News from the Midwest

Midwest Archives Conference

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Chicago Public Library
The Chicago Public Library (CPL) recently published 10,000 photographs from the Chicago Park District Archives online at https://cdm16818.contentdm.oclc.org/customizations/global/pages/content.php?id=ChicagoParks. This selection shows everything from building the parks to playing in them. It includes images of the 1959 Pan-American Games in Portage Park, Mayor Richard J. Daley riding a tandem bicycle in Ogden Park, the sheep who trimmed the grass in Washington Park’s grand meadow, and more. Visit the library in person to view 50,000 additional photos that document events like the first Special Olympics held in Burnham Park’s Soldier Field in 1968 (#SpecialOlympics50), Martin Luther King’s 1966 Freedom Rally, the 1933–1934 Century of Progress World’s Fair, and 1968 Democratic National Convention protests in Grant Park. The photographs also picture everyday enjoyment of features like the Garfield Park Conservatory, the Lincoln Park Zoo, miles of beaches, and more. Visit CPL to view as well 100,000 Chicago Park District architectural and landscape drawings representing the entire park system and its long history.

Northeastern Illinois University
Northeastern Illinois University has digitized and made available the transcript of the Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) hearing that was held on campus in September 1981. This federal commission was formed in 1980 to officially investigate Executive Order 9066 (which initiated the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants) and its impact on former internees and their families. These hearings were held across the country, and NEIU was chosen as the Chicago site for the hearing.

The transcript is segmented according to individual testimonies and subsequent Q&A sessions with members of the commission; the files are titled accordingly. The link to this keyword-searchable collection is http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/nei_japan.

Northwestern University
Northwestern University Archives held a tea party on May 18, 2018, to celebrate the marriage of Northwestern alum Meghan Markle Duchess of Sussex (‘03) to Prince Harry of Wales. The public was invited to partake in this occasion with a number of activities including writing best wishes that have been assembled for a scrapbook, locating Markle in a group yearbook photo of Kappa Gamma Sorority, creating paper fascinators, and learning about Princess Diana’s visit to Northwestern in 1996 and Queen Elizabeth’s visit to Chicago in 1959. This was also an opportunity to display commemorative engagement and wedding souvenirs that University Archives has been collecting since the engagement was announced in November 2017. The new collection includes cover features of Markle on British, Canadian, and American magazines; an assortment of Markle biographies, comic books, paper dolls, coloring books, and tea towels; an Emma Bridgewater mug; a Buckingham Palace commemorative plate; a replica of Markle’s engagement ring; and a postcard, keyring, leather bookmark, tea spoon, bell, coins, and buttons. We’re always looking for new additions to this collection!

Preschool, Union Park, June 17, 1936, photographer unknown. Chicago Park District Archives, Chicago Public Library, Photograph 102_004_002.
can National Committee chairman from 1918 to 1921 and was the campaign manager for President Warren Harding in 1920. Harding appointed Hays as postmaster general in 1921. He later became president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America from 1922 to 1945, where he established the “Hays Code” of acceptable content for motion pictures produced for a public audience. A film from the collection was recently digitized and can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtcnJmNDztM. The Indiana State Library was the only state library to receive an NHPRC grant in the category of Access to Historical Records. For more information, contact Bethany Fiechter, Rare Books and Manuscripts supervisor, at 317-234-8621 or at bfiechter@library.in.gov.

KENTUCKY

Berea College
Radio programs that informed and entertained many rural Kentuckians from 1936 into the mid-1950s can now be accessed through the WHAS Radio Historical Collection in Hutchins Library’s Department of Special Collections and Archives at Berea College. The recordings document a wide range of state, national, and world issues and events. For instance, eight Kentucky governors can be heard navigating the rough-and-tumble of Kentucky election campaigns. The collection also includes World War II news updates and presidential visits to the state. Entertainment programs include the Kentucky-based Renfro Valley Barn Dance, Louisville Symphony performances, African American jug band music, musical variety shows, soap operas, and sporting events, particularly the Kentucky Derby. Louisville-based WHAS created the 1,500 lacquer-coated glass- and aluminum-based discs containing the programs. They have been digitized with the support of an anonymous donor and can be heard through links in the collection.

IOWA

Iowa State University Library Special Collections & University Archives
Iowa State University Library Special Collections & University Archives’ (SCUA) new exhibition Activist Agriculture: Farm Protest in Iowa, 1929–1969 is open now through January 2019. In this exhibit, curators take a closer look at mobilization of farmers to confront and obstruct tuberculosis testing of cattle during the Iowa Cow Wars of the early 1930s and the commodity holding actions of the National Farmers Organization in the 1960s. The exhibit covers the actions and methods used by the farmers as well as how they leveraged the media to affect change. The exhibition also explores the parallel struggles of migrant farm workers to improve wages and working conditions, efforts both to pass legislation in Iowa in support of migrant farm workers and to support the Delano Grape Strike in California, and the related international boycott. The digital exhibit is available at https://exhibits.lib.iastate.edu/activist-agriculture.
Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

Following the Father’s Day 2018 flood in Michigan’s Copper Country, archivists from the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections have been providing consultations and disaster recovery assistance for local cultural heritage sites. Archivists Emily Riippa and Allison Neely have dedicated many hours to the efforts to save records at the Houghton County Historical Society (HCHS) in Lake Linden. University archivist Lindsay Hiltunen, board member of the Michigan Archival Association (MAA), presented a check for $500 to the HCHS board on behalf of the MAA board. The check will be used to replace some of the damaged archival shelving, an effort which has been led by the HCHS and the Keweenaw National Historical Park staff. In addition, Hiltunen did two days of archival consulting work with the 12th District Circuit Court at the Houghton County Courthouse. Records impacted by the flood are currently being restored and digitized.

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Military Museum

The Minnesota Military Museum has recently received a donation of the papers and records of General John W. Vessey. The general is most notable for his service as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the presidency of Ronald Reagan. The collection covers the general’s prestigious 46-year military career (1939–1985) and includes items related to his work in returning POWs from the Vietnam War. The Minnesota Military Museum is very proud and excited to include this collection from one of Minnesota’s most decorated veterans.

General John W. Vessey Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1982–1985

Red Wing Shoes Wall of Honor Exhibit

The Red Wing Shoe Company Corporate Archives played an influential role in the Wall of Honor exhibit at the Red Wing flagship store and museum in Red Wing, Minnesota. The Wall of Honor showcases customers and their footwear. Utilizing recently digitized testimonials that date back to the 1920s, the archives provided the capstone testimonials used in the exhibit. These testimonials include the experience of a construction manager who cleaned up the rubble from 9/11 and believes that his boots saved his life. The archives reached out to this customer and conducted an interview with him. He came to Red Wing for recognition as a Wall of Honor honoree and to meet the employees that built his boots. Regional newscasters filmed the unveiling of the Wall of Honor and spoke with several honorees. The archives both provided materials for the exhibit and captured the events surrounding the Wall of Honor.
OHIO
Archdiocese of Cincinnati Archives
With grant funding from the State Library of Ohio and the Hamilton County Genealogical Society, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Archives has digitized issues of the Catholic Telegraph from its founding in 1831 through 1885, which are now available at http://thecatholicnewsarchive.org. The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is also digitizing the newspaper from 1831 to 1922 to be posted on its Digital Library site (http://digital.cincinnatilibrary.org/digital). The Catholic Telegraph began in 1831, one of the oldest diocesan publications in the United States and a “treasure trove of information” to researchers, says archivist Sarah Pat-terson. “Having the newspaper online with the Public Library and the CNA means that access to the newspaper is greatly increased to researchers and the general public, which is a primary goal for the archives. The Catholic Telegraph is one of our most heavily used records by researchers.” There are plans to pursue additional funding to digitize further content of the newspaper.

Denison University
Archon Day 2018 was held at Denison University in Granville, Ohio, on June 29 with participants from...
institutions in Illinois, Minnesota, Kansas, and Ohio. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the future viability of Archon, the availability of alternative tools and their utility for Archon users in particular, and the Archon Users Collaborative work in three to five years. The group formed teams focusing on research, code development, and user community communication. Each team has specific objectives and welcomes new team members. Ideas generated include: explore updating Archon code to work with PHP 7, building off what Calvin College has already completed; hold Archon Day 2019 virtually and work on communication to get others outside of the Midwest actively involved; create a comprehensive directory of Archon users to include international institutions for posting on the website; find partners and look for funding for future development. For the full meeting report and for more information, visit http://archonusers.blogspot.com.

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**South Dakota State Archives**

The spring 2018 issue of *South Dakota History* features an article by South Dakota State Archives manuscript/photo archivist Matthew T. Reitzel titled “Genevieve Trask and the Double Christening of the USS *South Dakota*.” In 1941, Genevieve Trask, Pierre resident, requested that a champagne bottle she’d been gifted in 1912 be used to christen the US Navy battleship USS *South Dakota*. Sponsor of the christening South Dakota First Lady Vera Bushfield accepted the bottle. It was feared, however, that Trask’s bottle, only “half-sized,” would not break properly. A “full-sized” bottle was purchased, and both bottles christened the battleship, resulting in a special double christening on June 7, 1941, at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation quays in Camden, New Jersey. The South Dakota State Archives holds a scrapbook of correspondence, news clippings, and photographs created by Trask, as well as her diaries and photographs of the USS *South Dakota*.

![The US Navy's battleship, USS South Dakota, awaits its double christening and launching at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation quays in Camden, New Jersey, on June 7, 1941. Photo courtesy South Dakota State Historical Society.](image)

**WISCONSIN**

**Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes**

The Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes Archives in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, received a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation to create new 16mm prints and digital copies of its film, *Decision for Happiness*. Created in 1958–1959 as part of the congregation’s centennial celebrations, the film depicts a young woman’s journey through the religious formation process. The film was used as a recruitment and orientation tool and documents daily life in the convent, as well as investment and profession ceremonies. It features interior and exterior views of the now-demolished CSA motherhouse and campus, as well as scenes from the city and Lake Winnebago. The film is available for viewing on the CSA website at [http://www.csasisters.org/resources/videos.cfm](http://www.csasisters.org/resources/videos.cfm).

**University of Wisconsin–Madison**

The University Archives was recently awarded a $12,000 grant from the local Evjue Foundation to digitize 650 unique and at-risk videotapes in the *Nothing to Hide* Archive. In 1981, David Runyon created *Nothing to Hide*, a weekly television program that aired on WYOU community television. The show focused on covering LGBTQ+ issues on both the national and local levels and featured national, international, and local figures such as Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Angela Davis, Howard Zinn, Toni Morrison, George Mosse, Tammy Baldwin, and Dick Wagner among others. The program ran for 20 years and is a video record of historically important events in Wisconsin and the United States. Currently, the content is preserved on now-fragile and decaying magnetic media. Digitizing these U-Matic and VHS tapes will allow the UW–Archives to save content and make it available before it’s lost. For more information, visit [https://www.library.wisc.edu/news/2018/05/30/nothing-to-hide-archive](https://www.library.wisc.edu/news/2018/05/30/nothing-to-hide-archive). The University Archives is pleased to announce that the Nellie Y. McKay papers are processed and open for research. McKay joined the faculty at UW–Madison in 1978 and helped establish an African American literature curriculum in
the Department of Afro-American Studies. Her work focused on black women’s literature and multicultural women’s writings. She published more than 60 essays, and book and journal articles on such writers as Harriet Jacobs, Ida B. Wells, Zora Neale Hurston, and Alice Walker. In 1996, she co-edited the *Norton Anthology of African-American Literature*, one of the first works to canonize black American literature, with Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. McKay’s papers span 13.3 cubic feet and include personal and professional correspondence, manuscripts and writings, research files, and course materials. Notably, the collection includes the editor’s manual of the *Norton Anthology of African-American Literature* with notes from Gates, McKay, and other editors, and details the criteria for inclusion in the anthology. The finding aid for the collection will be available in fall 2018. For further information, contact uwarchiv@library.wisc.edu.

**US Province Archives Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**
A Historical Retrospective Pictorial Exhibit, focusing on US immigration issues as viewed from the perspective of 95 years of the apostolic ministries of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (SCJs or Dehonians), a Roman Catholic Religious Order of Men serving through the community charism of apostolic service to poor and marginalized US populations. The exhibit was created for the US Province’s June 2018 triennial Provincial Leadership Election Assembly held at the Provincialate in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. It includes a selection of items representing regional US apostolates to Native Americans (South Dakota), African Americans (northern Mississippi, Detroit, St. Louis, East Chicago, Indiana), and Hispanic Americans (primarily in Texas, Mississippi, Indiana) residing in various Catholic dioceses, as well as to seminaries-formation houses widely dispersed across the country. The Retrospective will also be featured at a major academic symposium sponsored by the Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology on the topic of Pope Francis’s papacy to be held October 8–11, 2018.

**CORRECTION**
The July 2018 issue of the *MAC Newsletter* erroneously included an item in the News from the Midwest column about an Iowa State University Library Special Collections & University Archives exhibit, “This movement for a more beautiful Iowa: The Early Years of Iowa’s State Park System.” This information came from a previous issue and was included by editorial error. We apologize for any inconvenience.