

Winter 2021

The Spanish Flu in the Dominican Sisters' Archives

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SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA ARCHIVISTS NEWSLETTER

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Photography Collection Documents the Lives and Struggles of Central Valley Farmworkers

The UC Merced Library is excited to announce the acquisition and public launch of the Ernest Lowe Photography Collection. This collection of photographs, which was acquired by the Library with support from the UC Merced Office of the Chancellor, showcases the work done by photographer Ernest Lowe to document the lives and struggles of the farmworking communities in California's Central Valley.

This unique collection of photos sheds light on the often neglected communities that migrant workers built and lived in. It illustrates the unflinching dignity with which these individuals lived and worked under extremely demanding and difficult conditions. The UC Merced Library considers itself incredibly lucky to be in possession of these photos and negatives, as they focus on a population of profound significance to the Central Valley's history and present. This collection will offer students, researchers, and historians a wellspring of possibilities for investigation and exploration.



Lowe, E. (1961). *Three Black teenagers with their packing crate "Mercury" in South Dos Palos.*

These photographs date from the 1960s, which featured a series of flashpoints of labor activism among farmworkers in the Valley. Featured among these photographs are images from the Delano to Sacramento March, organized by the UFW, and where labor activists Larry Itliong, Cesar Chavez, and Dolores Huerta figured prominently.

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The collection also includes images of Bobby Kennedy as he participated in a series of congressional hearings on the rights of farmworkers in Delano, CA during the famed Delano Grape Strike.



E. Lowe (1966). Larry Itliong & Cesar Chavez

Alongside these more dramatic scenes are images depicting the familial and community lives of these farmworkers. As viewers, we are drawn into the worlds these laborers built for themselves as they worked tirelessly in the fields, or struggled with the disappearance of jobs as a result of the mechanization of agriculture. We are drawn into communities like Teviston, where Black sharecroppers migrated to after the Second World War. These former sharecroppers came to California looking to escape the oppression of the Jim Crow South and the new-slavery tenant farming systems, but instead found themselves struggling to find work and dealing, once again, with a racism they had hoped to escape.

Ernest Lowe studied photography in the late 50s with the noted social documentarian, John Collier Jr. His other models were the classic images of Dorothea Lange, Walker Evans, and other Farm Security Administration photographers

In 1959 Lowe joined the staff of Pacifica radio station KPFA and almost immediately began documenting the lives of migrant farm workers.

This rich collection features more than 2,700 digital images, with approximately 5,000 additional film negatives. The digital images are [newly available on Calisphere](#) for free public viewing.



Lowe, E. (1961). Bags trailing behind cotton pickers.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been a stressful and difficult year. As we move toward its end, I'm looking back on all that we've accomplished, but recognizing as well all that we've lost. This has been a particularly painful year for all of our members, whether through the loss of a job, the transition to remote work, the loss of support for childcare and home care, or in some cases, the loss of friends and loved ones, all against the backdrop of wildfires and prolonged lockdowns. Through it all, our members have continued the important work of supporting each other and their communities of practice, and found new and innovative ways to reach our users and provide them with the resources they need. I stand in awe of all the hard work you all have done this year, and feel incredible gratitude to each of you for your continued engagement with SCA, and the work of so many of our members that volunteer their time to support SCA's continued growth as an organization.

This year, I am also especially grateful for the work of our **Labor Issues Task Force**, which was conceived during the term of President Teresa Mora, and convened in 2019 by the SCA Board under the leadership of Eric Milenkiewicz to review labor issues within the archival profession, with a particular focus on our members, and make recommendations to the Board to act upon. Guided by co-chairs Courtney Dean and George Thompson, the Task Force was created, with representatives from a number of different types of repositories in order to fully represent the working conditions of our members.

To assist them in their work developing recommendations for the SCA Board, the Task Force created a survey which featured 45 questions, and was open from December 2019 through February 2020 (i.e. pre COVID-19). The survey received 197 responses (the complete survey results are available [here](#)) to a range of questions related to the working conditions of archivists, with questions about compensation, union membership, job satisfaction, project, contract, temporary, and unpaid positions, benefits, and safety issues. Some of their findings, presented at our SCA First Friday in September, are highlighted in an article in this month's *Newsletter* written by Anne Mar (pg. 17).

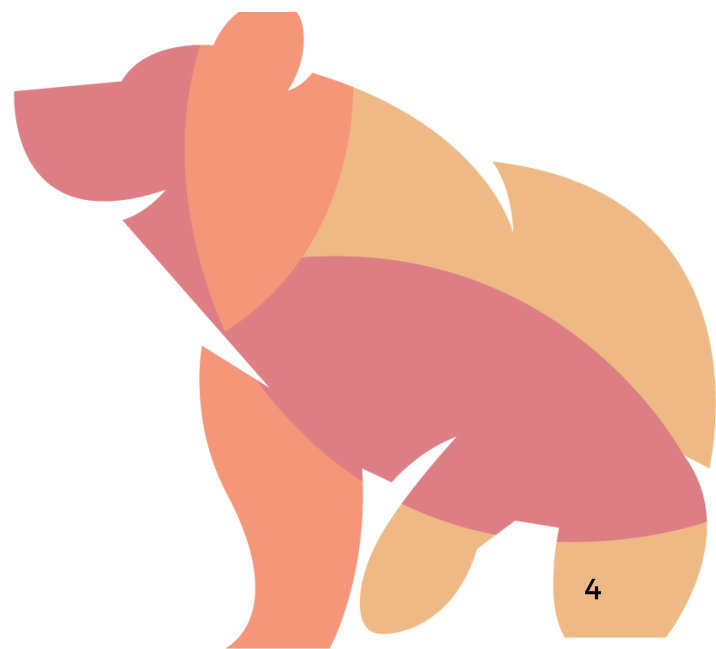
The responses are mixed but on the whole, the picture that emerges is not heartening. In conversations after the presentation, many (myself included) expressed alarm at the number of archivists considering leaving the profession altogether. The pervasive precarity that has come to dominate our profession due to the prevalence of contract and termed positions, already low salaries that have remained stagnant, and institutional structures that offer little opportunity for advancement, have left many of us without basic financial security, even those fortunate enough to hold permanent positions. Based on the responses, I've come to the sad realization that though we love our work, we are increasingly no longer able to meet our basic needs, and this lack of solid financial standing will leave many with no other choice but to pursue other careers.

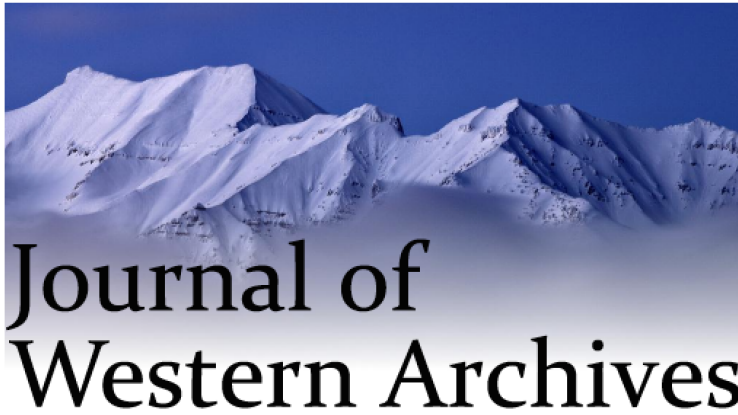
Despite the gloom, there are glimmers of hope. The Task Force views the survey's results as catalysts for advocacy, and for greater organizing. The interest expressed in unions by our members, and opportunities to build solidarity with regional and national archival organizations that are also tackling the same issues, are heartening and open a door to greater communication and heightened awareness. This will empower us to communicate more forcefully with our employers as we improve our messaging about ethical hiring and retention practices, appropriate salaries, and the vital need to diversify our profession, which can only be aided by more competitive salaries and supportive work environments that better reflect the population of California. I, and the Board of SCA, look forward to the recommendations of the Task Force so we can begin the work of amplifying your voices.

I'd like to once again thank the members of the Labor Issues Task Force, and hope that you will take the time to thank them as well for the (uncompensated) work they are undertaking: Courtney Dean, Chair, UCLA Library Special Collections; George Thompson, Chair, California State University, Chico; Richard Boyden, NARA; Chris Doan, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco; Erin Hurley, University of California, San Francisco; Anne Mar, Occidental College; Peggy Tran-Le, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Sue Tyson, California History Room, California State Library.

In Solidarity,
Tanya

Tanya Hollis
President, 2020-2021





Journal of Western Archives

The *Journal of Western Archives* is a peer-reviewed, open access journal sponsored by Western regional archival organizations. The journal focuses on contemporary issues and developments in the archival and curatorial fields, particularly as they affect Western archives and manuscript repositories.

Journal Contents

The *Journal of Western Archives* gives archivists, manuscript curators, and graduate students in the American West a place to publish on topics of particular interest and relevance to them. The journal features research articles, case studies, and review essays on regional topics. These include:

- Important Western regional issues in archives and manuscript repositories;
- Unique archival developments in the western United States;
- Technological innovations and their effect on archival theory and practice;
- The history and development of the archival and curatorial professions in the American West;
- Collaborative efforts and projects between various cultural institutions.

Contributing to the Journal

If you are interested in contributing to the journal or serving as a peer reviewer for journal content, please contact the managing editor, John Murphy (john_m_murphy@byu.edu). Article submissions may also be made online at the journal website.

JWA

<http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/westernarchives/>

The Society of California Archivists, Inc.

The Society of California Archivists, Inc. exists to support and develop those who collect, care for, and provide access to the documentary heritage of California and adjoining areas. To this end it:

1. acts as a vehicle for dissemination of information about archival collections, issues, and methodology to the profession and the public;
2. provides a forum for the discussion of matters related to the creation, preservation, and use of historical documents;
3. develops, offers and supports archival education programs;
4. cooperates with individuals and organizations on matters of common concern; and
5. advocates the identification, collection, preservation, use, and appreciation of historical records and manuscripts.

The SCA Newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. All submissions, advertisements for e newsletter should be directed to the Editors of the Newsletter:

Newsletter Editors
The Bancroft Library
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Email(s): newsletter@calarchivists.org

Copy Deadlines: September 1, December 1, March 1, & June 1

Format for Submissions: Articles and other items submitted for consideration should be sent via e-mail attachment.

SCA Newsletter editors
Amanda Mack, Sue Luftschein, and Ashley Achee

COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

UC Santa Cruz Digitizes 40 Years of Local Music Festival



Open-reel tapes of Festival performances from the Other Minds records.

UC Santa Cruz University Library recently completed a grant-funded music preservation and access project entitled, Digitizing the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music: Putting Experimental Music in Conversation with Classical Tradition. With the support of a Recordings at Risk grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources, we digitized and made accessible approximately 40 years of live musical performances and interviews from the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music.

The Cabrillo Festival is an annual music festival in Santa Cruz, California that features symphonic works by contemporary composers. The origins of the Festival begin with a 1961 concert series held at the Sticky Wicket coffeehouse in Aptos, California. This project preserves and makes accessible works by experimental artists such as Annea Lockwood, John Cage, Lou Harrison, and many others.

These recordings document the "critical role the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music played in shaping local culture and national practices surrounding classical and contemporary music," notes Madison Heying, Ph.D. in Cultural Musicology UC Santa Cruz, who co-wrote the grant with UCSC Special Collections.

The recordings were originally created by California independent radio stations KUSP and KPFA for the purposes of broadcasting on local radio. They were in turn collected and stored by the Cabrillo Festival organization and the Bay Area music non-profit Other Minds, respectively. UCSC Special Collections & Archives is the home of both organizations' archives, so we were in a unique position to preserve the best possible recording of each performance, and fill in gaps in the holdings. In total, we sent 673 open-reel tapes, 129 cassette tapes, and 4 DATs (Digital Audio Tape) to our digitization vendor in Pennsylvania, The MediaPreserve. This was ambitious!

Making this content accessible means more than just digitizing the tapes, however. It also requires metadata creation and remediation, complex file management, audio editing, quality control review, development work in our DAMS, and lots of documentation and communication. Several Library staff members and undergraduate student assistants even pitched in by checking the quality of the recordings and descriptions. The pandemic and wildfire certainly didn't help, but our project team worked together to overcome these challenges. Overall, the project took 1.5 years to complete, and it was well worth the time and effort.

Recordings from Cabrillo Festival seasons 1964-1990 are now discoverable on the UC Santa Cruz University Library Digital Collections site.* Due to copyright restrictions, immediate streaming access is limited to UCSC affiliates. All other interested users, including researchers and the general public, may search and browse performance descriptions and request access from Special Collections. Recordings from seasons 1991-2003 were also digitized with the support of this grant, and will eventually be published on the as well.

All other interested users, including researchers and the general public, may search and browse performance descriptions and request access from Special Collections. Recordings from seasons 1991-2003 were also digitized with the support of this grant, and will eventually be published on the as well.

Project team:

Elizabeth Cowell, University Librarian and PI for the grant
Kate Dundon, Supervisory Archivist, Special Collections & Archives

Angelika Frebert, Technical Project Manager, Digital Imaging Specialist, Digital Initiatives

Rachel Jaffe, Digital Content & Metadata Librarian, Special Collections & Archives

Teresa Mora, Head of Special Collections & Archives

Susan Chesley Perry, Head of Digital Initiatives

Links:

- [UC Santa Cruz University Library Digital Collections site](#)

- [Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music records](#)

- [Other Minds records](#)

Kate Dundon

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One of two pallets of tapes prepared to be sent to the digitization vendor, The MediaPreserve

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SLAC Archival Collections Database

The [Archives, History & Records Office](#) (AHRO) of the [SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory](#) is pleased to announce our new archival [collections database](#) (completed in September, 2019). Established in 1962 at Stanford University in Menlo Park, California as a particle physics research center, SLAC is one of the world's leading laboratories in astrophysics, photon science, accelerator and particle physics research. Founded in 1989, AHRO is a coordinate archive to the [Stanford University Archives](#).

SLAC's first archival collections database, SLACHIST, was populated with information from 1986 records summary reports. Handwritten responses from forms completed by office administrators helped provide intellectual control over our records. The next, long-standing iteration was SLACARC, a home-grown UNIX-based system started in 1992 that was based on SPIRES, or the Stanford Physics Information Retrieval System, originally developed to facilitate users' access to library preprints. SPIRES eventually gained widespread use for a variety of applications by institutions throughout the world (SLAC 2005). Over time, SPIRES developers incorporated enhancements, including increasingly sophisticated search and browse functionalities, MARC compatibility in 1996, and emulation for Macintosh operating systems as well as virtual machines. But by the 2010s, use as well as IT support had diminished, and the SUN hardware on which it relied was outdated and threatened to die without warning.

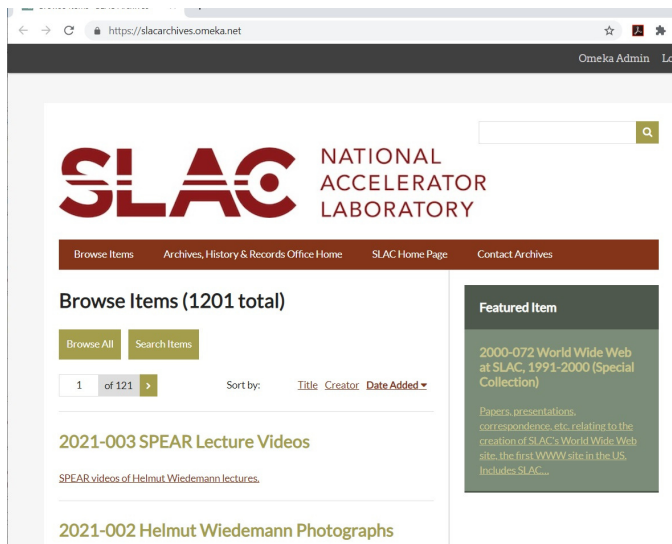
Like many smaller archives, AHRO required a low-cost, easy-to-use database management solution with minimal external support. The primary requirement was to allow for basic archival description—a triage approach (Deken, 2003), also known as extensible processing—to facilitate access to researchers. A simple “good-enough” system, used in conjunction with existing text-based inventories and spreadsheets to manage locations was favored over the extraneous fields/features, administrative burden, complexity, and cost of an all-in-one system. We also saw opportunities for the adoption of standards, such as Dublin Core and Library of Congress authorities, for compatibility and for enabling possible integrations in the future.

Our database migration project encountered several challenges. A concerted effort initiated 6 years ago faced setbacks and stalled amidst years of fluctuations in resources and competing priorities. With additional staffing, a renewed effort started with revisiting initial options—some of which had themselves faced obsolescence in the interval. With the realization that a cloud-based digital exhibit platform could be customized to meet our needs, we embarked on the migration in earnest.

| recno | short-title | dates | description | Page: |
|-------|--|--|---|--|
| 361 | Correspondence and memos concerning PPF | 1969 - 1980 | Correspondence and memos concerning startup of 'Preprints in Particles and Fields.' Describes acquisition of seed money from the AEC, survey of subscribers to determine utility of newsletter. SLAC Library, Fred Pindar, Doug Dupen, V. Panofsky, A. Rosenfeld, L. Addis. | RECNO = 3212; ACCESSION_YEAR = 2013; ACCESSION_NUM = 029; SLAC_DIVISION = Accelerator; SLAC_NAME = Boyce, Richard M.; TYPE-OF-MATERIAL = CD-ROM; TYPE-OF-MATERIAL = Data; TYPE-OF-MATERIAL = Logbooks; TYPE-OF-MATERIAL = Meeting Minutes; TYPE-OF-MATERIAL = Photographs; TYPE-OF-MATERIAL = Presentations; TYPE-OF-MATERIAL = Reports; LOCATION = Offsite; FORM-OF-STORAGE = Records Storage Box; FOS_QTY = 6; SPACE-OCCUPIED = 5.75; LOCAL-INDEX-NOTE = 9 cu.ft. originally, reduced to 1 cu.ft. file inventory available; DESCRIPTION = Richard Boyce records including PHYSICIST-NAME = Boyce, Richard; BEGINNING-DATE = 1980; ENDING-DATE = 2010; TRANSFERRED-BY = Boyce, Richard, 5/2013; APPRAISAL = needed; PROCESS1 = 10/15/2013; DATE-ENTERED = 10/23/13; ACCOUNT-ADDED = LA.LOH; DATE-UPDATED = 12/08/17; ACCOUNT-UPDATED = LA.PML; |
| 523 | Director's Office Admin. Files | Generally 1960-1996, small files go back further | Director's Office Admin files, including files inherited from Panofsky. Directors mgs, SLAC/SSL, SLAC/Stanford U. SLAC, SSC, SLAC/Washington D.C. including DOE, Congress, etc. Collaborations with other labs/International agreements. H. Richter talks, personal info. | |
| 2720 | Correspondence, General, V. K. H. Panofsky | 1960-1986 | V. Panofsky's outside correspondence, filed alphabetically in A-Z folders. In certain cases of heavy correspondence with a particular individual a file under that name is included under last name such as 'Weisskopf' filed after 'H' general. | |

Printout of first collections records database SLACHIST (on the left) and screenshot of SLACARC accession record (on the right).

First, we took a step back to reassess our database structure and definitions. Fully recognizing that our resources would always be constrained, our approach was founded on the principle of compatibility over compliance, and ensuring that added value would justify our efforts. Local, specialized terms were retained while adopting standardized controlled vocabularies where possible in order to promote usefulness. Extensive data cleanup and verification of decades of entries by multiple staff included filling in missing dates, supplying uniform yet distinct titles for older records, and correcting typographical errors. Testing involved temporarily suspending new entries to ensure up-to-date status of the ingest file and problem-solving for incorrect displays, as well as customizing our administrative metadata fields.



Screenshot of collections on Omeka platform.

The project also required administrative tasks, such as revising documentation (e.g., data entry guides, references in related forms/templates/systems, etc.) and updating our AHRO website for primary access.

Although the database migration took several months to accomplish and it took some time to get accustomed to using the new interface and its idiosyncrasies (e.g., which search feature works best), the results have been worthwhile. The solution is imperfect: as one experienced user mentioned, “Omeka’s strengths are most evident as a digital exhibits platform, and its weaknesses become more apparent when you try to use it for something else.” However, for us, the strengths of flexibility, ease of use, low cost and low resource overhead far outweigh the alternatives. We hope this account of our experience might be useful to others facing similar circumstances.

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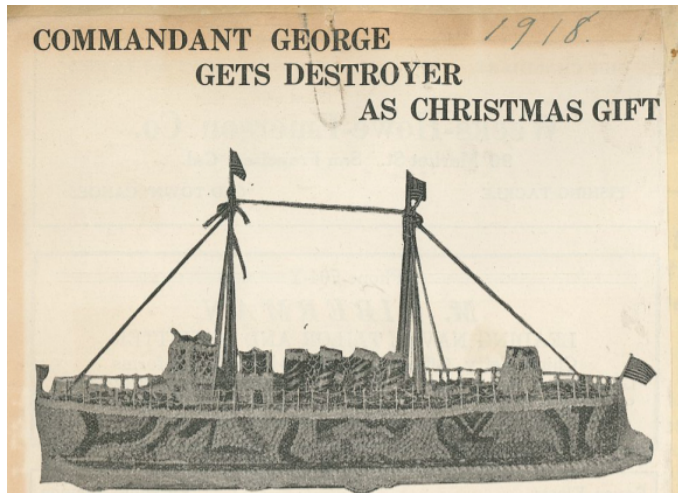
The Spanish Flu in Dominican Sisters’ Archives

This 2020 coronavirus pandemic prompted an investigation into the health crisis of a century ago. The Dominican Sisters Archives in San Rafael, CA, contain annals, pictures, scrapbooks, and newspaper clippings which document the experience of the 1918-1919 flu in Vallejo and have been recently processed and described in a finding aid published on OAC by an archive intern, Alison Howard, under the direction of the archivist, Jack Doran. Sixteen Dominican Sisters lived in St. Vincent’s Convent in Vallejo at the time; they administered and taught in St. Vincent’s high school and elementary school. Vallejo was a town of about 11,000 (census of 1911) but had doubled in size because the Great War required more workers at the Mare Island Navy Yard, adjacent to the town.

Perusing the archive files reveals similarities to today’s experience with COVID19: restrictions from local, state, and health authorities included the wearing of masks, quarantining, allowing only outdoor church services, banning of public meetings and assemblies, and the closing of schools, businesses from mid-October through Thanksgiving. And some refused to wear the gauze masks (“mask slackers”) and were fined \$5 on the spot. The 1918 flu did not last as long as the 2020 epidemic but was even more virulent. In 1918, 2026 cases were reported and 175 died on Mare Island and Vallejo (pop. 19,000) from October to Thanksgiving; in 2020 Solano County (pop. 447,643) reported 7940 cases and 76 deaths from March until November 5, 2020.

There was another shorter wave of Spanish flu in January 1919 which resulted in 25 deaths and again in early 1920 which caused 58 deaths. As a result of the flu, the life expectancy of an average Californian dropped 12 years from 52 to 40.6 years. Further the Spanish flu (H1N1) hit the 20-40-year olds the hardest while Covid 19 hits the elderly.

The 1918 flu appeared first in the naval shipyard in late September when a sailor returning from leave in Oklahoma reported sick at the Yard hospital. On October 7, the first sailor died on Mare Island and the next day there were 100 cases. Ten days later saw 800 flu patients in an emergency tent hospital and 9 deaths on the base. The influenza spilled over into town about a week to ten days after its appearance at the naval base.



Christmas Fruit Cake, 1918. From Dominican Sisters of San Rafael Archives, St. Vincent Ferrer School and Parish records, Box 2, Folder 1.

Because of an August 1918 outbreak of smallpox, the small Vallejo General Hospital was in quarantine. A temporary hospital was set up in an old YMCA for the people of Vallejo, but the staffing was inadequate and the building “was unheated, poorly ventilated.” At the demand of the Red Cross and the local physicians, the Vallejo City Council asked for help from the Navy and accepted the offer of the Dominican Sisters to use a new three-story school building as a hospital. It was transformed into a 100-bed hospital under the supervision of the Commandant of the Naval Yard, Henry George, and flew a Red Cross flag on its roof!

It opened on 4 November with 25 patients; ten days later, the number rose to 71. All patients were treated free of charge; the Red Cross was responsible for paying nurses, but they were in short supply because of the needs of the war. Naval corpsmen worked at the hospital even though the official policy of the Navy was not to aid civilian authorities.



Volunteers at St. Vincent's Naval Hospital. From Dominican Sisters of San Rafael Archives, S4, Binder 1.

Six Dominican sisters-teachers under the leadership of Sr. M. Eulalia Cramsie who had prior nursing experience nursed the women and children in St. Vincent's Naval Hospital. The 1918 picture shows these volunteers (left to right): nurse Emilie Savage Strichan, unnamed sister (labelled “The Cook”), Sisters Scholastica McCauley, Angela Sweeney, Berchmans Kelly and Eulalia Cramsie. Other sisters made gauze masks and pneumonia jackets for the Red Cross. From 4 to 27 November, St. Vincent Naval Hospital treated 190 patients (including 80 women and 42 children) and had a death rate of 1.5%. Sr. Eulalia received a medal of commendation from the Navy for outstanding work during the pandemic and letters of gratitude for her and the sisters from the local Red Cross, the Commandant, former patients, and the Vallejo City Council. Showing the good relations between navy and convent-school, the commandant sent the sisters and “the little children in their care” an eight-foot long cake in the form of a “torpedo destroyer in fruitcake and sugar” which had been made for him for Christmas by the Yard commissary.

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Completed CLIR Grant: Moving Images from Bancroft Environmental Movement Collections

We are happy to announce the completion of our CLIR Recordings at Risk grant: [Global Influence: Preserving Moving Images from Environmental Movements in the West, 1920-2000](#). The project sought to digitally reformat at-risk audiovisual materials in Bancroft collections and make them available online to more fully tell the story of the environmental movements in the West and their global impact.

The Bancroft Library is one of the largest special collections in the United States. Its collection of moving image material contains an array of film and video formats representing a variety of unique subjects. Among these are audiovisual materials documenting environmental movements in the West from 1920- 2000, the roots of which influenced national and global movements surrounding land conservation, climate change, and environmental protection which are of high interest to researchers. While our archival collections in this area are largely processed and available to researchers, the audiovisual materials have been unavailable due to their deteriorating condition, the risk of damage from playback, and obsolescence of equipment.

The resulting collection features 130 films selected from several environmental movement collections, including the Sierra Club Records Collection, the David Ross Brower Motion Picture Film Collection, and films from previous members of the Sierra Club such as Edgar Wayburn. Items were chosen for their unique content and at-risk physical condition.

Of the many highlights throughout the collection, a [young Ansel Adams flipping pancakes](#) has already become a big hit. The Ernest Cleary film is part a series of Jasper-Robson Trip films, from the [Sierra Club Records Collection](#). You will also spot a young Jack Lemmon in a Sierra Club Public Service Announcement on energy conservation and get a look at some gorgeous rose and amber film tinting in the [Alaska Line Travelogue Series](#) by Howard Steward, from 1930.



Rose tinting from Howard Steward's From Juneau to Sitka an Alaska Line Travelogue

As part of the CLIR grant project, a closed captioning workflow was created in order to make the collection available to a broader audience. ADA-compliant captions were generated using YouTube's speech recognition technology. The caption files were corrected by the Audiovisual Archivist, student assistants, and a summer intern from NYU's Moving Image Archiving and Preservation Program.

Please take a look at the [Environmental Collections at The Bancroft Library](#) guide that brings together a number of our environmental movement collections in one location to support discovery and research.

We hope you enjoy the collection!




Council on Library and
Information Resources

This project was supported by a Recordings at Risk grant from the [Council on Library and Information Resources](#) (CLIR). The grant program is made possible by funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

California's Cultural Collections Protection Survey

Calling all California archives, galleries, historical societies, libraries, museums and tribal nations!

We need YOU to take a few minutes to complete California's [Cultural Collections Protection Survey](#).

The Cultural Collections Protection Survey is the first step in creating a central database of California's culturally significant assets. Think of it as a census for California's cultural collections. By helping state and federal decision makers understand the value, importance and condition of these assets, we can support new and more informed policies to ensure they are protected and made accessible to all Californians.

Registration for the survey is now open to any collecting institution in California [HERE](#). The deadline to complete the survey is February 22, 2021.

Please spread the word to other colleagues and organizations across the state, as our success depends on reaching as many collecting entities as possible!

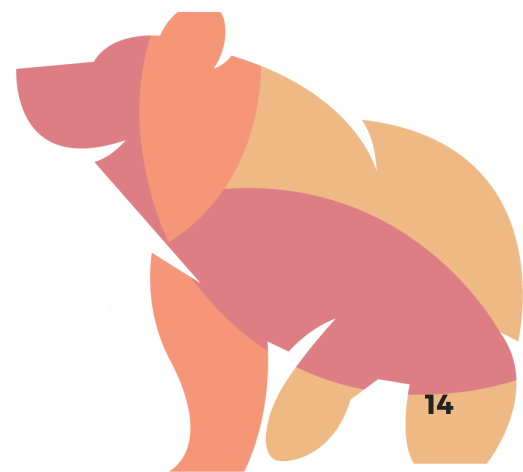
Jamie Romas
California State Library

Completion of NHPRC Grant at Computer History Museum

The Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA is pleased to report completion of an NHPRC-funded Software History Processing Project. Twelve collections were completed and finding aids are available at OAC and on CHM's local catalog access. These collections include computer-industry legends and pioneers such as Bob Bemer, Adam Osborne, Charles Bourne, Frank da Cruz, Don Maslin and Peter R. Jennings; as well as an important collection of Fortran programming standardization records, early corporate Radio Shack records, and the outstanding, ground-breaking publicity work done by the 1185 Design firm.

Like many archives working on grant-funded projects during pandemic shelter-in-place orders and local restrictions, CHM is grateful to have received an extension from NHPRC to complete the grant. Personnel who worked on SHiPP included archivists Elena Colón-Marerro, Jack Doran, Sara Lott, Sydney Gulbranson Olson, Paula Jabloner, and Penny Ahlstrand; historians David Brock and Marc Weber; publicist Mu Mu Lin; and nine volunteers. CHM is grateful for NHPRC funds which made it possible to save this material!

Pennington Ahlstrand
Senior Archives Manager
Computer History Museum



EXCLUSIVES

Sonoma County Archives Narrowly Escapes Second Fire in Three Years

Over the past two months, I have received many questions about the Sonoma County Archives, which narrowly escaped destruction by the recent Glass fire. Given the interest, I'm sharing what I know about the Archives' history based on my experience working at the Sonoma County History & Genealogy Library from March 2002 to February 2020.

The Sonoma County Archives was established by a joint resolution of the County of Sonoma and the City of Santa Rosa, designating the Sonoma County Library as the official archive for the County and the City of Santa Rosa in 1965. For years, archival materials such as assessment records were stored in the Central Santa Rosa Library basement at 211 E Street.

In 1995 the Archives moved to a county-owned warehouse at Los Guilicos, on Highway 12 near Sonoma, and currently contains over 5,000 cubic feet of records encompassing both governmental records of the County of Sonoma, the City of Santa Rosa, and the City of Petaluma as well as local collections donated to the library by private individuals and organizations.



Portion of County of Sonoma Tide Lands, Bodega Bay prepared by Marshall M. Wallace, County Surveyor, September 1946. Credit: Katherine J. Rinehart.

Sonoma County History & Genealogy Library staff oversee, but do not currently manage, the Archives, considered one of four Sonoma County Library special collections. The other three are the [Wine Library](#) at the Healdsburg Regional Library, the [Petaluma History Room](#) at the Petaluma Regional Library, and the [Sonoma County History & Genealogy Library](#) located adjacent to the Santa Rosa Central Library.

Following the October 2017 Nuns fire, which came within 440 feet of the Archives, Sonoma County Library staff hosted and participated in a [California Preservation Program](#) "Protecting Cultural Collections: Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Recovery" workshop. In August of 2018, a report prepared by Barclay Ogden of the California Preservation Program found that the Los Guilicos building lacked environmental controls for long-term archival storage, had minimal security, was located in a mudslide zone, and at risk from wildfires that an automatic fire suppression system would not protect.



Leonard H. Gabrielson, Sonoma County Surveyor and Steve Fredericks, Surveyor for the County of Sonoma Department of Transportation, look at the only copy of Road Book No. 1 that exists while visiting the Sonoma County Archives on October 17, 2016. Credit: Katherine J. Rinehart.

Next, an [Archives Space Plan](#) was prepared at the request of the [Sonoma County Library Commission](#) and reviewed at their March 4, 2019, meeting. On December 2, 2019, the commission approved using surplus [Measure Y funds](#) to pay for an Archives inventory and rehousing project. Proposals were received in February of 2020. Before the commission could review and approve, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and funding for the inventory and rehousing project was redirected elsewhere.

In September, the Glass fire came even closer to the Archives than the Nuns fire. On October 9, 2020, Sonoma County Supervisor David Rabbitt, Isaac Gentry, county assistant building superintendent, and Caroline Judy, director of county general services, visited the Archives. They saw a treasure trove of historical materials, some dating back to the 1840s, that document the County's past, help us tell a more complete history, and provide answers to current-day issues in ways other resources can't.

For example, Steve Lovejoy, president of the [Sonoma County Genealogical Society](#), member of the [Sonoma County Historical Records Commission](#), and library volunteer, made an exciting find while organizing an uncatalogued box labeled "Bonds of Public Oaths." Amongst the oaths was a Certificate of Appointment of Trustees for the African American Methodist Episcopal Union Church of Petaluma dated May 18, 1869. Few are aware Petaluma had an early African American community, let alone a church.

Those involved in land-use planning make use of archival records. For instance, a 1946 Bodega Bay tidelands survey found at the Archives confirmed that the Meredith pier, proposed for demolition, was sitting on fill - this proved to be important information for Sonoma County General Services staff in charge of the demolition project.

Some materials housed at the Archives exist in other formats elsewhere. However, it is not uncommon to discover that a document, map, etc. thought to be available on microfilm isn't. Such is the case with Road Book No. 1 – Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors, January 1873 to January 1880.

The Sonoma County Administrator's office has microfilm copies of nearly all board proceedings, but not this book. Land surveyors rely on records such as these to resolve rights of way issues that impact private and public property owners alike.

These are just a few examples of the type of records housed at the Archives. The [Sonoma County Library online catalog](#) provides a partial listing of others.



Caroline Judy and David Rabbitt: Sonoma County supervisor David Rabbitt, right, assistant building superintendent Isaac Gentry, and director of county general services Caroline Judy gaze at the stacks of county record books dating back to the early 1800s inside the Sonoma County Archives building at the Los Guilicos campus in Santa Rosa, California, on Friday, October 9, 2020. Photo taken by Alvin A.H. Jornada for The Press Democrat.

Those interested in advocating for the relocation, improved management, and access to the Sonoma County Archives should contact the Friends of the Sonoma County Archives c/o the Sonoma County Heritage Network at sonomacountyheritagenetwork@protonmail.com.

Katherine J. Rinehart

Consulting Historian & Chair of the Sonoma County Heritage Network

katherine@kjrinehart.com

Labor Issues Task Force Survey Results

In 2019, as part of its mission to advocate for SCA's members, the Society of California Archivists Board convened the SCA Labor Issues Task Force to review labor issues within the archival profession. From December 2019 to February 2020, 197 individuals responded to the Labor Issues Task Force Survey which aimed to gather information concerning working conditions, compensation, the nature of archival positions, and other issues within the profession. The survey featured 45 questions, many of which provided the opportunity for free-text commentary in addition to pre-formulated choices. Questions concerned institutional characteristics; union membership and perceptions about unions; job satisfaction and factors influencing perceptions about employment; the extent and impact of project, contract, temporary, and unpaid positions; salaries; benefits; safety issues; demographic information; and more.

On September 4, Task Force members Courtney Dean, Erin Hurley and George Thompson presented the results at the SCA First Friday meeting. Attendees then proceeded into breakout rooms to facilitate discussion and contribute to a community notes document which can be viewed here, along with the complete survey results: <https://bit.ly/3jKPILf>

Key Finding:

Archivists consider the biggest challenges to fair and ethical archival labor to be the prevalence of temporary and term employment (83%); inadequate pay (81%); and a lack of diversity (54%) in the profession, followed closely by unpaid internships and lack of promotion potential.

Additional Key Findings:

Employment

- Though a majority of respondents (about 63%) held permanent positions at the time of the survey, nearly 78% had held project, contract, or temporary positions in the past.
- Most respondents consider themselves to be inadequately compensated for their work.
- Most respondents see no potential for growth in their current positions.

Personal Well-being

- A significant number of respondents sometimes or regularly consider leaving the profession.
- A significant number of respondents suffer from low morale, burnout, and a sense that their work is undervalued.

Unionizing

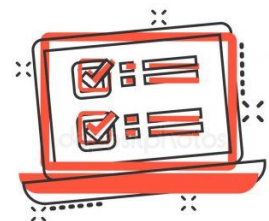
- While only 39% of archivists responding are in unionized positions, a majority of those not in a union either are interested in becoming unionized (31.4%) or have a need for more information about unions (36.36%).

The world is a different place since the completion of the survey. The Task Force acknowledges that, now entering 9 months into the pandemic, and after the summer's collective awakening of systemic racism, archivists have seen various issues exacerbated by deteriorating working conditions that might have triggered different or new labor-related concerns. The Task Force views these and the rest of the survey's results not only as catalysts for advocacy, but also as spurs to further discussion. Our next steps will be to make recommendations to the SCA Board for guidelines and best practices for labor in archives. We hope that these efforts will help SCA identify and address labor-related issues more effectively and make SCA members, and future members, stronger advocates for themselves and for the profession.

Anne Mar

SCA Labor Issues Task Force

amar@oxy.edu



1971: The Year in Archives

The Society of California Archivists was born in 1971 and as it happens, that was an important year for the world of archives in general. Here are a few examples of the collections which made their debut in 1971.

*The New York State Archives was established this year in Albany, and is housed in the capital's Cultural Education Center. <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/>

*The Florida Legislature mandated the creation of a repository in 1971 to collect and preserve primary source materials about the African-American experience. It opened in 1976 in the Carnegie Library on the campus of Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, and is now called The Carrie Meek-James N. Eaton, Sr. Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center and Museum.

<http://famu.edu/index.cfm?MEBA>

*California State University East Bay began life as the State College for Alameda County in 1957. Its Hayward campus opened in 1963, and the name was changed to California State University Hayward, and then California State University East Bay in 2005. The college established the University Archives in 1971 in the new university Library building.

<https://library.csueastbay.edu/archives>

*The Pacifica Radio Archives was created in 1971 as the repository for the radio broadcasts of the Pacifica network, heard in Berkeley on KPFA and KPFB, and in Los Angeles at KPFK.

<https://www.pacificaradioarchives.org/>

*The LBJ Presidential Library, housed on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin, was dedicated on May 22, 1971. <http://www.lbjlibrary.org/>

Do you know of other important archival anniversaries from 1971?

Get in touch with Lynn Downey, at clio1954@gmail.com

Lynn Downey
SCA 50th Anniversary Committee

Online International Cataloging - the ISCA Archive

Like many other archives, libraries, and museums this year, the International Small Craft Association Archive was no longer able to work on-site with their collections. ISCA is an archive of small boat records which includes photographs, architectural drawings, interviews, and other documentation for traditional watercraft from around the world, one of the most comprehensive in the world. It is based out of the Centre for Maritime Archaeology at Southampton University in the UK and will eventually be housed at their University Archive and made available for online use. However, the Covid-19 pandemic derailed their digitization and cataloging plans which depended upon on-site work. Instead, ISCA and Southampton University, as well as their partner, the Nautical Archaeology Society decided to start an online program during quarantine. The project opened up online cataloging to public participation. It allows volunteers from all over the world and from any background to become involved in creating the digital archive that would then be used by researchers and other people just like them.


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The ISCA archive is important. It documents traditional watercraft, some of which are no longer being constructed; while the collection no longer includes the physical specimens as some were sold off and others have become too deteriorated, the documentary photographs and drawings of the boats remain extremely useful. There are several examples of Tongan outriggers made by hand of wood, the documents for these boats preserve traditional boat making techniques since now they are made commercially from fiberglass. Another boat is from Honduras: a Garifuna sailing canoe. This is also a traditional handmade boat, but represents its Creole culture by exhibiting characteristics of European, African, and Caribbean sailing traditions. The collection also contains records of boats that witnessed important events in history. including a Dutch Pram Dinghy from the 1930s that was used by a Dutch couple to flee from the Nazis during World War Two.

The ISCA collection's breadth of examples could be useful to all sorts of historians, archivists, and researchers. The group at ISCA have created an amazing opportunity; by moving online, volunteers from around the globe can participate and information about the ISCA Archive can circulate more widely. Hopefully more scholars and curiosity seekers will discover the wonderful documents in their archive because of this pivot to online work.

I have been volunteering on the ISCA Archive online cataloging project since its start in June. I was interested in the potential of 'making the best of it' by reimaging archival projects online and by involving volunteers, many of whom suddenly have more free time. I am actually one of several international volunteers on the ISCA project, but some of the other volunteers are graduate students at Southampton University who have had their studies impacted by the pandemic.

Together we cover a broad range of knowledge and experience that combine to make the project as a whole more descriptive and inclusive. Digitizing and democratizing archives is an important endeavor. Especially for collections that are not well known outside their institutions or home countries. Several individuals in my volunteer group worked together to present our work at the Nautical Archaeology Society's online annual conference in mid-November to hopefully foster more interest, and so the cataloging continues. More information is available from the Nautical Archaeology Society website:

www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org

Perhaps the International Small Craft Association Archive's online cataloging project will inspire other creative projects and opportunities at archives and libraries here in California.

Lindsay Long

Still Archive Supervisor, LAC-Group ISCA

Archive Cataloging Volunteer

ISCA Archive at the Centre of Maritime Archaeology

Southampton University

LLongdirect@gmail.com

SCA BUSINESS

AGM 2021 Announcement

The Program Committee and Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) are excited to announce SCA's first ever virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will be held online April 27-30, 2021. A virtual program provides more flexibility with scheduling than meeting in physical conference spaces, and the Program and Local Arrangements committees have been hard at work planning for the meeting. Besides being virtual, next year's format will be quite a bit different from all of the previous AGMs, scheduled for Tuesday through Friday, starting at 9:00am and ending in the afternoons around 3:00pm. We expect this schedule to be accommodating while also offering enough variety among the meetings, sessions and activities over the days of the meeting that our members will find our AGM to be as engaging and interesting as ever.

We anticipate starting each day of the program with either a speaker or a meeting and following these with sessions for most of the remainder of the day's schedule. Mark Matienzo, one of the WAM 2020 guest speakers, has graciously accepted our invitation to speak at the AGM in 2021. Mark is the author of a recently completed white paper on contingent labor and we're looking forward to hearing them speak at the opening of the AGM. The Program Committee has also been working with SCA's members to provide a diverse and interesting array of sessions that will be spread over the four days of the meeting interspersed with an Awards Ceremony, a Brown Bag lunch for OAC contributors, and SCA's annual member's meeting. SCA will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021, and the Golden Anniversary Committee is planning to commemorate the occasion in a variety of ways including a session on the history of the organization and a series of video "vignettes."

Additional changes to the AGM schedule include hosting our workshops on April 26, the Monday before the meeting begins. Watch for the Education Committee's announcement of these workshops, which will also be online. Due to the virtual nature of the meeting, we have determined that there will not be a Silent Auction at AGM 2021, and the participation of our loyal vendors is also currently unsettled. Watch for the Development Committee's announcements regarding these two changes as we get closer to the days of the meeting. The Awards Luncheon will instead be an Awards Event scheduled during the lunch hour of one of the meeting days, and although we will not have a guest speaker the Awards Committee is planning a virtual event to recognize scholarship recipients and colleagues for contributions to the organization and the profession. The Local Arrangements Committee has also had to shift its gears from hotel preparations to virtual ones, and has been working with Cvent to ensure that our AGM is a success. Other changes to our schedule include replacing our Opening Reception with a virtual social event, shifting to virtual repository tours, and canceling Gourmet Night.

We're looking forward to having another successful AGM in 2021! Conference registration will be available on the SCA website by early February. Please continue to watch the SCA blog, the West_Arch listserv and the AGM website (<https://calarchivists.org/AGM2021>) for more information on the meeting as it becomes available.

Leilani Marshall
SCA Program Committee Chair

Ellen Jarosz
Local Arrangements Committee Senior Chair

Awards Nominations and Mink Scholarship

The Awards Committee is accepting nominations and scholarship applications until January 15, 2021. We have several long-standing awards, but are also very open to considering "special awards," and would be happy to hear your ideas informally, or as formal nominations. Please contact Awards Committee Chair James Eason (jeason@berkeley.edu) any time.

Consider honoring a colleague with a nomination for the **Career Achievement Award**, or recognizing service to SCA over a twelve year period with a **Sustained Service Award**. Sponsored by Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc., the **Archives Appreciation Award** recognizes an agency, organization or institution that has provided extraordinary support for archival programs of all sorts.

SCA also offers several scholarships. The **James V. Mink Scholarship** (Jan. 15 deadline) enables archival studies students or recent graduates to attend the SCA Annual General Meeting. The **Walter P. Gray III Scholarship** funds members' attendance at SCA Workshops and related training opportunities in California. The **Lynn A. Bonfield Scholarship** funds SCA members' participation in non-SCA sponsored continuing education. In these days of remote education, we will be as flexible as possible, and can apply continuing education support to online workshops.

For more information, please visit the "Awards" section of the SCA website at www.calarchivists.org, or contact Awards Chair James Eason (jeason@berkeley.edu).

James Eason
Awards Committee Chair
jeason@berkeley.edu

Education Committee Announcements

In light of the ever-evolving pandemic situation, the SCA Education Committee shifted all 2020 workshops to a webinar format, and we will continue operating virtually in 2021. The Education Committee is looking for additional Committee members to join our ranks and assist with organizing and delivering webinars in 2021. If you are interested in joining the Education Committee, please contact us at mallory.furnier@csun.edu, astorey@sfsymphony.org, or Christine.Kim@ucop.edu

In 2020 Education Committee offerings included webinars on preserving and documenting student activism and providing mentorship and meaningful professional development opportunities for BIPOC in academic libraries. We are pleased to kick off this new year with a workshop January 21st on "Liberated Archives for Black Lives," presented by Teresa Raiford, Executive Director of non-profit racial justice organization "Don't Shoot Portland." Registration is currently open on the SCA website.

The Education Committee also invites potential webinar presenters to submit proposals for Annual General Meeting pre-conference workshops to be held virtually on Monday, April 26th. Proposals may be submitted through the form circulating via the west_arch listserv, or you may e-mail the Education Committee Chairs directly with proposals and any questions.

Mallory Furnier, Adrienne Storey, and Christine Kim
Education Committee Chairs

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CALENDAR

Liberated Archives for Black Lives

- January 21, 2021 (Zoom)
- [Register here](#)

SCA - First Friday

- February 5, 2021 (Zoom)
- [Learn more here](#)

SCA - First Friday

- March 5, 2021 (Zoom)
- [Learn more here](#)

Annual General Meeting 2021

- April 27, 2021 (Zoom)
- [Learn more here](#)

