

# The Rocky Mountain ARCHIVIST



Society of  
Rocky Mountain Archivists

## Archive as Muse Event Review and a Look to the Future



*SRMA members enjoy conversations during an intermission between the presentations and panel discussion (opening night of Archives as Muse at McNichols Civic Center Building)*

*by Kate Crow  
SRMA Vice President  
Curator of Special Collections and  
Archives  
University of Denver*

This year's fall program saw the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists partnering with *Arthyve*, a community arts and archives nonprofit for the program "Archives as Muse" an innovative collaboration pairing Colorado artists with archives to create one of a kind works of art across multiple genres.

Jurors reviewed proposals by artists to create work inspired by or based on an

archival collection, selected from a directory of participating cultural heritage institutions. Selected proposals received \$500, and the artists and archivists participated in a panel discussion moderated by Rick Griffith, Denver County Commissioner for Public Art and Culture. Artist/Archives pairings were:

- Sarah Fukami/Stephen H. Hart Library at History Colorado
- Sarah Gjertson/Park County Local History Archives
- Nathan Hall/Clyfford Still Archives at the Clyfford Still Museum
- Esther Hernandez/Maria Rogers Oral History Program at the Boulder Public Library

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- John Lake/Roger G. Barry Archives at the National Snow and Ice Data Center
- Elyssa Lewis/Clyfford Still Archives at the Clyfford Still Museum
- George Perez/Western History and Genealogy Department at the Denver Public Library
- Sarah Walsh/History Colorado and the Denver Public Library



*Over the course of the exhibits and presentations SRMA estimates approximately 200 people enjoyed the inspired Archives as Muse creations.*

In addition to the panel discussion, SRMA Program Director and *Arthyve* Executive Director Jessie de la Cruz coordinated a public exhibition of the Archives as Muse artists' works at the contemporary art gallery Leon Gallery. This included public performances by two of the artists, Elyssa Lewis and Esther Hernandez, as well as the ability to listen to Nathan Hall's composition.

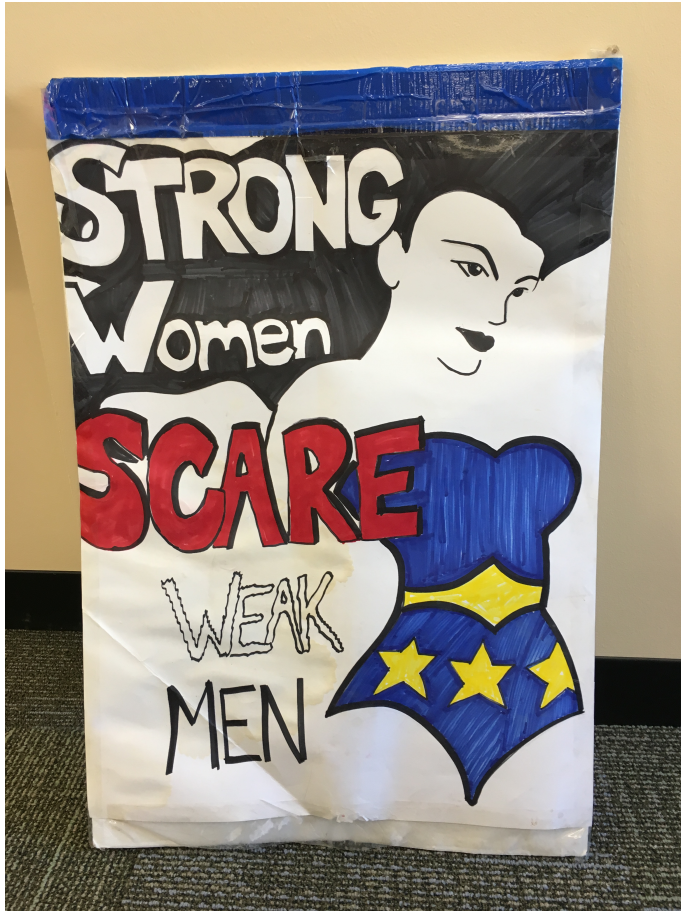
The public program and the exhibition were well-attended, with 100 at the public program and close to 200 over the course of the public exhibition. We received press in *Westword*, as well as "One Good Eye," the arts and culture website run by former Denver Post arts critic Ray Rinaldi – a coup for a regional archives association!

We plan to partner with *Arthyve* for future programming, and will be forming a joint committee to oversee any future collaborations.



## Message from the President

*by Jamie Seemiller, SRMA President  
Acquisitions Archivist/Librarian  
Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library*



*Women's March on Denver collection, WH2371  
Western History Collection, Denver Public Library*

I am happy to report that the SRMA Board is back on track after the phishing scam that occurred in November. I will admit I finally feel like I am getting back to normal after spending several months trying to straighten out our finances, appoint a new Treasurer and just come to terms with what happened. The Board appointed Laura Uglean Jackson from the University of Northern Colorado as Treasurer in December. Welcome Laura! Laura has done an amazing job in a short amount of time to help us move forward. Due to the phishing scam, we had to remove the former treasurer from the accounts and added myself, Kate (VP) and Laura. We froze the old checking account and opened a new account, which caused a ripple effect of having to redirect recurring payments and cancel/reissue a few outstanding checks. Laura has made sure that our new address and a periodic report was filed with the State

to ensure that our non-profit status is good. We also removed the Board email addresses on the website, since this is where the scammers got our information. Next up is filing our tax return and re-working the 2017-2018 budget. We are also exploring hiring a non-profit consultant to review the organization.

Moving forward to the Spring conference, Jessie and Lisa have been working on a theme of archives and activism to mirror the Liberated Archive Forum at SAA last year. The Spring Conference also means that our annual business meeting is coming up and elections are

going to take place. Please take a look at the open board positions in Allaina's (Past President) article. If you have any questions about any of the positions please let me know.

On a personal note, I wanted to share what I have been working on at the Denver Public Library Western History and Genealogy Department (WHG). As the Acquisitions Archivist, I am involved with processing collections, working with donors and three acquisitions committees to collect archival material. Part of this work is balancing traditional acquisition models with creating new ways of reaching under documented communities. The Women's March on Denver in 2017 opened new doors to working with donors and collecting on a massive scale. This year, I set up a donation table on the day of the march and received over 100 signs (with signed gift agreements). I have been thinking about new ways to flip my traditional model of donation to a more donor-centric one. Many times donating to an archives can be a top down experience for donors. I am looking to create some more organic donation events where members of a community can come and share their stories on their terms. I hope these themes are explored at the Spring Conference. I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference or at a upcoming meet-up!

*Jamie*

### Denver-area SRMA Meet-up Welcomes ALA's [CALM](#)

It's not often that archival conferences converge on Denver. A mini version of this occurs Thursday, February 8. With ALA Midwinter happening February 9-12, we're moving our monthly SRMA gathering to LoDo. Come out to meet some of your national colleagues from the ALA/SAA/AAM Committee on Archives, Libraries, and Museums (CALM).

Here are the details you need to know:

#### **Stout Street Social**

1400 Stout Street  
Denver, CO 80202

Thursday, February 8, 2018  
5:30-7pm



## From the SRMA Archives: The 1988 Spring Meeting

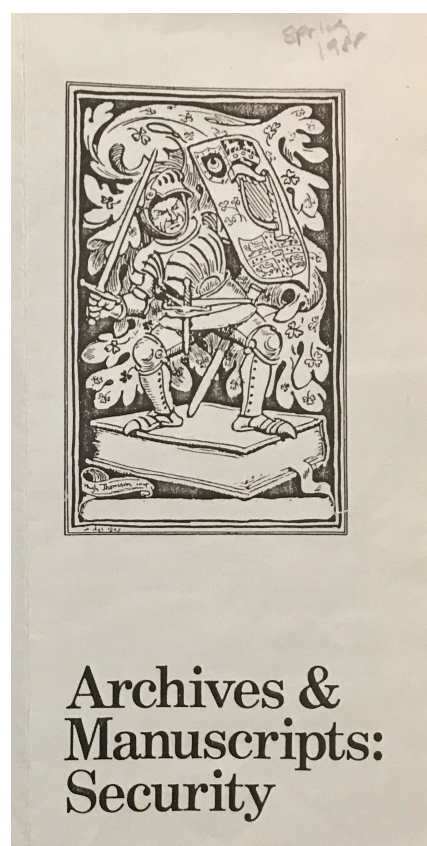
by Katie Rudolph, SRMA Archivist

Archivist/Librarian

Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library

Picture it: Boulder. May 6th, 1988. You're attending the spring meeting of the Society of Colorado Archivists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

After checking in (cost: \$7.50 for members; \$10 for non-members) and refreshing yourself with coffee and donuts, you open your program and read about the themes of the day's meeting:



Two issues of pressing importance to archivists these days are security of archives and certification. Thefts of rare books and manuscript material from archives and libraries has escalated in the last few years. More frighteningly, many of these thefts are being done from the inside.

How terrifying!

But wait, what's this about certification? You read the program further:

The Society of American Archivists has decided to support certification of archivists. What does this mean? How does it work? Will you be eligible?

So. Many. Questions.

You proceed to NCAR's Main Seminar room where the day's program will be held (you've been warned ahead of time that smoking isn't allowed in this room!).

After attending a business meeting and three sessions on security, you head to lunch at the NCAR cafeteria ("where the food is good and the prices low").

After lunch, you sit in on a panel presentation about archivist certification where you learn that the cost of certification is a whopping \$275.00 [roughly \$575 in 2017 prices]. Ouch! Guess you won't be buying a new VCR this year after all...

## Have You Renewed Your SRMA Membership Yet for 2018?

SRMA membership is drawn from regular and volunteer staff at 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. Basic membership is a mere \$25, and you can pay online.

Full information can be found on our web site at:

<http://www.srmarchivists.org/about-us/membership/>

Membership dues, while modest, are essential for enabling programs, scholarships, annual meetings, and continuing education support!

## Call for SRMA Board Nominations

*by Allaina Wallace, SRMA Past-President  
Head Librarian and Archivist  
Denver Botanic Gardens*

SRMA Members! This is your chance to get involved and to give back to your community. It also looks great on your resume. The SRMA board has three positions opening this spring.

**Vice President.** Three-year commitment. Assist the Program Director and educational programming. Coordinate documentation of Board procedures keeping current procedures available on web site. Acts as President and Past-President in second and third years.

**Secretary.** Two-year commitment. Records all official minutes, submit minutes at annual business meeting, give notices on time.

**Member-at- Large.** Two-year commitment. Assists Program Director with programming opportunities in first year. Acts as Program Director in second year.

Contact any active Board members or consult the bylaws on the web site for more information. Volunteer yourself or recommend a colleague by contacting Allaina Wallace, Past-President, at [Allaina.Wallace@botanicgardens.org](mailto:Allaina.Wallace@botanicgardens.org).



## News You Might Have Missed

Don't have time to catch all the news? Who does?? Here's a short summary of some archive-related announcements and happenings.

### **Archives & Archivists (A&A) discussion list now longer**

[more info](#)

*As of the end of 2017 this list is no longer active. Be sure to check out the section lists (see above link) to see how to continue to access the information and people that mean the most to you.*

### **Journal of Western Archives**

[current issue](#)

*Looking to get your work published, or just keep on top of your Western colleagues' activities? Be sure to check out this excellent open-access resource. In 2018, there will be a search for a new editor. If this is something you have experience in and feel you can manage, consider contacting Gordon Daines at: [gordon\\_daines@byu.edu](mailto:gordon_daines@byu.edu) for more information.*

### **SRMA Listserv Moving to New Platform on May 1**

*SRMA's member listserv will be moving from Yahoo Groups to Google Groups on May 1, 2018. The listserv will function the same way as it does now—SRMA listserv posts will arrive in your inbox and you will be able to post messages to the group through your email.*

*The switch will provide SRMA with several benefits, allowing list administrators to direct-add members and archive discussion threads. Listserv members with Gmail or G Suite email addresses will have the extra bonus of being able to tag posts, directly control how often they receive listserv messages in their inbox (digest mode anyone?), and view the listserv's archives through the Google Group's web forum interface.*

*Comments or concerns about the move? Feel free to reach out to Katie Rudolph (SRMA Archivist), [krudolph@denverlibrary.org](mailto:krudolph@denverlibrary.org).*

### **2018 Western Archives Institute**

[more info](#)

*The 32nd annual Western Archives Institute (WAI) will be held at San Diego State University from June 10-22, 2018. WAI is an intensive, two-week program that provides integrated instruction in basic archival practices to individuals with a variety of backgrounds. WAI has helped support the development of such fundamental practices as MPLP.*

### **SAA Distinguished Service Award**

[more info](#)

*The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an archival institution, education program, nonprofit organization, or government organization that has provided outstanding service to its public and has made an exemplary contribution to the archives profession. Deadline for nominations is February 28, 2018.*