## Contents

- Report from the Chair ................................................................. 2
- Report from the Secretary ............................................................ 4
- Report from the Archivist ............................................................. 5
- Report from the Development Chair ............................................. 5
- Report from the Documentary Photographer ................................... 6
- Report from the Fellowships Committee ........................................ 6
- Report from the Lexicon Task Force ............................................. 9
- Report from the Listserv Owner .................................................... 9
- Report from the Mentoring Program ............................................ 11
- Report from the Reinforcement Crew Committee ............................ 12
- Report from the Rights and Reproductions Professional Practices Committee .... 13
- Report from the Website Committee ............................................. 14
- Report from the Registrars Committee Mid-Atlantic Region (RC-MAAM) .......... 15
- Report from the Midwest Registrars Committee (MRC) ...................... 17
- Report from the Registrars Committee Mountain-Plains Museums Association (RC-MPMA) ................................................................. 20
- Report from the New England Museum Association’s Registrars Professional Affinity Group (NEMA) .................................................................................................................................... 22
- Report from the Registrars Committee Western Region (RCWR) .......... 23
- Report from the Southeastern Registrars Association (SERA) .............. 25
Report from the Chair

The Registrars Committee of the American Alliance of Museums has initiated and completed numerous projects since the Washington, DC meeting, May 2016. These projects would not have been possible without the excellent volunteer support of RC-AAM leaders.

In 2016-2017, there were several changes to the RC-AAM Board:

- Shay Henrion was appointed to serve as the 2017 Marketplace of Ideas Chair.
- Danielle DiGiacomo was appointed to serve as the 2017 Host City Coordinator.
- Amy Heggemeyer was appointed to serve as Lexicon Task Force Chair to replace Charlie Iverson.
- Christina Greive stepped down as the Development Chair and I assumed the responsibilities for fundraising.
- Claire McGowan stepped down as the Secretary Elect and Amy Heggemeyer was appointed to fulfill her position.
- John ffrench was appointed to serve at the Rights and Reproduction Chair; he and Anne Young will work together for the next several months in transition.
- Mell Scalzi was appointed to serve as the Website Chair; she and Tracey Berg-Fulton will work together over the next several months in transition.

RC-AAM Board members and leaders worked with the Art Handling, Collections Care and Preparations Network Co-Chairs, Robert Thurlow and Aggie Morrow, to consider the future of our professional networks and our common interests in collections care. Following discussion and deliberation about the two networks over several months, we decided it was in the best interest of the memberships to merge and rename our professional network. In March 2016, the AAM Board of Directors approved our proposal to become Collections Stewardship. We wrote a statement to explain the reasons for the decision with an accompanying list of FAQs. We worked closely with Janet Vaughn, AAM Vice President, Membership and Programs, to schedule the announcement of the decision, first to the members of RC-AAM and Art Handling, Collections Care and Preparations Network simultaneously (April 21, 2017), and then to the AAM membership at-large through the on-line publication, Aviso (April 27, 2017). We plan to allow time to address questions and comments at the annual board meeting and annual business luncheon, when the merger and name change will be made official. We plan to appoint a committee from the leadership of both professional networks to help develop a framework and clarify the mission for Collections Stewardship.

In addition to her help with the merger and name change, Janet Vaughn provided insight and assistance to all of the AAM professional networks. I worked with her on the Professional Network Council (PNC) over the past two years. The PNC met in Washington, DC at the beginning of the annual meeting in May 2016. The leaders had conferences calls quarterly to stay informed about activities concerning all of the Professional Networks. A major effort was made by AAM staff to improve communication with and among PNC leaders. Another important project was updating the Professional Network Handbook, led by incoming PNC Chair, Ellen
Endslow. I served on the committee that revised the document, which will be made available at the annual meeting in St. Louis. The revised document will be a useful resource for all PNs in developing policies and procedures. The PNC elected Mike Lesperance, LGBTQ Alliance Chair, to serve as PNC Chair Elect, when Ellen Endslow takes on the role of Chair for the group at the St. Louis annual meeting.

**Tracey Berg-Fulton** has been working to transfer the website to a more user-friendly and secure operating platform, Squarespace. AAM purchased Squarespace and will continue to fund its use on our website. Tracey will work with **Mell Scalzi** to continue the website transition.

**John Simmons** was the primary presenter for an AAM webinar, *Getting Started on Collections Storage*, on December 7, 2016. **Greg Stevens** AAM Assistant Director, Professional Development, organized and promoted the educational event, which was well-attended and well-received.

**Anne Young** received the prestigious Nancy DeLaurier Award from the Visual Resource Association. The award was named for one of the pioneers of the visual resources profession and annually honors a visual resources professional for distinguished achievement in the field. Anne was an excellent selection given her work on the *Rights & Reproductions: The Handbook for Cultural Institutions* and other projects in the area of visual art resources.

**Linda Endersby** was chosen by AAM to serve on the National Program Committee, reviewing session proposals in the collections management track. Eight sessions were selected. Of the 202 sessions selected overall, there is significant subject matter crossover from other tracks, such as media and technology, forces of change, curatorial practice and facilities management.

I would like to personally thank **Darlene Bialowski** for her time and effort strengthening the program for collections professional for St. Louis meeting. I called upon her to build a session on current legal issues and to address questions about the 2011 RC-AAM General Facilities Report during the Marketplace of Ideas.

**Zinnia Willits**, Fellowship Chair, continued her service working with AAM staff on the Annual Meeting Fellowship Program. She and **Ranald Woodaman**, Exhibitions & Public Programs Director at the Smithsonian Latino Center, were appointed by AAM to review applications and selected **ELEVEN** fellows from the collections management area. They worked closely with Dean Phelus, AAM Senior Director, Leadership Programs and Special Events. The program has evolved over the past few years with a new focus of including underrepresented or otherwise marginalized individuals.

**Sebastian Encina**, Mentoring Chair, worked with ARCS board member, **Jeanne Benas**, on the collaborative mentoring program. He showed great commitment working with the ARCS board and outlining the new partnership.
Libby Krecek and Nicole Paterson, Reinforcement Crew Co-Chairs, carried on gracefully behind-the-scenes planning for our service project. They recruited fourteen volunteers and secured two sites for St. Louis, the World Chess Hall of Fame and the Wildwood Historical Society. Their partnership and dedication has continued to make the Reinforcement Crew a success with positive experiences and high quality results.

RC-AAM leaders presented to the membership nominees for Chair Elect, Sebastian Encina, and Secretary Elect, Lindsay Palaima, in an election on March 31, 2017. The deadline for casting votes was April 14, 2017. Their two-year term of service begins at the AAM annual meeting at the RC-AAM annual business luncheon.

In keeping with our new election format, at the 2017 AAM annual business meeting in St. Louis, the terms for Chair, Suzanne Hale, and Secretary, Sofía Galarza Liu, will end; the current Chair Elect, John Simmons, and Secretary Elect, Amy Heggemeyer, will fill the Chair and Secretary positions respectively.

Throughout the year, I consulted Sofía Galarza Liu for advice and insight with most all of our professional network negotiations. We are grateful for her service as Secretary.

Looking ahead and following the St. Louis meeting, I would like the leaders to consider addressing these issues:

- Form a committee representing the Art Handing, Collections Care and Preparations Network and RC-AAM to develop policies and procedures for Collections Stewardship.
- For the 2018 Phoenix, AZ meeting
  - Recruit volunteer support, specifically a Host City Coordinator and Marketplace of Ideas Chair.
  - Work to generate outstanding session proposals to submit to the National Program Committee in collections management track.
  - Form a nominations committee with representatives from the regional collections organizations for the 2018 Dudley-Wilkinson Award of Distinction

Thank you for your interest and participation in our professional network.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Hale, RC-AAM Chair

Report from the Secretary

As of April 14, 2017 we have 1,286 RC-AAM members. This is ten more members that we had in April 2016.

My primary duties have been taking and distributing RC-AAM meeting minutes, fulfilling listserv subscription requests, and fielding queries from RCAAM listserv subscribers regarding their subscriptions.
I have worked closely with Chair, Suzanne Hale and Tracey Berg-Fulton, to update contact information on our website.

Submitted by Sofía Galarza Liu, RC-AAM Secretary

**Report from the Archivist**

2016-2017 was my second year as the RC-AAM (now CS-AAM) Archivist. No new materials or records were received over the last year to be transferred to the SI Archives. If any of our outgoing or current officers have materials that they would like to be archived, I am happy to discuss whether the material would be suitable for archiving.

Examples of records that document policies and decision-making, primary functions, and programs and activities of the RC-AAM/CS-AAM include: conference planning documents (except logistical arrangements), agendas, minutes and reports, publications, brochures, evaluations, election results, committee correspondence, reports, program files, etc.

As a reminder for everyone, I am located in DC and have access to the SI Archives to coordinate transfers of material. I can facilitate transferring material via mail or email (for electronic correspondence and documentation), and I’m happy to provide additional information about the criteria for archiving and whether the material for consideration would overlap with existing archived material.

Submitted by Chelsea Hick, RC-AAM Archivist

**Report from the Development Chair**

In January 2017, Christina Grieve, stepped down from her role as Development Chair, as well as her museum job (Assistant Registrar for Loans and Exhibitions, Indianapolis Museum of Art) to pursue other career opportunities. Many thanks to Christina for her two years of service to RC-AAM! As RC-AAM Chair and former Development Chair, I assumed the fundraising duties for our professional network. We are looking for an energetic professional to take over the responsibilities, so please contact me or one of the RC-AAM board members if you are interested.

The Registrars Committee received generous funding (**$15,000 total**) for our service project, reception, and fellowships in conjunction with the 2017 AAM Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO.

**Fellowships to AAM ($2,500 level)**
- U.S. Art Company, Inc.
- UOVO Fine Art Storage

**Fellowships to AAM ($1,000 level)**
- Masterpiece International
- Spacesaver Corporation
- THE ICON GROUP
Service Project – Reinforcement Crew ($1,000 level)
Methods & Materials, Inc.
TCI – Transport Consultants International, Inc.
Terry Dowd, LLC

Collections Care Emerging Museum Professionals Reception ($1,000 level)
Crystalizations Systems, Inc.
ELY, Inc.
Huntington T. Block Insurance Agency, Inc.
Willis Towers Watson

I want to personally thank AAM staff members, Eileen Goldspiel, Director, Institutional Giving, and Marissa Monell, Development Assistant, for their assistance with sponsor contracts, payment processing and acknowledgment signage; and Stephanie Szurek, Senior Manager, Meetings & Events, for help coordinating the RC-AAM reception and business luncheon.

Thank you to the domestic and international shippers for hosting the annual Shippers Party for registrars and collections professionals while at the St. Louis, MO meeting.

Submitted by Suzanne Hale, RC-AAM Interim Development Chair

**Report from the Documentary Photographer**

Duties:

1. Serves as the lead photographer for the Registrar Committee.

2. Creates and edits images for RC-AAM sponsored events.

3. Responds to and answers RC-AAM members email regarding event photography.

4. Receives images from RC-AAM members, edits them, and post them to social media if applicable.

My main projects are focused around event photography for collection related events at the Annual AAM Conference and updating the PowerPoint presentation for the RCCAM annual luncheon. I will be photographing some of the following events: Reinforcement Crew Volunteer event and reception, Shippers party, RCCAM luncheon, and many more at the conference. These images will be used on our website and for the annual RCAAM luncheon.

Submitted by Jason Smith, RC-AAM Documentary Photographer

**Report from the Fellowships Committee**

The Fellowships Chair acts on behalf of the Registrars Committee (RC) to review professional development fellowships offered by AAM to support attendance at the Annual Meeting.
2017 AAM Annual Meeting Fellowship Program
Fellowships to the 2017 AAM annual meeting in St. Louis, MO were offered to RC-AAM members through the 2017 AAM Annual Meeting Fellowship Program. These fellowships were funded by AAM and individual professional networks. Through the AAM Program, fellows receive a travel stipend of $750, complimentary conference registration and tickets to select networking events of the fellows’ choice including the RC-AAM Business Luncheon (or another luncheon of their choice). AAM provided support for two fellowships available to individuals in the following areas:

2017 AAM Annual Meeting Fellowships applications are encouraged from individuals (members or non-members) who identify as underrepresented or otherwise marginalized, including but not limited to:

- persons of color
- lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)
- persons with a physical, cognitive, or developmental disability

Preference may be given to applicants who:

- are current AAM members
- have not received an AAM Annual Meeting Fellowship in the past

In addition to the general fellowship categories funded by AAM, RC Chair, Suzanne Hale raised funds ($8,000) to ensure fellowships would be available for collections care professionals. The RC is indebted to the following sponsors whose monetary support funded Annual Meeting Fellowships designated for Registrars Committee members:

U.S. Art Company, Inc.
UOVO Fine Art Storage
Masterpiece International
Spacesaver Corporation
The Icon Group

AAM 2017 Annual Meeting Fellowship Review Process
AAM administered the application and review processes for the 2017 Annual Meeting Fellowships. Per AAM’s directive, the review and selection process was handled by a committee comprised of representatives from the various Professional Networks. AAM’s intent was to have each applicant assessed by two reviewers who shared an area of common professional practice.

As current RC Fellowship Chair, Zinnia Willits served on the AAM Annual Meeting Fellowship Review Committee. In addition, Ranald Woodaman, Exhibitions & Public Programs Director at the Smithsonian Latino Center, served as the 2nd RC representative on the Fellowship Review Committee. Other members of the review panel represented CurCom, DivCom, NAME, COMPT and DAM. The diverse panel ensured that fellowships were awarded to qualified individuals working and studying in all areas of museum operation. Ms. Willits and Mr. Woodman reviewed all applicants that identified as collections care professionals and selected the RC Fellows based on a point rating system. The Registrars Committee can be proud of the eleven (11) collections professionals selected. Their applications were strong and they represent many areas of the country, various career stages (including students,) and diverse interests in collections.
### AAM 2017 Registrars Committee Fellows

AAM received 144 applications (down from 150 in 2016) for the 2017 Annual Meeting Fellowships. From a pool of 26 applicants (up from 20 in 2016) that identified as collections care professionals, the RC was granted **eleven** fellowships based on the funds raised by the RC and two fellowships funded through AAM. The following eleven collections care professionals and students were awarded the Annual Meeting Fellowships:

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| 1. | Ashleigh Herrera  
Collections Conservation Associate  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
Madison, WI |
| 2. | Jason Smith  
Collections Processing Unit Photography Contractor  
Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum  
Washington, DC |
| 3. | Michael Vierela  
Collections Manager  
Southern Utah Museum of Art  
Cedar City, UT |
| 4. | Betsy Nelson  
Collections Assistant  
Rose Art Museum  
Newton, MA |
| 5. | Ivy Albright  
MA Museum Studies Student  
George Washington University  
Student Assistant, Gelman Library Special Collections Department, Washington D.C. |
| 6. | Alana Aymat  
Collections Database Coordinator  
Museo de Art de Ponce  
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico |
| 7. | Kara Vetter  
Registrar  
San Diego Museum of Man Man  
San Diego, CA |
| 8. | Christine Hoffmark  
Administrative Intern  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority, Metro Art Department  
Collections Manager  
Orange County Fine Art Storage, Anaheim, California |
| 9. | Kayla Al Ameri  
Collections Manager  
Carmel Clay Historical Society  
Carmel, IN |
| 10. | Felicia Herzog  
Project Collections Manager  
The Pick Museum of Anthropology at Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL |
| 11. | Judy Dahms-Brouillard  
Registrar  
Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum Mesa Arts Center  
Mesa, Arizona |

All fellowship recipients will be paired with a mentor from the RC during the Annual Meeting. Mentors may attend the Fellowship Breakfast with their mentee and facilitate introductions to colleagues and Registrar Committee leaders to help build their network of peers and colleagues.

Respectfully submitted by Zinnia Willits, Chair
Report from the Lexicon Task Force

The Lexicon Task Force had a very active and productive year. In September 2016 there was a change in chair, with Charlie Iverson stepping down and Amy Heggemeyer assuming the role at his request. Charlie continues as a member of the Task Force. Isabel Tovar requested to step down from Task Force membership for personal reasons; we thank her for the time that she devoted to this project. There were no additions to Task Force membership.

The Task Force outlined a two-phase survey process for gathering information on the current climate for lexicon usage and needs. Phase One, the online survey, is described as to scope and structure in the previous year’s report. The online survey closed in December 2016 at 71 responses.

Phase Two consisted of contacting 50 museum professionals for more in-depth, one-on-one interviews using a list of questions developed by a Task Force subcommittee. Phase Two participants were selected from two sources: Phase One survey respondents who agreed to follow-up communication and conference attendees who provided contact information at Task Force presentations. Interviewees were selected from institutions that ranged in collections size, staff size, and geographical regions across the United States and Canada. Of the 50 individuals contacted, 23 interviews were completed.

Over the past year, Task Force members held six Skype meetings with discussion topics that included exploring the possibility of open source solutions, an introduction to Linked Open Data and its potential uses, the debate of creating an entirely new vocabulary versus providing a platform for sharing existing vocabularies, and the review and discussion of survey responses.

The Task Force is currently compiling information gathered from the surveys, interviews, and member meetings into a white paper. The document looks at current available classification systems and structures for Culture Name and Object Name fields. The paper will provide possible solutions that can be implemented by the Task Force along with potential funding sources. Many thanks to all Task Force members for their dedicated work on this document.

We have set a deadline of July 15 for the white paper’s initial release. It will first be released to Phase One and Two participants for a 30-day comment period. Next, the white paper will be opened for general review and comment from the larger Collections Care community for an additional 30 day period. Once the review process is complete, the final document will be presented to the RCAAM Board for review and a discussion of the suggested solutions. Based on which solution is selected, Task Force members will review the current group’s composition and determine what changes or additions should be made to achieve the new goals of the Task Force.

Submitted by Amy Heggemeyer, RC-AAM Lexicon Task Force Chair

Report from the Listserv Owner

Listserv activity from April 2016 through March 2017
Number of subscribers: 2,933
Number of postings: 4,425
### Most discussed topics (5 or more posts)

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Activities
The CS-AAM list has been created and is ready for use. All subscribers will be quietly added. No one will be able to post to the RC-AAM listserv after April 31st. The RC-AAM archives will remain online and available for searching.

Submitted by Mignon Erixon-Merritt, Listserv Owner

Report from the Mentoring Program

In 2016 and extending into 2017, The RCS Mentoring Program (renamed from RC-AAM Mentorship Program, due to collaboration with ARCS) had 64 emerging and mid-career professionals sign up hoping to be connected to a mentor. 30 established museum professionals heeded the call, and volunteered to mentor these mentees. In total, 36 mentees were able to find a mentor.

As a comparison, in 2015/16, the RC-AAM Mentorship Program had 17 mentors and 35 mentees, with 23 of those mentees being connected to a mentor.

In addition to the matching, the RCS Mentoring Program continued undergoing changes from the previous year. Last year, ARCS and RC-AAM partnered to determine the new ways the joint program will work. This year, with that work completed, the ARCS and RC-AAM co-chairs collaborated to match mentors and mentees. Due to familiarity, the RC-AAM co-chair took the lead in matching and communicating. A joint email account was created, which both co-chairs had access to review work and view matches. ARCS co-chair took second and watched the matches, and at the end matched 6 mentees to 5 new mentors (late additions) herself. The plan is that next year, the ARCS co-chair will take the lead, with the RC-AAM taking second and reviewing matches and communication.

Mentoring Program Co-Chairs: Jeanne Benas (ARCS) and Sebastian E. Encina (RC-AAM)

Submitted by Sebastian E. Encina, Mentoring Program, Co-Chair
Report from the Reinforcement Crew Committee

The 9th annual Reinforcement Crew Event occurred on May 25, 2016 in Washington, DC. The committee was able to partner with the Heurich House Archives and the Montgomery County Historical Society. Between both groups, there were a total of 21 volunteers. The volunteers worked on a project to condition report and photograph collection of family objects inventory at the Heurich House Archives and condition report and repack collections in preparation for a collection move at the Montgomery County Historical Society.

2016 Reinforcement Crew Volunteers: Anne Young, Erica Borey, Emily Smith, Chelsea Hick, Sebastian Encina, Stephanie Caldwell, Jobi Zink, Susie Fishman-Armstrong, Libby Krecek, Nicole Paterson, Pam Dowd, Terry Dowd, Sarah Price, Theresa Ketterer, Erin Killeen, Melissa Heaver, Mell Scalzi, Laura Latis, Roger Machin, Rhonda Gray-Young, Rebeccah Tresar

The day’s event was followed by a reception at Matchbox Chinatown in downtown Washington DC. The Reinforcement Crew Committee would like to thank Methods and Materials Inc., Terry Dowd Inc. and Transport Consultants International Inc. for sponsoring the 9th annual Reinforcement Crew event. Masterpak USA has also joined the ranks of sponsors with their generous donation of supplies.

After the 2016 AAM annual meeting, the Reinforcement Crew Committee went to work planning the 10th Annual Reinforcement Crew Event for the AAM annual meeting in St. Louis, MO. The 2017 volunteer sites include the World Chess Hall of Fame and the Wildwood Historical Society. The committee then worked with the staff at the sites to identify archival supplies for their projects.

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Submitted by Nicole Paterson and Libby Krecek, Reinforcement Crew Committee Co-Chair
Report from the Rights and Reproductions Professional Practices Committee

Rights & Reproductions: The Handbook for Cultural Institutions Ongoing Promotion

The Handbook continues to be listed as a featured publication on the following websites:

- American Alliance of Museums: http://www.aam-us.org/resources/bookstore
- The Registrars Committee of the American Alliance of Museum: http://www.rcaam.org/about/news/rights-reproductions-the-handbook-for-cultural-institutions/

Promotion and demonstrations of content in the Handbook at local, regional, and national conferences and meetings is ongoing:

- Museum Computer Network (MCN), MCNPro Live Webcast, October 2016. Young presented a case study on the Handbook as part of the panel “Digital Publication and the OSCI Toolkit.”
- MuseumNext International Conference, November 2016. Young presented a case study on the Handbook as part of the panel “Digital Publication and the OSCI Toolkit.”
- Smithsonian Copyright Interest Group, April 2017. Young presented an introduction to the Handbook as part of the Inaugural Meeting of the Copyright Interest Group (comprised of staff across all Smithsonian institutions with interests in learning more about copyright and licensing).

Social media, particularly Twitter, continues to play a vital role in the promotion of the Handbook through the use of the hashtag #RightsReproHndbk, which continues to be used to reference the publication and to promote its content and availability in a variety of digital platforms.

Convening of the Publication Sustainability Advisory Committee

The “Publication Sustainability Advisory Committee” was implemented in December 2015 and includes Young and eight members from the original list of contributing authors and legal review panelists. Confirmed to serve on the first iteration of the advisory committee are: Megan P. Bryant, The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza; John ffrench, Yale University Art Gallery; Walter G. Lehmann, Lehmann PLC; Michelle Gallagher Roberts, New Mexico Museum of Art; Anne M. Young, Indianapolis Museum of Art; Cara Hirsch, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (formerly of Artstor); Troy B. Klyber, The Art Institute of Chicago; Lynda Knowles, Denver Museum of Nature & Science; and Bridget Smith, The New York Public Library.

The committee was convened for the first time in January 2017 to begin a review of the content of the Handbook. This review is currently ongoing and later this year the committee will propose
needed edits to the IMA and AAM for integration. Depending upon the volume of edits needed, it will be determined if a full new edition will be produced or if just a shorter addendum will be produced at this time. Future reviews will likely occur every two years rather than on an annual basis, in order to make more substantive changes to warrant the production of a new full edition.

**Upcoming Committee Member Changes:**

Chair since 2012, Young will begin the process of stepping down from the committee in 2017. John ffrench, Director of Visual Resources at the Yale University Art Gallery and one of the co-authors with Young on *Rights & Reproductions: The Handbook for Cultural Institutions* will serve as co-chair with Young for the 2017-2018 year and take over the full chair position at the 2018 AAM Annual Meeting.

**2017-2018 Co-Chairs for the Rights and Reproductions Professional Practices Committee:**

Anne M. Young  
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Submitted by Anne M. Young, Rights and Reproductions Professional Practices Committee Chair

**Report from the Website Committee**

2016 will be a year of transition for the web chair. It was decided by the RC-AAM board that a new website should be built after extensive discussions on the unsustainable nature of the current site. The RC’s decision to merge with the former PACCIN group, and to take on a new name, fits well with the desire to build a new site.

The new site will be built using the Squarespace platform. This was decided upon because Squarespace provides domain name services, hosting, and support in the cost of the subscription. The service also uses drag & drop tools to let you build the site, so it was thought that this would enable the next web chair and other members of the board build the site to their needs without needing an exceptional level of coding knowledge. The costs of the site have been paid for by AAM.
When the site is ready to launch, our domain at RCAAM.org will redirect to the new domain, which will likely be collectionsstewardship.org (and/or cspn.org).

This will be the last year of Tracey Berg-Fulton’s service as web chair. She will remain in touch for consulting and to ease the transition of the new web chair, Mel Scalzi. Tracey has served in this position since 2012, and given a recent move out of museum work and the duration of her tenure, it is felt that this is a good point at which to allow another capable registrar to take over these duties. She remains dedicated to supporting the new chair and the board, as needed. Mel Scalzi will represent the web chair role at the AAM 2017 Annual Meeting.

Submitted with respect & gratitude by Tracey J. Berg-Fulton, outgoing Website Committee Chair

Report from the Registrars Committee Mid-Atlantic Region (RC-MAAM)

Jobi Zink, Chair
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Danyelle Dorsey, Vice-Chair
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Carrie Coviello, Secretary of Social Media
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Elizabeth Alberding, White Gloves Gang Chair
The Kelly Collection of American Illustration
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Activities
This year the RC-MAAM tried a “collections stewardship track” at the MAAM annual meeting to increase attendance of registrars and collections managers. The conference, *Museums Exposed: Real Issues/Real Talk* was held in Wilmington, DE October 20-22, 2016. The track allowed attendees to choose to come for one day of collections-based sessions, or attend the entire conference and experience a full gamut of collections-based education including a workshop with hands-on training, the White Gloves Gang, as well as conference sessions. This approach did not have a noticeable impact on attendance at either the WGG or the conference.

10 people attended a pre-conference Cornerstone Workshop *Storage Boxes for 3D Objects* conducted by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) at the Delaware Museum of Art on Thursday.
Phase one: the base of the storage box for the plastic figurine.

The White Gloves Gang dinner, sponsored by Atelier and US Art, was held at the Howard Pyle Studio on Thursday evening. 10 participants volunteered on Friday at three sites: Delaware Museum of Natural History, Old Swedes Church, and Nemours mansion.

Jobi Zink and her tray of newly boxed mollusks.

Rick Kreibel and his stack of old acidic boxes.

The team at Nemours, including Hannah Sisk, Katie Orr, Amoi Goldman, hard at work packing under the supervision of Carolyn Stallings.

The newly packed and labeled storage boxes.
Three of the four collections-focused sessions, MAPping Your Way to Success; Demystifying Preservation Planning for Cultural Institutions, and Risky Business: Collections Access and Preservation were held on Saturday. Deaccessioning Challenges: Ethics and Law, about the AAM Direct Care of Collections White Paper was held on Friday.

Elections
An election was held at the 2016 RC-MAAM Business Meeting at the MAAM Annual Meeting for the position of vice chair. Danyelle Dorsey ran uncontested and was elected unanimously.

Facebook
Facebook continues to be our primary mode of interacting with membership. Our regular feature Would You Rather Wednesdays has been very popular. This weekly post asks people to choose between horrible (and unfortunately all too often, real) scenarios -- such as serving red wine or allowing glitter to be used as a decorative element in your historic house museum-- and explain their choices. Other posts include articles about museums from mainstream news sources, job and internship announcements.

Other Regional Activities
Within the Mid-Atlantic region there are many smaller sub-sets of city-specific collections manager groups providing workshops and roundtable discussions supported by and promoted through the RC-MAAM. The Delaware Valley Registrar’s Network has hosted a panel discussion Changing Environmental Parameters and Their Impact on Managing Loans (June), an Emergency Preparedness Workshop (November), and a preview of the highly anticipated Museum of the American Revolution (December). The Baltimore Registrar’s Network held informal happy hours in August and March.

Future Events
RC-MAAM is working on developing two Cornerstones Workshops, Courier 101 and Copyright 101.

Submitted by Jobi Zink, Registrars Committee Mid-Atlantic Region Chair

Report from the Midwest Registrars Committee (MRC)

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Christa Barbelen, Indiana
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The MRC had their 2016 annual meeting during the Association of Midwest Meetings held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 28-30. Elections took place during the summer, and several new members were inducted. The board worked hard to have collections related sessions at the conference, and included several sessions related to disaster planning and reality.

The MRC account balance remains steady. Income was raised through membership dues and donations; and gifts for travel stipends. Expenses included travel stipends; grants to state registrar organizations for events; MRC annual meeting expenses at AMM. MRC membership is up slightly from last year. We will be discussing opportunities to grow membership and add value to the organization this year.

Three issues of the *Courier* were edited, and published for the MRC and distributed to members. Outgoing Editor, Tamara Lange was succeeded by Co-Editors, Liz Furhman Bragg and Linda Endersby. Our newsletter contains special articles, information from the board along with notes from the state representatives.

Two states have new State Representation. Christa Barbelen succeeded Lana Newhart-Kellen as Indiana State Reprehensive, and Leslie Ory Lewellen succeeded Jackie Hoff as State Rep for Minnesota.

Sarah Connors maintains our website: [http://midwestregistrars.org](http://midwestregistrars.org). Here you will find past issues of the *Courier*, contact information for the Board and State Representatives, and other important information.

Three travel stipends were awarded by the MRC to support member attendance at the 2016
AMM Annual Conference. Coordinated by Development Chair Terry Segal, these stipends were generously sponsored by Masterpiece International, Terry Dowd, Inc., and US Art.

The MRC sponsored two state-wide round table events held in Iowa and Michigan. State Representatives are encouraged to organize meetups and events in their state.

The MRC’s 2017 annual meeting will take place during the Association of Midwest Museums annual conference in Des Moines, Iowa, from July 12-15. Several collections sessions will be held, along with an event for the Mighty Rescue Crew being planned in partnership with the Ames Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted by Andrew Near, Midwest Registrars Committee Chair

Report from the Registrars Committee Mountain-Plains Museums Association (RC-MPMA)

Executive Board News
The RC-MPMA sought nominations for Vice-Chair and Secretary this year. Heather Coffman, Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center became the new vice-chair. Shikoh Shiraiwa Melton Gallery, University of Central Oklahoma, became the new secretary. Anne Holman stepped down as membership chair and Casey Segar, Deadwood History, Inc., Deadwood, SD, took her place. Chair and Treasurer positions will be up for election this year.

Jenny Yearous, State Historical Society of North Dakota is now serving as the RC-MPMA Scholarship Chair – a position that has been vacant for almost 4 years.

Membership
As of January 15, 2017, we have 49 current members (up by 12 from last year at this time). Significant changes were made to the membership structure this year. For the first time, the ability to use credit cards on a paper form and through the MPMA website became available removing the challenge of few people carrying cash, and even fewer carry their checkbook. The logistics of communicating between MPMA, RC-MPMA Treasurer, and the RC-MPMA membership chair with this new system (both paper-based and on the website) still need to be resolved.

The discounted renewal for those who renew early was cancelled. Instead, members are offered 2 months free membership if they renew in October at the annual meeting. 5-6 people renewed using the new credit card membership form at the annual luncheon.

61 people signed up for the RC-MPMA annual luncheon, showing there is still room for membership growth.

Survey
A survey was submitted to the membership this year. We had 16 responses. The majority was senior level professionals from large museums. The outcome was a recognized need for new members, the desire to have collections-oriented workshops (both during and outside the annual meeting), and the creation of a development chair to identify funding for RC-MPMA events.
Newsletter
We have switched to a twice-a-year format (a pre-conference or late summer issue and a post-conference or winter issue). We submitted a pre-conference newsletter in October and Libby Krecek will prepare the post-conference/winter issue newsletter in February.

Helping Hands
The 2016 Helping Hands Brigade was be hosted by the Oklahoma Railway Museum, in Oklahoma City. We had 11 volunteers and worked on a large archive inventory and data entry project in preparation for their upcoming expansion.

The Broomfield Depot Museum has stepped forward and is interested in being a host for Helping Hands in 2017.

Behind the Scenes Tour
Last year was be the first time we held a collection specific behind-the-scenes tour. Tours were free for current members of the RC-MPMA. The tour was provided by Matt Reed, Curator of American Indian and Military History Collections. The tour quickly maxed out and generated new memberships.

Looking for a venue for the tour this year. It was very helpful to have the tour at one of the main events last year, and we are looking at doing the same this year.

Scholarships
Our scholarship recipient of the RC-MPMA ANR Transport Scholarship is Shikoh Shiraiwa at the Melton Gallery at the University of Central Oklahoma. Recipient of the RC-MPMA Terry Dowd LCC Scholarship is Suzanne Hale, Registrar/Collections Manager, Gregory Allicar Museum of Art, Fort Collins, CO.

The Terry Dowd, LLC scholarship was for $500 (plus free registration)
*Terry Dowd, LLC donated $750, but some of that went to help cover the cost of the registration.

The ANR Transport, LLC scholarship was for $400 (plus free registration)
*ANR donated $500, but some of that went to help cover the cost of the registration.

RC-AAM
Susie Fishman-Armstrong will be representing the RC-MPMA at the upcoming national meeting of the Registrar’s Committee American Association of Museums (RC-AAM) in St. Louis, Missouri in May.

Submitted by Susie Fishman-Armstrong, Registrars Committee Mountain-Plains Museums Association Chair
Report from the New England Museum Association’s Registrars Professional Affinity Group (NEMA)

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On June 29, 2016 the Registrar’s Professional Affinity Group of NEMA held a workshop entitled Everything AND the Kitchen Sink at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH. The Currier’s registrars Karen Papineau and Cindy Mackey presented on the complexities of registration and collections management responsibilities involved in caring for an off-site historic home. In 1988, a local couple left the Currier Museum of Art their Frank Lloyd Wright designed home and all of its contents. Papineau and Mackey discussed the challenges of deciding what got accessioned, like books, plates, furniture and even a mailbox and what did not like underwear and old medication. We also discussed the difficulty of maintaining the museum’s copyright to the house—with an offsite venue how do you stop photographers from just coming by, taking pictures and including their unauthorized images in a coffee table book. The day culminated in a tour of the house where we could see the challenges for ourselves and appreciate the difficulties that off-site historic homes pose.

The 2016 NEMA conference was held in Mystic, CT this year. James Sousa and his colleagues provided an entertaining and unique session called “Museum Security: Best Practices as Taught through Video Surveillance Footage.” Sousa’s colleague and co-presenter, Austin Sharpe, Director of Security at the Addison Gallery was able to persuade a number of local institutions to share their video surveillance footage to educate attendees on a variety of security and safety issues. Videos demonstrated a wide variety of good security practices but also examined the poor practices that needed improvement. We also discussed using video footage to better understand visitor safety—what are people tripping on, why and when? Meredith Vasta and conservator, Renee Walker-Tuttle provided a short workshop called “Talking Textiles: A 101 look at your textile collection” to give attendees the skills to identify materials like cotton, wool and silk in their own collection to enhance their ability to catalog and care for such items. Using microscopes and fire (for a very small burn test) attendees learned a few of the tricks professionals use to do fiber identification. Sousa and Vasta also hosted our annual Registrar’s lunch as a venue to catch up on news from the region as well as meet and visit with our colleagues.

Submitted by Meredith Vasta, New England Museum Association’s Registrars Professional Affinity Group Co-Chair
Report from the Registrars Committee Western Region (RCWR)

Current Board Officers:

Chair: Clare Haggarty, Civic Art Collections Manager, Los Angeles County Arts Commission

Vice Chair: Eileen Wiedenheft, Registrar, Boise Art Museum

Treasurer: Hollye Keister, Registrar, Burke Museum

Secretary: Kathrine Young, Collections Manager, Puget Sound Navy Museum

2016 RCWR State Representatives:

ALASKA: Marnie Leist, Registrar, Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository

ARIZONA (Co Reps): Pat D. Evans, Registrar, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art and Megan Clancy, Registrar, Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona (stepping down)

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA: Cristina Lichauco, Collections Database Administrator, Asian Art Museum

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: Molly Sjöberg, Associate Registrar, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

HAWAII: Charmaine Wong, Archaeology Collections Manager, Bishop Museum

IDAHO: Sarah Phillips, Registrar, Idaho State Historical Museum

NEVADA: Brian Eyler, Registrar, Nevada Museum of Art and Melanie Coffee, Collections Manager, Las Vegas Natural History Museum

OREGON: Vacant

UTAH: Adrien Mooney, Registrar, Utah Museum of Fine Arts (outgoing)
Casey Allen, Registrar, Nora Eccles Harrisonn Museum of Art, Utah State University (incoming)

WASHINGTON (Co Reps): Cory Gooch, Collections Manager/Registrar, Frye Art Museum, and Nives Mestrovic, Collections & Exhibitions Assistant, Frye Art Museum

2016 RCWR Appointed Positions:

MUSEUM STUDIES LIAISON: Jennifer Ortiz, Collections Manager, Utah Museum of Fine Arts (outgoing)

Jessica Simpson, Registrar, Museum of Peoples and Cultures, Brigham Young University (incoming)
2016 Workshop Highlights and State News

RCWR, CSI: Registrar
Mesa Contemporary Art Museum
Every year institutions apply to be recipients of a day’s worth of work by volunteer registrars and collections managers in or near the Western Museum Association annual meeting host city. During the 2016 WMA conference, CSI: Registrars took place at the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum. The museum had recently acquired a collection of ceramic objects. Volunteers did condition reports, labeled objects and packed objects for storage. Volunteers also provided advice on storage and donation policies.

Arizona
Phoenix hosted the 2016 Western Museum Association Annual Meeting, which was held in partnership with the Museum Association of Arizona. The Arizona registrars are very excited to have us.

Arizona didn’t sponsor any formal workshops in 2016, but we will be organizing and supporting workshops in 2017. Informal happy hours were held in the Phoenix Area and SMoCA’s summer exhibition, “Public Trust: It’s About What We Do” held a registrar round table that included registrars from SMoCA, the Phoenix Art Museum, the Phoenix Zoo and the Museum of Northern Arizona. In attendance were staff from the Heard Museum, the Desert Caballeros Western Museum and the Musical Instrument Museum.

Utah
All events/workshops provided by the Utah Division of Arts and Museums

October 2015 - Collections Roundtable Session

January 2016 - Object Cleaning Workshop
Provided by the Utah Division of Arts and Museums

March 2016 - Caring for Collections on Exhibition Workshop

June and July 2016 - Collections Policy & Planning Workshop

August 2016 - Protecting Cultural Collections: Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Recovery Workshop

August 2016 - Watch and Talk Event: Costume Collections

Washington
RCWR and WMAA member events


November 2016: Walk-through of the exhibition To: Seattle, Subject: Personal at the Frye Art Museum.

June 22, 2016: Registrars to the Rescue (R2R): co-coordinated by Rebecca Engelhardt, Registrar/Collections Manager, Museum of Glass, and Jessica Wilks, Registrar, Tacoma Art Museum with Art Work Fine Art Services. 30 registrars and collections specialists, including RC-WR members, volunteered their time and skills to assist two cultural heritage organizations in the Tacoma area.

RCWR Membership
- RCWR currently has 125 current members as of January 2017
- Total membership in 2016 was 132

In 2016 RCWR launched a new website
Website highlights:
- Responsive to mobile devices
- Easier to navigate and more visual
- Online application for CSI: Registrar
- Member’s only section

Submitted by Clare Haggarty, Registrars Committee Western Region Chair

Report from the Southeastern Registrars Association (SERA)

Current Officers:
Chair, Deborah Rose Van Horn, Registrar, Kentucky Historical Society, 100 W Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601, Deborah.vanhorn@ky.gov

Vice Chair, Kyle Elizabeth Bryner, Collections Manager and Registrar, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, 901 Amherst St., Winchester, VA 22601, kply@themsv.org

Treasurer/Membership Chair, Corinne Midgett, Registrar, High Point Museum, 1859 E. Lexington Ave., High Point, NC 27262, corinne.midgett@highpointnc.gov

Secretary, Amy Beisel, Curator of Collections, International Museum of the Horse, 4089 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511, amy.beisel@ky.gov

Development Chair, Jennifer Spence, Museum Curator, John James Audubon State Park, PO Box 576, Henderson, KY 42419, jennifer.spence@ky.gov
Communications Chair, Heather Culligan, Curator of Collections, Pinellas County Heritage Village, 11909 125th Street North, Largo, FL 33774, hculligan@co.pinellas.fl.us

Activities:
- The Southeastern Registrars Association had our annual business meeting on Tuesday October 11, 2016 during the Southeastern Museums Conference in Charlotte, NC. At the meeting the new officers we installed, the membership rate was increased from $10 to $25, and scholarship winners were announced.
- At the Southeastern Museums Conference, SERA sponsored 9 sessions, the annual Registrars Respite, and a behind the scenes tour that went to storage at both the Mint Museum and the Bechler.
- SERA co-sponsored an ARCS social in Charlotte prior to the start of SEMC this year.
- SERA is working on a new disaster planning/real life scenario book to replace Steal This Handbook. This project is in the development stage and more information will be forthcoming.
- SERA earned almost $1500 in proceeds from the sales of Basic Condition Reporting. That money was used to help pay for travel scholarships to conferences.
- Deb Van Horn (chair) and Kyle Bryner (vice-chair) are currently serving on the SEMC program committee to help plan next year’s SEMC conference.
- Chair, Deb Van Horn, participated in several conference sessions, workshops, guest blogs and webinars to help promote sales of Basic Condition Reporting.
- Anne T. Lane received the Dan Silosky Award for Excellence in Collections Management and Registration

Upcoming Activities:
- SEMC conference and SERA business meeting are in New Orleans, Louisiana from September 11-13, 2017.
- SERA board elections for Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer/Membership Chair are coming this summer.
- SERA is looking for a sponsor to help fund processing and digitizing the SERA archives. The physical boxes are currently held at the Historic New Orleans Collection.

Sponsors:
The following companies helped sponsor SERA events, scholarships and awards.
- Dietl International Services
- Past Perfect Museum Software
- Transport Consultants International, Inc.
- Willis Towers Watson

Submitted by Deborah Rose Van Horn, Southeastern Registrars Association Chair