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## Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

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## Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

*By Joshua Ranger, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh*

This is a true story (and bear with me as I know it's July when you read this, but it's April as I write). Last week, my brain registered some signs of spring—a crocus, a robin, desperate undergrads looking for collections for their pending seminar papers—and they made me think about heading to MAC. In a fraction of a moment, I felt the anticipation of travel, seeing friends, and professional learning. Then, just as quickly, I came to and realized all of that had already happened. Unlike springtime in Wisconsin, MAC came early this year. And we MACers adjusted just fine: we broke records in attendance and, no surprise, it was a fantastic meeting. On behalf of outgoing Vice President Erik Moore and all of MAC leadership, I want to thank everyone in the Local Arrangements, Program, and Education Committees; AMC Source; our sponsors; and all the other volunteers who made MAC's return to Chicago so wonderful. Chicago will always be a special place for MAC to visit. But, in March, when the rates are better.

And now a new vice president's thoughts turn to . . . autumn.

In Chicago, at the last Council meeting of his term, Erik Moore presented the report of the Symposia Review Committee he chaired to make recommendations about the future, organization, and structure of MAC's Fall Symposia. I am happy to report that we strongly believe that symposia HAVE a future, and the recommendations Council approved, we feel, will ensure that the events remain accessible, self-supporting, and wonderful opportunities for professional growth. The most critical recommendation, I feel, is that in lieu of working with paid meeting venues, we are looking for hosts on campuses or other institutions that can provide meeting space and A/V services on a no-cost/in-kind donation basis. This also allows us to cast a wider net for hotels as they do not need to have conference space. This model was tested most recently in Columbus and will relieve symposia planners of having to do ANY fund-raising for their meetings. By controlling the costs, we can ensure our symposia remain intimate and active experiences that transcend the workshop model with group activities, discussions, and other dynamic content. As many of our employing institutions have facilities that support small meetings (symposia tend to top out at 50 to 60 people), a great number of

locations could host a meeting. If you would like to bring the Fall Symposium to your campus or institution or know of a possible partner, please let me know!

### **2018 Fall Symposium, Iowa City, Iowa, October 12–13, 2018**

Speaking of symposia, this year's Fall Symposium will be held on the beautiful campus of the University of Iowa. The topic will be on Teaching with Primary Sources. Make no mistake, we are experiencing a golden age of innovation in archival instruction, and to guide us along will be Anna Trammell from the University of Illinois and Rachel Seale of Iowa State University. They will introduce us to techniques and standards to engage students in archival and special collection instruction. The program will include discussion and activities on lesson planning; metrics and specific information on generating pull lists from local holdings; the use of digital resources for class assignments; how to handle relationships between faculty, students, and librarians; as well as assessing instruction programs for future success. The University of Iowa's Special Collections and University Archives, which hosts over 200 classes a year, will serve as the perfect backdrop and host for our learning. My sincerest thanks to Lindsay Moen of that department for organizing this meeting as Fall Symposium chair.

### **2019 Annual Meeting, Detroit, Michigan, April 3–6, 2019**

For our Annual Meeting in 2019, MAC will be headed to the Motor City! We'll be staying at the Marriott at Detroit's skyline-making Renaissance Center, right downtown on the river. The Local Arrangement Committee, headed by Cochairs Rebecca Bizonet and Brian Wilson, is busy making plans for our visit, while the Program Committee, with Cochairs Carrie Schwier and Jennifer Audsley-Moore, is looking for your proposals this summer for sessions to fill the schedule. Of course, the Education Committee, Cochairs Amy Bishop and Janet Carlton, will be adding its workshops and other content as well. This trip to Detroit is exciting as not since 1975(!) has MAC met in Detroit proper, so mark your calendars for a long overdue return to this fascinating and storied city.

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**Future Meetings**

The 2019 Fall Symposium location has not yet been selected. As a former symposium cochair (Green Bay 2013), I can't tell you enough how rewarding it is to bring MAC to your community, to show off your city, and to work with other area archivists on a joint professional venture. It is a great opportunity for those of us in communities perhaps a bit too small or out-of-the-way to host a full Annual Meeting. (Although bigger cities are MORE than welcome to apply!) Even if you don't have a clue about what the topic would be, I'd like to hear from you. (We have ideas!)

For our 2020 Annual Meeting, MAC will be heading to Des Moines, Iowa. MAC's last visit to the "Hartford of the West" (thanks Wikipedia!) was in 2004, so it's about time we check in and see what's new in Iowa's capital. Planning has only begun, so we have only a KERNAL of an idea of what will be in store. You will EAR more on this as the meeting develops, and after I develop a better list of corn puns.

**Between-Meeting Council Actions**

On April 4, 2018, Council unanimously approved the appointment of Vicki Cooper as Emeritus Scholarship Committee chair for the 2018–2020 term.

On April 8, 2018, Council unanimously approved the appointment of Jennifer Audsley-Moore and Carrie Schwier as cochairs of the 2019 Annual Meeting Program Committee.

On April 19, 2018, Council unanimously approved the appointment of Jackie Esposito as a MAC teller for the 2018–2020 term.

**Archival Issues, an Awarding Experience**

*By Alexandra A. A. Orchard, CA, Archival Issues Editorial Board Chair, Wayne State University*

Writing for *Archival Issues* is a rewarding experience, but did you know that it could also be an awarding experience? After every two volumes (four issues) of *Archival Issues*, the Margaret Cross Norton/New Author Awards Committee is called together. The committee is charged with reviewing all articles published in the previous two volumes and then selecting the two best: one by a previously published author and one by a new author.

Articles are reviewed and rated on several criteria including the importance of the topic and the value of the article to archivists, the originality of the article, research methods and use of bibliographical sources, and quality of overall presentation. The committee uses a detailed metric, further dividing each criterion into several measurable benchmarks.

This year's awardees are Donna McCrea (Margaret Cross Norton Award), Christine McEvelly (New Author Award), and Elizabeth Joffrion and Lexie Tom (Margaret Cross Norton Honorable Mention). Additional information can be found in the Margaret Cross Norton/New Author Awards Committee's report in this newsletter.

To submit an article or ask questions, please contact me, Alexandra A. A. Orchard: alexandra@wayne.edu, *Archival Issues* Editorial Board chair. As a reminder, we encourage contributions from both new and experienced authors.