

## 21ST ANNUAL NARA PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

*By Richard Schneider*

The 21st Annual National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Preservation Conference, “Managing the Intangible: Creating, Storing and Retrieving Digital Surrogates of Historical Materials,” was held from April 30 to May 1, 2007, at the Marriott Inn and Conference Center at the University of Maryland’s University College.

“Managing the Intangible” provided a forum to examine the digital reformatting process in its entirety, as a program, rather than as a specific administrative or technical element of a project. Because of the broader scope of the conference format, it proved beneficial to archivists, preservation specialists, program managers and administrators, educators, and project managers, for it addressed common issues that influence reformatting decisions and approaches to digital preservation regardless of original media type.

In his opening remarks, the Archivist of United States, Professor Allen Weinstein, acknowledged NARA staff who



*The panel on Dynamic Media, featuring (left to right) Sarah Cunningham, Michael Hamilton, Criss Kovac, Kate Murray, Jay Love, and Chris Lacinak, discussed specific preservation cases on the second conference day. Photo by Jeff Reed.*

perform expert work in reformatting both textual and non-textual records of the National Archives and said, “At NARA, about 675 million pages and 12 million special media items are in need of preservation reformatting because of their deteriorated condition, obsolete format, and/or high use. When properly planned and executed, reformatting achieves dramatic results by making it easier to conduct research on original materials while increasing access for staff, depositing agencies, researchers, and the public.” The importance the Archivist places on digital reformatting needs is noteworthy, and the National Archives is poised to assume a major leadership role within the federal government.

Following the Archivist was Dr. Michael J. Kurtz, Assistant Archivist for the Office of Records Services—Washington, DC, who spoke of the role preservation reformatting and digitization have and will have to a much greater extent in the future at the National Archives.

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*The conference exhibit booth of Cutting Corporation—Archival Sound Labs. Photo by Jeff Reed.*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by  
*Bill Williams*

I'm delighted—and honored—to serve as President of the Society for History in the Federal Government for the coming year. As I begin my tenure, my thoughts turn to how I got here.

In the autumn of 2002, I became, through a complicated but fortuitous set of circumstances, the Chief of the Center for Cryptologic History (CCH) at the National Security Agency. At that point I was still an active-duty Air Force officer. I'd never been part of a federal history office previously, although I had served on the faculty of the History Department at the United States Air Force Academy. That, along with my experience as a career intelligence officer, made CCH seem like a good fit since it enabled me to bring together, into one job, my history and intelligence backgrounds.

The problem, of course, was that I didn't have any experience as a federal historian, so I had to learn a lot relatively quickly. One of my first instincts was to visit other federal history offices to see how they operated, and my time spent talking to historians associated with half a dozen agencies in the Intelligence Community was extraordinarily helpful. But the most useful advice I received was when someone told me to "look into joining SHFG."

Fortunately, the annual SHFG holiday reception was scheduled just a few weeks down the road, in early December. I attended and immediately was hooked. SHFG, I quickly discovered, provided me with an incredible opportunity to meet, learn from, and share information with a broad spectrum of history professionals engaged in all types of federal agencies and organizations. Excited about the possibilities SHFG presented, I signed up that night.

It didn't take long for me to get involved in SHFG. I discovered, for example, that all federal history programs were facing challenges in finding a means to preserve electronic records. Hoping to find some answers, I decided to set up a panel on this topic at the SHFG annual meeting the following spring in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Lining up the speakers for that session helped me learn about ambitious electronic records management programs underway at the Department of the Navy and the Central Intelligence Agency, and how the National Archives and Records Administration planned to coordinate the acquisition and preservation of digital data. The session drew a large audience and helped everyone present better understand the difficult and ongoing problems presented by this issue (some of which are discussed in this issue of *The Federalist*).

But that's not all I got out of the SHFG conference. At other sessions, I discovered a wide variety of innovative activities underway in federal history programs (and borrowed several ideas I could use at CCH). At the Awards Luncheon, I saw extraordinary achievements in federal history recognized in a professional and prestigious manner. And, on top of all that, I discovered that SHFG offered me unparalleled networking opportunities. Many of the folks I met at Shepherdstown have since become close colleagues to whom I've frequently turned for advice.

My enthusiasm for SHFG and what it had to offer soon attracted the attention of the nominating committee, which approached me about running for a position on the Executive Council. Although plenty busy at CCH, I decided to throw my hat into the ring—and for me that proved to be a very good decision. Serving on the Council gave me the opportunity to work with highly committed professionals who were determined to make SHFG both relevant and successful in its efforts to promote the cause of federal history.

I spent two years on the Executive Council and then became just a "regular SHFG member," during which time I retired from the Air Force and started working at CCH in mufti. Then, in 2006, I agreed to run for Vice President. This past year, I had the privilege of serving under the lead-

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*PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued from page 2*

ership of John Roberts, whose cheerful and competent approach as SHFG President moved the Society forward along a broad front. As I become President, I look forward to building on the achievements of John and his predecessors.

I'm fortunate to have an exceptionally strong team supporting me—Lee Ann Potter as Vice President; Anne Rothfeld as Secretary; Peter Kraemer as Treasurer; Beth Boland, Richard Peuser, Kathleen Franz, and Ben Guterman on the Executive Council; John Roberts, Kristin Ahlberg, Roger Launius, Sara Leach, and David Waltrop on the Nominating Committee; Juliette Arai looking after membership issues; Jennifer Levasseur and Charles Downs man-

aging the SHFG web site; Henry Gwiazda overseeing the Awards Program; and Benjamin Guterman, Betty Koed, John Lonnquest, and John Roberts serving as editors of *The Federalist*. There are also many other dedicated members, "behind the scenes," working on committees and volunteering their time to make SHFG a success.

All of us welcome any ideas from you about how to make the Society better. Please don't hesitate to shoot me an e-mail, at [billwms50@gmail.com](mailto:billwms50@gmail.com), about thoughts you might have on how we can best build the SHFG of the future. I'm looking forward to hearing from you, and seeing you at Society events during the coming year!

*PRESERVATION CONFERENCE, continued from page 1*

Doris A. Hamburg, Director of Preservation Programs, welcomed the conferees and thanked the organizing committee and the speakers, who are renowned leaders in preservation reformatting and digital imaging programs.

Steven Puglia from NARA presented the keynote address, which provided an overview of what a digital surrogate is and why the management of it is essential for preservation and access. Lucy Barber from NARA, Joyce Ray from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and Charles Kolb from the National Endowment for the Humanities followed and provided a perspective on guidelines for funding preservation reformatting projects.

Linda Tadic from ArtStor in New York presented a comprehensive lecture on planning and infrastructure for analog to digital preservation projects. It is not enough to simply scan original records. There needs to be a plan and a commitment in place for institutions to deal effectively with the preservation and access to their digital files. If not, the entire digitization effort, both in terms of time and money, could be wasted.

Jim Lindner from Media Matters, LLC in New York followed Ms. Tadic with a thought-provoking lecture on the creation and purpose of the digital surrogate. It is very important for institutions to fully review and understand the processes they are using. The audience was asked to confront the issue of what makes a particular item an original record and what is a surrogate. What is gained or lost in the process?

Chris Lacinak from Audiovisual Preservation Solutions in Brooklyn provided a great deal of practical information on more technical aspects of digital reformatting. His presentations included insights into evaluating the digital surrogate and implementing quality assurance and control, thereby



Steven Puglia from NARA's Special Media Preservation Laboratory delivered the Keynote Address. Photo by Jeff Reed.



Linda Tadic from ArtStor in New York spoke on the essential steps in digitization. Photo by Robert Maciolek.

ensuring that the surrogates produced have enduring value for preservation and access alike.

Pierre Gamache from Library and Archives Canada concluded the first day's formal presentations with a well-received lecture on digital programs and organizational change. Many institutions may not recognize or may not be prepared for the significant and unique changes that will occur organizationally during a transition from analog to digital, and once digital technology becomes the dominant and perhaps sole means for preservation and access.

On the second day, media specialists presented case studies of digital reformatting projects, followed by a moderated discussion with audience participation. This was an integral part of the program, permitting the audience to ask questions and discuss issues with the panelists. These presentations and discussions were divided into static imaging (photography, textual records) and dynamic media digitization (audio, video, and motion pictures).

**PRESERVATION CONFERENCE**, *continued from page 3*

During the panel discussions, there was interaction among the audience and panel members concerning the choice of software for image preservation. The “newness” of certain software makes it difficult to determine when and how it will be used as a standard for capturing images.

Other discussions centered on the costs of digitization and storage of digital files versus maintaining physical carriers of dynamic media. It was pointed out that costs could decline sharply through the automation of functions such as transformations and migrations, as well as through the probable decline of storage costs.

“Managing the Intangible” was a departure from past conferences in its organization as a two-day event that

included an evening reception where speakers, vendors, and attendees could network, and the presence of 10 vendors who particularly serve the needs of the preservation reformatting and digital imaging community.

“Managing the Intangible” had the largest attendance of any NARA preservation conference to date. The 260-plus attendees came from a diverse range of state and federal agencies, colleges and universities, private industry, and major historical institutions.

The program schedule and digital slide presentations can be found by visiting the conference web page at <http://www.archives.gov/preservation/conferences/2007>.

*Richard Schneider is a management and program analyst at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland.*

### SOME PRESERVATION CONFERENCE INSIGHTS

Conference presentations and panels highlighted the rapidly evolving world of digitization technology and our understanding of it, the great promise of new processes, and critical technical and administrative considerations. One overriding caution stood out: digitization projects require careful, informed planning, execution, and commitment, for institutions will have to live with the results of their digital preservation choices for a long time. Here are some of the key issues raised.

#### SYSTEMS OBSOLESCENCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Conventional methods for preserving, duplicating, and reformatting static analog media (print, photos, microfilm) and dynamic analog media (motion picture and audio and video tapes) are becoming less available as manufacturers of analog equipment and supplies either switch to a digital business model or go out of business. With the increasing public demand for digital access, digitization is becoming the major preservation and access option.

- All media face the continual reality of systems obsolescence, and thus the challenge to preserve and provide access to those records.
- Specific considerations for risk-management decisions include high reformatting costs, reproduction quality, stability of imaging materials, ease of duplication, defining and choosing effective reproduction standards, and archival and curatorial considerations, among others. For example, digital equipment likely needs replacing every 3–5 years, and microfilm stock may not be readily available in the near future. Thus, many institutions will continue with analog preservation as long as possible while undertaking selected digitization projects.

#### COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

U.S. libraries, archives, and museums must preserve millions of records, and can only do so with funding and technical assistance through collaborative efforts. Collaborations (e.g., between libraries and museums) can help select digital standards, build infrastructure, gain control over the records, plan, and achieve efficiency in digitization. Examples of funding sources are NEH and NHPRC.

#### PROPER PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The high costs and complexity of digitization projects require detailed planning and organization. Key steps include

- determining intellectual property rights, upon which access depends
- preparing the records through cleaning, inventorying, and development of identifying metadata
- selecting the new file format
- determining the storage type and method, such as digital masters versus access files, or in-house storage versus hosted servers
- careful management of workflow, considering such factors as version control and electronic management of all files
- using an accepted standard to document the digitization process in the metadata in order to understand the quality of the resultant record, and
- deciding on “production scenarios,” such as outsourcing or use of vendors.

#### PROXIES AND PROVENANCE

Digital files are “proxies” or digital surrogates for originals, and as such they may or may not be good enough. They cannot convey the texture or smell of the original. In addition, there are often numerous proxies of proxies, creating the challenge of identifying the original or most faithful digital file.

- Questions of provenance are critical. Digitization processes must be documented, understood, and controlled as much as possible. In sound recordings, for example, the technician must diagnose the properties of the original, set up equipment properly, transfer under quality-control conditions, validate the transfer of data, and regularly monitor the “integrity” of the stored data.
- We must know the quality or character of the files we have in order to determine how we can use them. For example, practical issues include whether proxies are acceptable as evidence, as in legal matters. As files are compressed, colors and details change, and changes occur in migration of files (“transcoding”) from one program to another.

*Benjamin Guterman*

## THE CURATOR'S PERSPECTIVE

*Interview by Benjamin Guterman*

**P**roducing historical exhibitions is a highly creative and interdisciplinary endeavor, unique among historical undertakings. In federal agencies, exhibitions must be guided by the specific mission and predominant record type of that agency, and by the larger responsibility to immerse their audiences in past eras and events. But how does the curator plan and conceptualize the project, and balance interpretation and responsible presentation of information? And, with changing public views of museums, and with new technologies, how do curators redefine their work? In this brief interview, three federal curators, Susan Bachrach, Bruce Bustard, and Harry R. Rubenstein, provide some insights into these questions.

**Describe one of your recent projects, and some unique challenges it posed for historical presentation.**

*Bachrach:* “Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race” documents the role that German scientists and physicians played in legitimizing and implementing Nazi policies that culminated in the Holocaust. Many people know about cruel medical experiments conducted on unwilling human subjects, so one challenge was to present less well-known aspects of Nazi medicine and professional behavior that paved the way to those transgressions—importantly, the popularity of eugenics in Germany well before Hitler took power, within the context of international support for eugen-



*Susan Bachrach is a curator, Special Exhibitions, with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC.*



*The exhibition “Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race” evokes scientific research in Weimar Germany, especially the study of “races.”*

ics. Creating a visual experience to present an abstract argument was challenging. The selection of objects, graphics, and films that evoke science and medicine was critical, as was an exhibition design that included environments evoking medicine and research, and their perversion during the Nazi years. Strong graphic design—the use of text headlines, iconic quotations, translation panels (for key German documents)—and the reiteration of “messages” through audiovisual programs were also crucial.

*Bustard:* I am currently working with a NARA team that is developing an exhibit for the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The volume and variety of the Archives’ Civil War holdings is remarkable, but our records also have their limitations. For example, most of them are official documents that often reflect a government’s—especially the Union’s—point of view. Fortunately, our research has uncovered many documents that look at the war from different perspectives. Another challenge is conveying a sense of chronology and context while avoiding an approach so dominated by sequence that the war’s history, as portrayed in the exhibit, becomes “one damn thing after another”—a case on Fort Sumter followed by a case on Bull Run, followed by a case on Shiloh. We have also come to realize that, for many Americans, the Civil War is never “just history.” It brings up hot button issues such as slavery, race, and mass death that are easily politicized, but that also are often at the heart of the American experience.

*Rubenstein:* For the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the National Museum of American History produced an exhibition in 2004 that was curated by Alonzo Smith and myself. The exhibition’s goal was to provide visitors with a basic history of this watershed event, to discuss the contributions of those who brought this case forward, and to discuss the legacy of legal segregation and white supremacy that continues today.

As is true of all exhibitions, careful research and effective exhibit is essential. Additionally, for projects with political overtones community outreach cannot be over emphasized. Maybe as much as 50 percent of the project’s time was devoted to working with individuals, groups, and organizations associated with the history of the *Brown* case.

We also recognized the need to be very thoughtful about the exhibition’s tone, taking care not to lecture our visitors. Finally, current debates over the long-term impact of the *Brown* decision, its successes and failures, and the resegregation of American schools were presented through a variety

*Bruce Bustard is a senior curator with the Center for the National Archives Experience, Washington, DC.*



*A young visitor to the National Archives Public Vaults exhibition uses one of the computer interactives.*

of contemporary voices so as not to imply an official Smithsonian position.

There are certain lessons that we are learning in doing these kinds of shows. Most importantly, museums can no longer plan to do challenging exhibitions in isolation. Public history has to involve more of the public both in the process and in the presentation. This requires listening to and working closely with those who have a stake in the subject and carefully shaping the tone and substance of the presentation.

### **Should museums instruct, inform, or entertain? How do you approach the potential friction in those goals?**

*Bachrach:* The subject matter of the Holocaust Museum, which is also a memorial to the victims, makes it an inappropriate space for entertainment. The evocative design of the building elicits a somber response as does the content of the permanent and temporary exhibitions. The Museum instructs but in a way distinct from classroom learning, which, of course, is one of the *raison d'etres* of museums.

*Bustard:* At the risk of answering a question that wasn't asked, I would say that the first goal of an exhibit should be to engage the visitor. There are many ways to convey historical information, and if you are just talking about giving people a great deal of information there are probably better and cheaper ways to do it than an exhibit. But a well-designed exhibition has a few advantages. It is a more physical and social experience than a book or an article or a web site. It also more readily evokes memory and emotion than other forms of media. In short, exhibits are great places for people to discover new things. Once engaged and excited about a

topic, I hope the visitor will go home and continue to explore on his or her own.

*Rubenstein:* The simple answer is yes. I would not worry too much about the potential conflict among these goals. More importantly, museums, as educational institutions, need to make their collections, research, and information available to the public in a manner that is relevant to their audiences. Museums are expensive institutions, and if they are to survive, they need to be viewed as having a valuable role in the life of their community beyond bringing in tourist dollars or being a place to take visiting relatives. This means creating well-balanced programs that not only inform their audiences but also challenge them. Ideally museum exhibitions and programs strive to become a forum for bringing together different ideas and diverse audiences.

### **How is technology changing museum work?**

*Bachrach:* Flat screens of all sizes, digitization of film and videos, and new "hidden sound" systems introduce enormous flexibility in integrating audiovisual programs into displays, and LEDs provide new options for illuminating objects. Because of our mass audience and somber subject matter, the Holocaust Museum has used interactives in a limited way. I think thoughtful use of interactives in museums remains the exception. Too often the aim becomes interaction for the sake of interaction, and as a poor substitute for visitor encounters with historic documents and 3-D objects.

Technology, especially e-mail and the Internet, has facilitated exhibition research and development to an incalculable degree.

*Bustard:* Technology allows more visitors to see more documents in greater depth. Using technology in an exhibit is also an opportunity to interest visitors—especially

*Harry R. Rubenstein is Chair, Division of Politics and Reform, at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.*



*A section of the Brown v. Board of Education exhibit on separate but unequal education featured a divided classroom.*

younger, more technologically savvy visitors—in history and in the process of historical discovery. The danger is when bells and whistles begin to dominate the story you are trying to tell or even obscure it. A good example are the many museums that allow visitors to electronically “vote” on a historical issue such as the causes of the Civil War or our best or worst president. Just because we can keep such a running tally of visitor opinion doesn’t make it important, meaningful, or even interesting.

*Rubenstein:* As is true with the rest of society, museums are undergoing tremendous changes as new technology is being incorporated into our programs. Let me just mention two that relate to exhibitions. Walk into any major museum and one is struck by the number of interactives, videos, and self-directed electronic tours. Historic documents are transcribed before your eyes, images of artifacts let visitors “handle the objects,” and environmental experiences and

theaters “bring the past to life.” In short, these technologies are adding a host of new tools and mediums for use in our presentations.

These new technologies have also made it possible to reach a much larger audience than ever before. Just a few years ago, a museum’s outreach was largely limited to its attendance and the few who read its publications. Now, information through the Internet means that the smallest museum can have an audience in the millions.

This is a period of experimentation with the expected failures and some successes. The challenge is for institutions to incorporate these opportunities while preserving what is unique and special about museums. These new opportunities do come with a significant cost. The already strained museum budgets have yet to come to terms with how they are going to fund these projects and survive in this competitive new environment.

## USING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TO ADDRESS HISTORY’S DIFFICULT LESSONS

*By Ann Hitchcock*

In 2000 and 2001, the American Association of Museums sponsored a national dialogue on museums and their communities that culminated with the publication of *Mastering Civic Engagement: A Challenge to Museums*. Simultaneously, the National Park Service (NPS) started a Civic Engagement Initiative and adopted a policy on Civic Engagement and Public Involvement (2003). Although NPS planning processes have sought public review for years, civic engagement called for a continuous, dynamic conversation with the public on many levels—a potentially transformative experience for all involved.

Through civic engagement, NPS learns from the communities it serves and thereby improves mutual understanding, decisions, and work products, such as historical interpretation and exhibits. Many parks have embraced civic engagement with remarkable results. NPS has successfully used civic engagement to address the difficult topic of Japanese American internment during World War II. The establishment and development of Manzanar National Historic Site illustrates the process.

Manzanar National Historic Site in the Owens Valley of eastern California tells the story of Japanese Americans who were denied constitutional rights and were interned in one of 10 War Relocation Centers during World War II because of

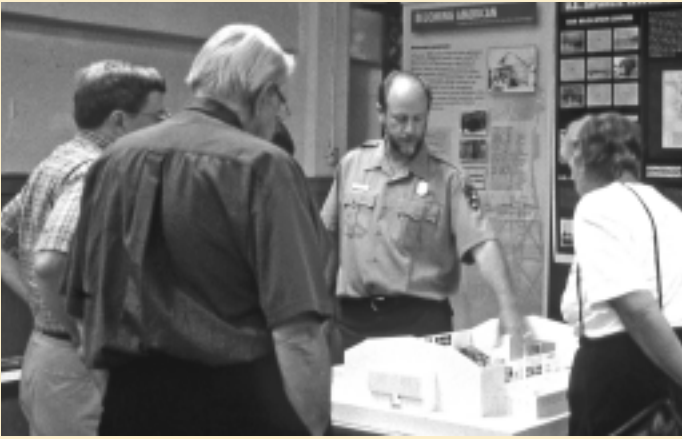


*The entrance to the Manzanar National Historic Site (left). The guard tower (above) was completed in 2005.*

their ethnicity. Although not stated in the establishing legislation, NPS also tells Manzanar’s long history of recurring human settlement and displacement, including its role as an apple farming community, a cattle ranch, and the home of the Owens Valley Paiute. How NPS tells these stories is an ongoing process that is informed by civic engagement.

At the Manzanar War Relocation Center, more than 10,000 men, women, and children lived in 576 primitive barracks and shared common buildings, such as a laundry, classrooms, and an auditorium. The Army built the center on land leased with the condition that, upon termination, the government would remove any buildings and improvements. For NPS, the cleared site would be an interpretive challenge that civic engagement would help to overcome.

Civic engagement at Manzanar began before the national



*Engaging the local community of Independence, CA, in a Manzanar exhibit review in August 2002.*

historic site's establishment and NPS involvement. In 1969, the first of what would become annual pilgrimages, organized by the Manzanar Committee, occurred. The Manzanar Committee pushed for recognition of the site, joined by a coalition of Japanese American organizations, local agencies, and interested citizens. The site was designated a California Historic Landmark (1972), listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1976), and designated a National Historic Landmark (1985).

In the 1970s, California State Parks completed a feasibility study recommending the site as a state park with historic interpretation based on reconstructions of camp buildings. Local citizens, including the local Indian population, objected to the plan's focus on the relocation center—they wanted a broader interpretation of the site's history. The site was not added to the state parks system, but the polarized points of view remained.

In 1992, Congress established Manzanar National Historic Site to provide for the protection and interpretation of resources associated with the Japanese American relocation experience. The legislation also established an Advisory Commission composed of former internees, local residents, representatives of Native American groups, and the general public. Although the mission focused on the relocation camp, the composition of the Advisory Commission would give voice to diverse views.

Thus, NPS stepped into an existing dialogue that challenged some of its long-standing principles of site development. For example, at a hearing to establish the national historic site, NPS testified:

We also would like to emphasize...that we would intend only minimum development...there would be no reconstruction...of the fencing, the guard tower or barracks and no attempt to recreate the scene that has disappeared...the authenticity of the site speaks far more powerfully than anything we could create by building imitations of the historic buildings that were there or by moving in some buildings that have been taken away.

NPS policies viewed reconstructions as contemporary interpretations of the past rather than authentic survivals, and favored reconstruction only when no other alternative would accomplish the park's interpretive mission and when it would not be based on conjecture. The Service found that others held equally strong and opposing views.

The Manzanar Committee pushed very hard for reconstruction of various camp features, including the rock gardens, barracks, and especially the guard towers. Beginning in 1993, three public scoping sessions were held where these polarized views were expressed—the NPS's opposition to reconstruction versus the Manzanar Committee's belief that reconstruction was essential; the legislation's focus on the history of the relocation camp versus the local communities' desires to see the pioneer and Paiute history given equivalent attention.

The Commission held its first meeting in 1995, and a draft General Management Plan received public review in 1996. Comments reflected the diverse views noted above—views that greatly affected the general management plan.

The final proposed plan endorsed protection of the site's historic and prehistoric features, emphasizing the most significant features associated with the relocation center, centuries of occupation by American Indian cultures, and ranching and agricultural activities. The national historic site would be managed as a cultural landscape based on the World War II period. Barracks blocks and significant structures throughout the site would be marked to demonstrate the relocation center layout. NPS support would be provided for the annual Manzanar pilgrimage.

The approved plan called for reconstruction of the camp's barbed wire fence, camp entrance sign, guard tower, and barracks buildings. In addition, the auditorium would be restored and serve as a visitor center with exhibits and an introductory film (opened in 2004).

During public meetings for the general management plan, it became apparent that the single most important symbol of the Manzanar Camp was the Guard Tower. A partnership led by the Friends of Manzanar raised funds and park staff coordinated the reconstruction. The guard tower was completed in 2005.

Other structures, including one or more reconstructed barracks buildings that still exist in the local area and some support structures, such as a laundry building, may be added.

The Civic Engagement process transformed the NPS position and enabled all parties to accommodate the needs of others to put this difficult lesson of history in the context of the extended history of Manzanar. Clearly, ongoing civic engagement is the foundation not only for the interpretation of history, but also the overall management of this site.

*Ann Hitchcock is Chief Curator at the National Park Service, Washington, DC.*



# NARA'S CHALLENGES WITH MODERN RECORDS

*By Arian D. Ravanbakhsh*

Generations of historians and researchers are very familiar with the gray, acid-free, archival storage boxes in which the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) stores processed records from decades and centuries ago. Every box is filled with material that has one thing in common, regardless of the agency that created and sent the material to NARA. They consist of text written on paper that can be read by anyone. Now, the challenge is that more and more of these records are being created solely in electronic formats from a wide variety of computer systems that can only be accessed by particular software programs. In addition, there is no guarantee that the particular software used to create these electronic records will be accessible in five or more years.

Located within the Office of Modern Records Programs (NWM) is the Electronic Records Management (ERM) policy team. This team is responsible for the development of policies and guidance for federal agencies to assist in the creation and maintenance of records, and the eventual transfer to the custody of the National Archives of those records appraised as permanent. In general, NARA's goal for the ERM guidance products is to advise agencies to select formats for their electronic records that are sustainable. This gives both the agency and NARA the best chance for preserving the electronic records for future researchers. Information created in unsustainable formats runs the risk of being lost as systems and software change in a federal agency. Characteristics of sustainable formats include that they are self-documenting, publicly available, non-proprietary, in widespread use, and that they can be opened, read, and accessed using readily-available software.

NARA has been receiving electronic records for over 30 years that meet these characteristics. Traditionally, these types of electronic records were highly structured database systems that could easily be migrated into a sustainable format. As office computer systems evolved and became more flexible and powerful, however, electronic information moved from database systems into the wide range of formats that are available today. From a technical standpoint, these formats are very different from the data-

bases that arrived at NARA 30 years ago.

After consulting with federal agencies about the formats they were using, the ERM team developed additional guidance that supports the transfer requirements of electronic records to include these specific formats. These formats include: e-mail with attachments, scanned images of textual records, digital photographic records, records created in Portable Document Format (PDF), digital geospatial records, and web content records. Federal agencies that create and manage records in these formats now have the technical information necessary to ensure that those records are sustainable. After getting a new records schedule that included digital photographs appraised as permanent records, the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued guidance to their photographers on how to create records that would meet the guidance. In addition, the Federal Communications Commission has transferred to NARA PDF files of Congressional Correspondence that are consistent

**AS OFFICE COMPUTER SYSTEMS EVOLVED AND BECAME MORE FLEXIBLE AND POWERFUL, ELECTRONIC INFORMATION MOVED FROM DATABASE SYSTEMS INTO THE WIDE RANGE OF FORMATS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TODAY. FROM A TECHNICAL STANDPOINT, THESE FORMATS ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE DATABASES THAT ARRIVED AT NARA 30 YEARS AGO.**

with the requirements in the PDF guidance. These are just two examples of federal agencies that implemented these guidance products into their records management programs.

The ERM team continues to issue guidance and recommended practices on a wide range of topics to address the challenges in managing and working with information in electronic formats. Most recently, the ERM team has issued Frequently Asked Questions about Digital Audio and Video, Frequently Asked Questions about Instant Messaging, and Implications of Recent Web Technologies for NARA Web Guidance. In each of these products, federal agencies are advised about current trends in these technologies and given advice about how to maintain any records created by these technologies in a sustainable format.

All of the ERM team's guidance products are available on the NARA web site at: <http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/initiatives/erm-guidance.html>.

*Arian D. Ravanbakhsh is an IT specialist on the ERM Policy Team at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland.*

## THE PROCESS OF WRITING “RIVER OF INTERESTS: WATER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH FLORIDA AND THE EVERGLADES, 1948–2000”

*By Matthew C. Godfrey*

From 2004 to 2006, Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA), a historical consulting firm headquartered in Missoula, Montana, researched and wrote “River of Interests: Water Management in South Florida and the Everglades, 1948–2000” as part of a contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This history tells the story of South Florida water management, the effects of the Corps’ Central & Southern Florida Flood Control Project, and how the Corps went from implementing flood control in the late 1940s to leading the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP) in the late 1990s. Although HRA is not a Florida firm, its historians (including myself) were able to successfully research and write a manuscript that, we hope, will serve the Corps well in delineating its work in the region and the origins of CERP. Discussing the preparation of this history is useful in providing a contractor’s perspective on contract history with the federal government.



The Request for Proposal for the Everglades history appeared late in 2003. According to this document, the Corps wanted a history of “efforts to construct and manage the water resources system below Orlando from approximately 1948 to 2000.” The history would “address engineering, environmental, and economic issues” and would “thoroughly investigate political and social influences, including the roles of agricultural, environmental, industrial, urban, and related interests (Statement of Work, CERP History Part I, Contract DACW17-03-R-0026).” Although this seemed like an ambitious task, HRA was quite excited, as the preparation of such a history was our specialty. HRA was founded in 1974 by Alan Newell, and our first projects were navigation studies for the Corps of Engineers on the Missouri River. Since that time we have grown considerably, developing both a Cultural Resources Management Division and a History Division and expanding our offices into Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon. We have worked on several projects for the Corps of Engineers, and much of what our History Division produces can be classified as environmental history. Because of these qualifications, we knew that we were well suited for the project.

After preparing a proposal and receiving the award, we began working on the history. As we looked at our research needs, we had to ask ourselves how, as contractors in

Montana, we could adequately research and prepare the history. In order to facilitate the research process, we spent a lot of time in Florida and the surrounding area, doing research and driving over nearly the whole state in order to gain more insight into the layout of the land. We took trips through the Everglades, into the Florida sugar cane fields, and into Miami. We tried to become familiar with the ter-

rain and tried to get perspectives from every side. In addition, we maximized our research efforts by focusing on the collections of the major players in South Florida history—the Jacksonville District of the Corps, the South Florida Water Management District, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service. To supplement these agency records, we focused on manuscript collections of significant individuals, such as prominent environmentalists Arthur Marshall, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and Senator Bob Graham. Their collections produced correspondence, reports, and other documents from a variety of sources and also provided a different perspective from the agency records.

Another important source was oral history. We interviewed a variety of individuals to get their insights and to discover where pertinent records were or who else we should talk to. In addition, we relied on oral histories completed by others, especially the University of Florida’s Samuel Proctor Oral History Program. This program had already transcribed oral histories of approximately 10 individuals important to the history of the Everglades and its management.

Yet performing oral histories produced its own problems. For one thing, oral histories are somewhat expensive to do, especially when the time to arrange interviews is factored in. Busy and important people invariably reschedule interviews, and the time can add up. In addition, travel time to the interviews and transcription time all need to be factored in. Contracting agencies should be aware of the costs of including oral histories in a project and should ensure that they include sufficient funds for that purpose.

Next came the writing process. Throughout the process of composing the manuscript, HRA tried to keep an open dialogue with our contracting officer’s representative and other key figures in the Corps. A part of our contract that facilitated this communication was a requirement that we conduct an

in-process review seminar with select members of the Corps and the South Florida Water Management District in Jacksonville, Florida. This in-process review—which occurred after we had completed half of the draft manuscript—enabled us to get valuable feedback from several parties about our history and its direction.

After the in-process review, we spent another year working on the manuscript. In June 2006, we submitted to the Corps our final manuscript, consisting of an introduction, a conclusion, 18 chapters, and over 100 images, totaling approximately 450 single-spaced pages. Because of the numerous stakeholders in South Florida, we called it “River of Interests,” a play on Marjory Stoneman Douglas’s famous book on the Everglades, *River of Grass*. Indeed, that was the major focus of our paper—the balancing of different interests by the Corps in its management of South Florida water. HRA was proud of the report and we hoped that it met the Corps’

needs and objectives. We also felt that we had made the history as objective as possible.

Producing this history truly was an adventure. It included dodging hurricanes (as we researched in Florida in September 2004—a very active hurricane month); treks through the Everglades in July, hoping to see an alligator (we never did, although we did get eaten alive by mosquitoes); wading through thousands of pages of documents; interviewing numerous individuals; and gaining a great fondness for South Florida and the Everglades. Time will tell the usefulness of our product, but from our perspective, the project to produce a history of water management in South Florida was a resounding success for all sides.

*Matthew C. Godfrey is an associate historian with and part-owner of Historical Research Associates, Inc., headquartered in Missoula, Montana.*

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## ONI’S GALLERY OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE HISTORY

*By Randy Carol Balano*

As the nation’s oldest permanent, continuously operating intelligence organization, the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) has a long history spanning more than 125 years since its establishment in March 1882. Recognizing the need to preserve and chronicle the organization’s history in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Director of Naval Intelligence established a full-time position for a professional historian in November 2002.

In addition to documenting the contemporary contributions of ONI to navy operations and the national defense, ONI’s historian has directed and facilitated a number of projects to preserve and promote the organization’s history and heritage. Foremost among these projects was the creation of a Gallery of Naval Intelligence History at ONI headquarters in the National Maritime Intelligence Center (NMIC) in Suitland, Maryland.

A series of undergraduate interns provided research assistance over a four-year period. Nineteen permanent displays chronicle the history of ONI and the naval intelligence profession from 1882 to the present day. The history gallery features a combination of chronological and thematic displays, as well as rotating temporary exhibits that explore selected



issues and topics in greater depth. The thematic displays address various aspects of ONI’s mission. Two displays trace the development of operational intelligence (real-time information about the disposition of adversary forces at sea) during World War II and its maturation during the Cold War. A display about civil maritime

intelligence illustrates how one of the original missions of ONI expanded in the post Cold War era to encompass providing support to the enforcement of international sanctions; combating modern maritime piracy; interdicting illegal movements of people, arms and drugs; and denying terrorists the use of the sea. Displays on scientific and technical intelligence trace how ONI was originally established to provide technical information to help modernize the American fleet, which was obsolete by the standards of the major maritime powers at the end of the 19th century. Following the scientific revolution in warfare technology during World War II, ONI’s mission changed to providing predictive intelligence on the capabilities of foreign naval powers to ensure that the U.S. Navy maintains its advantage over any potential maritime adversary.

A special exhibit honors the sacrifice of the eight personnel assigned to ONI who lost their lives in the attack on

the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. Another display illustrates how ONI has adapted to meet the emerging requirements of the Global War on Terrorism.

The Gallery of Naval Intelligence History has become an important tool to educate the workforce about the history and heritage of ONI and the naval intelligence profession. Gallery tours have been incorporated into the initial orientation training for new ONI employees. The history gallery is also a regular stop for VIP visitors to the com-

mand. It has become the preferred venue for command-sponsored and unofficial events, such as promotion and retirement ceremonies. The history gallery provides both employees and official visitors from outside the command with a sense of context and continuity, and establishes ONI as the “home” of naval intelligence.

*Randy Carol Balano is the historian for the Office of Naval Intelligence.*

## ERA TO ACTIVATE “INCREMENT 1”

The Electronic Records Archive (ERA) Program will reach a milestone this September when it begins implementation of its “Increment 1” function. The National Archives’ ambitious program had its roots in the late 1990s when NARA’s records managers peered into a future that presented a far-reaching and radically new challenge to its core mission of records preservation and access. The electronic age was arriving with increasing volume and complexity, and NARA had to respond with research, education, and technical solutions. Agency leadership established ERA in 2000 to address those concerns.

Among the electronic records already arrived at NARA and needing attention are 40 million e-mail attachments from the Clinton administration, 25 million diplomatic messages from the State Department, 54 million images from Defense Department personnel files, and approximately 800 million TIF files from the Census Bureau. Some of these records, such as the “State Department Cables” for 1973–75, have been entered into NARA’s searchable Access to Archival Databases (AAD) system at <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/>. ERA envisions such records entered into a web-based program in which all electronic records, regardless of originating software application, are captured, managed, preserved, and made available for research.

NARA developed specialized research and development partnerships, through grants, with about 50 institutions, including the San Diego Supercomputer Center, the University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois, the Georgia Tech Research Institute, the Army Research Lab, and the National Institute for Standards and Technology. Also, in fall 2005, Lockheed Martin Corporation won the competition to build the ERA system.

The program projects full operation with the opening of Increment 5 in 2012. For now, Increment 1 will preserve “bitstreams” of information. It will also enable basic records management functions with four test agencies:

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Energy Department’s National Nuclear Security Administration (Kansas City), and the Naval Oceanographic Office, in such functions as disposition agreements and scheduling of records transfers, initial appraisal and preservation plans, and unclassified and sensitive data.

Despite these projections, the scope of problems and challenges is unprecedented. “The technology needed for these goals does not exist yet,” says Mark Conrad of the ERA research staff. He stresses three needs for the ERA system: that it be “evolvable,” able to change; “extensible,” able to incorporate new applications and technologies yet unknown; and “scalable,” able to handle growing volumes of records. A new test platform (“data grid”) connects the participating research facilities and their records “in a hardware and software-independent environment.” It provides testing access to electronic records collections much larger than anything now at the National Archives.

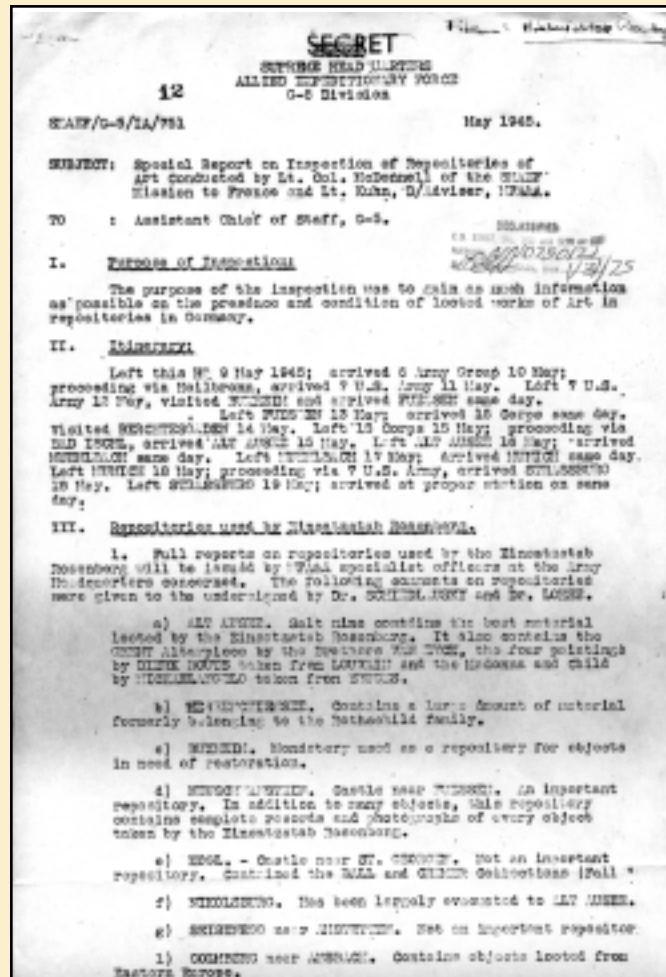
The major problem is that software applications, often unique to agencies, are evolving so that current data files will not be readable with new applications. The Navy’s complex three-dimensional models of vessels, for example, are produced in software that becomes obsolete every 18 months. And there are numerous other file and data types that present similar challenges, from the now-common PDF files, to “scalable vector graphics,” virtual reality models, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) files, and models for testing nuclear weapons. All these record types require the correct “contextual system” or “formatting data,” which changes and will change continually. Future applications cannot yet be imagined. There is also the question of required storage space at NARA, which Conrad projects will be about 250 petabytes within 15 years (a petabyte equals 1,024 terabytes).

For more detailed information about this program and technical studies, visit the program’s web page at [www.archives.gov/era](http://www.archives.gov/era).

## WORLD WAR II ROBERTS COMMISSION RECORDS NOW FILMED

The recent completion of a new microfilm publication reproducing nearly the full inventory of the Roberts Commission records provides greater accessibility to those materials for researchers in the area of Holocaust-era assets. *Records of the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas (the Roberts Commission), 1943–1946*, National Archives Microfilm Publication M1944, Record Group 239, is a massive series comprising 187 reels of textual, cartographic, and photographic records. The American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas (chaired by Supreme Court Justice Owen J. Roberts) operated from 1943 to 1946 in cooperation with the U.S. military, museum officials, art historians, and international commissions to protect European art, monuments, institutions, and records of cultural value from war-related damage or theft. As a clearinghouse for information on war damage and art looting, the commission also aided in the restitution of public and private property appropriated by the Nazis and their collaborators. With the continuing efforts to identify and return confiscated artworks, the commission's records remain the essential starting point for research in restitution issues.

The commission functioned through seven committees. The Committee on Personnel submitted to the War Department names of armed forces personnel qualified to serve in the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives (MFAA) Section of the Department's Civil Affairs Division (CAD). Specialist officers assigned to the MFAA, starting in December 1943, were responsible for protecting works of art, cathedrals, archives, monuments, and other cultural sites in Europe from damage and looting. They also investigated the disposition of looted art and helped restitute



objects to their rightful owners.

The Roberts Commission also recommended restitution principles and procedures to the State Department and worked with the War Department to implement them. Commission staff in London worked with a number of national and international agencies addressing the issue of restitution, such as the Conference of Allied Ministers of Education in London and the Inter-Allied Commission for the Protection and Restitution of Cultural Materials (also known as the Vaucher Commission) as well as the National Archives, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) Art Looting Investigation Unit (ALIU), the U.S. Office of War Information, the State Department Division of Economic Security Controls, and the Customs Bureau to

identify and protect cultural artifacts and publicize the efforts to recover looted art.

The commission's textual records reproduced in M1944 include administrative and personnel records, reports from MFAA field officers, documentary and intelligence materials from U.S. and Allied government offices, and card files related to war damages and art looting. Cartographic records for 1943–1946 include aerial photographic maps, lists, blueprints, diagrams, and other information compiled for use by MFAA field officers in Europe and the Far East. Still photographs, reproduced on 31 rolls, include a 300-image album depicting the damage to Frankfurt am Main's cultural institutions as of 1946 and two series on "Cultural Institutions and Artwork in Europe and Other Areas," which are arranged by country, city, and monument name.

For information and detailed roll lists on this microfilm series and others related to research in Holocaust-era assets, visit [www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/microfilm-publications/](http://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/microfilm-publications/).

## USHMM TO DOCUMENT THE *EXODUS* STORY

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) has launched a new project to identify the 4,500 passengers of the *Exodus*. The storied voyage of the *Exodus* played a vital role in the establishment of the State of Israel. This July marks the 60th anniversary of the dramatic confrontation between the ship's Jewish Holocaust survivors and passengers who were determined to settle in Israel and the British Navy that stopped them. The project is in keeping with the Museum's vision that the Holocaust story did not end with liberation of the concentration camps or defeat of Nazi Germany, and thus the project staff hopes to achieve a fuller account of the *Exodus* story through a reconstructed passenger list, narratives, photographs and films, and artifacts.

In the tragic aftermath of the Holocaust, the *Exodus* story captured worldwide attention in July 1947 as a symbolic part of a larger attempt to save the Jewish people. The clandestine refitting of the old steamer *President Warfield* in Baltimore to hold thousands of passengers; the ship's diversionary departure from Canton to Sete, France, to board 4,500 Holocaust survivors; the attempted passage

to Palestine, tracked by British vessels; the violent encounter with British forces and forced transit of the refugees to France; a standoff and hunger strike; transport to camps in Hamburg; and later migration of about 1,800 refugees to Palestine. The story inspired the novel *Exodus* by Leon Uris, a 1960 film, and a 1997 documentary.

Most of the passengers have died, but museum curator Genya Markon says that family members are being sought for information to document a fuller story. The *Exodus* Survivors Convention Committee in Israel has identified 1,800 of the passengers. Building on that database, the museum is working with the Central Zionist Archives, the Jewish Agency, and the World Zionist Organization to compile a full registry of the passengers. Names will also be added to the Museum's Benjamin and Vladka Meed registry of Holocaust Survivors. The project does not plan an exhibit at this time.

To contribute information, contact Genya Markon at 202-488-6108; e-mail [gmarkon@ushmm.org](mailto:gmarkon@ushmm.org), or complete a questionnaire online at [www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry/exodus](http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry/exodus).



Passengers from the ill-fated immigrant ship, *Exodus*, 1947, have their papers checked by British soldiers on the dock in Haifa harbor. [USHMM, #95625]

# MAKING HISTORY

## THE AIR FORCE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

The Air Force Historical Foundation proudly announces its symposium, “The Evolution of Air and Space Power—Know the Past, Shape the Future,” in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the United States Air Force, Oct 16–17, 2007, at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia. There will be three panels: 1) War in the Shadows, moderated by Maj. Gen. Richard L. Comer, USAF (Ret), with four papers; 2) Conventional War, moderated by Mr. C. R. (Dick) Anderegg, Director, US Air Force History and Museums Programs, with five papers; and 3) Space and Cyber War, moderated by Ms. Natalie Crawford, RAND Corporation, with four papers. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Philip Meilinger, and Mr. Keith Ferris, aviation artist, will address the banquet. The First Annual General Carl “Tooy” Spaatz Award will be presented. Information and updates are available at [www.afhistoricalfoundation.org](http://www.afhistoricalfoundation.org).

## AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

A new database titled Directory of History Journals is now available on the AHA web site at <http://www.historians.org/pubs/free/journals/>. It provides links to, and information on, more than 350 journals that publish in various fields of history. Users can search by taxonomy or keywords to find the subjects of their choice. This new resource is meant to make it easier for scholars to find the right journal in which to publish their research.

The “Resources for History Graduate Students” page on the AHA web site, <http://www.historians.org/grads/index.cfm>, has recently been updated. This page better serves history graduate students, providing links, articles, and helpful advice.

The AHA’s blog, *AHA Today* (<http://blog.historians.org/>), continues to cover news both from the history profession and from the AHA’s own activities. It also contains posts on interesting online resources, the “grant of the week,” and more.

“Google Books: What’s Not to Like?” (<http://blog.historians.org/articles/204/google-books-whats-not-to-like>), has received a lot of attention from historians and librarians alike, and has been linked to in at least 46 blogs (according to [technorati.com](http://technorati.com)).

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Department of State will hold a conference titled “U.S.-Soviet Relations in the Era of Détente, 1969–1976,” October 22–23, 2007, in Washington, DC. The conference will be hosted by the Office of the Historian in the Bureau of Public Affairs, and will take place in the new George C. Marshall Conference Center. The conference will feature keynote presentations on

U.S.-Russian relations by Department of State principals and comments from former diplomats and senior scholars from both the United States and Russia. The conference will also include scholarly sessions that complement the forthcoming release of *Soviet-American Relations: The Détente Years, 1969–1972*, a joint documentary publication undertaken by the Office of the Historian of the U.S. Department of State and the Historical-Records Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## FOREST HISTORY SOCIETY

The Forest History Society of Durham, NC (<http://www.foresthistory.org>), and the Eastern Region (Region 9) of the USDA Forest Service announce the culmination of a collaborative project to digitize, catalog, and make available online a rich assortment of more than 6,000 Forest Service photographs—the largest number of searchable historic Forest Service images on the Web.

The Eastern Region Historical Photograph Collection (which represents only part of the larger, National Forest Service image collection) has been incorporated into the Forest History Society’s existing online image database, bringing its total number of searchable images up to more than 10,000. The image database is searchable on the FHS web site at <http://fhsnb.oit.duke.edu/dbtw-wpd/textbase/WebQuery.htm>. The inclusive dates of the images are 1880s–1970s. For more information about the Forest History Society’s photographic holdings, please explore the FHS web site (begin at <http://www.foresthistory.org/Research/photos.html>). For reference assistance or to obtain high-resolution electronic versions of images, contact FHS photographic archivist Elizabeth Hull: [elizabeth.hull@duke.edu](mailto:elizabeth.hull@duke.edu).



## HISTORY ASSOCIATES INCORPORATED

History Associates Incorporated (HAI) has completed work on the American Battle Monuments Commission’s new Visitor Center at the American Cemetery in Normandy, France. Opened on June 6, 2007, on the 63rd anniversary of the Allied invasion known as D-Day, the \$30 million Visitor Center represents the combined efforts of several organizations, including architects

from the Smith Group, Gallagher & Associates exhibit designers and producers at G Too Media. In coordination with the U.S. Army Center for Military History, HAI helped develop the exhibits that provide an overview of the D-Day invasion and highlight the experiences of Allied soldiers who participated in one of the key turning points of World War II. Approximately one million visitors travel to the Normandy cemetery each year.

Under the supervision of Dr. James Lide, director of HAI's International Division, researchers tracked down records from sources around the world, including the National Archives and Records Administration; the National World War II Museum in New Orleans; the U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center in Carlisle, PA; the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa; and the Imperial War Museum in London. They gathered personal stories, photographs, artifacts, and other material relating to the D-Day invasion and serving the continued remembrance of the 9,387 Americans buried at the Normandy Cemetery.

For more information on the American Battle Monuments Commission and the Normandy American Cemetery Visitor Center see <http://www.abmc.gov>; also, <http://www.smithgroup.com> and <http://www.gallagherdesign.com>. For more information about History Associates, call 301-279-9697 or visit [www.historyassociates.com](http://www.historyassociates.com).

## LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Ismail Serageldin signed an agreement on April 10, outlining four areas in which the two institutions will cooperate in building a World Digital Library. Along with other libraries and cultural institutions from around the world, both institutions will contribute content to the World Digital Library. In addition, the two institutions agreed to work together on the design and implementation of the architecture of the World Digital Library and to cooperate in developing mirror sites, to be hosted at the Library of Congress in Washington and at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt. The project will digitize unique and rare material, including manuscripts, maps, rare books, musical scores, sound recordings, films, prints, photographs and architectural drawings from libraries and other cultural institutions around the world and make these materials freely available on the Internet. Additional information about the World Digital Library can be found at [www.worlddigitallibrary.org](http://www.worlddigitallibrary.org).

Chronicling America is a prototype web site providing access to information about historic newspapers and select digitized newspaper pages, and is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). NDNP is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress. The project is a long-term effort to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with descriptive information and select digitization of historic

pages. Supported by NEH, this rich digital resource will be developed and permanently maintained at the Library of Congress. More information on the program is available at <http://www.neh.gov/projects/ndnp.html> or <http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/>.

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NASA has published *Mission to Jupiter: A History of the Galileo Project*, by Michael Meltzer. It can be purchased from NASA's Center for Aerospace Information at [www.sti.nasa.gov](http://www.sti.nasa.gov) or be viewed electronically at <http://history.nasa.gov/sp4231.pdf>. Upcoming publications include *The Wind and Beyond: A Documentary Journey into the History of Aerodynamics in America. Volume II: Reinventing the Airplane*, edited by James R. Hanson, et al. NASA has added several monographs to its web site, including William M. Leary's volume on the agency's "Icing Research Tunnel," the appendices to the Apollo 204 Review Board report, and information on the Mercury Friendship 7 mission. In addition, The Aviation Safety and Security Archives (ASASA) of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) has opened a new online digital library with "born digital" and scanned materials of all types at <http://library.pr.erau.edu/>.

## NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM (NASM)

Roger Launius rotated out of the chairmanship of the Division of Space History at the National Air and Space Museum in January 2007, after serving a four-year term, to assume a role as a senior researcher. Michael Neufeld has taken on the chair's responsibilities. Their contact information remains the same. Martin Collins edited for the Division of Space History a cooperative work of all members of the Division a publication commemorating the 50th anniversary of the space age, *After Sputnik: The First Fifty Years of the Space Age* (Smithsonian Books, HarperCollins, forthcoming fall 2007). It contains numerous essays on artifacts in the NASM collection linked by interpretive essays and stunning imagery. Roger Launius delivered a speech on November 1, 2006, "National Security Space and the Course of Recent U.S. History," as the Harmon Memorial Lecture at the U.S. Air Force Academy's 21st Military History Symposium. Launius also published "Assessing the Legacy of the Space Shuttle," *Space Policy* 22 (November 2006): 226–34. David H. DeVorkin of the Division of Space History has published "The Changing Place of Red Giant Stars in the Evolutionary Process" in *Journal of the History of Astronomy* 37 (2006): 1–41. Peter Jakab from the Aeronautics Division and Martin Collins from Space History participated in the 11th annual Artefacts Seminar at the Nobel Museum in Stockholm, Sweden, September 14–16, 2006. James Rodger Fleming (NASM Lindbergh Chair for 2005–06 and cur-



rent American Association for the Advancement of Science [AAAS] Roger Revelle Fellow in Global Stewardship) has just published and launched at an event at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars two new books: *Intimate Universality: Local and Global Themes in the History of Climate and Weather* (Science History Publications, 2006) and *The Callendar Effect: The Life and Work of Guy Stewart Callendar (1896–1964), the Scientist Who Established the Carbon Dioxide Theory of Climate Change* (American Meteorological Society, 2007). Christine Yano, NASM's Verville Fellow for 2006–07, has curated an exhibit at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, "Airborne Dreams: Japanese-American Flight Attendants and the Development of Global Tourism in the Pacific."

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

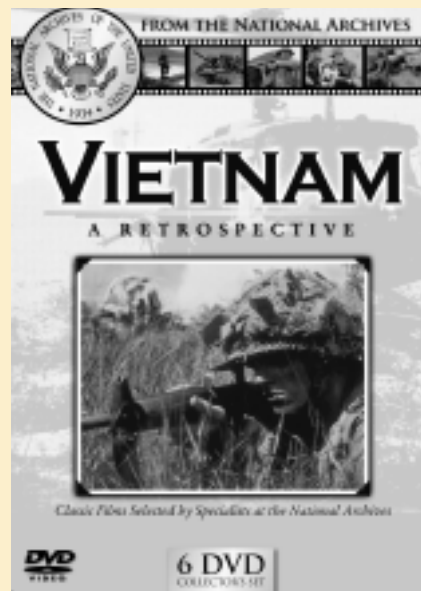
The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) announced on July 11 the legal transfer of the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace from the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace Foundation to the National Archives. Approximately 78,000 pages of previously withheld materials will soon be available. The Nixon Library's web site, [www.nixonlibrary.gov](http://www.nixonlibrary.gov), will soon be activated to contain selected collections and information.

The exhibit "School House to White House" will be in the Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery of the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, through January 1, 2008. It focuses on the education of American presidents from Herbert Hoover through George W. Bush, featuring over 150 documents, artifacts, photos, and films drawn from the presidential libraries.

At the Kennedy Library, the exhibit "A Journey Home—John F. Kennedy and Ireland" continues through September 21, 2007. It explores President Kennedy's relationship to his ancestral homeland, featuring a large selection of never-before-seen material relating to his Irish heritage and his June 26–29, 1963, state visit to Ireland.

Beginning with the Supreme Court's 2005 session, recordings from cases of high national stature or significant legal precedent were released immediately to both media outlets and NARA. Examples of recent recordings released without delay by the Court are *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* and *Ayotte v. Planned Parenthood of Northern New England* (2005 session).

The Civilian Processing Team has processed the first segment of Foreign Service Posts records of the Department of State (RG 84). This portion of the RG 84 project included completing series descriptions for the embassies and consular posts from 1800 to 1936, which are now available in the Archives Research Catalog (ARC). The Team will begin the second phase of the Foreign Service Posts project in the third quarter of FY 2007, which will consist of records from 1937 to 1969.



Classic Aviation, a boxed set of six DVDs, contains nearly seven hours of NARA motion pictures that document aviation from the first flights to the launch into space. *NASA: A Retrospective*, a four-DVD boxed set, contains five hours of spectacular film footage, still photographs, and informative commentary that guides viewers along the timeline of U.S. space exploration, from Project Mercury to the space shuttle *Columbia*. *Vietnam: A Retrospective*, a boxed set of six DVDs, featuring motion pictures from NARA's holdings, is now available.

NARA co-sponsored a Declassification Conference with the United States Air Force on March 26–29, 2007. More than 240 declassification specialists, records managers, information security specialists, archivists, and historians from 36 different agencies attended the event. The main objectives of the conference were identification of classified equities, declassification, records management in relation to declassification, and other access-related issues. Representatives from NW's Modern Records Programs, Initial Processing and Declassification Division (NWMD), Life Cycle Management Division (NWML), and the Document Conservation Laboratory Staff (NWTDL) hosted workshops and presentations on general records management, preservation, the Interagency Referral Center, and the National Declassification Initiative (NDI).

The 10th Annual Civil War Symposium and Reenactment, titled "Gettysburg: The Battle in History and Memory," will be held October 20, 2007, at the Cantigny, First Division Foundation, First Division Museum, in Wheaton, Illinois. Contact NARA's Great Lakes Region (Chicago) for more information at [chicago.archives@nara.gov](mailto:chicago.archives@nara.gov) or 773-948-9001.

## NATIONAL COALITION FOR HISTORY

NCH has a new web site (<http://historycoalition.org/>) meant to "bring you real-time access to news as it is made in Washington through our new blog postings on the web site and an RSS feed." The NCH tracks many issues related to government record keeping and archives, as well as records access. The AHA is a founding member of the NCH, providing it support since 1977.

### NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

The Museum's current exhibit "Identity by Design: Tradition, Change, and Celebration in Native Women's Dresses" runs through January 2, 2008. Bringing together a vast array of dresses and accessories from the Plains, Plateau, and Great Basin regions of the United States and Canada, "Identity by Design" highlights Native women's identity through traditional dress and its contemporary evolution. The exhibition examines the individual, communal, and cultural identity of Native women, and explores how women, gifted with highly developed artistic skills, benefited not only their families, but the entire community.

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

President George W. Bush was the keynote speaker at the May 13 celebration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first permanent English settlement in America. The President, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, and Virginia Governor Tim Kaine joined thousands of visitors to Historic Jamestown National Historic Site for a weekend of celebrations. The Queen of England visited a week earlier, reprising her first visit to the United States in 1957 for the 350th anniversary of the colony.

Archeologists working at the site of President's House at 6th & Market Streets in Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia have located the remains of the actual house. The findings shed new light on the place where Presidents George Washington and John Adams lived from 1790 to 1800. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/inde/parkmgmt/publicinvolvement.htm> for more information.

The National Park Service's Teaching with Historic Places program has added a new online lesson plan: "Independence Hall: International Symbol of Freedom." In the lesson, students examine the history of Independence Hall, the global impact of the principles and philosophies expressed in the documents adopted there, and the meaning of the building's designation as a World Heritage Site. There are now 132 lessons in the TwHP online series, <http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/132independence/132Independence.htm>.

### NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

The Center for Cryptologic History and the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation will host the 11th Cryptologic History Symposium on October 18–19, 2007, at the Conference Center of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. The program will feature a broad survey of topics related to the history of cryptology, with a focus on the 20th century. This event is open to the public—for information on the program and registration, please call the Center at 301-688-2336.

### OFFICE OF HISTORY AND PRESERVATION IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Office of History and Preservation in the Office of the Clerk of U.S. House of Representatives recently published *Women in Congress, 1917–2006*. The book is the first in an official four-part series about minorities who have served in Congress. Future volumes will profile African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian-Pacific Islander Americans who have served in Congress. The 229 women profiled range from Jeannette Rankin of Montana—the first woman elected to Congress—to Nancy Pelosi, the first female Speaker of the House. Written as an authoritative resource and a teaching tool, the hard copy of the book ends just before Speaker Pelosi and the newly elected women members of the 110th Congress were sworn in. But an online version provides an updated live resource that takes the research project into the future (<http://womenincongress.house.gov/>).

### SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Heather P. Ewing, Research Associate of the Institutional History Division, Smithsonian Institution Archives, has published a biography of the Smithsonian's enigmatic founding donor: *The Lost World of James Smithson: Science, Revolution, and the Birth of the Smithsonian* (Bloomsbury Press, April 2007).

### U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY

Two of the Center's historians, Mr. William Epley and Mr. Dale Andrade, will be serving in Iraq in support of the III Corps and the 3d Infantry Division, respectively. Mr. Epley, chief of the Field and International Branch, has already completed his first tour of duty and will return to the theater in June. Upon completion of his assignment, he will write a history of the Corps' operations. Mr. Andrade, of the Center's Histories Division, is currently undergoing pre-deployment training preparatory to his assignment with the division.

Among the Center's recent publications is the second installment of a two-volume study by Andrew J. Birtle on the Army's experience in "small wars." *U.S. Army Counterinsurgency and Contingency Operations Doctrine, 1942–1976* is particularly relevant given the Army's current involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II* by James C. McNaughton tells the story of how Japanese American soldiers contributed to the war effort by performing such duties as translation, interrogation, radio monitoring, and psychological warfare. Mark A. Reardon and Jeffery A. Charlston's *From Transformation to Combat: The First Stryker Brigade at War* examines the development of the Stryker brigade, which was intended to be the centerpiece of the post-Cold War Army. The Center has also issued a pamphlet titled, "The March to Victory:

Washington, Rochambeau, and the Yorktown Campaign of 1781," which provides an in-depth study of this decisive operation of the Revolutionary War. The author, Dr. Robert Selig, currently serves as project historian to the National Park Service for the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail Project. For further information about the Center and its publications, please visit our web site at [www.army.mil/cmh-pg](http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg). The online publications catalog is updated quarterly.

#### UNITED STATES SENATE HISTORICAL OFFICE

The Senate Historical Office announces the publication of Volume XIX of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's "Historical Series": *Executive Sessions of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Together with Joint Sessions with the Senate Armed Services Committee* (S. Prt. 110-20). The volume includes previously closed executive session hearings from 1967, dealing with the Vietnam War and the Six Day War in the Middle East. Among those testifying before the committee were Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, and CIA Director Richard Helms. Members of the committee expressed their frustration over the war in Vietnam

that increasingly seemed unwinnable. Available from GPO: GPO #31-436. Contact U.S. Government Printing Office, 710 N. Capitol St., NW, Washington, DC, 20401-9502; toll-free 866-512-1800; or 202-512-1808 (DC metro area); fax 202-512-1355; or e-mail: [mainbks@gpo.gov](mailto:mainbks@gpo.gov).

#### MORE NEWS

Alfred M. Beck's latest book is now in paperback: *Hitler's Ambivalent Attaché: Lt. Gen. Friedrich von Boetticher in America, 1933-1941* (Potomac Books, Inc., Washington, DC, 2007). Fred Beck is a retired federal historian, having worked at the Army Corps of Engineers' Office of History and the U.S. Army Center of Military History. He has contributed to numerous military publications, and is a past editor of *The Federalist*.

Terry Gough chaired a panel on "Networks & Negotiations, 1885-1945," at the annual meeting of the Society for Military History in Frederick, Maryland, in April. The panel examined aspects of military-industrial relations.

Dian Olson Belanger's new book *Deep Freeze: The United States, the International Geophysical Year, and the Origins of Antarctica's Age of Science* (University Press of Colorado, 2006) is now available.

**WANTED:** Maryellen Trautman seeks the following Society materials: return of the 1983 [Blue] issue of the Directory of Federal Historical Programs; the first nine issues of *The Bulletin*; and the Society's ephemeral material—announcements, annual dinner programs, annual meeting programs. The ephemeral material demonstrates the development of the Society and will be useful for a future history of the Society. Contact Maryellen at [Maryellen.Trautman@nara.gov](mailto:Maryellen.Trautman@nara.gov).

**The Bulletin**—The Society's e-mail Bulletin welcomes announcements of symposiums, position openings, and other news and notices from Society members and others in the federal history community. To post information in this bi-monthly e-mailing, contact Roger Launius at [LauniusR@si.edu](mailto:LauniusR@si.edu)

#### JOIN THE SOCIETY FOR HISTORY IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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Application form is on the SHFG web site at  
**[www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org)**

#### RICHARD G. HEWLETT LECTURE October 11, 2007 – Save the Date!

This year's Hewlett Lecture will be at the Army-Navy Club in Washington, DC, on the evening of October 11, 2007. The speaker will be Brig. Gen. Carl W. Reddel, Executive Director for the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, who will discuss the Commission's progress in building the newest presidential memorial in Washington, DC (the site for which was recently approved—next to the National Air and Space Museum). Registration forms for the dinner and lecture will be mailed in September.

#### CONTRIBUTE TO THE FEDERALIST

We welcome articles or news of your office's conferences, projects, publications, and other activities. Please submit text materials and photographs to any of the editors below.

Betty Koed: [Betty\\_Koed@sec.senate.gov](mailto:Betty_Koed@sec.senate.gov)

Benjamin Guterman: [Benjamin.guterman@nara.gov](mailto:Benjamin.guterman@nara.gov)

John Lonquest: [LonnquestJ@hq02.usace.army.mil](mailto:LonnquestJ@hq02.usace.army.mil)

John Roberts: [John\\_W\\_Roberts@nps.gov](mailto:John_W_Roberts@nps.gov)

Terrance Rucker: [Terrance.rucker@mail.house.gov](mailto:Terrance.rucker@mail.house.gov)

Back issues of *The Federalist* (Second Series, one-year-old and older) and an index are online at [www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org).

## FEDERALIST CALENDAR

**Aug. 7–9, 2007. U.S. Army Center of Military History**  
Biennial Conference of Army Historians, Washington, DC.  
Visit <http://www.army.mil/cmh/CAH2007/> for details.

**Aug. 28–Sept. 2, 2007. Society of American Archivists (SAA)**  
Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. Visit <http://www.archivists.org/conference/chicago2007/index.asp> for details.

**Sept. 20–22, 2007. U.S. Naval Academy Annual Meeting,**  
Annapolis, MD. Visit [www.usna.edu/History/Symposium.htm](http://www.usna.edu/History/Symposium.htm)  
for details.

**Sept. 26–29, 2007. Association of Moving Image Archivists**  
(AMIA) Annual Meeting, Rochester, NY.  
Visit <http://www.amiaconference.com/> for details.

**Oct 16–17, 2007. Air Force Historical Foundation**  
Symposium, “*The Evolution of Air and Space Power—*  
Know the Past, Shape the Future.” Arlington, Virginia. Visit  
[www.afhistoricalfoundation.org](http://www.afhistoricalfoundation.org) for details.

**Oct. 18–19, 2007. Eleventh Cryptologic History Symposium,**  
Conference Center of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics  
Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland. Call 301-688-2336 for  
information.

**Oct. 22–23, 2007. U.S. Department of State Symposium,**  
“U.S.-Soviet Relations in the Era of Détente, 1969–1976,”  
Washington, DC. Visit <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/index.htm>  
for details.

**Oct. 22–23, 2007. NASA and NASM.** Conference on the 50th  
Anniversary of the Space Age, Washington, DC. Visit  
<http://history.nasa.gov> for details.

**Oct. 24–28, 2007. Oral History Association (OHA) Annual**  
Meeting, Oakland, CA. Visit [http://omega.dickinson.edu/  
organizations/oha/org\\_am.html](http://omega.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha/org_am.html) for details.

**Nov. 1–3, 2007. Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference**  
(MARAC), Fall Conference, Williamsburg, VA. Visit  
<http://www.lib.umd.edu/MARAC/conferences/conferences.html>  
for details.

**Nov. 16–18, 2007. Association for Documentary Editing**  
(ADE) Annual Meeting, Richmond, VA. Visit [http://etext.  
virginia.edu/ade/upcomingconf/index.html](http://etext.virginia.edu/ade/upcomingconf/index.html) for details.

**Jan. 3–6, 2008. American Historical Association (AHA)**  
Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. Visit  
[www.historians.org/annual/2008/index.cfm](http://www.historians.org/annual/2008/index.cfm) for details.

**Apr. 10–13, 2008. National Council on Public History**  
(NCPH) Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY. Visit  
<http://www.ncph.org/2008annualmtg.html> for details.

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