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Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

By Erik Moore, University of Minnesota



Congratulations to Martha Conway, Special Collections Library, University of Michigan, and Olga Virakhovskaya, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, who co-chaired our MAC Symposium “Archivists and Copyright” held in Ann Arbor, October 7–8. Conway, Virakhovskaya, and many others on the Symposium Planning Committee put in much time to make sure everything went off without an issue. It was a wonderfully planned event and informative for all of the attendees. I’d also like to thank Melissa Levine, lead copyright officer, University Library, University of Michigan, and Aprille Cooke McKay, assistant director for university collections and records management, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, for providing their expertise and sharing their experiences.

This is the tenth anniversary of MAC’s Fall Symposia. Beginning in 2006 with a two-day discussion of MPLP in Omaha, our topics have covered physical and digital preservation, user services in person and online, oral history, media collections, and primary sources education. We have visited eight different MAC states and have been able to bring MAC to locations that typically are not suitable for Annual Meetings.

As part of our 2016–2020 Strategic Plan, MAC is interested in receiving feedback and member input on the direction of future Symposium planning. As part of this process, MAC will establish a Symposium Task Force to better understand how the Symposia have met member needs and how we could improve both access to Symposia and identify programs of interest. This will also be done while reviewing a cost analysis of Symposia and how they serve MAC membership. Typically, a MAC Symposium has 50 attendees, or about one-sixteenth of our total membership. Are there ways to attract more interest? Can we do so and remain affordable for all? These are some of the questions we will attempt to answer in the coming year. Please watch this space for more information and calls for assistance.

Annual Meeting, Omaha, Nebraska, April 5–8, 2017

MAC turns 45 in 2017, and I am looking forward to spending that anniversary in Omaha as Nebraska celebrates 150 years of statehood. Come prepared to explore Omaha’s history and to enjoy a fantastic selection of restaurants and a vibrant art and music scene. As plans and programs

for the Annual Meeting are being finalized, I am impressed with the dedication and perseverance displayed by all members who are actively preparing what will be one of the finest MAC conferences ever. You can read more about the events, programs, and educational workshops being offered in this newsletter and online, so I will use my space to simply thank Mary Ellen Ducey, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and Amy Schindler, University of Nebraska–Omaha, who are serving as our LAC cochairs; Sasha Griffin, Denison University, and Harrison Inefuku, Iowa State University, for cochairing our Program Committee; and Lisa Sjoberg, Concordia College, and Marcella Huggard, University of Kansas, of MAC’s Education Committee for their efforts.

Fall Symposium, “Transitioning from Good to Great Exhibits,” Columbus, Ohio, October 12–13, 2017

Join MAC in Columbus to learn exhibit planning and development, engagement, learning opportunities, assessment, and outreach. Our hosts are Lisa Carter, associate director for special collections and area studies, and Tamar Chute, university archivist, both at The Ohio State University. The instructors will include Erin Fletcher, exhibitions coordinator; Jenny Robb, curator of the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum; and Justin Luna, exhibitions preparator. MAC is currently finalizing hotel arrangements and local planning. More information will be available later in the spring of 2017.

2018 Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, dates and place TBA

The Chicago Local Arrangements Committee, headed by Andrea Bainbridge, DePaul University, and Andy Steadham, Rotary International, and in cooperation with the Chicago Area Archivists, is working with Debbie Nolan of AMC Source to identify a MAC-friendly location. Expect more information at the 2017 annual Members Meeting, and watch this column for more details.

More information regarding future MAC meetings and Symposia will be available in the next issue of the newsletter. In the meantime, if you have ideas or would like to consider hosting a meeting, please feel free to contact me at moore144@umn.edu. I would welcome the opportunity to help you plan out a proposal.