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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

When our first son was small, we wanted to buy him a wall map of the United States so that he could plot our family's travels. One of the maps we considered was the scratch-off kind. It concealed each colorful state with a drab protective layer that could be scratched off lottery-ticket style. Ultimately, we didn't trust that he wouldn't scratch it off all at once in a fit of unsupervised geographic impetuosity, so we went a different direction. The idea of this map returned to me, though, when we received a proposal for the 2019 Fall Symposium.

Only one state in our region has never hosted a MAC meeting; one state we have yet to scratch off: North Dakota. The archivists of the Fargo/Moorhead community sought to end this nearly 50-year omission with an excellent and inspired proposal. Although many details are still being developed, Lisa Sjoberg and Trista Raezer-Stursa are planning a Fall Symposium designed specifically around the needs of so-called lone arrangers. With a combination of instruction and retreat-style activities, the meeting will help professionals working as their institutions' sole archivists with useful information and skill-building, all presented in the context of an understanding, supportive network of friends who really, really get it.

We are so glad that the northwest corner of our region has a convenient meeting destination, and we hope to attract a few folks from north of the border as well. That said, with Fargo's airport hosting four airlines (and Allegiant if you're coming from Orlando or Vegas!), the twin communities of Fargo and Moorhead are easy to get to from any corner of the MAC region. We hope to hold this unique event on the campus of North Dakota State University, so get those quarters ready for the last and greatest scratch-off in MAC history!

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

In other news, we are focusing our attention on the 2018 Fall Symposium in Iowa City in October which, depending on when you read this, is either coming up shortly or just passed (if it's the former, there still may be time to register!). Regardless, writing this in July, I am very excited for the deep dive into primary source instruction that this Symposium, to be held on the campus of the University of Iowa, will provide.

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

We are also looking forward to the 2019 Annual Meeting in Detroit. Currently, the Program, Local Arrangements, and Education Committees are busy getting their respective details set for this meeting with its on-point-with-Detroit theme: "Innovation, Transformation, Resurgence." Our meeting venue is the skyline-defining GM Renaissance Center, conveniently located on the Detroit People Mover, which has connections across the downtown entertainment district. As the founder of Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit, Antoine Laumet de La Mothe Cadillac would have said: "C'est très cool!"

2020 Events

Finally, I want to remind everyone that spring 2020 will find us in Des Moines for our Annual Meeting. We have a newly named triad of LAC cochairs in Hilary Seo, Rosalie Gartner, and Hope Bibens, who will be working on the details in central Iowa. The Fall Symposium for that year is still a twinkle in someone's eye. Perhaps yours? If you'd like to bring the Fall Symposium to your community in 2020, please contact me. You don't need a full-blown proposal to get the ball rolling.