Notes from the Chair

Kyle Bryner

Reminder to SERA members: the SEMC Annual Meeting will take place in Charleston, SC October 21-23, 2019. SERA has some great events planned for its members such as our business luncheon for members, a behind the scenes tour of the Gibbes Museum of Art, and a respite at Stars Restaurant. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us in October in Charleston!

This year in Charleston, we will again enforce our rule that attendees to the SERA respite and luncheon be members. If you have not already, renew your membership for 2019! You can access membership information online at: https://www.seregistrars.org/membership-information. We offer paper forms you can send in to renew or you can renew online via PayPal. While you are there, check out our great publications you can purchase for yourself or your favorite collections professional. Remember that membership dues and book sales help us fund scholarships to annual meetings, provide transportation to special events, and support educational opportunities for our members. You also get to brag that you are a member of the most active regional registrars’ association in the nation. Take the time to encourage fellow collections professionals to join SERA so they can be as cool as you.

You can also support SERA by shopping through Amazon Smile. Amazon gives a portion of the sales through the Amazon Smile site to non-profits and the Southeastern Registrars Association is one of the non-profits you can choose to support. Please consider making us the organization you support through this program. It costs nothing to your personally except your time to sign up. Here is where you can learn more: https://smile.amazon.com.

I want to recognize the Scholarship Committee of Cindy Gardner, Elizabeth Le, and Alyssa Magnone for their hard work. The three had the difficult task of choosing a recipient for the SERA scholarship to AAM in New Orleans. The committee choose Laura Hendrickson National Quilt Museum to receive the AAM scholarship. Congratulations, Laura! We all look forward to hearing about your AAM experiences. Cindy Gardner has decided to step down from her position on the Scholarship Committee - SERA will miss her after all her years of service. Elizabeth Le has graciously accepted the position as Scholarship Committee Chair. If you want to get more involved with SERA, reach out to me (kylebryner@gmail.com) or any of the board members. Thank you again for making SERA the amazing organization it is!

Kyle
SERA QUARTERLY TREASURER’S REPORT

Happy Spring 2019, SERA Members!

Is that pollen in the air? Or is it dust from Thanos’s infamous “snap” in the 2018 blockbuster movie *Avengers: Infinity War* (which still has me shook)? Apologies to those who haven’t been following the Marvel films, but I am beside myself with anticipation for the upcoming *Avengers: Endgame* sequel. Perhaps it’s because the films tap into some of my deepest and most innate fears as a collections professional: having things we cherish instantly turn to dust.

As we’ve seen so recently with the tragic fires at the Brazil National Museum and the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, it’s not such a far-fetched allegory. Centuries of history and heritage were lost in an instant – a relative “snap of the fingers.” Brave people fought to protect and save as much as they could from those special places, just as the Avengers fought (and failed) to save half of the world’s population. If only we had the same supernatural abilities* and fictional technology in museums, we could freeze moldy documents with our hands or teleport imperiled artwork to safety. We are all fighting our own endgames everyday, in a sense: to extend the lives of “stuff.”

So, this quarter, inspired by both my anguish over the fires and my year-long anxiety over Spider-Man’s fate, I want to simply say “thank you” to our members – our “SERAvengers,” if you will – for so often putting your own well-beings aside, in ways small and large, for the sake of art, culture, and history. The work you do is inspiring. I hope to see all of you assemble at this year’s SEMC in Charleston (that is, if your powers aren’t needed elsewhere).

*I’m not 100% convinced that some of you don’t have supernatural powers with everything you are able to accomplish.

Congratulations to Laura Hendrickson, Registrar and Collections Manager at the National Quilt Museum, for being awarded the 2019 AAM Travel Scholarship.

As of April 19, 2019, SERA has 131 active members, up from 128 (+2.3%) this time last year.

The current balance in SERA’s Chase checking account is $6,500.70. The current balance in SERA’s PayPal account is $2,417.59. The combined total on-hand is $8,918.29, up $2,091.96 (+23.5%) from the $6,826.33 on-hand this time last year.

SERA’s fiscal activity for January 30 to April 19, 2019 is outlined below. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Austin J. Bell, Treasurer/Membership Chair

**SERA Income/Expenses: January 30 – April 19, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ending Balance</strong></td>
<td>$8,918.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SERA OFFICERS

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NEW* / RENEWING MEMBERS

ALABAMA
Haley Aaron*
Registrar, Alabama Department of Archives and History

Rose Wood
Chief Registrar, Birmingham Museum of Art

ARKANSAS

FLORIDA
Austin Bell
Curator of Collections, Marco Island Historical Society

India Crawford
Senior Director, Transport Consultants International

Heather Culligan
Registrar, Tampa Bay History Center

Heather Otis*
Collections Manager, Marco Island Historical Society

Deborah Rose Van Horn
Curator, Walt Disney Imagineering

GEORGIA
Erica Hague
Collections Manager, Atlanta History Center

Carla Ledgerwood*
Registrar, Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum

Tricia Miller
Head Registrar, Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia

Christy Sinksen
Associate Registrar, Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia

KENTUCKY
Christopher Goodlett
Director of Curatorial and Educational Affairs, Kentucky Derby Museum

Anne Rich
Collections Manager, Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind

LOUISIANA

MISSISSIPPI

NORTH CAROLINA
Martha Battle Jackson
Chief Registrar, North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites

Corinne Midgett
Registrar, High Point Museum

SOUTH CAROLINA

TENNESSEE
Ellen Lofaro
Curator of Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee

Theresa Slowikowski
Registrar, Hunter Museum of American Art

VIRGINIA
Catherine DeSilvey
Director of Museum Operations & Collections, George C. Marshall Museum & Library

WEST VIRGINIA
Linda Sanns
Registrar, Huntington Museum of Art

John Spurlock*
Curatorial Assistant, Huntington Museum of Art

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
Kyle Elizabeth Bryner
Senior Registrar, Crozier Fine Arts, Washington D.C.

Tiffany Charles
Director of Collections, Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Manitowoc, WI

Jonathan Schwartz
CEO, Atelier 4, Long Island, NY

Jenna Ohlendorf*
Project Manager, Atelier 4, Charlotte, NC

Are you up to date on your membership?
You can renew your membership online at our webstore!
https://www.seregistrars.org/online-store
**State News**

**Alabama**

Pamela Bransford  
Registrar  
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Sabra Gossett, registrar and Susan Doss, collections assistant at the Berman Museum in Anniston, designed and curated the new exhibition, The Sacred Art of Buddhism, opening May 10. The exhibition features works from the permanent collection and illustrates the history and art of Buddhism through the exploration of how color and symbolism are interwoven into Buddhist teachings.

Sabra is also setting up a display of WWII era objects and photographs from the collection with additional loans from the U.S. Army Center of Military History in conjunction with the museum’s commemoration of the 75th anniversary of D-Day on June 6. The event will feature area veterans from World War II and other conflicts, military speakers, live 40s-era entertainment, and patriotic music.

Rose Wood, registrar at the Birmingham Museum of Art and Andrea Gardner, director of collections at the Toledo Museum of Art presented a webinar on April 16 on old loans. Titled Exploring Old Loans: A Quest for Resolution, it is available for download free on the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation website.

**Arkansas**

Marie Demeroukas  
Research Librarian/Photo Archivist  
Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

Shiloh Museum’s photograph department will soon embark on digitizing some of the historic images collection. The goal is to increase access to this unique treasure trove of local images and also reach new researchers. The flagship donation selected for this process is the Washington County Historical Society Collection, which includes over 5000 images, and includes some of our most-requested items.

Carolyn Reno  
Collections manager/assistant director  
Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

Collections staff has undertaken an inventory and re-boxing project of some of its archival material. Boxes crowded with paper ephemera sorted by broad topics, like schools, are being subdivided by towns and counties depending on the number of items. Other boxes of small farm manuscript collections have been moved to vertical storage in file cabinets. Aaron Loenhord, collections assistant, is overseeing the project and is being assisted by volunteer, Craig Larson.

**Florida**

Jennifer Guida  
Curator of Collections  
Collier County Museum

Collier County Museum in Naples, Florida, welcomed part-time Museum Assistant Samantha Trunz in March 2019. Sam is a Florida Gulf Coast University student pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in History. The museum is fortunate to have her assistance with its collections backlog and PastPerfect data entry. Her primary responsibility is to complete the Red Cattle Company collection catalog. Robert Roberts, Sr. and his sons created a successful cattle business, the Red Cow Company, in Central Florida by 1900. By 1916 the Roberts had 200 head of cattle in Immokalee; and by 1952 the company owned 107,000 acres. The Roberts used the land for their own cattle, as well as eventually leased some acreage to other cattlemen. Dius, the eldest Roberts son, is credited for suggesting to his father to incorporate the family cattle business as Red Cattle Company (RCC) in November 1950. The company office and headquarters were located in the family home. Today, the family home and its outbuildings comprise the Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch, the third of five sites operated by the Collier County Museum Division. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The company had several diversified businesses, but the most important was oil. As early as the 1940s, oil companies were drilling test wells on Roberts’ land. The Sun Oil Company and the Humble Oil Refining Company both secured oil, gas and mineral leases on Roberts land. The Roberts family always considered the impact the oil production had on the land. They created a “cattle guard” area to protect the cattle and wildlife in the area.

Robert “Bob” Roberts, Jr. passed away in 1963; wife Sarah in 1966. Bob divvied up the RCC among their nine children under different names and different brands. What each received was done by lottery. The land areas were color coded, and then matching colored strips of paper were placed in a hat. Each child drew a strip and the color determined the land they received. The RCC became rather small during the 1970s. The surviving children dissolved the company in 1980.

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney  
Curator of Collections  
Matheson History Museum

The Matheson History Museum is pleased to welcome Dixie Neilson as our new Acting Director! As a volunteer, Dixie has spent the past two years whipping our historic tool collection into shape. She has done such a wonderful job in the Tison Tool Barn that we decided to promote her into the air conditioning. Dixie has previously served as Assistant Director of the University of Florida’s Museum Studies Program and as Registrar of the Harn Museum of Art.

On March 21, we hosted the opening reception for our newest exhibition, Gainesville’s Modern Landmarks: Celebrating our Mid-Century Architectural Past (1945-1975). This exhibition was produced in partnership with Gainesville Modern, a nonprofit organization dedicated to documenting the mid-century cultural landscape, and Special and Area Studies Collections at the University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries.
In March we hosted a volunteer work day for the University of Florida club We Love Museums. Students spent a morning at the museum helping us move our archival collections into their new home in the Matheson Library and Archives building. We are nearing completion of our collections inventory and hope to have the entire collection moved into the new storage facility by the end of the year.

Heather Culligan
Registrar
Tampa Bay History Center

The Tampa Bay History Center received several historically significant donations to the collection in the last few months, including a collection of family photographs and portraits from an old Tampa family. The donation includes identified photographs, portraits, drawings, and tintypes of the Butcher and Brorein families. Interestingly, the donor found them at a garage sale, reminding us all that you never know what historic treasures can be found in someone’s yard!

Other donations included a copy of Florida, A Guide to the Southernmost State written by the Federal Writers’ Project in 1939. While TBHC already had copies of this book in the collection, none of them included the map of Florida originally included in all volumes. The map is an excellent addition to the Touchton Map Library. TBHC also received a rare panoramic photograph of the Hillsborough County Home Guard in front of the DeSoto Hotel in 1928 taken by the Burgert Brothers, and a photograph album of the construction of Bayshore Boulevard in Tampa by the Works Progress Administration, complete with a narrative, notes, and identified photographs by the author, J.E. Casson.

TBHC has an ongoing relationship with USF, particularly the Institute of Digital Exploration. USF IDEx has partnered with TBHC on many projects, including the scanning of temporary exhibits for the website and creating 3D interactive models of historic structures using scanning technology. Recently, one of the Collections Department staff members took an object from the collection to be scanned and 3D modeled. She selected a cigar cutter used by a cigar manufacturer in Tampa. The result is the ability to view the object from any angle without compromising the condition of the object as well as providing greater public access by showcasing the model in various online portals. TBHC and USF look forward to continuing the partnership to provide greater access to collections and share more stories about the Tampa Bay area.

GEORGIA

Erica Hague
Collections Manager
Atlanta History Center

Spring has kept us busy here at the Atlanta History Center. Cyclorama opened in February, and we rolled right into getting ready for the upcoming exhibits on Women’s Suffrage, Midtown Communities, and the Atlanta Olympic Games. We’ve also been getting deaccessioned items out to auction, off site storage items returned into the fold, and updating rediscovery to have editable and usable reports.

We have also been getting some very interesting items in recently. For instance, some of the personal effects of a WWI SU Army Corps Nurse, Camille O’Brien, who died in France while serving. Her remains were recently reinterred at Greenwood Cemetery in Atlanta and a gravestone laid. Emory University will be sharing images that they took of some of these items in a future post about Camille.

Christa McCay
Collections Manager
Marietta Museum of History

Christa McCay, Collections Manager at the Marietta Museum of History is getting ready for summer with a new sports exhibit. This exhibit will feature artifacts telling the history of Spalding Sporting Goods. She is also busy at work with more deaccessions from the collection, which has greatly improved the Museum’s ability to care and preserve the artifacts that pertain to the Museum’s mission and scope of collections.

KENTUCKY

Chris Goodlett
Director of Curatorial and Educational Affairs

Kentucky Derby Museum

This summer, the Kentucky Derby Museum (KDM) will begin a partnership with Churchill Downs to catalog and scan its vast photo collection, which goes back to the early 1900s and includes negatives, contact sheets, prints and other media. This long-term project will both increase the physical photo collection, which has greatly improved the Museum’s ability to care and preserve the artifacts that pertain to the Museum’s mission and scope of collections.
KDM recently received a horseshoe worn by 1941 Triple Crown winner Whirlaway from Joan Carter of California. Ms. Carter received the item from her grandfather, a life-long fan of the Kentucky Derby.

Comprised of the historic Seignouret-Brulatour House and the state-of-the-art Brulatour Tricentennial Wing, this newly opened facility doubles our exhibition space and currently features an education gallery, a contemporary arts exhibition, Art of the City: Postmodern to Post-Katrina, as well as an ongoing exhibition highlighting the History of The French Quarter. Other attractions include a beautifully restored Aeolian pipe organ, interactive virtual reality installations by digital artist Xiao Xiao, a new visitor's center and expanded gift shop, as well as the museum's first eatery, Café Cour, which is nestled in our relaxing new courtyard! We'll be celebrating this opening with a Block Party on Saturday May 18th from 11am-3pm. Entrance is free to the public and will feature live entertainment and food vendors from around the city. All are welcome!

The Mississippi Museum of Art will have a new exhibition, Black Out: Silhouettes Then and Now on view starting April 27. https://msmuseumart.org/index.php/exhibitions/exhibition/black-out-silhouettes-then-and-now

Meg Cook
Director of Archaeology Collections
Museum Division, MDAH
Mississippi Department of Archives and History is in the process of rehousing the archaeology collections so that they can be safely relocated to the Two Mississippi Museums Complex. The merger of the state museum collections and the archaeology collections means that nearly 10,000 years of Mississippi History will be stored under one roof. Visit https://mnh.mdah.ms.gov/ and https://mcem.mdah.ms.gov/ to learn more about our collections on exhibit.

Cheryl Waldrep
Curator
Natchez National Historical Park
Cheryl Waldrep at Natchez National Historical Park is preparing the furnished rooms at Melrose for a project to replace the HVAC units in the mansion and several outbuildings, working with a wonderful volunteer to catalog and photograph a book collection, and assisting regional office staff on a large archival project for park management records. She hopes to be announcing a full time museum technician position at the park within the next few months, check on USAJobs for the announcement. And reports that an exciting donation was recently received from descendants of Mrs. Kelly of Melrose.

The Melrose pattern of Gorham silver is named after the Melrose mansion and the Gorham company presented Mrs. Kelly with a set of silver in 1948 with the pattern debuted. The park has long had photographs of this presentation for many years, and the family has just donated the silver box that is seen in the photos.
The Curatorial Department has been busy transforming an under-utilized reading room for visitors into an interactive gallery focused on engaging children renamed the "Landscape Lounge." A large impressive floor to ceiling tree greets visitors at the entrance. Registrar Theresa Slowikowski has been working on the graphics. The room has a huge landscape magnetic board to allow visitors to create their own landscape masterpiece. Approximately 100 objects (people, boats, animals, plants, etc.) from the permanent collection have been individually cut out and magnetized for this purpose.

Visitors are encourage to write a haiku on leaves and tie them to the ribbon tree branches. At the center of the room are 2 sitting easels for children to create landscapes and then drop them in the ready-made frames to join the other landscapes on the wall. The Landscape Lounge opens in May.

Historic Resources and Museum Program allows one second-year public history student to focus on a project that averages 20 hours a week in the field. Hanna's project, the Touchberry photograph collection, has been a system of inventory, accessioning, digitizing, and database entry. Her passion for collection work and the skills she has gained during her time with the City, should take her far in the museum world.

**TENNESSEE**
Elizabeth Le
Registrar
Hunter Museum of American Art

Elizabeth Le is thrilled to announce that the Hunter Museum’s grand lobby has a new look with the addition of a commissioned installation, "All Equations are Wave Equations," by NY artist Alyson Shotz. The sculpture, made of iridescent Plexiglas pieces, appears to be floating in the glass-walled atrium overlooking the Tennessee River.

**WEST VIRGINIA**

Crystal Wimer
Executive Director
Harrison County WV Historical Society

Set for Labor Day Weekend in 2021, a core planning committee has begun planning for the Blair Mountain Centennial Commemoration and is enlisting volunteers and organizations to host events in their own communities. The next inspiring chapter in Blair Mountain’s 2021 Centennial will take place on May 4th at 1:00 p.m. at the Historic Oak Hill High School in Oak Hill, West Virginia. A collaborative session led by the WV Mine Wars Museum staff and core planning committee will set the stage for partners to share concepts, resources, and launch their own creative vision for sharing this crucial period of American history.

Teachers, community leaders, historians, museum staff, and other members of the public are invited to participate in the planning process. Please RSVP by contacting WV Mine Wars Museum Director, Kenzie New, at 304-923-4027, visiting wvminewars.com, or by emailing wvminewarsmuseum@gmail.com.

Kellie White
Americorps Service Member
West Virginia Association of Museums

The West Virginia Association of Museums held their annual Conference and Meeting in Kingwood, WV at the Camp Dawson event center. The theme of this year’s conference was “Falling Into Rank: Exploring West Virginia’s Military History.”

The event began with a Pre-Conference meeting in Oakland, Maryland focusing on the military history of the B&O Railroad. Attendees toured several wonderful Oakland museums and historical sites, culminating in a gourmet dinner and speaker.

The main Conference event began early on Friday March 29th. Sessions throughout the event included “Do It Yourself Phasebox” lead by Crystal Wimer, “Real Military Life” lead by a WWII POW Mr. Okla Edgel, and “Interpretation Basics” lead by Joseph Obidzinski.

The Conference Keynote speaker was Mr. Tim Neff from the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum. He addressed...
attendees about the nature of using a historic building as a museum, as well as the specific complexities of a museum space sharing an event space. Mr. Neff’s informative keynote was greatly enjoyed by all.

Attendees enjoyed a Reception at the historic Thomas McGrew house in downtown Kingwood. The social highlight of the event was the annual Meeting and Banquet. The WVU Big Band performed war time Jazz standards, and swing dancers graced the floor.

The Conference Plenary speaker was Mr. Pete Taylor, a retired military historian. Mr. Taylor discussed his role as a historian in the military, and the benefit that things such as an “After Action Report” may have on understanding what worked, and what didn’t in military operations.

The Association has begun planning their conference for 2020, if you have any thoughts on Conference Themes or Locations for WVAM please email us at museumsofwv@gmail.com

HERA Atlanta is hosting their Annual Atlanta Education Program at The Carlos Museum on Wed, May 8th at 2pm. “The (im)Perfect Storm: a Catastrophic Flood That Didn’t End in Catastrophe” to sign up, RSVP by May 1st to Todd Lamkin at tlamkin@emory.edu with the subject line “HERA 2019”

HERA Atlanta is also co-sponsoring a webinar on the upcoming hurricane season on June 27th 2-4pm entitled, “Georgia’s Weather: A Year in Review”

Looking for your next adventure? Getting ready to make a move? Hoping to branch out?

SERA’s facebook page is where you can keep up on new job openings, deadlines for conference proposals, upcoming webinars and more!

www.facebook.com/seregistrars
(show us some love and follow our feed by liking our page!)

The next deadline for submissions for this newsletter is July 26, 2019!
Upcoming Regional and National Conference Dates
AAM—May 19-22, 2019—New Orleans, LA (Proposals closed)
SEMC—Oct 21-23, 2019—Charleston, SC (Proposals closed)
ARCS—Nov 7-9, 2019—Philadelphia, PA (Proposals closed)
NCPH—March 18-21—Atlanta, GA (Proposals due July 15th)

SERA NEWS is published quarterly by the Southeastern Registrars Association. The Southeastern Registrars Association (SERA) recognizes high standards of museum practice and fosters professional growth among museum registrars in the Southeastern region of the United States. We promote the exchange and dissemination of information and ideas through education seminars, publications and other means. SERA initiates and supports activities and projects which help create an atmosphere of cooperation and communication among, and between, registrars, other museum professionals, and those in related fields, and pursues further development of professional practices in the field.

Membership: Individual membership ($25.00) is open to museum professionals who perform registrarial functions for institutions in the twelve states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Associate membership is also available to those outside the region or those employed by for-profit businesses or organizations who express interest in the objectives of SERA.

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