

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

PHILIP PYPE, PRESIDENT



Recent years have been challenging for the Archives Society of Alberta (ASA) and its members. We have faced COVID-19, budget cuts, and looming world economic worries. Despite these challenges, I find myself working with a Board of Directors and secretariat that is upbeat, forward-looking and active.

The ASA has a new office, located in the Prince of Wales Armouries and Heritage Centre, next door to our good friends at the City of Edmonton Archives. Conference Planning for 2023 is underway; I am very excited to see some old friends and make some new ones come spring. Plus, a business plan is in place for the next couple of years that outlines ASA's next steps.

The initiative in that plan that excites me most is Advocacy; promoting and cultivating the value of archives. To this end, the ASA engaged local strategy firm INCITE to work with us and our key stakeholders to develop a communications plan. Their extensive experience helping clients and organizations navigate communications challenges will be vital for our success.

A product of their work will be a roadmap for the ASA, fit to our resources and needs, that will guide our communications and engagement activities. We will have the tools to effectively connect with our communities and to raise awareness of our profession and institutions. This bold step forward is driven by the Advocacy and Outreach Committee and those with whom they work.

We work in a quickly evolving vocation in a world of constant change. I look forward to my term, working with the ASA Board of Directors, committees, and membership as we engage our profession with our patrons, partners, and supporters.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR

RENE GEORGOPALIS

Over the spring and summer months, I conducted a few site visits, finally, after a few years. The planned site visits did not go as smoothly as I hoped, however, as there was a case of covid and forest fires which resulted in some rescheduling. It seems like the site visits are still not happening to the extent they used to pre-pandemic but it was great to do some visits.



I also attended the ACA conference in Vancouver in June, and it was lovely to see so many members that I have not seen for a couple years. It was also great to connect with archivists from other parts of the country. One of our members attended the conference and wrote an article about their experience in this newsletter.

ASA has taken on a couple new projects this fall. We are developing a new website, which should make it easier to find information about the ASA and the support we provide. We also have begun consultation regarding advocacy so we can better support our members.

We also have two new staff at the ASA. Maryna left us after having worked here for 7 years. I really loved working with her and she was so good at supporting ASA with Alberta On Record. Our new Database Administrator is Jia Jia, who many of you may recognize as she worked as our Administrative Assistant a few years ago. We also have a new Administrative Assistant, Bronwyn, and she has been learning her role at ASA. I am happy to welcome these two new staff.

ASA has also been busy teaching - the Archives Institute is happening online again. We are offering two workshops, Updating Outdated Descriptions, which are so popular, we had to offer a second one. Both workshops were fully registered in approximately two days. I hope that those of you who attended these workshops gained useful ideas to improve descriptions at your archives.

MEET JIA JIA, DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

JIA JIA YONG



I am honoured to be taking over the position of Database Administrator from Maryna, who has done amazing work over the years and has left a wonderful legacy in the development of Alberta On Record. I want to wish Maryna all the best in her continued archival endeavours!

My background is in history and I have worked and volunteered at various archives since 2013. In 2016, I received a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Alberta.

Currently, I am the archivist for the Franciscans of Canada Archives located in Edmonton. I have also previously worked at the Musée Héritage Museum Archives and at the Archdiocese of Edmonton Archives. Access to records and promoting archives has always been important to me, and I am pleased to be able to continue this work through supporting ASA's institutional members in AOR.

I am always open to answer questions or provide support and training as needed. I can be reached by email at database@archivesalberta.org. I look forward to working with everyone!

MEET BRONWYN, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

BRONWYN BURLINGHAM

Hello, I recently joined the Archives Society of Alberta as Administrative Assistant. Over the last few weeks, I have enjoyed learning about the scope of the ASA, and getting familiar with my role. I am a librarian by profession, and have held a fascination with the world of archives since my graduate school days, during which I completed research on the prefatory material of 17th-century dictionaries and encyclopaedias. I am keen to learn more about the archival work of so many dedicated institutions in Alberta, and look forward to connecting with you.



If you have any administrative questions for the Archives Society, please get in touch with me at admin@archivesalberta.org. I work with the Archives Society on a part-time basis and sometimes outside of regular business hours; however, I will do my best to respond to you as quickly as possible. I'm eager to work alongside you, providing support in this exciting field!

Unsettled – The ACA 2022 Hybrid Conference

MICHAEL GOURLIE

Following virtual conferences designed to deal with the impact of the pandemic, this year the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) experimented with a new format – the hybrid conference, with a combination of in-person and online sessions designed to engage the broadest audience possible. Held on the greatly expanded (since my MAS graduation in 1994!) campus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, the conference theme “Unsettled: Redefining Archival Power” delivered.

As an in-person delegate, I was fortunate enough to experience a traditional conference with a few technological twists. The opening reception, held at Sage Bistro (the building formerly housing the UBC Faculty Club), allowed colleagues who had not seen each other in person to catch up on years' worth of news. The next day, members of the Musqueam First Nation, on whose land UBC is located, led the conference's opening plenary, appointing witnesses among the conference delegates to report on their experiences to the audience of the conference's closing plenary.

The conference then began its traditional structure of three concurrent sessions, with the added technological challenge of presenters taking part in person or via Zoom and taking questions from the in-person audience, via the Zoom chat feature, or through the Whova conference app used by the ACA to manage elements of the conference. For the most part, session chairs and speakers handled the transitions between the various platforms effectively, and virtual or in-person conference delegates were able to interact easily with the speakers.

There were 25 sessions and dozens of speakers, most of which dealt with issues of decolonization, the inclusion of communities and organizations that have been traditionally marginalized in archival discourse, and Indigenous concerns. One session that stood out was the Friday morning plenary, “No smoke without fire: historical silence, archival rumour, and feminist fabulation – reimagining Barkerville, British Columbia” by Dr. Laura Ishiguro, who used sources that she admitted were thin at best to explore her fascination with Barkerville, an 1860s gold rush town in British Columbia, in a compelling and delightful way.

But perhaps the most notable event of the conference was the opening reception for the headquarters of Internet Archive Canada, which has taken up residence in a heritage building in downtown Vancouver that was formerly a branch of a national bank. While a DJ played on, the boisterous crowd took full advantage of the hot dog, taco and ice cream stands, to say nothing of the open bar. For me, the funniest part was that the building featured a series of historic stained glass windows depicting provincial coats of arms, and not only was Alberta's beside the washroom (an unfortunate renovation result), but also it featured a rather sickly looking polar bear! The wine helped wash away my indignance at such a slight!

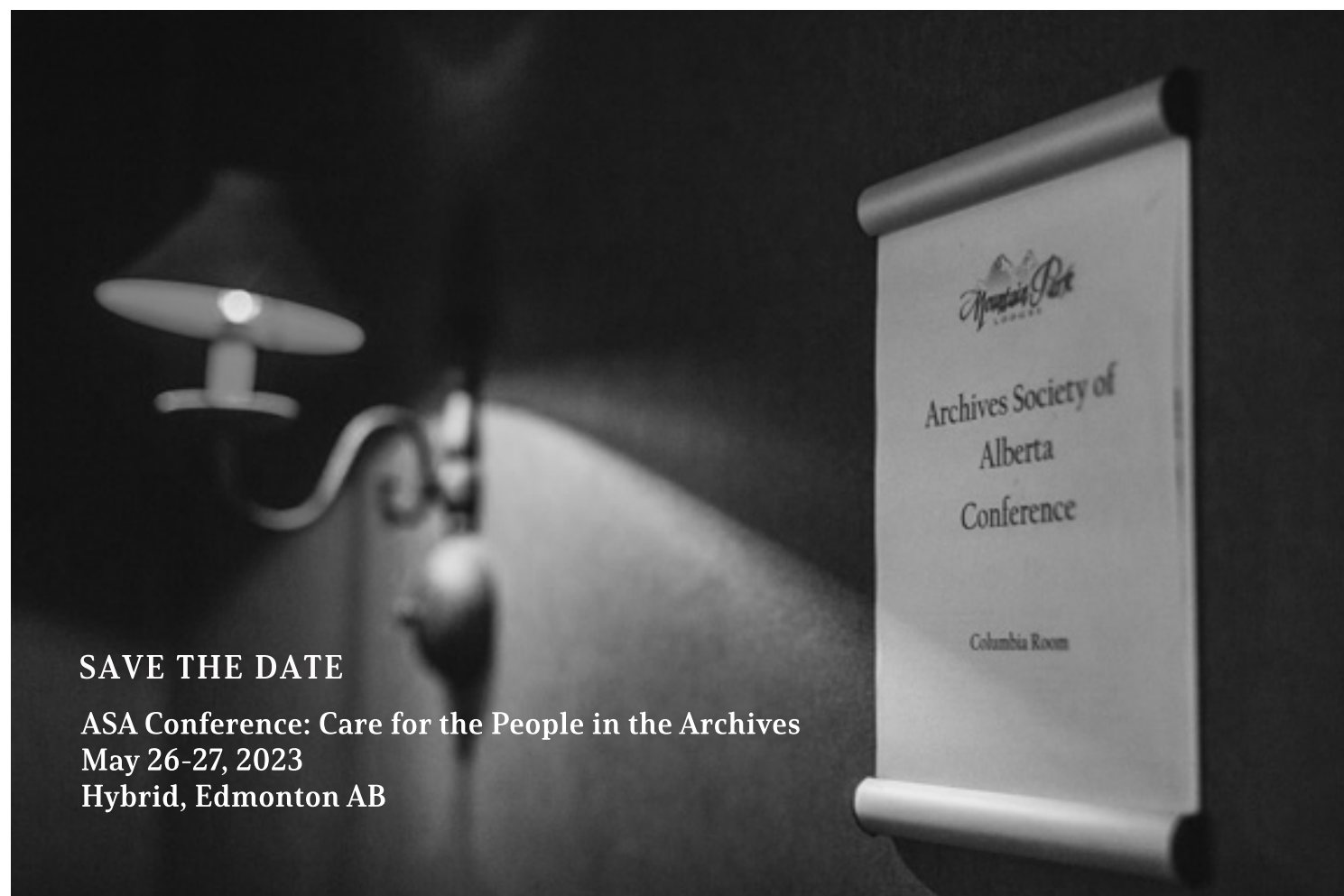
The next conference, whether as a solely in-person or hybrid version, will be in the Prince Edward Island, marking the ACA's first ever conference in that province. Check it out in 2023 if you can!

ASA CONFERENCE 2023: CARE FOR PEOPLE IN THE ARCHIVES

At the heart of archival work are the people impacted by the work. There are archival workers who process, and make records accessible; donors who provide the archives with its holdings; the people documented in records held at archives, and users who access those records. The purpose of archival work is to provide information to people and sometimes that information can be difficult and emotional. An aspect of our work that is little discussed at the archival schools is psychology. Working with records can be a challenge with regards to the human aspect. We may come across donors who are difficult or grieving and donating a set of records could be part of their grieving process. Or, as archivists process records, the content could document traumatic human experiences such as death, torture, abuse, or hold other disturbing content. Or, we may help users in our reading rooms who may have unexpected emotional responses to the content in the records – like flashbacks of a traumatic event. For ASA’s Conference 2023, we will examine these difficult aspects of our work.

Find more information on the upcoming conference, including the call for proposals (deadline: December 2, 2022), here:

<https://archivesalberta.org/professional-development/conference/>



SAVE THE DATE

ASA Conference: Care for the People in the Archives
May 26-27, 2023
Hybrid, Edmonton AB

archives

SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

The Archives Society of Alberta News is published quarterly by the Archives Society of Alberta. Submissions, questions and suggestions should be directed to the Newsletter Editor c/o:

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

The views expressed in the Archives Society of Alberta Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Archives Society of Alberta or its Editor.



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ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (Institution or Individual)

Address

City

Province

PostalCode

Telephone

Business Phone

Fax

E-mail address

Voting Delegate (Associate)

Institutional Affiliation (Individual Members)

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Please Check

- Archives Employee. \$60.00
- Students, Volunteers, Seniors. \$30.00
- Associate Institutional Member. \$90.00
- Institutional Member (Please contact the ASA for further information)
- Yes, I would like to volunteer for an ASA Committee

Credit Card No. _____

Expiry _____ Visa Mastercard

Cardholder name (please print) _____

Signature _____

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

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