News from the Midwest

Midwest Archives Conference

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News from the Midwest—Troy Eller English, Wayne State University, and Alison Stankrauff, Indiana University South Bend, Assistant Editors

Please submit News from the Midwest items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Troy Eller English at au2050@wayne.edu and items from Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Alison Stankrauff at astankra@iusb.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

ILLINOIS

American College of Surgeons
The American College of Surgeons (ACS) Archives Catalog is now available online. Researchers have expressed enthusiasm about their newfound ability to access collection descriptions as well as the actual photos, videos, publications, and sound recordings described in the catalog. Planned further enhancements to the ACS Archives Catalog include improved subject access, descriptions accessible to Internet search engines, and ongoing additions of digital objects. See www.facs.org/archivescatalog.

Lithuanian Archives Project
The Lithuanian Archives Project (LAP) has moved into new office space at 3756 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, Illinois, 60618. LAP is continuing digitization of more than 530 magnetic tape reels and 15 wire recordings of the Sophie Barcus Radio Program, rare air copies of the popular Lithuanian American radio show that ran in Chicago for 54 consecutive years, starting in 1932. Looking for an internship/volunteer opportunity? No knowledge of Lithuanian language is needed. For more information, contact Audra Adomenas, President, Lithuanian Archives Project at aadomenas@yahoo.com.

INDIANA

DePauw University
The DePauw University Archives has begun digitizing its collection of more than 2,600 audiocassette tapes. Continuing a project begun in 2003 with reel-to-reel tapes, the archives is using a compact digital audio recorder to simultaneously produce both WAV files for archival storage and MP3 files for its digital library. Most of the recordings are presentations given on campus, often the only documents of these events.

Indiana University Bloomington
The Black Film Center/Archive at Indiana University Bloomington is starting the second phase of the Richard E. Norman and Race Filmmaking: Reprocessing and Digitization Project, made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor. Norman was a filmmaker and distributor of black-cast films (or race films) in the United States in the early twentieth century. This collection, including distribution records, promotional materials, correspondence, and censorship records will advance the field of scholarship dedicated to race films and early African American movie-going culture. The finding aid will be updated with digitized items until completion of project. Visit purl.dlib.indiana.edu/iudl/findaids/bfca/VAC1152.

Riley Hospital
Riley Hospital Historic Preservation Committee (RHPC) is commemorating Indiana’s bicentennial with RHPC’s 2016 oral history project, endorsed as a Legacy Project by the Bicentennial Commission. At the annual meeting of the Society of Indiana Archivists, RHPC will present on the impact of the state’s centennial and bicentennial on RHPC planning and activities. Two books are in development by RHPC to recognize early leaders of the Riley Memorial Association and their partnership with Indiana University.

KANSAS

Pittsburg State University
The Pittsburg State University Special Collections exhibit Dystopia, the Future, and Space Exploration: Science Fiction and Real Science features vintage paperbacks of science fiction and futuristic settings, leading up to the reality of space travel that resulted in the first Apollo moon landing in 1969. The exhibit uses Apollo mission materials and photographs from the Joe Skubitz Congressional Collection and books from the Irene Ertman Collection of Science Fiction, including books by H. G. Wells, Jules Verne, and Arthur C. Clarke.

KENTUCKY

Filson Historical Society
The Filson Historical Society’s Campus Expansion Project is closing in on its fund-raising goal, having received commitments totaling over $11 million. It also has received funding for digitization equipment in the new preservation/digitization lab, which will dramatically enhance current capabilities. Construction on the exterior of the new building is nearly complete, while renovations on the interior of the historic Ferguson Mansion and Carriage House continue. The Filson anticipates a grand reopening in the fall of 2016. See www.filsonhistorical.org.

Kentucky Council on Archives
Archivists gathered from Kentucky
and Indiana in November for the Kentucky Council on Archives fall workshop. Led by Bertram Lyons of AVPreserve, the workshop offered hands-on demonstrations of essential skills for handling and storage of born-digital files. This included tips for handling digital materials, storing digital files using Bagger and Fixity, and extracting metadata from digital files using MediaInfo and Exiftool. Participants also learned how these tools and skills can be implemented in collection management workflows. The workshop was cosponsored by the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board.

**University of Louisville**

The University of Louisville’s Archives and Special Collections (ASC) has added two important collections to its Digital Collections. All copies of the Louisville and Nashville (L&N) Railroad Company employee magazine, which ran from 1925 to 1974, are now available. ASC also plans to digitize L&N annual reports and photographs. The Standard Oil New Jersey (SONJ) photography collection represents documentary photographs of everyday life between 1943 and 1956, captured by some of the nation’s top photographers and led by Roy Stryker, who had previously directed the Farm Security Administration documentary program. The photographers recorded the work and workers of the oil industry, as well as highways, river transportation, bus travel, and American automobile culture. Currently, four series within the collection are available online, and ASC will add more in the future. The digitized L&N and SONJ collections can be found at digital.library.louisville.edu.

**Southern Kentucky University**

NKU’s Special Collections and University Archives was a major partner in producing the recently published book *Northern Kentucky University: A Panoramic History*. This volume depicts the growth of NKU over the last 40-plus years, using color panoramic photos of the modern campus interspersed with black-and-white archival photos and essays describing the university’s history. A recent episode of *Mysteries at the Museum* featured a needle threader with the slogan “Give Vice the Needle” from George Ratterman’s 1961 campaign for Campbell County sheriff. This ephemeral item is part of the Claude W. Johnson Committee of 500 Records, a popular collection on gambling and vice in Newport, Kentucky.

**Wayne State University**

The Reuther Library has launched its “World War II and Detroit” HistoryPin tour, featuring images that highlight the role of everyday citizens in the war effort of 1940 to 1945. Of particular interest are photographs of industrial training, the daily life of prisoners of war held at Fort Wayne, USO recreation activities, and community involvement in the war effort. The Reuther’s previous HistoryPin tours include “Detroit’s Eastern Market” and “1937: Year of the Sit-Down Strike.” See www.historypin.org/en/person/60123#tours.

Among the newly opened collections at the Reuther are the papers of Mary Ellen Riordan, president of the Detroit Federation of Teachers (DFT) from 1960 to 1981, and Part 3 of the Mel Ravitz Papers. The Riordan Papers contain DFT records that 6,000 of which were handmade. After the tweets and postcards were counted, the winners were the Alpena County Public Library’s *Alpena News* (1898–1905, 1909–1910) and *Michigan Labor Journal* (1884–1890). Additionally, the handmade postcards were added to the Clarke’s collections. Visit tinyurl.com/DigMichNews.
document the union’s first collective bargaining contract, desegregation in Detroit schools, and a US Supreme Court case on agency fees. The new materials in the Ravitz Papers reflect the Wayne State University sociology professor’s research on urban planning and its impact on communities between 1945 and 2009. The addition to this collection may prove particularly valuable to researchers with an interest in the causes and effects of Detroit’s 1967 civil unrest. Visit www.reuther.wayne.edu.

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Historical Society
The Minnesota Historical Society’s Library and Collections Division is pleased to announce that it will be using digital preservation provider Preservica’s Cloud Edition, an OAIS-compliant digital preservation platform. The division will use the platform to provide secure cloud storage of its ever-growing digital archival collections and to properly maintain and preserve digital records.

MISSOURI

Archdiocese of St. Louis Archives
The Archdiocese of St. Louis Archives digitized 30 episodes of the Quiz-A-Catholic game show of the 1950s and 1960s with the financial assistance of Dennis Cavanagh. The show is a great snapshot of local television and a testament to the close-knit, small-town feel of St. Louis’s Catholic culture. Archives staff uploads compressed versions of Quiz-A-Catholic videos online approximately twice a month. Guests range from local personalities to nationally recognized figures like Danny Thomas, Bob Newhart, Dennis Day, and Andy Phillip. Don’t miss out on this unique slice of Catholic entertainment in the golden age of television. Episodes can be viewed at www.youtube.com/archstlmedia.

NEBRASKA

Nebraska State Historical Society
A two-year renovation of the Nebraska History Museum is complete, and greeting the public upon its reopening on April 1 was the new exhibit Nebraska Unwrapped, featuring over 150 objects from nearly as many years of collecting. The exhibit is a potpourri representing all of the historical society’s collecting areas. Included are many original manuscripts, public records, publications, photographs, sound recordings, and moving images, each individual item telling a compelling story about Nebraska’s past and present. The exhibit was curated by MAC member Paul Eisloeffel.

University of Nebraska at Omaha
The Dr. C. C. and Mabel L. Criss Library is pleased to announce that the first portion of the US Senator Chuck Hagel Archives is open to the public. Hagel was a US senator from 1997 to 2009 and most recently served in President Obama’s cabinet as secretary of defense from 2013 to 2015. Researchers now have access to Hagel photographs, artifacts and memorabilia, US Senate schedules, and grant files. Visit libguides.unomaha.edu/HagelArchives. Additionally, dozens of the photographs may be viewed online in the new exhibit, Charles Timothy Hagel: A Life in Photographs. See hagel.omeka.net/exhibits.

OHIO

Cleveland Museum of Art
The Cleveland Museum of Art is celebrating its centennial year, and the archives is busy providing content for exhibitions, programming, and publicity. The Way We Were, an exhibition celebrating the ongoing achievement of the museum through archival images of significant and unique moments in its history, is mounted...
in the lower museum lobby. A new publication on the fine arts garden designed by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted features a conversation between the museum archivist and the director of design. The archives is also mounting a companion exhibit to the centennial exhibition *Pharaoh: King of Ancient Egypt* that features artwork from the primary collection in addition to archival materials.

**Kent State University**

Over a hundred reel-to-reel audio recordings pertaining to the May 1970 Kent State shootings and their aftermath are now accessible through the Kent State University Special Collections and Archives’ digital repository. Some of the recently digitized items include previously inaccessible audio recordings of radio call-in forums, a speech by university president Robert I. White the day after the shootings, a press conference with six students who met with President Richard M. Nixon just days after the shootings, the Scranton Commission hearings, and a speech made by Dick Gregory at the Kent State Memorial Service in 1971. The digitization project started in spring 2015, after the Kent State University Libraries were awarded a $2,000 Ohio Archives Grant funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. See [omeka.library.kent.edu/special-collections/exhibits](omeka.library.kent.edu/special-collections/exhibits).

**Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board**

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) awarded 2015 OHRAB Achievement Awards to the Delaware County Records Center and the Kelleys Island Historical Society. The OHRAB Achievement Award recognizes significant accomplishments in preserving and improving access to historical records, in any format, by an Ohio institution. The Delaware County Records Center was awarded for its devotion to the care, preservation, and accessibility of county records through continual modernization of processes and its dedication to providing convenient public access to the records in its care. The Kelleys Island Historical Society was honored for its efforts in implementing archival accession, processing, and cataloging procedures; increasing the accessibility of its collections through the creation and publishing of its inventory; and fostering research through new initiatives. The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board is the central body for historical records planning in the state and is funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives**

A letter from celebrated frontiersman Hugh Glass, subject of the current hit movie *The Revenant*, is currently on display in the research room of the South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The one-page letter sent by Glass to the parents of John S. Gardner, killed on June 2, 1823, was donated to the society by one of Gardner’s descendants around 1902. Composed near General Ashley’s Camp at the mouth of the Cheyenne River, the letter was undoubtedly written by an acquaintance as Glass was reportedly illiterate. This spring, *Hugh Glass: Grizzly Survivor*, a new biography by historian James D. McLaird detailing the legend behind the infamous frontiersman, will be released as a part of the South Dakota Historical Society Press’s *South Dakota Biography Series*.

**South Dakota State University Archives**

South Dakota State University (SDSU) Archives is pleased to announce that the National Endowment for the Humanities will fund Preserving Historic Hobo Day education and community digitization events at the Hilton M. Briggs Library during SDSU’s homecoming celebration,
Hobo Day, in October 2016. In collaboration with the Brookings Area Genealogical Society and the SDSU Alumni Association, SDSU Archives is inviting alumni and the regional public to contribute their Hobo Day memories and artifacts to the Digital Library of South Dakota. This project will both grow digital regional history collections and facilitate the development of a local history preservation community.

WISCONSIN

University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Archives
The University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM) Archives recently opened for research the archives of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). The records trace ARCW’s development from a small social services agency to Wisconsin’s largest HIV health-care provider and the most comprehensive AIDS service organization in the United States. The collection guide is online at digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/wiarchives.uw-mil-uwmms0335.

In February, the archives relaunched its award-winning March on Milwaukee digital collection, which provides online access to multiple collections telling the story of the civil rights movement in Milwaukee. The relaunched site includes significant amounts of new content, including nearly two hours of news footage from the 1960s, and new interactive features such as a map showing march routes and points of historical interest. See www.uwm.edu/marchonmilwaukee.

Ward Irish Music Archives
In the spring and summer of 2016, the Ward Irish Music Archives (WIMA) is excited to present Postcards from the 1916 Irish Rebellion. Taken from the Bob Burke Postcard Collection, this exhibit traces the destruction in Dublin during and after the rebellion and presents photographs of the participants. Content for this exhibit was developed through a grant by the Graduate Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Program at the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh. Visit irishfest.com/Music-Archives/Exhibits/Postcards-from-the-1916-Irish-Rebellion.htm