

University of Arkansas Libraries

Annual Report

Special Collections Department

University of Arkansas Libraries

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Looking Back: Highlights

The Special Collections Department's most successful project this year was the launching of *Arkansauce: The Journal of Arkansas Foodways*. Years of planning for the journal came to fruition in early March when the first issue arrived in the hands of readers. *Arkansauce* proved to be a runaway hit; the department was nearly overwhelmed by fan mail and subscription requests.

A major project to digitize selected materials from the Brooks Hays Papers saw considerable progress this year and is nearing completion. Hays, a political, civic, and religious leader from Pope County, served eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, Fifth District, from 1942 to 1959.

Index Arkansas finished a major expansion project, funded by the Happy Hollow Foundation, to index county historical publications from 1986 to 2007.

Special Collections has labored for many years to preserve the Ozark Folksong collection gathered by Mary Parler. In a collaborative effort, the Department began working closely with Lora Lennertz Jetton, head of the Libraries' performing arts and media library, to devise a plan to preserve this important collection and to provide access to the materials via the Internet.

In May, Special Collections received two awards of merit from the Arkansas Historical Association—one for the digital project, "Land of (Unequal) Opportunity: Documenting the Civil Rights Struggle in Arkansas," and one for *Index Arkansas*.

One of the Department's digital collections, the *Commonwealth College Fortnightly* was recognized in July as "Digital Library of the Week" by *AL Direct*, the electronic newsletter of the American Library Association. Commonwealth College was a controversial socialist labor school located near Mena in Polk County.

The Department received a grant of \$4,590 from the National Film Preservation Foundation to re-master, preserve, and digitize a fifty-year-old 8mm film produced in 1961 by Neil Compton in support of his campaign to keep the Buffalo River undammed and free-flowing.

Two valued long-term employees, Research Services Head Andrea Cantrell and Architectural Records Archivist Ellen Compton retired. Catherine "Cat" Wallack came on board

in January as the new Architectural Records Archivist. Joshua Youngblood was recently hired for the position of research services head.

Manuscripts Unit

The unit acquired 42 collections, totaling 407.5 linear feet. Highlights of the year's acquisitions include:

- The papers of Mary Nell Turner, a historian from Hope
- The papers of Charlie Cole Chaffin, a former state senator from Benton
- The Baker Family Music Collection, containing reel-to-reel and digitized audio recordings of their Madison County 1950s-era music
- The German POW Letters containing correspondence between Ernest D. Gregory, a prosperous Ashley County farmer and business man, and German POWs who worked on his farm during World War II
- The George F. Trapp Collection of art
- The papers of Lindsley Smith, a former Arkansas state representative
- Materials from Rosa Heinke, an art instructor at the Rohwer Relocation Center in Desha County, including a diary documenting daily activities at the World War II-era internment camp built to incarcerate Japanese Americans from the West Coast
- Civil war-era correspondence between the family members of Edward Parker, a Little Rock banker and Civil War veteran
- The Halsey Prudden Correspondence, containing Arkansas territorial-era letters from Saline County
- The papers of Verna Cook Garvan, founder and benefactor of Garvin Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs

The manuscripts unit processed 46 collections, comprising 162.69 linear feet. Highlights of collections processed during the year include:

- The Nannie Stillwell Jackson Diaries Addendum, obtained with the help of Margaret Bolsterli, which expands our existing Nannie Stilwell Jackson diaries; they present a poignant account of this 19th century Desha County woman's daily existence on a small, low income farm in rural Arkansas
- Materials of C.G. "Crip" Hall, who served as Arkansas's Secretary of State from 1937 to 1961
- The German POW Letters described above
- An addendum to papers of Sidney McMath, who served as Governor of Arkansas from 1949 to 1953
- The records of the Ozark Society, a conservation group that played a major role in keeping the Buffalo River undammed and free-flowing; this project was aided by a gift of funds to help process the collection, so that it would be available for use by 2012, the

50th anniversary of the organization's founding and the 40th anniversary of the Buffalo River's designation as a national river.

- The records of the Arkansas office of Peace Links, documenting the women's organization founded by Betty Bumpers that began in Arkansas and spread around the world; Peace Links was established in 1982 in response to fears of nuclear proliferation during the Cold War. It provided educational resources and opportunities for cultural exchange between American and Soviet women.

A major project to digitize selected materials in the Brooks Hays collection is nearing completion. Brooks Hays was one of the most influential members of the state's congressional delegation after World War II.

The Dale Bumpers processing project is in full swing, as processors are busy sorting the papers of the former U.S. Senator and Governor. This project is on schedule—about one-third of the three year project has been completed.

In March, Adam Heien began processing the papers of Thomas F. "Mack" McLarty and his wife, Donna. Pamela Kirkpatrick was hired to assist Adam in processing the McLarty papers. Mack McLarty is an Arkansas business leader and Bill Clinton's oldest friend. He worked in Clinton's presidential administration in several capacities.

The manuscripts unit made impressive strides in implementing EAD encoding of finding aids. For more than a year, all new finding aids have been prepared in EAD. These attractive finding aids include an image from the collection, and the descriptive information is highly searchable. The workflow for creating the EAD finding aids was streamlined so that processors are able to create them with a template. Web services staff provide invaluable assistance in solving problems related to their display on the Libraries' Web site.

Research Services Unit

Special Collections served 1,293 patrons during the 2010–2011 academic year. These researchers included 218 faculty members, 184 graduate students, 162 undergraduate students, and 729 members of the general public. Materials used included 7,671 manuscript/archival items, 1504 items from the Arkansas Collection, nine rare books, 22 theses or dissertations, and 647 map or photographic items. The total number of items circulated was 15,038. The unit handled 4,151 reference transactions, of which 997 were in-person, 817 were by phone, 1,104 were by email, and 36 were by postal mail. This total number of reference transactions also included 964 research consultations.

Research Services provided bibliographic instruction to 11 University of Arkansas classes and provided instruction to seven groups outside of the Libraries.

The Department's most heavily used collections in 2010-2011 were (1) the J.W. Fulbright Papers and associated international education and cultural exchange collections (2) the Edward Durell Stone Papers (3) The Fay Jones Collection (4) the Billy James Hargis Collection (5) the Margaret Smith Ross Papers (6) the Orval E. Faubus Papers (7) the Otto Ernest Rayburn Papers and (8) the Daisy Bates Collection.

The Fulbright papers and related collections draw an especially diverse group of researchers from around the world, whom we serve via correspondence, telephone, email, and in-person. The unit assisted researchers from Chile, Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, Poland, Pakistan, and France.

Research Services staff members have noticed a significant upward trend in the number of in-house researchers using their personal digital cameras to copy materials, as opposed to requesting photocopies.

After nearly 26 years of service to Special Collections, Research Services Head Andrea Cantrell retired in August. A search committee evaluated a large pool of applicants for the position and in the spring hired Joshua Youngblood, who began his employment on July 15, 2011.

University Archives

Spaces and Faces: Namesakes at the University of Arkansas is a new digital collection created with the assistance of University Archives and available on the Libraries' Web site. It links buildings on the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville campus with the people who inspired their names. Researchers can view images of these people, along with historical photographs of the buildings that share their names. Images are accompanied by brief biographical information about the people and construction dates for the buildings. In March, records of the Women's Athletic Department were released as a part of Women's History Month. This collection was donated by Ruth Cohoon, who served as the first Women's Athletics Director, a position she held from 1972-1989. Cohoon was an administrator, teacher, athlete and advocate for women's athletics. The collection documents women's athletics as it transitioned from "sports days" and intermural games to a funded intercollegiate athletic department.

Index Arkansas

Index Arkansas, a free online index of Arkansas sources, finished a major project funded by the Happy Hollow Foundation that involved indexing Arkansas county historical publications from 1985 to 2007. The project added almost 12,500 citations. The index now contains more than 102,500 citations searchable by subject, publication title, and keyword. Indexed sources include 80 important Arkansas-related biographical and historical books, 43 Arkansas general periodicals, and 45 county historical journals. Use of the index has grown rapidly, with 35,000 searches conducted from July to December 2010—nearly double the number of searches

conducted during the same period in 2009. Project Director Joan Watkins succeeded in bringing *Index Arkansas* into the 21st century. The index will be continuously updated.

Events, Exhibits, and Outreach

The most exciting outreach activity of the year was the publication of *Arkansauce: The Journal of Arkansas Foodways*. The journal project was conceived by Tom Dillard and Tim Nutt and managed by Diane Worrell. John G. and Dora J. Ragsdale, of Little Rock, helped underwrite the project. Guest editor Rex Nelson, a veteran journalist and public relations expert, recruited entertaining articles from food writers all over the state. *Arkansauce*, which explores food-related history and customs in the Natural State, was an immediate success. Although Special Collections initially planned to publish *Arkansauce* once a year, a twice yearly publication schedule is under consideration.

In October Special Collections hosted a reception and program celebrating American Archives Month. Filmmakers Sarah and Emma Bailin, teenaged twin sisters from Little Rock, presented an entertaining program about their filmmaking process, including their use of Special Collections materials to research their documentary film topics. The event drew a standing-room-only crowd.

The Arkansian newsletter, published in the fall and spring of each year since the fall of 2007, continues to be an important tool for telling our story to the citizens of Arkansas.

On May 19 the Special Collections Department sponsored the opening reception of the annual conference of the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) in Little Rock. SSA is a professional organization of archivists in Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona. Held at the Clinton Presidential Center, the reception paid homage to Arkansas foods and included behind-the-scenes tours of the Clinton Presidential Library. Attendees gave high marks to the event. Additionally, three Special Collections Department members gave a presentation at the conference on the Department's outreach and public relations program.

The Department began improvements to the hallway leading to its entry door after the Libraries' old card catalog was dismantled and removed. Two exhibit cases were installed, pictures and posters from the Department's collections were hung on the walls, and a table with promotional literature was placed there, creating a more welcoming and attractive space.

Special Collections staff created a number of exhibits, including "Rural Arkansas," "University of Arkansas Press Books," and "Rare Books," in the Special Collections Reading Room. The University Press exhibit/collection contains the most complete collection of books published by the University of Arkansas Press to be found. Exhibits in the hallway to Special Collections were "Arkansas Politics: Rivalries and Conflict, 1865–Present," "Religion in Arkansas: History and Heritage." Exhibits on the 2nd floor included "Sacred and Spiritual Treasures: A Selection of Rare Books from special Collections," "William Grant Still," "Miss America 1964: Donna Axum."

The Future: Looking Ahead

Preserving and expanding access to the Ozark Folksong Collection gathered by Mary Parler is of paramount importance to Special Collections. The collection consists of more than 4,500 songs and related materials. A library-wide effort has been mounted to preserve this important resource and, equally important, to make it widely available. Working under the leadership of the Libraries' performing arts librarian, Lora Lennertz Jetton, a task force is taking an expansive look at how to make the Parler materials electronically accessible in the Internet age.

Upon the completion of the Brooks Hays digital project, Special Collections plans to begin digitizing selected materials from the George Fisher collection. Fisher was a legendary cartoonist for the *Arkansas Gazette* whose large body of work has become a part of Arkansas political folklore.

The Department hopes to make progress in the coming year in encoding older finding aids in EAD. The manuscripts unit's success in encoding new finding aids in EAD has paved the way for moving older finding aids into this format. EAD encoded finding aids offer vastly improved electronic accessibility.

The University Archives program is off to a good start. The next step in its development is forging and strengthening its connections with the academic units on campus.

Special Collections will continue to work toward building its endowments and financial resources.

As Special Collections Department Head Tom W. Dillard noted, the continuing goal of Special Collections is "to develop greater access to our collections, through both traditional and digital approaches, to get our materials into the hands of more people."

Special Collections Department
Personnel Accomplishments

Non-Refereed Articles

Dillard, Tom (Special Collections). 48 weekly columns, "Remembering Arkansas," *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

Lewis, Todd E. (Special Collections). "Images of Arkansas: Religion," *Arkansian* 5 (1): Spring 2011, p. 6.

_____. "Images of Arkansas: Arkansans at Work," *Arkansian* 4 (2): Fall 2010, p. 6

Parsch, Janet (Special Collections). Grant proposal (funded) to National Film Preservation Foundation. "Opportunity for Arkansas – The Buffalo National River," to clean, re-master, and preserve an 8mm film produced by Dr. Neil Compton, Bentonville, Arkansas, in support of the campaign to maintain the Buffalo River in northern Arkansas as an undammed, free-flowing river.

_____. Grant proposal on behalf of the University Libraries, the UA Survey Research Center, Global Campus Media Services, the Arkansas Alumni Association, and Spring International Language Center, [need title] were one of two finalists in a project proposal solicitation from the International Fellowships Program, a project funded by the Ford Foundation and administered by the International Fellowships Fund.

Worrell, Diane (Special Collections). "Repository to Launch Arkansas Foodways Journal," *Southwestern Archivist* 33 (3): August 2010, page 25.

_____. "Papers and Books of Civil War Battlefield Preservationist Acquired." *Southwestern Archivist* 34 (2): May 2011, page 22.

_____. *Special Collections Department Annual Report 2010*.

_____. "Department to Launch Arkansauce Foodways Journal," *Arkansian*, 4(2): Fall 2010, page 1.

_____. "Brooks Hays Digitization Project Begins," *Arkansian*, 4(2): Fall 2010, page 3.

_____. "Featured Manuscript Collection: Back to the Land in Arkansas, Then On to Hollywood: William R. Lighton and the Lighton Family Papers," *Arkansian*, 4(2): Fall 2010, page 4.

_____. "Department Supports Award-Winning Study of Fay Jones House," *Arkansian*, 4(2): Fall 2010, page 5.

_____. "New Manuscript Collection Opened: Parker Letters Document Civil War Era Family Life," *Arkansian* 5(10) Spring 2011, page 3.

_____. "Jerry Russell Collections Document Civil War Battlefield Preservation and Arkansas Political Scene," *Arkansian* 5(10) Spring 2011, page 5.

Presentations

Dillard, Tom. Living History presentation, "The Arkansas Traveler," Statehood Day event, Washington County Historical Society, June 15, 2010.

_____. "Standards and Curriculum—The Impact on Education for the Future," Educational Issues Conference, Delta Kappa Gamma, Fayetteville Public Library, October 19, 2010.

_____. "A History of Arkansas's Development and Environmental Movement," Keynote Address, Arkansas Environmental Federation annual conference, Hot Springs, November 5, 2010.

_____. Co-Presenter with Timothy G. Nutt and Diane F. Worrell, "More than Serendipity: Publicizing and Promoting Archives," Society of Southwest Archivists annual convention, Little Rock, May 21, 2011.

Co-Presenter with Timothy G. Nutt, "Arkansas Jeopardy," Fayetteville Advertising and Promotion Commission, March 31.

Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "Nach Amerika: How a Family From Liechtenstein Ended Up in Perry County, Arkansas," Perry County Historical & Genealogical Society, Perryville, AR, August 10.

_____. "From Balzers to Bigelow: Liechtensteiner Immigrants to Perry County, Arkansas," Central Arkansas Genealogical & Historical Society, Little Rock, AR, January 13.

_____. Co-Presenter with Diane F. Worrell and Tom W. Dillard, "More Than Serendipity: Publicizing & Promoting Archives," Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Conference, Little Rock, AR, May 21.

_____. Co-Presenter with Tom W. Dillard, "Arkansas Jeopardy," Fayetteville Advertising and Promotion Commission, March 31.

_____. "Civil War Collections," Arkansas Historical Association Annual Conference, Little Rock, AR, April 16.

_____. "Arkansas Research," Family History Conference, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Springdale, AR, April 20.

_____. "Perry County in the Civil War," Perry County Historical & Genealogical Society, Perryville, AR, May 10.

Wallack, Catherine (Special Collections). "Edward Durell Stone's Fulbright Furniture," presentation to humanities class at Northwest Arkansas Community College. 2/8/2011.

Worrell, Diane F. Co-Presenter with Tom W. Dillard and Timothy G. Nutt, "More Than Serendipity: Publicizing & Promoting Archives," Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Conference, Little Rock, AR, May 21.

Creative Activities

Wallack, Catherine. Curator, Ozark Modern: Edward Durell Stone's Fulbright Furniture Exhibition, Fine Arts Center Gallery, 1/10/11 thru 2/16/11.

Lewis, Todd E. Exhibit, "Arkansas Politics: Rivalries and Conflict, 1865-present," March 2010-March 2011, first floor exhibit cases outside Special Collections.

_____. Exhibit, "Religion in Arkansas: History and Heritage," May 2011-present, first floor exhibit cases outside Special Collections.

_____. Exhibit, "Sacred and Spiritual Treasures: A Selection of Rare Books from Special Collections," May-July 2011, Location: 2nd Floor exhibit case.