope you will not only attend, but submit a proposal to share your knowledge and experience.

The joint SFA-FSU sponsored week long Digital Archives Specialist classes in Tallahassee were a great success and we hope to have more training opportunities in the coming year. Be on the lookout for this year's election ballot which will be out soon, and our business meeting will still take place at the Annual Meeting.

At the closing of my second year as president, I feel we have accomplished much to move our society forward, and am hopeful we will always be working towards refining our practices and exploring new ideas through the collaborative efforts of the Board and membership. As always, thank you for your hard work and support. See you in Savannah!

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Register by May 15 to take the Academy of Certified Archivists exam in 2016.

The exam will take place on August 3 in the following cities:

Ann Arbor, MI; Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Denver, CO; Honolulu, HI; Little Rock, AR; Los Angeles, CA; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Raleigh, NC; San Antonio, TX; Seattle, WA; Syracuse, NY; Tampa, FL; and Waco, TX.

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- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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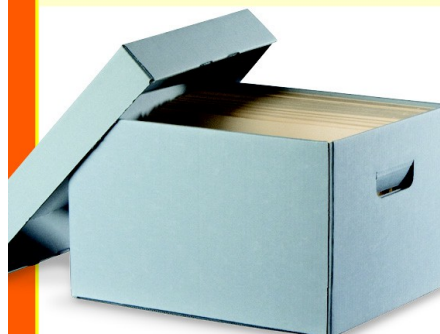


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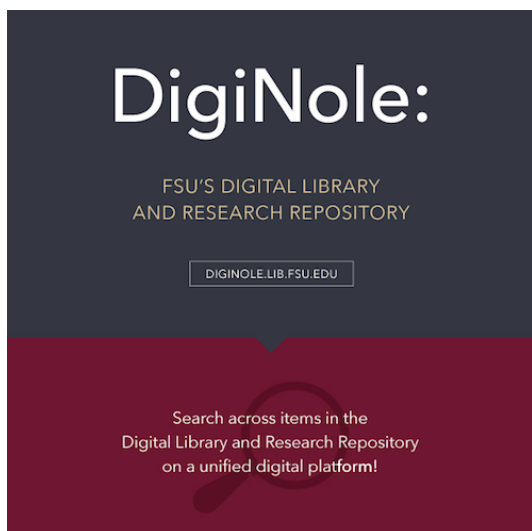
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# Member & Institutional News

## FSU University Libraries launches DigiNole and a new exhibit on the digital library



For over 10 years Florida State University Libraries has hosted a digital library in some form or another. In that time technology has evolved, changing how we can interact with physical objects in a digital space. The FSU Digital Library continues to evolve as well.

Today, the Florida State University Digital Library lives under DigiNole, our new unified platform for all FSU-created and maintained digital resources. It will enable users' seamless access to a range of materials through its two portals, the Digital Library and the Research Repository.

The Digital Library provides online access to thousands of unique manuscripts, photographs, pamphlets, rare books, historic maps and other materials from across the FSU campus libraries and beyond. At the same time, the Research Repository provides a platform for scholars to share the products of their research and creative output. Members of the FSU community are encouraged to submit their work to the repository, which can significantly increase citation impact and public engagement.

Coinciding with the platform launch will be 'What's Past is Pixels: Developing the FSU Digital Library', a physical exhibit in Strozier Library highlighting the materials hosted in the digital library, the processes for digitization and description, and future uses and collaborations the FSU Digital Library staff hopes to enable. The exhibit runs through April 8, 2016.

The goal of DigiNole is to serve the FSU community as a single-source hosting and discovery portal. FSU Libraries' are committed to leveraging the capacity of DigiNole to help FSU scholars achieve their goals. Visit today to learn more.

## New Online Collection from Florida Memory!



The Early Auto Registrations collection contains Florida's first automobile registrations as recorded by the Florida Department of State between 1905 and 1917. Each registration was handwritten in a ledger, indicating the name and post office address of the registrant plus the manufacturer, style, horsepower and factory number of the vehicle. Each entry was dated and assigned a unique registration number, which was sent to the registrant on a certificate. These records help illustrate how profoundly the automobile transformed Florida in the early 20th century as well as how much the automobile itself changed over the same period. The search option available on the collection page enables local and family historians to easily find records by county, auto maker, or the auto owner's last name. To view this collection and more from the State Library & Archives, visit [FloridaMemory.com](http://FloridaMemory.com).

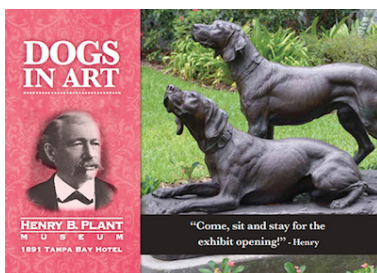
## Still Time to Register for RBMS 2016



The 2016 Conference for the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries is being held in Coral Gables from June 21-24. The conference theme is *Opening Doors to Collaboration, Outreach and Diversity* to explore and demonstrate the myriad ways special collections and archives can engage and interact with multiple constituencies. Early registration ends on May 20.

# Member & Institutional News

## New Exhibit at the Henry Plant Museum



The Henry B. Plant Museum in Tampa is pleased to announce a new exhibit, *Dogs in Art*. This exhibit brings together paintings, sculptures, textiles, decorative arts and more from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries featuring man's best friend. The artworks are lent by a variety of museums including: the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg; the Appleton Museum of Art of College of Central Florida; The Museum of Arts and Sciences, Daytona Beach; the Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts; the Lightner Museum and private collectors. Pieces include works by noted dog painter George Earl, sculptor Antoine-Louis Barye, Royal Doulton pottery and other renowned German, British, French, Belgian and Dutch artists. Among the variety of works on display will be one of the most famous 19th century dogs *Dash*, Queen Victoria's favorite pet.

## Papers open of an author, theologian, and Civil reform advocate

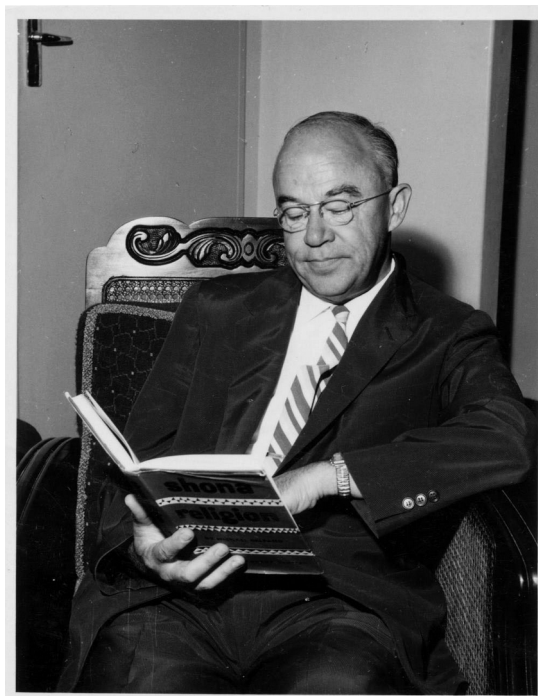
Jeff Zines, Archives Assistant

McKay Archives at Florida Southern College is pleased to announce the availability of a newly-processed collection: The L. Harold DeWolf Papers.

From 1926 through 1936, Dr. Lotan Harold DeWolf served as a Methodist minister in Nebraska and Massachusetts. From 1934 to 1944 he was a professor in the Department of Philosophy at Boston University before becoming a professor of Systematic Theology at Boston University, a post he held through the early 1960s. In 1965 he became the dean and professor of Systematic Theology at Wesleyan Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

While at Boston University, DeWolf was a dissertation advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr. The two remained in contact in the following years, and DeWolf accompanied King on the 1965 Selma, Alabama protest marches. DeWolf spoke at King's funeral on April 9, 1968, calling him "an exemplar of faith, hope, and love."

DeWolf later testified before Congress during the efforts to set aside a national holiday honoring Dr. King.



*L. Harold DeWolf*

Within this collection are documents about their relationship, as well as correspondence between DeWolf and King. (you can visit this website to read DeWolf's funeral tribute to King:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/?p=8535#top>)

In addition to his duties as a college professor, Dr. DeWolf participated in education efforts in Africa during the 1950s and 60s. The papers contains a series on his involvement in Methodist missionary work and education efforts in Africa, specifically Southern Rhodesia/Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Of special note are the photographs and postcards of the people and scenery of Africa during the turbulent post-colonial era.

Dr. DeWolf also had a keen interest in the successes and failures of the American criminal justice system during the 1970s. The Criminal Justice Reform series of his papers, contains documents, notes, and correspondence related to his interest and work in criminal justice reform, specifically social restoration and rehabilitation.

In 1964 DeWolf facilitated the donation of Martin Luther King's papers to Boston University. And, after his retirement from Wesleyan Theological Seminary, DeWolf came to Florida and served from 1975 until his death, as visiting professor and later distinguished theologian in residence at Florida Southern College. Dr. DeWolf passed away in Lakeland on May 24, 1986. We at the McKay Archives invite you to visit this unique collection.

# 2016 Annual Meeting



## SFA/SGA Joint Conference October 13-14, 2016 Savannah, GA



### *Defining Archives: Ingenuity, Innovation, and New Perspectives*

This year's conference theme reflects on the changing identity of the archival profession and how archivists have adapted to shifting environmental, economic, and technological priorities. With the word "archive" in ever more frequent use by blogs, websites, collectors, list-makers, and computer software, archivists find themselves struggling to explain to stakeholders what it is they "do."

Defining Archives calls for archives professionals to explore the inventive and enterprising use of archival concepts, functions, and methods through time and across disciplines. Conference program proposals are sought that highlight innovative research, applied projects, and collective insights that improve our understanding of the following key topics:

- The archival environment, including issues, successes, and key operational differences experienced while working in corporate archives, special collections, academic repositories, and public libraries;
- The roles of archivists as educators, reference sources, spokespeople, liaisons, and gatekeepers; changing jobs and titles and how these varied responsibilities are handled in daily work;
- The vision of archives and next steps for the profession, including novel approaches to archival education, recruiting new generations of archivists, and creatively engaging with researchers and the community;
- The creative practice of archives and the ways in which archivists create innovative responses to challenges such as rapidly changing formats, digital preservation, web archiving, unconventional projects, building exhibits and the management of exponentially larger volumes of data.



Proposals are due **Tuesday, May 31, 2016**. Submit proposals via email to Andy Richardson at [arichardson@portmanholdings.com](mailto:arichardson@portmanholdings.com). Questions may be directed to this email address or (404) 614- 5011.

*Bird's-eye View of Savannah, Ga. Georgia Archives Historic Postcard Collection. Originally published by Silver 5 and 10 Cent Store.*

# Archives Spotlight Continued

In 1946, Wood, Nutting, and Hutchinson founded Melbourne Village, a small community in Florida, and established the American Homesteading Foundation (AHF) to oversee the village. The village later applied to Borsodi's Suffren School of Living and received a charter to establish a School of Living in Melbourne Village in 1948.

In 1949, Borsodi moved to Melbourne Village where he continued to write, publish, and hold seminars on homesteading. A few years later, Borsodi, Wood, Nutting, and Hutchinson came up with the idea to start a graduate school for scholars modeled after the School of Living. They planned to limit enrollment to 30 students and host visiting faculty from foreign embassies on a rotating basis.

In 1952, University of Melbourne was incorporated and a Board of Regents was created with Borsodi as Chancellor and Elizabeth Nutting as acting Dean. Although the original plan was to build the university in Melbourne Village, they met opposition from the residents and the AHF did not grant permission. V.C. Brownlie, a Melbourne resident, donated 40 acres of land to the university located just outside Melbourne's city limits in 1954.



*The bas relief on University of Melbourne's single building represented the commitment to liberal education, justice, and peace.*

On October 6, 1955, the cornerstone of the sole building of University of Melbourne, which served as a library and meeting room, was laid. The first seminar, entitled "Man is the Problem?" was held in December of the same year. Two more seminars would be held in 1956 before the university's official opening on

September 23, 1956. Don Gospil was the only full-time student to attend. Conflicts with Borsodi and financial problems hindered the advancement of the school, and he resigned in July 1957. In 1961, the Board of Regents transferred the property to Brevard Engineering College (BEC), which was founded by Dr. Jerome Keuper. The Board remained inactive until 1969 when the University of Melbourne was officially dissolved. In 1966, BEC changed its name to Florida Institute of Technology. The cinder block building with the bas relief that served as a meeting hall at University of Melbourne would become BEC's Technical Library and bookstore, and is currently Florida Institute of Technology's R.A. Work Administrative Building.



*The original bas relief can still be seen on Florida Tech's campus.*

A large part of the University of Melbourne collection contains Ralph Borsodi's personal scrapbook of news clippings primarily relating to his publications, homesteading community ventures, and the founding of University of Melbourne dating from 1929 until his resignation in 1957. Other materials in the collection include photographs, records, invoices, correspondence, and handouts relating to University of Melbourne

*All photos courtesy of Dan Striby, Sterling Photography.*

## References

- Kjerfulff, G.G. (1987). *Troubled Paradise: Melbourne Village, Florida*. Melbourne, FL: Kellersberger Fund of the South Brevard Historical Society, Inc.
- University of Melbourne Collection, UA-UML003. Harry P. Weber University Archives, Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL.

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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](http://www.florida-archivists.org)



**Society of  
Florida Archivists**

## **Register for the 2016 Joint Annual Meeting with the Society of Georgia Archivists**

The conference is being held at the Hilton Savannah Desoto, 15 E. Liberty Street, Savannah, GA, 31401.

To receive the conference rate of \$167 per night, book a room through the SFA website before September 12.

Visit [www.florida-archivists.org/page-1860328](http://www.florida-archivists.org/page-1860328) for more information.

