

archival outlook

100% ARCHIVISTS!

Leonard Rapport and Meyer Fishbein collectively have more than 85 years of archival experience. Retired from the National Archives and longtime members of SAA, their continued enthusiasm for the profession was evident in their participation at the DC 2006 Joint Annual Meeting.

Complete coverage inside...



LEONARD RAPPORT

MEYER FISHBEIN

table of contents

features

October is American Archives Month!

Elizabeth W. Adkins and Nancy Beaumont 6

DC 2006 Joint Annual Meeting

Hot, Humid, and Historic! Teresa Brinati 8

Nine New SAA Fellows Honored Teresa Brinati 14

**“Honoring Thy Colleagues”:
2006 SAA Award Recipients** Teresa Brinati 18

SAA Council Meetings 22

What’s Up in SAA 29

New Home for Archives & Archivists List
New Student Chapter at Louisiana State University
Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Report
2006 Publications Catalog

columns

President’s Message: Top 10 Reasons for SAA to Continue to
Reach Out to Government Archivists. 3

From the Executive Director: Year in Review 4

From the Archivist of the United States: A Rich and Rewarding
Week in Washington, D.C. 16

departments

National News Clips 26

Currents 28

Bulletin Board 36

Professional Opportunities 39

on the cover



100% Archivists! Nonagenarians Leonard Rapport and Meyer Fishbein have been attending SAA conferences since the 1950s. And they didn't miss a beat with the DC 2006 Joint Annual Meeting in August. With more than 2,100 attendees, it was the largest gathering ever of archivists in North America. "I've enjoyed meeting people all these years," mused Rapport. "It's so nice to . . . bump into colleagues and friends at every turn," added Fishbein. For complete coverage of the conference, see pages 8–20. Photo by Teresa Brinati.

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the society of american archivists
serves the education and information needs of its
members and provides leadership to help
ensure the identification, preservation
and use of the nation's historical record.

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Nine New SAA Fellows Honored at DC 2006 Meeting

TERESA BRINATI, Director of Publishing

Hundreds of attendees at the DC 2006 Joint Annual Meeting gathered on August 4, 2006, in a ballroom of the Washington Hilton Hotel for the awards ceremony saluting nine new Fellows of the Society of American Archivists: Margaret (Peggy) O'Neill Adams, Thomas J. Connors, Philip B. Eppard, Frederick L. Honhart, Elisabeth Kaplan, Wilda Logan, Nancy McCall, Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, and Diane Vogt-O'Connor.

Established in 1957 and conferred annually, the distinction of Fellow is the highest honor bestowed on individuals by SAA and is awarded for outstanding contributions to the archival profession. There are now 164 current members so honored out of a membership of more than 4,600. Meet the class of 2006 SAA Fellows:

MARGARET (PEGGY) O'NEILL ADAMS has been an electronic records archivist for the National Archives for almost twenty years. Following her bachelor's and master's degrees from Clarke College in Iowa and the University of Wisconsin, she taught history at the college level. But she quickly found her niche as the founding data archivist at the University of Wisconsin in the late 1960s and in a series of posts for the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Kentucky. She then was recruited to the National Archives, into what was then the Machine-Readable Records Branch, now the Electronic and Special Media Records Services Division.

Through the years, Adams developed the first and foremost reference service for electronic records in the American archival community. In 2003, she was recognized by NARA with the Archivist's Special Achievement Award for the development and launch of the "Access to Archival Databases" web resource. In SAA she's been an active member of committees and sections, a frequent presenter in workshops on electronic records, and a program speaker at a dozen annual meetings.

In more than a dozen publications, Adams has tied professional practice to the use of electronic records in a variety of ways, just as she has done with her contributions to allied associations, including the International Association for Social Science Service Information and Technology, the American Association for Computing and History, and the Association of Public Data Users, among many others.

Adams has had an influence on literally hundreds of her colleagues both in SAA and around the world. She has been a bridge-builder in so many ways. She is, in the words of one of her nominators, "a tireless champion for the preservation, effective use, and management of electronic data." Adams has lived with this technology from the punch card to the Internet, and continues to keep a step or two ahead of it.

THOMAS J. CONNORS holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Brown University in anthropology and American civilization. From his first position as archives assistant at Yale University Library in the late '70s through his post as archivist/curator since 1993 at the National Public Broadcasting Archives at the University of Maryland, he has consistently distinguished himself throughout his career. From his early ground-breaking and still definitive work on labor archives; to his tireless efforts on behalf of international archives affairs and greater American involvement therein; to his leadership in documenting the broadcasting industry; to the energy and dedication he brought to SAA's governing council; and to the passion and eloquence he has evinced in advocating on behalf of greater access to federal and municipal records, Connors has shown himself to be the sort of archivist that defines the very best characteristics of the profession.

During the middle of Connors's three-year term on SAA's governing council (2000–2003), SAA and the profession faced many challenges: from 9/11 to unprecedented assaults on the public's right to information about its government. Throughout it all, Connors was always ready to assist leadership to reason through and draft statements, make public appearances, and to work behind the scenes in the Washington media environment he knew so well. One of his great strengths was the way in which he then leveraged this activity with his international connections. As one of his nominators pointed out, "Tom has always been outspoken in defending academic and press freedoms, but he has recently brought that advocacy to an international forum, thus bringing our European colleagues into the dialogue."

In addition to his leadership in SAA, Connors also is active in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, the Academy of Certified Archivists, and the Oral History Association. As one of his nominators noted: "Tom is a consummate archivist and a leader in the profession. The major quality that characterizes him is enthusiasm. He is always excited about his work and the field because he truly believes in its importance."

PHILIP B. EPPARD of the University at Albany, State University of New York, has richly earned this recognition through his contributions to archival scholarship, electronic records research, archival education, the study of archival history, and national and regional professional associations. Eppard, who holds a PhD in American Civilization from Brown University, was editor of the SAA journal *American Archivist* for the past 10 years and strengthened its reputation for excellence. As one of his nominators stated, he "has given the journal vision and theoretical heft that it did not enjoy consistently before."

Eppard has co-directed for seven years the American group participating in the InterPARES research projects on



The Class of 2006 SAA Fellows (left to right): Nancy McCall, Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Wilda Logan, Philip B. Eppard, Thomas J. Connors, Elisabeth Kaplan, Frederick L. Honhart, Diane Vogt-O'Connor, and Margaret (Peggy) O'Neill Adams.

electronic records. As another nominator observed, Eppard could “persuasively articulate archival concepts to researchers from other disciplines” and “conduct himself as a consummate ambassador for our profession when working internationally.” In addition, as co-founder and co-convenor of the first International Conference on the History of Records and Archives (I-CHORA), Eppard has contributed significantly to the study of archival history, by fostering research and publication in an oft-neglected field. In these two disparate roles, he has bridged new and traditional concepts, combining theory and application.

Through his professional work and scholarship, Eppard has also strengthened the connections between archivists and allied professional groups. As an archival educator on the faculty of the Department of Information Studies at SUNY-Albany for almost two decades, he has integrated archival courses with library and information science. As Dean of the School of Information Science and Policy for several years he further strengthened the connections between the worlds of archives and information science.

Eppard has served SAA in other capacities over the years, including service on the Committee on Education and Professional Development to the Archival History Roundtable. He was elected treasurer and president of the New England Archivists, and has been active in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, the New York State Archives Advisory Committee, and many other professional groups.

FREDERICK L. HONHART joined the staff of Michigan State University in 1974 and currently serves as director of University Archives and Historical Collections, a program he established and advanced into a truly national model supporting administrative needs and the university’s educational and research missions.

Honhart was recognized for his leadership, his vision, and his integrity. He pioneered what we take for granted today: the use of computer technology in the daily operation of archival organizations. MicroMARC:amc, developed under Honhart’s leadership with the support of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, was the first software package that enabled a significant number of archival institutions to automate description and share that information with researchers and other institutions. As one nominator noted, “Today, 20 years later, it would be easy to overlook the significance of Fred’s brainchild . . . MicroMARC:amc . . . [which] became the catalyst for many archivists to consider adopting professional standards for description.”

Throughout his career, Honhart, who holds a PhD from Case-Western Reserve University, has been an active and leading participant in the broader archival community. In the mid-1970s he advocated for greater transparency in SAA’s governance and was instrumental in opening the governing council’s meetings to all members. He also proposed the creation of a student membership category.

In addition, Honhart is active in the Michigan Archival Association, Midwest Archives Conference, and the International Council on Archives (ICA). He currently serves as president of the ICA Section on University and Research Institution Archives, and last year hosted archivists from around the world at the section’s meeting in East Lansing, Michigan, which was deemed one of the most successful and well-attended section meetings.

ELISABETH KAPLAN is university archivist and co-director of the University Digital Conservancy at the University of Minnesota. As one nominator noted, “In a relatively short period of time, Kaplan has made significant contributions to SAA and to the archival profession that