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Fall 2010

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FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Fall Membership Meeting on December 3 from 1 pm - 4 pm.

The program will consist of a short presentation by SAA chair Jennifer Hawkins on her recent student internship at the Smithsonian Institute. Nicolette Bromberg (UW Special Collections) will describe the Seattle Symphony Orchestra Library & Archives Assessment project, and the meeting will adjourn after a brief business portion.

The meeting will be held at the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle, located at [910 Marion Street](#) (across from the north side of St James Cathedral). Check in with reception and ask for directions to the Isaac Orr Conference room.

The building is completely covered with scaffolding at this point, so it's difficult to miss! Street parking can sometimes be an issue on First Hill, so we encourage you to carpool or use public transportation. There is also parking nearby in the [M Street Garage](#), [Diamond Parking](#), and [Cabrini Tower Garage](#)

Note From the Chair



THE YEAR OF WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

I hope you all had the opportunity to attend this year's Archives Fair. It is a time when we can all get together, share ideas, explore aspects of the various collections in the area, and reach out to the community. It's a great example of collaborative effort, which is our theme for this year - working collaboratively, not just within our workplaces on a daily basis, but within the local archival community.

One way we, the SAA board, hope to achieve that goal is through our Seattle Area Archivists website. In developing what we are tentatively calling a virtual archivist, we hope to be able to provide assistance and answer archive-related questions. This can be served through the creation of an online resource list - such as disaster preparedness (which a local archivist recently suggested), or processing a photo archive. Another idea was an interactive map of the area, with locations of archives listed, with links to their websites. Smaller archives and historical societies can use this area of our website to find answers to commonly asked questions, and located local professionals for possible assistance.

Another area in development is a "bulletin board" where members can post not only jobs, but also volunteer opportunities. By making connections with local student archives groups, we can collaborate with the students to help them gain valuable work experience, as well as lowering our backlog of processing that we all have!

I'm looking forward to a great year and I am always open to suggestions on how the board and I can help make this the best year possible.

Jennifer Anne Hawkins

News

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

The [Archives of the Archdiocese of Seattle](#) has recently hired past SAA steering committee member Josh Zimmerman as a new member of staff. Josh will take the lead in providing reference services both internally and to outside researchers. He will also develop and implement records management training for Chancery staff, assist in litigation support, and participate in electronic records management projects. Welcome, Josh!

SEATTLE AREA ARCHIVISTS

This year's steering committee is currently developing an online toolkit for archivists, aimed at providing information relating to all facets of archival operation for both seasoned and beginning archivists.

If SAA members would like to recommend specific online resources or organizations that they find useful, we would be happy to hear from you.

SEATTLE CIVIL RIGHTS AND LABOR HISTORY PROJECT

The Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project, based at the University of Washington, represents a unique collaboration involving community groups, and UW faculty and students. Check out some in-depth, illustrated [historical essays](#) written by UW grad and undergrad students in History and Labor Studies.

ARCHIVES ROADSHOW

Nicolette Bromberg shares an interesting anecdote from UW Special Collections

One interesting, recent donation was from a nice lady in Bow, Washington who contacted me to say that she had an Asahel Curtis photo of Mt. Rainier and did we want it? I said YES and she asked me if it would be valuable. Since photos of Mt. Rainier are one of his most common images, I told her probably not, but I would let her know more when I saw it.

Later I received the photo in a jiffy bag wrapped in a bit of bubble wrap. It was a pristine 11x14 Asahel Curtis orotone of Mt. St. Helens. (An orotone is a glass positive which has a gold paint wash on the back making an image that glows gold. They are rare (and also breakable as they are glass). It was a beautiful piece and definitely worth a lot of money. I gave her the name of an appraiser in who knows a lot about orotones and delivered it to him for her. It was indeed worth a lot, and she was thrilled and also happy with her donation. She told me I gave her an 'Antiques Road Show' moment.

News (continued)

PROVIDENCE ARCHIVES LAUNCHES CONTENTdm ONLINE IMAGE DATABASE

Providence Archives is pleased to announce the launch of an online image database powered by CONTENTdm at <http://providencearchives.contentdm.oclc.org/> (it can also be launched from their webpage www2.providence.org/phs/archives).

Providence Archives holds the records of the Sisters of Providence religious community in the west from 1856 to the present, as well as the records of all of the ministries sponsored by the sisters (schools, hospitals, orphanages, housing, and social services) which form Providence Health & Services.

Currently, the database is organized into over 80 collections with over 10,000 items which in most cases reflect the record group of an institution like Providence Seattle Medical Center or Providence High School in Burbank, California. The database also contains over 600 records of artifacts held by Providence Archives. Each collection can be browsed, or searches can be executed across all collections or a subset of collections. Both controlled vocabulary in subject fields and words used in the title and description are hot linked and will execute searches for a word or term on click. CONTENTdm provides a good deal of end-user customization of how results display, as well as a “favorites” feature which allows users to save results as a local file and/or as a web page.

Images are watermarked, so users must apply to receive a “clean” digital file and pay any applicable fees. Below is a screen shot of one of our most iconic images showing sisters preparing to leave on a begging tour to raise funds for a ministry in Kootenay, British Columbia, 1896.

For more information, contact Peter Schmid, Visual Resources Archivist at 206.923.4012 or email peter.schmid@providence.org.

HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR MEETINGS, PROGRAMS, OR ANYTHING ELSE?

We're always open to new ideas for virtually anything archives related. It's your Seattle Area Archivists. We're especially looking for volunteers to host or plan Archives Reading

WANT TO HOST AN SAA MEETING AT YOUR REPOSITORY?

Let us know. We're always looking for different repositories to host events and meetings. Please contact seattleareaarchivists@gmail.com for more information.

News (continued)

In case you haven't heard....

MOHAI is moving! After nearly 60 years at their McCurdy Park location, and at a projected cost of \$85 million, this venerable Seattle institution has been approved to restore the landmark Naval Reserve "Armory" Building in Lake Union Park for use as a regional history museum.

Museum officials have begun strategizing on the logistics of moving their sizeable collections across town. They will begin the process of packing up artifacts, artworks, documents, and photographs in next year and plan to have all exhibits down by early 2012.

When asked about any operational changes after the move, curatorial staff member Kristin Halunen explained that the mission will remain the same. MOHAI will continue to tell the same stories they've always told, as well as some new stories discovered while designing their new facility.

But we'll have to wait until 2012 to find out what these may be...

Looking for reliable student volunteers?

Posting to the UW I-School listserv, which goes out to all interested students, would be a great way to start. If you have any available opportunities or just want students to work on general projects you can

email archivists@u.washington.edu and we will see that the messages get forwarded to the right parties!

2010 SAA POSNER AWARD

The Society of American Archivists' Fellows' Ernst Posner Award was established in 1982 as a way of recognizing an outstanding essay dealing with some facet of archival administration, history, theory, and/or methodology that was published during the preceding year in *American Archivist*. This year's award went to Scott Cline, city archivist at the Seattle Municipal Archives. Cline was honored for his article "To the Limit of Our Integrity": Reflections on Archival Being" in *American Archivist* ([vol. 72, no. 2](#)).

The Award Committee noted that Cline's essay was "innovative and thought-provoking, integrating a breadth of sources and personal experience into a coherent and eloquently written piece on what it means to be an archivist in the world today. The four values proposed for archivists to inform how they do their work in a moral and ethical manner (faith, radical self-understanding, intention, and integrity) is a provocative invitation to engage in self-examination. Inspiring a discussion among archivists who are just embarking on their careers or an internal dialogue for those who are assessing decades in the profession, the piece addresses the best parts of who we are as individuals as well as a profession."

Fall Calendar

WEB ARCHIVING - ARMA BROWN BAG LUNCH

Thursday Nov. 4, 12:00 - 1:00

Join Green Valley Software CEO Michael Riedyk at Foster Pepper law firm as he explains recent legislation concerning website/social media archiving and demonstrates how to comply using PageFreezer. This is a web-based service that archives websites daily, makes these archives accessible from any computer, and enables use as evidence in litigation.

MOHAI

The Museum of History and Industry is offering a series of workshops on conducting and interpreting historical research and using primary sources as educational tools. In the upcoming session, *Nearby History: an Introduction*, local historian Lorraine McConaghy will demonstrate ways to conduct a successful history project from start to finish using three case studies. For more information on this and other workshops in this series, please visit the [MOHAI calendar](#) online.

HISTORIC SEATTLE

Workshop Saturday, November 6.

Learn to protect our community's built environment and honor our neighborhood's heritage. Find out how to prepare a landmark nomination and about the landmark designation process. And receive an overview of Seattle's diverse historic resources. Historic Seattle presents the Landmarks Nomination

For more details and for registration please visit the [Historic Seattle calendar](#).

HARRY BRIDGES CENTER ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET - GRAND OPENING OF THE LABOR ARCHIVES OF WASHINGTON STATE

Join the UW Bridges Center faculty, staff, students and community members in celebrating the accomplishments of the last year. This year's annual awards banquet will mark a special occasion – the grand opening of the Labor Archives of Washington State! Please join us over dinner and drinks as we welcome new labor archivist Conor Casey and honor our students' and faculties' achievements.

Due to past high attendance, they ask that you reserve tickets in advance, free of charge.

Please reserve your free tickets today by contacting the Bridges Center at 206-543-7946 or pcls@u.washington.edu. A small number of tickets will also be available at the door.

Location: Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW Seattle

November 14, 5 pm - 8 pm

Capitol Building, Olympia

Chaired by the Office of the Secretary of State, Washington State Historical Society, Washington Women's History Consortium and the Interagency Committee for State Employed Women; with Honorary Co-Chairs Governor Christine Gregoire, Chief Justice Barbara Madsen, U.S. Senator Patty

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Fall Calendar

Murray, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, and Congresswoman Cathy McMorris-Rodgers. For Parking and Campus information see [the State Capitol's website](#).

ASSOCIATION OF KING COUNTY HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS (AKCHO)

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation will host this month's AKCHO meeting at their statewide headquarters in the historic Stimson Green Mansion, a Seattle Landmark. The program will feature the Trust's Barns programs and much more, and a tour of the Mansion. The Stimson Green Mansion is located at 1204 Minor Avenue in Seattle.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF WASHINGTON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Game Changers and History Makers: Women in the Pacific Northwest

63rd Annual Pacific Northwest History Conference
November 3-5, 2010, in Spokane, Washington

The Pacific Northwest History Conference is a forum for exchange among historians, museum professionals, educators, archivists, historic preservationists, history enthusiasts, and community activists. This year's conference commemorates the centennial of Washington women permanently winning the right to vote in 1910.

Washington State Archives staff will also lead a tour of the Washington State Digital Archives' new facility on the campus of Eastern Washington University in nearby Cheney, WA. www.wshs.org/heritageServices/PNH2010.doc

Day of Jubilation

November 8
9 am - 3 pm
Capitol Building, Olympia

Chaired by the Office of the Secretary of State, Washington State Historical Society, Washington Women's History Consortium and the Interagency Committee for State Employed Women; with Honorary Co-Chairs Governor Christine Gregoire, Chief Justice Barbara Madsen, U.S. Senator Patty Murray, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, and Congresswoman Cathy McMorris-Rodgers.

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Seattle Symphony Library & Archives Assessment Project

Hannah Palin

The Seattle Symphony Orchestra's history goes back to 1903 with the first performance conducted by Harry West. Since then, the SSO has played an important role in the Seattle community and in the world of music. The SSO has hosted many prominent figures in American music, has won Emmy awards and Grammy nominations, and is represented in more than 125 recordings. In 1998, the SSO moved into the Benaroya Hall Music Center, noted for its architectural and acoustical splendor.

Over the years, the SSO has amassed a considerable collection of archival materials and working records documenting the operations and history of the symphony. This collection contains current operational records along with materials relating to the history of the organization. The operational records are important for the day-to-day activities of the various departments. The archival collections are a record of the unique history of the Symphony and are valuable to both the SSO and the world-wide community of scholars.

Because little attention was paid to these materials in the past, they had been allowed to languish in disarray in several different storage areas throughout Benaroya Hall. With the encouragement and assistance from the University of Washington Information School, the SSO applied for a grant from the Mellon Foundation for funding to inventory the materials, indicate preservation needs and priorities and to create a records management system for the organization.

The goal of the SSO Library Archives Assessment Project was to conduct a comprehensive inventory and preservation assessment of the archives in order to provide a description of the archives scope, content and condition.

The project began work in January 2010 under the direction of Rob Olivia, SSO Associate Principal Librarian and Nicolette Bromberg, Archives Consultant. The PI and Consultant hired four archival assistants, Hannah Palin, Cydne Zabel, Gage Doehlert and Hepzibah Schenkelberg. Hannah Palin was hired to be the Project Leader to oversee the daily on-site work, work with the various Symphony departments and to plan the projects activities with the Archives Consultant. Toward the end of the project, Lindsey Yuen was hired as a moving image assistant to review videotapes. Eden Orelove and Shirley Carlson joined the project as volunteers a few months after it started. They continued to work regularly throughout the project period, which ended on October 31, 2010.

At the beginning of the project, the materials were to be found located mainly in three areas of the Symphony building—in the SSO library and in two storage areas on the 5th and 6th floors. One staff member, Cydne Zabel, concentrated on examining the substantial sheet music collection housed in the library. The rest of the staff started examining the Records and Archival collections located in the storage areas and discovered over 1800 record cartons filled with everything from Articles of Incorporation from 1907 to invoices from 2003 to vinyl recordings from the 1950s to architectural drawings of Benaroya Hall. Project staff separated archival materials from de-

Seattle Symphony Library & Archives Assessment Project

Hannah Palin

partmental records and engaged SSO staff to help identify and weed out materials that were no longer needed. Project Staff worked with SSO Departments to create a simple Records Management system including a Retention Schedule specific to the needs of the organization. Overall, records were reduced by almost half, organized into record groups and series, and clearly labeled with destroy dates.

Project staff also worked to organize archival materials into collections using content descriptions and SSO derived subject terms. Staff began to weed and do some preliminary organization of the materials and then input the information into Archivists Toolkit. Overall, 23 collections were created including the Legacy Audio, Photography, Moving Image and Scrapbook collections. Several collections were donated to the SSO over the years by former players and their families. Some collections are organized by content, such as SSO Tours, Guest Artists, and Concert Files, with the hope that a future processing project will take on the task of further organizing these materials into more comprehensive collections.

The project also uncovered numerous audio recordings which were put into the Legacy Audio Collection. This collection contains audio materials in a variety of formats including: Analog Open Reel, Audio Cassette, Beta videotape, Compact Disks (CD), Digital Open Reel, Digital Audio Tape (DAT), Analog Laquer Disks and LPs, Hi-8 videotape, Magneto Optical Discs, VHS videotapes, and Digital UMatric videotapes. These audio recordings include PR and radio spots, Delos Recording Masters, as well as recordings of rehearsals and performances of

the Seattle Symphony Orchestra from the 1950s through the early 2000s.

HAVE AN EVENT THIS WINTER?

Send us career opportunities, trainings, or any other information that you may have and we'll post it on our website. For more information, email: seattleareaarchivists@gmail.com at any time.

Becoming the Diocese of Olympia, 1910-2010

Diane Wells



In 2003 the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia commemorated the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Episcopal Church in Western Washington with a yearlong celebration. As Archivist, I coordinated the events, wrote articles, provided background material and photographs and produced a history video.

This year, 2010, the Diocese is celebrating another anniversary and I find myself in a similar role. On October 10, 1910, after 57 years of pioneer development, the Missionary District of Olympia became a diocese. And though it may sound as if we are going backward, this year's anniversary celebrates the 100th anniversary of diocesan status – and our 100th diocesan convention. If anyone wants more in the way of historical clarification, contact me, and I will be happy to provide a more in depth explanation – but for now, suffice it to say that the Archives has again been involved in producing an anniversary celebration.

Specifically, the Archives has been involved in four anniversary projects. The first of these was the production of an updated version of the church histories originally published in the book, *More Than 100 Years of Ministry: The Episcopal Church in Western Washington* which came out in 1989. The new publication, *Becoming the Diocese of*

Olympia: The Congregations contains updated and revised histories of each of our 106 congregations including current photographs and is available in a CD format. Much of the new information came from archival sources. As I view this as an ongoing project, the digital format will make it much easier to update in the future and to make the histories available online.

The second project was the reproduction of the original portrait of the Rt. Rev. Frederic William Keator, our fifth missionary bishop and our first bishop diocesan. The original hangs above the fireplace at Annie Wright School in Tacoma. Our reproduced portrait will join the portraits of other bishops at Diocesan House - the former Leary Mansion on Capitol Hill in Seattle. As is the case with most archivists, I wear many hats, and helping to care for the art in our possession is one of mine.

I have also just finished an Archives exhibit which will be on display at our annual diocesan convention. The display chronicles 100 years of diocesan history in photographs. All of the images in the exhibit are from the diocesan archives and highlight not only the history of the diocese but also the breadth of the Archives' photographic holdings.

The fourth and last of the Anniversary projects has been the production of a brief history video which will also be shown at our diocesan convention. Entitled, *Becoming the Diocese of Olympia, 1910-2010*, the video uses photos and videotape from the Archives as well as background images from a variety of other sources along with a voice over narration to tell the diocesan story. To keep the video within time

Becoming the Diocese of Olympia, 1910-2010

Diane Wells

limitations my 5000 word, 20 minute script, was edited down to 7.43 minutes! Obviously a few things were left out, but the hope was to provide an overview and to get people thinking about diocesan history and what the future might hold.

Producing a video is always (at least in my limited experience) a stressful and frustrating process. However, it is ultimately rewarding and a great way to showcase your archives!

If you are getting ready to celebrate an anniversary or if you are contemplating such a celebration, please let me know if I can be of any help. This is my second time around for such an event – and I'm happy to serve as a resource or to simply provide moral support!!



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