



THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE RECONSIDERED: LIBRARIANS AND ARCHIVISTS – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Michael Gourlie, Executive Director/Archives Advisor

On what turned out to be one of Alberta's few glorious weekends this May, the Archives Society of Alberta held its biennial conference in the Max Bell Building at the Banff Centre from May 13-16, 2010. Over sixty delegates, including students and out-of-province participants, attended what is sure to become remembered as one of the ASA's most remarkable conferences.



Three workshops were held prior to the formal conference proceedings that focussed on topics of continuing interest to ASA members. First, Wendy Stephens of the University of Calgary provided an overview of copyright legislation from its inception to the most recent proposals and discussed how copyright issues affect everyday work at archival institutions. Second, ASA's Michael Gourlie examined techniques for writing better grant applications, stressing the need to follow instructions, provide enough detail in the proposal, create an interesting hook to the project, and check over the application for math and other errors before submitting it to the granting agency. Finally, Terry O'Riordan of the Provincial Archives of Alberta discussed

the issues surrounding the digitization of archival materials, including terminology, digitization standards for various media, as well as overall best practices.

The conference officially began with an opening reception held at the Whyte Museum. After greetings from ASA President Debby Shocter, conference delegates toured the art, artifacts and costumes on display in the galleries of the Museum. Tours of the archives were provided to standing-room only crowds by the Whyte Museum's Ted Hart and Elizabeth Kundert-Cameron. After the formal parts of the evening, many delegates were seen wandering through the streets of downtown Banff to find pubs, explore the shops on

Banff Avenue, and reconnect with colleagues and new friends.

The next day began with the keynote address by noted archival theorist Terry Cook that set the tone of the conference. In his insightful speech, Terry examined the burgeoning trend of convergence in Canadian archives, lamenting the lack of published studies about its effects and congratulating the ASA on basing its conference around the topic. After the keynote, the conference split into concurrent streams. One stream followed up on the topic of convergence, with one session featuring the University of Calgary Archives examining the effects of convergence at the

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archives

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University, a second examining convergence's impact on users, a third another discussing the history of converged institutions (Esplanade in Medicine Hat, and the Whyte Museum and Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives in Banff) in Southern Alberta. The non-convergence stream of sessions included one focussing on the challenges of creating of new institutional archives at universities and museums, a second on the different types of archival education available in Canada and via distance in Scotland, and a third examining the causes and recovery response to the collapse of the Historical Archive of Cologne building in 2009.

The last day of conference sessions opened with a plenary address by Dr. Daniel J. Caron, Librarian and Archivist of Canada. He spoke of the need for libraries and archives to work together to meet the information needs of Canadians, particularly in light of the challenges posed by the abundance of records and changing usage patterns found in the digital world. One stream of concurrent sessions on this day included one session describing the impact of National Archival Development Program funding on two innovative projects with significant public outreach to aboriginal and rural communities, and a second session examining library outreach strategies and their potential for adoption by the archival community. The second stream of concurrent sessions included one exploring the employment situations faced by librarians and archivists, with an additional session discussing personality types and stereotypes of librarians and archivists that included the results of a survey of conference delegates taken only the day before! Finally, Tom Hickerson, Vice Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources) of the University of Calgary, provided the conference's closing plenary, who drew on his experiences with convergence to tie together the themes addressed over the previous days. The conference officially concluded the following day with the Society's annual general meeting.

Any summary of the conference would not be complete without a few words about the Banff Centre. Although the middle of the campus was a construction zone (ironically, for the building under construction will include the future home of the Centre's archives, which the ASA had hoped would be completed by the conference) and required a circuitous daily walk for conference delegates, the facilities and scenery were quite spectacular. A special shout-out goes to Vistas Dining Room and the Three Ravens Wine Bar, whose meals and wine were as remarkable as the surrounding countryside.

Overall, the conference seems to be an unqualified success. The post-conference survey of delegates indicated, aside from some organizational tweaks here and there, that there was strong approval of the conference content as well as a desire to return to the Banff Centre for future conferences. The ASA thanks the keynote, plenary and session speakers for providing a thought-provoking and timely conference that drew a large number of delegates. The ASA also thanks the Program Committee for assembling the sessions. Thanks are also in order for the Banff Centre conference staff as well as local archivists for being such good hosts, including a special thanks to Jane Parkinson of the Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives of the Banff Centre for acting as conference photographer! The ASA also acknowledges the generous financial support of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation in addition to that of the Government of Canada through Library and Archives Canada, and administered by the Canadian Council of Archives, without which the conference would not have happened.

Here's to the next ASA conference in 2012!

AWARD RECIPIENTS

The ASA celebrated a trio of award winners at its 2010 conference and AGM.

MAA & PAA Theatre received the Alan D. Ridge Award for Other Media. Since 2006, MAA & PAA Theatre has brought unique stories of the Alberta experience to the stage through the use of archival resources found throughout the province's archival institutions. To date, MAA & PAA founders Karen Simonson and David Cheoros have created three plays in collaboration with the Provincial Archives of Alberta – Letters from Battle River, Respecting the Action for Seduction, and The Unmarried Wife – that explore elements of Alberta's political, social, and artistic past and bring them (and their sources) to life for new audiences. Hopefully, MAA & PAA Theatre will find new stories and continue their efforts to bring archives to theatre-goers across Alberta.

Apollonia Steele, recently retired from Special Collections - University of Calgary Library, was the first recipient. In a career at the University of Calgary spanning almost 30 years, Polly is well-known for her efforts to develop Special Collections into a literary archives powerhouse, which includes among its holdings the records of Mordecai Richler, Hugh MacLennan, Rudy Kroetsch, and many other authors of regional and national renown. She has shared her knowledge of the holdings and of archival practice through numerous publications and presentations to conferences, university classes, and the archival community. She was also the recipient of the Order of the University of Calgary in 2003. The ASA thanks Polly for her continuing contributions to Alberta's archival community.

a role that continues to the present day. During her career, she has spearheaded the preservation of fragile moving image and photograph formats and acquired notable holdings including the Viewegar autochromes and the Nicholas de Grandmaison fonds, and has built a significant collection of home movies at the PAA. She has shared her expertise through conference presentations, the PAA's annual film night, and workshops for the archival community, including the popular "Conquering Fear of Film" offered through the ASA and the ACA. For her accomplishments in preserving film in Alberta, she received the Dan and Kathy Leab Award from the Association of Moving Image Archivists in 2003. The ASA wishes her well on her pending retirement and departure to Newfoundland to pursue her art.

ASA honorary membership is awarded to those members who are distinguished for their archives work or who have rendered distinguished service to the Society. This year, two members received that honour.

The second recipient was Marlena Wyman. A graduate of the University of Alberta, Marlena joined the Provincial Archives of Alberta in 1982 as its audio-visual archivist,

The ASA congratulates all its award recipients and looks forward to future Ridge Award and honorary member nominees next year!



*Karen Simonson (left),
Debby Shoctor accepting on behalf of Marlena Wyman (middle),
Apollonia Steele (right)*



Marlena Wyman

CONFERENCE 2010



Keynote speaker Terry Cook



*Jennifer Willard,
Mary Flynn, Meghan
Power*



*Plenary speaker Dr. Daniel
J. Caron, Librarian and
Archivist of Canada*



Monica Chattaway, Keely Burkholder, Wendy Dyck



Conference session in progress



Jane Bowe-Mccarthy, Claude Roberto



Braden Cannon



Plenary speaker Tom Hickerson

*Michael Gourlie,
Carrie Herrick-Fitzgerald*



*View of Banff Centre
campus. New construction
at right will include new
archives facility.*



Terry Cook & Tom Hickerson



Regina Landwehr, John Wright

*Bryan Corbett,
Jean Crozier*



View from Three Ravens



Jennifer Rutkair, Laura Millar

ARCHIVES INSTITUTE

The ASA's 11th Archives Institute was held from May 31-June 5, 2010 in the boardroom of the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Eighteen participants from archives in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba gathered for the intensive 5 ½ course that covered the fundamentals of archives, including acquisition, appraisal, arrangement, description, preservation and reference. The course work is followed by a take-home assignment involving the arrangement and description of a sample fonds and answering additional questions related to the acquisition, appraisal, and preservation of the records.

This year's instructors included the ASA's Michael Gourlie and staff members from the Provincial Archives of Alberta including Susan Stanton, Karen Simonson, Alison Freake and Terry O'Riordan. The ASA thanks the Provincial Archives for providing the facility and making its staff available to present at the Institute.

The 2011 Archives Institute will be held in Calgary during dates to be determined.



2010 Archives Institute class picture - back row (left to right): Michael Gourlie, Chad Arie, Donna Harbeck, Emilie Zeibin, Kim Warkentine, Selena Percy, Susan Klein, Lesa Anderson, Julie Reid, Andriy Chernevych. Front row (left to right): Marilyn Glenn, Holly Platt, Josie Tong, Donna Krucik, Cathy Pashak, Jennifer Ford, Gayle Simonson, Susan Walker. Not in photo: Cheryl Charlie.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

In addition to the regular business of the ASA AGM, actual elections (!) resulted in changes to the ASA Board. University of Calgary Archives Lisa Atkinson was acclaimed treasurer for 2010-2012 term. Bonnie Woelk was elected as the Individual Member-at-Large also for 2010-2012. At the Institutional Forum held prior to the AGM, Leslie Pearson of the South Peace Regional Archives was acclaimed as the Institutional Member-at-Large, completing the term of Mary Nutting.

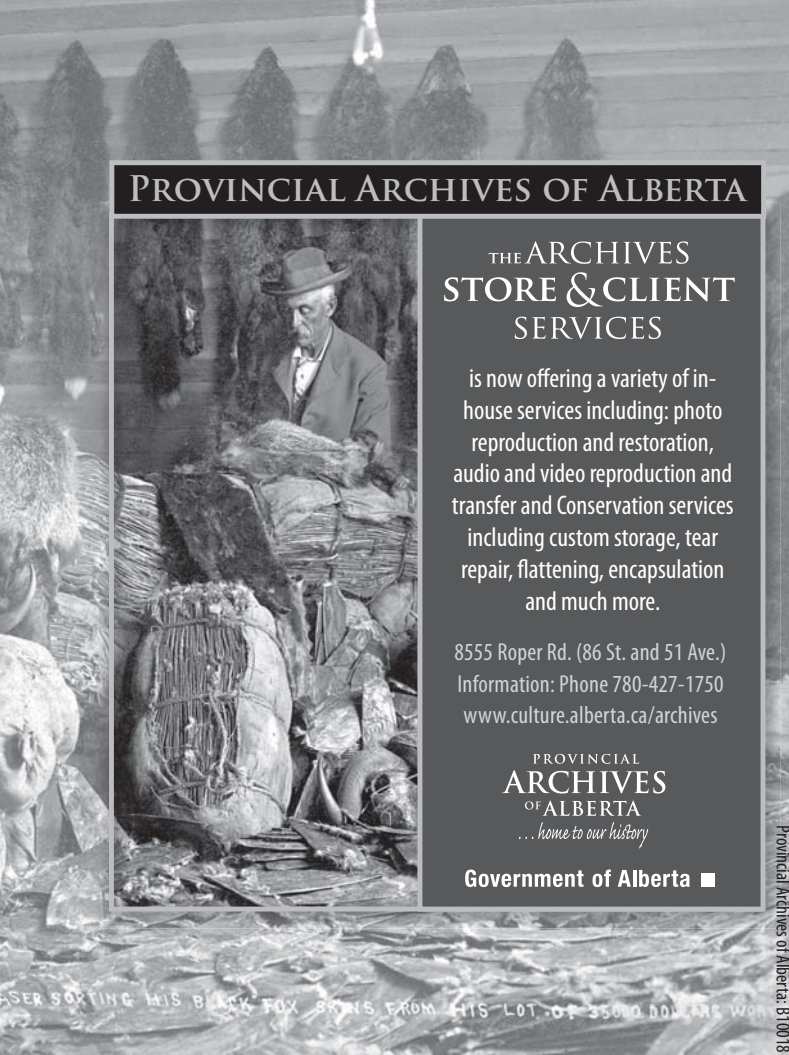
Operations Manager Mandi Wisheu is leaving the ASA, effective June 15. Mandi joined the ASA in 2003 as the bookkeeper, and gradually her duties expanded to include assisting the Treasurer, budget preparation, and conference planning. She and her husband Joe are leaving Edmonton to travel and pursue new adventures. Best wishes Mandi and Joe!

The Essence of his Art: Nicholas de Grandmaison's Unfinished Pastels

The Provincial Archives of Alberta invites you to see an exhibit of studies, unfinished drawings, photographs and personal artifacts from the archives of Nicholas de Grandmaison. Nicholas de Grandmaison was one of the most important painters of First Nations subjects in Canada. He painted in Alberta and Saskatchewan from the 1930s to the 1960s, creating exquisite pastel portraits of First Nations and other notable people of the time. The collection was graciously donated in 2009 by the artist's daughter, Tamara de Grandmaison.

The exhibit runs from May 20 to August 28, 2010
Admission is free.

Carrie-Ann Lunde is the ASA's new Database Administrator. A graduate of the University of Western Ontario's Masters in Public History program, Carrie has worked at a number of museums and archives, including the University of Alberta. Welcome Carrie!



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Individuals and institutions are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, reports, photographs or letters to the editor to the **Archives Society of Alberta News**, Issues #1, 2, and 3. Submissions are preferred in electronic format as Word files for textual submissions, or as JPG files for graphic submissions.

Please note:

Issue #4 is reserved for Annual Reports of the Society and its committees.

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Voting Delegate (Associate / Institutional)

Institutional Affiliation (Individual Members)

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- Yes, I would like to volunteer for an ASA Committee

Please make cheque or money order payable to the **Archives Society of Alberta** and mail to:

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