



THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARCHIVIST

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Summer Issue

New special collections librarian attends 2015 Western Roundup

**By Morgan Breitenstein
Denver Public Library**

This year I was honored to receive a scholarship to attend the 2015 SRMA Western Roundup. As a librarian who is new to special collections I saw this as a great opportunity to learn more about our field and hear about the exciting things that are happening in western archives. While attending the sessions I started to sense some reoccurring issues and concerns affecting a variety of repositories. One issue that seemed to be presented on in sessions and spoken about outside of sessions is the issue of outreach. The archives of the past were often insular, working internally rather than reaching out to other institutions. Today it seems this is a strategy of the past as I heard many archivists speaking about working together and actively seeking researchers by sharing information about collections.

I attended the session "Building Bridges in the Archives: Outreach Strategies that focus on Collaborations, Promotion, and Accessibility" put on by staff of the Arizona Historical Society. They spoke about the efforts they are putting in toward reaching out to smaller archives and historic locations to provide consultation and fostering outreach with other colleagues. I was most excited and

interested in the work they are doing to create bi-lingual finding aids. I lived in Arizona while getting my M.A. and I can attest that the community in Arizona is diverse and in order to provide the best possible information access having multi-lingual finding aids is important.

Another session I attended where the topic of outreach repeatedly came up was the session titled "State of the State Archives." The speakers were from the State Archives of Nevada, Utah, and Colorado. To perform outreach the Utah State Archives is visiting counties in the state to aid in creating retention schedules, as well as providing training to colleagues in small institutions. The Nevada State Archives is also supporting regional repositories by providing training and consultation. The Colorado State Archives is creating workshops for rural organizations as well as making efforts to check in with small archives, as George Orłowski from Colorado said "we got out as humble archivists to say 'hey how are you?'" Colorado also emphasized the efforts they are putting forth to perform outreach to other state offices to ensure they are aware of what the archives do and what records they can receive.

In addition to the official sessions of the conference, as with many conferences, I found the after hours events fun and educational. I was able to meet many colleagues during the reception in the Western History / Genealogy Department of Denver Public Library, where I serve as a Reference Librarian. I met a group of archivists from Los Angeles who told me

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Notes from the President



Hello SRMA! I'm so excited to get to write for the newsletter, thanks to Max Miller for putting the whole thing together and pestering me to get it done.

Now that we've all recovered from Western Roundup, we can celebrate! That meeting brought over 350 archivists to Denver, where we enjoyed excellent panels and speakers, an awesome reception at the Denver Public Library, and networking opportunities galore. We even made a little money for each of the 4 Western archival associations! I want to give a special shout out to Past President Maria Tucker and Past Treasurer Melissa Gurney for all their hard work in making the Western Roundup a success.

We have a pair of new board members, Mary Elizabeth Ruwell has agreed to be our new Membership Coordinator, and Maggie Williams will be our new Outreach/Archives Month Coordinator. We'll keep them busy, I'm sure.

Although I am not able to attend SAA this year in Cleveland, Maria Tucker, Steve Fisher and Adam Speirs will represent us. If anyone is around in Cleveland, stop by our table in the vendor hall on Friday the 21st from 11:45-12:30.

And now, on to the Fall Meeting! Join us in beautiful Estes Park on October 2 from 8:30-5 for a day of discussions, centered around digital issues in the archives. We will have a webinar from the Digital Archives Specialist Track of SAA, as well as a number of speakers, and new for this meeting: Round tables! Look for information in the next few weeks, and I hope to see you there!

Shaun Boyd
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Membership Information & Benefits

SRMA membership is drawn from regular and volunteer staff of archives, historical societies, museums, businesses, government agencies, libraries, colleges and universities, religious institutions and other persons who are concerned with the identification and care of information that documents the history of our region. Individual membership is open to any interested person. Institutional memberships are welcome and encouraged.

SRMA membership facilitates the exchange of archival knowledge and assistance. It advances the interests of individual archivists and of the archival profession. Members automatically receive the SRMA newsletter, membership directory, regional archives directory, and informational materials. The Society also has an editorial board for the publication of occasional papers. We invite you to complete the membership application form located on the SRMA website to enhance your personal career development and to further the cause of the archival profession in the Rocky Mountain region.

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about a group they are a part of where local archive professionals meet for happy hours to discuss the projects they are working on and to get to know their local colleagues. Outreach within our profession is valuable to keeping up with what other institutions are doing.

Overall, attending this conference was fun and I learned a lot about the outreach institutions are performing. I have found in my own career that I am passionate about performing outreach myself. I would like to work on more projects in the future with my library to not only share our collections with the community, but to share with my colleagues who maybe don't know exactly what we do. I was certainly inspired by the programs being ran by so many interesting professionals in one place. It can be easy in our field to become focused on the projects in front of us and the time constraints that get in the way, but after attending The Western Roundup I see a real value in making time for outreach opportunities. I hope in the future I can be in a position to dedicate solid time to performing outreach for our great collection.



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Student scholarship recipient gains valuable insights at Western Roundup

By Nick Richie
Student

First, I would like to thank the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists board members for selecting me as one of the recipients of the scholarship.

I want to tell you why I attended the Western Roundup before getting into the review of what I attended. For over 2 years I have been volunteering at the Aurora History Museum. I have done collections inventory, cataloging photographs using Past Perfect, scanning and cropping photographs being used in exhibits, and recently I did research on prices of firefighter and police equipment for the new exhibit. I have also done an Archives Internship at Metropolitan State University of Denver, specifically the Auraria Campus Library. I helped re-house documents, made finding aids, made a box list for the Metropolitan State University of Denver collections, and listened to old audio tapes for useful information that could be used for Metro's 50th anniversary. Right now, I am in the middle of another internship at the Denver Botanical Gardens. I helped re-house documents, drawings, and other materials. I am working with another volunteer on their collections inventory and making new records on Past Perfect.

As for the Western Roundup, I first made my way over to the Colorado State Archives tour. I never had been to the Colorado State Archives building before. I attended the State of State Archives session as well. Both were really interesting, but at the same time depressing. I learned a lot.

Next, I attended the Student Curators: Exhibiting Narratives From Special Collections and Archives session. I found this session to be really interesting. I had wanted to see what other students have done and if they have encountered the same problems I have.

The Archivists That are Brewin' it for Themselves: Archivist/Historian session was great. I really enjoyed hearing the stories of

conducting research on beer. I liked hearing about the local history in Denver and challenges of publishing local history.

I attended the All Attendee Reception at the Denver Public Library. It really was nice talking to others in the field in a non-formal environment. I enjoyed looking at the new exhibit as well as the art surrounding the reading room.

I attended both luncheons. Both luncheons I liked. At the first luncheon, Thomas Andrews did a wonderful job in his talk about tracking animals into the archives. The second luncheon was interesting listening to everyone who was getting recognized for awards and scholarships. It was pretty cool for me to be recognized as one of the people who received the SRMA scholarship.

I attended the beer history walking tour. I had no idea that Kevin Rucker, professor from Metropolitan State University of Denver, was going to be the tour guide. I had taken a Colorado History class from him and attended one of his walking tours before. This tour was a little different. I really enjoyed going to the Blake Street Vault. I never had been inside of the new Union Station where they have shops and restaurants. It is incredible how much different it looks inside now compared to 5 years ago or more, the last time I was inside it.

I got to meet a lot of new people that I would have never met otherwise. I got to catch up with other people I knew. I even received some advice from someone I only talked to a couple minutes from. They told me I should start writing articles on the photograph collections I work on at the Aurora History Museum. That is a great idea and I am in the process of getting my first article done.

I look forward to attending another Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists conference in the future.

News & Announcements

Now online: Back issues of Provenance and Georgia Archive

When I took over as the editor of *Provenance: Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists* in January 2012, the idea of putting back issues online was an ongoing project. In 2002, *Provenance* published Linda Matthews' (former editor of *Georgia Archive*) proposal for an electronic journal, including these select points:

- "Electronic publishing would enhance the recognition and readership of *Provenance* by making it more visible and useful to readers throughout the world, likely increasing the number of submissions for publication.
- The full text of the journal from its first to current issues could be made fully searchable online.
- Users would be able to print those articles of immediate use without having to give shelf space to the whole issue or many issues.
- The Society of Georgia Archivists could be in the forefront of the archives world in making its journal accessible to a worldwide audience and searchable through the Web."

Matthews noted that when David B. Gracy II founded *Georgia Archive* in 1972, "archivists had little professional literature beyond *American Archivist*." Now, all past issues of *Georgia Archive* (1972-1982) and *Provenance* (1982-2013) are available online: <http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/provenance/>. Browsing the 60 issues shows advancements in technology, trends, ideas,

Have you renewed?

Please consider renewing your membership in the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists for 2015!
Membership remains \$10 for students, \$15 for individuals, and \$30 for organizations.
Renew now so you don't miss out on anything!

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practices, and theories that are core to the archival profession.

There is a wealth of knowledge published in these journals in the past 42 years that contribute greatly to archival scholarship. Subjects of articles include academic archives, access, appraisal, archival administration, archival education, arrangement, automation, cataloging, collection development, congressional papers, description, electronic records, ethics, GLBT collections, government records, indexing, information management, military archives, Native Americans, oral history, photographs, preservation, presidential libraries, privacy, processing, records management, religious archives, use and users, user studies, volunteers, and women's archives and history. Plus some specific topics such as circus records, folklore collections, Grand Turk Island, internet gopher, and Project Jukebox.

As of June 2015, there were over 32,000 views and downloads. I was thrilled to see such a high interest and I know that both *Provenance* and *Georgia Archive* will be

instrumental in future education and scholarship.

Cheryl Oestreicher
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of Georgia Archivists
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