

SFA Annual Meeting Recap in Sarasota

Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting	1
Presidential Address	2
Collections Etc.	3
Communiqué	4-5, 7
New Board Directory	6
In Remembrance	7
State Archives Note	8



Former SFA Presidents (L -R): Liz Dunham, Carl Van Ness (behind) Claire Cardina, Debbie Walk, Carla Summers, Mary Flekke, Gerard Clark, Esperanza da Varona and current president Burt Altman, seated.

The 25th SFA Annual Meeting took place June 4-6, 2008 in Bradenton. The speakers were very well received and the topics were varied; many of our own members offered their services as speakers and they all did a wonderful job.

The luncheon/business meeting and anniversary recognition was nice and so was the big cake. The after hours events had lots of food with interesting places to visit; thank you Manatee Village Historical Park and the Friends of the Sarasota History Center for their sponsorship of the evening events.

Personally I would like to thank Burt for all his help before the meeting and Mary for all her help with registration at the meeting. I had a ton of questions for both of them. A big thank you to our sponsors: MetalEdge, Gaylord, Hollinger, Manatee County Clerk of Circuit Court, RB "Chips" Shore, Historical Resources Department; Manatee County Historical Commission and the Friends of the Sarasota History Museum

We will see everyone in Gainesville for the next annual meeting!

-Cindy Russell, 2008 Conference Coordinator

Photographs by Mary Flekke



María R. Estorino received a SFA Award of Excellence for her service as Treasurer since 2001.



Secretary Candice Odom presented Mary Flekke a SFA Award of Excellence for her valuable service and dedication to SFA.



Burt Altman

Presidential Address

Dear SFA members:

I hope everyone is having a nice summer, despite the usual hot, muggy weather and the unpleasant news about the budget cuts around the state. As I hear about these events, I will post them to our listserv in a timely manner. I hope you will find the time to contact the appropriate state and local officials and let them know how important it is to keep our libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies thriving. As representatives of these organizations, it is up to us to let these

folks do what they can to preserve Florida's documentary heritage.

Despite the financial shortfalls that have affected our travel budgets, I was pleased that we still had a very good turnout for the SFA 25th Anniversary annual meeting. The anniversary presentation at our luncheon was a lot of fun as well as a great tribute to the work of our past SFA presidents. Thank you to all who attended. Our sessions were most interesting and informative, and I personally thank our presenters, vendors, and other supporters who made this meeting a success. From feedback we received, people learned how valuable History Fair can be to our students in acclimating them to primary sources and their importance in research; became more aware of Florida oral history initiatives and the issues surrounding oral history projects; and saw the need to have workable disaster preparedness programs in our institutions. For those of you who couldn't attend, we missed you this year and we understand. Although you didn't have the opportunity to professionally network with other members, I've asked several of our presenters to send me their PowerPoint presentations that I will put on our website in the near future so that at least you'll reap some of the educational benefits of our meeting. You'll also note that the website's home page now features an updated slide show of pictures taken at our recent meeting.

As I begin my second term of office as your President, your Executive Board has been busily engaged in activities that will facilitate our election process and our internal operations. As an example, the Board recently approved an amendment to the Bylaws changing the term lengths of SFA's officers. The previous Bylaws, Article IV, Section 6, which addressed the terms of office for all positions, read:

"The term of office shall be one year and shall commence at the adjournment of the Annual Business Meeting."

It has now been changed to:

"All terms shall commence at the adjournment of the Annual Business Meeting. The term of office for the President and Vice President shall be one year. The term of office for the Secretary and Treasurer shall be three years. The term of

office for the Directors shall be two years, staggered so that one director is elected during odd-numbered years and the other director is elected during even-numbered years."

We examined many other state/regional/national organizations, and found that the most common model is for presidents to serve one-year terms. For those organizations that had two-year terms, most had a presidential one-term limit so that the presidents couldn't serve for more than two years consecutively. We also felt that this would provide continuity for these individuals who, by serving longer, would have an opportunity to perform their tasks more efficiently and would eliminate the need to elect people to these positions on a yearly basis.

According to the current Bylaws, this amendment will remain in effect unless the membership decides to rescind or alter it at next year's annual meeting. At that time, you will also have an opportunity to vote on a general revision of the Bylaws, which your Board will be acting upon this year. We'll keep you posted on these activities through the newsletter and the SFA Listserv.

Looking ahead to the future, our 2009 Annual Meeting Committee has been making plans for next year's meeting in Gainesville, and it promises to be an exciting one. As more information becomes available, I will post it to the website.

SFA members continue to remain active in statewide activities that impact Florida's museum, library, historical, and archival communities. As you may know, the Florida Association of Museums recently received an IMLS grant, "Connecting to Collections: Statewide Planning Grants." Its purpose is (1) to prepare a broad assessment of collections to identify needs in Florida's museums, libraries, archives, and the priority in which they should be addressed, and (2) to educate legislators and decision-makers about their responsibilities to preserve collections held in trust by government entities and private boards across the state. Museums, archives, libraries, and the historical community are represented by the Florida Association of Museums, Florida Art Museum Directors Association, the Florida Library Association, the Florida Public Archaeology Network, the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, the Florida Department of State, and our own Society of Florida Archivists. Each of these groups serves on a steering committee to insure that the collection assessment represents the broad range of Florida collections and collecting concerns. The planning grant includes forums with museum, library, and archives representatives that will be held in Miami, Orlando, and Tallahassee later this year and in 2009, to obtain as much input as possible about collections' needs.

I am pleased to announce that the first of these three forums will be held on September 6 in Miami, and Michael Zaidman, an Executive Board Director and our newsletter editor, will attend as our SFA delegate. In the fall newsletter, Mike will provide a summary of the discussion points covered at the meeting.

As you can see, SFA remains actively involved in issues impacting Florida's archival and historical community. If you would like to participate in any of these activities, or have any questions or concerns, please let our Board know about them. As described in our mission statement, SFA is here to serve "individuals and institutions who share a concern for the identification, preservation, and use of [Florida's] records of historical value."

Forums Open To Public

Connecting to Collections –

Planning for a Florida Collections Assessment

The 2005 *Heritage Health Index Report* found that American collections are at risk of damage because of improper environmental conditions and storage and are vulnerable to catastrophic loss. 77% of institutions do not specifically allocate funds for preservation in their budgets. The condition of 30 % of artifacts in the nation's collections is not known. What of Florida's collections?

Join colleagues from museums, libraries, archives, and historic and archaeological collections to plan a statewide assessment of Florida's collections and to develop strategies to educate legislators and public officials about their responsibility to preserve and conserve Florida's collections.

The first of three Forums will be held in Miami on Saturday September 6 at the Lowe Art Museum at the University of Miami from 1:30 to 5 pm. The Forum will be followed by a reception for area legislators.

The second Forum will take place in Orlando in the fall, and the third in Tallahassee in March 2009.

This is a collaborative project of the Florida Association of Museums, Florida Art Museum Directors Association, Florida Library Association, Florida Public Archaeology Network, Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, Department of State, and Society of Florida Archivists. Nineteen states received funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to plan a statewide assessment. This is Florida's opportunity to assess the state of our collections, and with the results of the assessment in hand, develop statewide policies and identify funding sources to secure Florida's collections. Come help shape this important initiative.

To register for the Forum (there is no fee to attend) please go to: www.flamuseums.org

For questions about the project please contact Myriam Springuel, Project Manager at Myriam@SpringuelConsulting.com

The Forum is scheduled the day before the Florida Association of Museums annual conference, which includes a Sunday workshop on Collections Care. For information about the FAM conference and its discounted hotel please go to:

www.flamuseums.org/programming/conference/

Save Water Damaged Artifacts

Streaming video shows how many water-damaged treasures can be saved! Heritage Preservation has released a free, online video guide demonstrating how to rescue soaked photographs, books, documents, and other valued items. This 10-minute streaming video provides professional advice that benefits families as well as museum and library staff. View the video at www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/WaterSegmentFG.HTM.

Coping with Water Damage

This 10-minute video provides step-by-step guidance on dealing with water damage at museums, libraries, and archives. Practical tips on safety, simple equipment, and salvage priorities also make the video a useful guide for home owners who want to rescue treasured family heirlooms.



The award-winning *Field Guide to Emergency Response* helps museums, libraries, and archives cope when disaster strikes. The complete handbook and companion DVD were produced by

Excerpted from the award-winning *Field Guide to Emergency Response*, the video combines hands-on demonstrations of salvage techniques with straightforward advice from leading preservation experts. Practical information on safety, simple equipment, and salvage priorities help the viewer get started on the rescue of damaged items. Additional tips for saving family treasures are listed www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/SaveTreasuresRightWay.htm.

The Field Guide handbook and companion DVD were produced by Heritage Preservation in 2006 with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Now the Institute of Museum and Library Services has teamed with NEH and Heritage Preservation to make this segment of the DVD easily accessible.

Heritage Preservation and the Heritage Emergency National Task Force have other helpful resources for the cultural heritage community, general public, and media at www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/TFcurrent.html

Communiqué

ANNOUNCEMENTS/EXHIBITS

In June, at the SFA Annual Meeting in Bradenton, Burt Altman and John Nemmers were re-elected as President and Vice-President respectively. Candice Odom as Secretary and Kathy Turner Thompson as Treasurer. The two directors elected were Tomaro Taylor and Michael Zaidman. Awards of Excellence were given to Maria Estorino and Mary Flekke. The silent auction scholarship fund raised \$258. The 2008 SFA scholarship committee awarded full scholarships to: Ana Rodriguez, News Archivist, The Miami Herald (USF) and Beatrice Skokan, Archives Coordinator, Special Collections, University of Miami Libraries (UF). Partial Scholarship were awarded to: Marta Jones, St. Petersburg Museum of History (USF) and Sandra Varry, Senior Library Technical Assistant, Universal Orlando Foundation Library (USF). The 2009 annual meeting will take place in Gainesville. Date to be determined.

...Orange County Regional History Center, Downtown Orlando, www.thehistorycenter.org,



Jim Henson Exhibit

Current Exhibit: Orlando A-Z thru September; New Permanent Exhibit: Destination Florida: Tourism before Disney; Upcoming Exhibits: In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits From the Smithsonian Institution, November 21 - January 18, 2009 and Jim Henson's Fantastic World From the Smithsonian Institution (above), February 6 - May 3, 2009.

... Fort Lauderdale Historical Society presents two new exhibits: Charles Mills: Portraits in Jazz and Life and Jazz in Fort Lauderdale. The Mills exhibit features 19 of Mills' original works of art in a variety of media including acrylic on canvas, collage and scratchboard. The Jazz in Fort Lauderdale exhibit looks into the history of the Fort Lauderdale jazz scene. Both exhibits run through September 7.

... In July, the Strong National Museum of Play will launch the *American Journal of Play*, the first interdisciplinary journal dedicated to the study of play. Published and distributed quarterly for the museum by the University of Illinois Press, the journal will highlight the role of play in learning, human development and American cultural history for museum professionals, educators, historians and

other applicable groups. For more information or to subscribe, call 866-244-0626 or visit the American Journal of Play, www.americanjournalofplay.org.

... Secretary of State Kurt Browning joined Miami-Dade Public Library System Director Raymond Santiago and the Miami Dolphins to kick off the many summer library reading programs that will be hosted at public libraries throughout Florida. A press conference held on June 2 at the Miami-Dade Main Library was attended by nearly 100 children, as well as the Dolphins' cheerleaders, mascot, and former and current players.

Summer reading programs like the one hosted by the Miami-Dade Public Library System encourage children to use their libraries for recreation and continued learning while school is not in session. The Florida Library Youth Program, which is administered by the State Library and Archives of Florida, is a statewide initiative that brings children and teens to public libraries during the summer, where they can have fun in a friendly, encouraging atmosphere.

... A revised version of rule 1B-26.003, *Florida Administrative Code*, Electronic Recordkeeping, became effective on May 21, 2008. The full text of the rule is available www.flrules.org.

... A new *Popular Magazines* database has been added to the Florida Electronic Library, www.flelibrary.org, which includes 1,000 of the most searched magazines across Gale's InfoTrac product line. All of the titles were selected based on the actual publication searches performed by library patrons. Features include: 100 percent full text, more than 600 titles recommended by Bowker's *Magazines for Libraries*, over 75 percent of this resource contains titles not included in other library databases, strong focus on current events, sports, science, and health, full collection of National Public Radio shows with transcripts and pod casts and power Search-enabled.

... *Florida Voices*, www.fcla.edu/FloridaVoices/index.htm, one of the Florida Electronic Library's latest initiatives, works to support all types of libraries and cultural heritage organizations in Florida in establishing and maintaining digital oral history programs. The ultimate goals of the project are: to develop an online digital archive of oral histories that give voice to Florida's diverse communities, to design and develop infrastructure to collect, store, preserve, and provide access to oral histories and to collect and disseminate.

...Hollinger and Metal Edge have merged. A formal announcement will be made at the SAA Annual Meeting in San Francisco in August. Metal Edge's Bob Henderson said, "it was a great opportunity for us to merge to cover both coasts to provide a better job and better service to our customers."

... October is American Archives Month and the 2008 *American Archives Month Public Relations Kit* created by SAA provides basic materials to help archivists make their archives program more visible and appreciated. "Celebrating the American Record" is this year's theme and the "Picture This!" Contest will award \$250 to each individual or group that submits the best idea, best campaign, or best Archives Month/Week poster to promote

public awareness about the profession. Entries must be received by Friday, July 25. For details on contest rules, see page 3 of the Kit at: http://www.archivists.org/archivesmonth/AAM2008/2008_AAM_Kit.pdf.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

The Society of American Archivists 72nd Annual Meeting takes place August 26 - 30, in San Francisco.

... Florida Association of Museums Annual Meeting, September 7 – 10, Miami, “Authentic Experiences in Florida Museums”.

... The Association of Railway Museums will hold its 2008 annual conference on Sept. 10–14, hosted by the Pikes Peak Trolley Museum in Colorado Springs. The conference combines workshops on such topics as marketing and development, maintenance and restoration and education and outreach with rides on the Colorado railroads - www.railwaymuseums.org.

... 2008 AASLH Annual Meeting, Rochester, NY, September 9-12, Discovering the Power of Transformation, www.aaslh.org
... 36th Annual Museum Computer Network Conference, Let's Do I.T. Right!, November 12th - 15th, Washington, DC, www.mcn.edu.

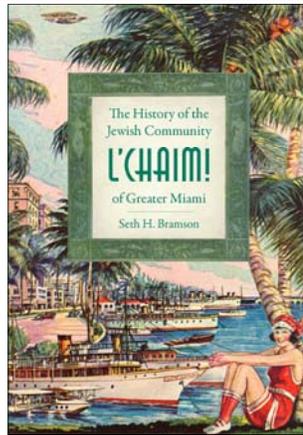
... Call for Papers - The International Committee for Regional Museums, www.irc-icom.org, will hold its annual conference, themed "Regional Museums in a Postindustrial Age," on Oct. 19–24 in Pittsburgh and Johnstown, PA. Presenters should address issues related to economic sustainability and the challenges of increasing community involvement while documenting, collecting, preserving and interpreting changing cultural and physical landscapes. Proposals for 20-minute presentations on the topic will be accepted through Aug. 15. Send the title of your paper and a short summary, up to 200 words, to Sue Hanna at shanna@state.pa.us.

... The Southeastern Museums Conference will hold its 9th Annual Jekyll Island Management Institute on Jekyll Island, GA., on Jan. 20–27. This is an opportunity for administrators from new and emerging museums and museum professionals with subject area expertise to learn management, personnel and interpretive skills from leading experts. The deadline for applications is Oct. 10 via www.semcdirect.net. Contact SEMC at 404-378-3153 or call Martha Battle Jackson, JIMI administrator, at 919-733-7862, ext. 236.

BOOKS/CASE STUDIES RELEASED

Last year, from an undisclosed source, well known Miami memorabilia and Floridiana collector Seth Bramson was given the collections of the family of Miami's first permanent Jewish settler, Isidor Cohen. The collection, numbering in the thousands of items, measured somewhere close to ten cubic feet.

With that collection in hand, Seth set about writing the book



that he felt he was, by that acquisition, pre-ordained to write. In November, The History Press (historypress.net) will publish his *L'Chaim! The History of the Jewish Community of Greater Miami* (left), the first ever complete history in book form of that dynamic and vital part of the citizenry of Miami-Dade County. The book will be approximately 160 pages with about 188 photographs. Price TBD.

Seth's next book, which he is working on now, will be titled: *Sunshine, Stone Crabs and Cheesecake, the story of Miami Beach*.

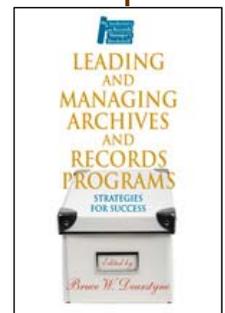
... Arcadia Published will be releasing *Sport Fishing in Palm Beach County* August 18th. The Schoolhouse Children's Museum has scheduled a family program for Saturday, September 20th at 2:00 p.m. for this book release, www.schoolhousemuseum.org, 561.742.6397.

... Jennifer Codding just published the book *The Ocklawaha Hotel, Eustis, Florida, 1876-1922* through Infinity Publishing, www.infinitypublishing.com or at Eustis Memorial Library (352-357-5686), www.ocklawahahotel.com. This is the first book published on the history of Eustis. *The Ghost Towns of Lake County* will be published in 2009.

... Neal-Schuman Publishers has just published *Leading and Managing Archives and Records Programs: Strategies for Success* (right), www.neal-schuman.com/bdetail.php?isbn=9781555706159. The book is the third in its Archivist's and Records Manager's Bookshelf series. It is also available from the SAA.

... Free Download of Archival Classic by Jenkinson, a digital version of the 1922 edition of *A Manual of Archive Administration, Including the Problems of War Archives and Archive Making*, by Sir Hilary Jenkinson, is available courtesy of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. This is perhaps the most famous work produced by British archivist and theorist Jenkinson, who speaks with great passion about many concerns that continue to reverberate today in the worldwide archives community. For more details: www.archivists.org/publications/epubs/.

... “*Sport Schema Crosswalks: Appraising, Converting, and Preserving Proprietary Schema to Open Source Standards*” by James W. Rogers of the University of Denver is the eighth case study to be published under Campus Case Studies, www.archivists.org/publications/epubs/CampusCaseStudies/casestudies.asp. College and university archivists working on solutions for born-digital records can post their reports in this area. The portal was launched by SAA



... Continued on page 7

SFA Board of Directors Contact List

President

Burt Altman, SFA President
Special Collections
Florida State University Libraries
116 Honors Way
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2047
baltman@fsu.edu
P: 850.645.7962

Vice-President

John Nemmers, Descriptive and
Technical Services Archivist
Special and Area Studies
Collections
U. of Florida Smathers Libraries
Gainesville, FL 32611-7007
P: 352.392.9075 x213
johnemm@uflib.ufl.edu

Secretary

Candace Odom
Archives & Record Consultant
Florida State Archives
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250
P: 850.245.6714
CNOdom@dos.state.fl.us

Treasurer

Kathy Turner Thompson, Museum
Services Manager
Citrus County Clerk of the Circuit
Court, The Old Courthouse Heritage
Museum, One Courthouse Square
Inverness, FL 34450
P: 352.342.6436
F: 352.341.6445
E: kthompson@clerk.citrus.fl.us

Director / Newsletter Editor

Michael Zaidman, Sr. Arch Administrator
The Jim Moran Foundation
100 Jim Moran Blvd. - JMFDF010
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
P: 954.429-2175
michael.zaidman@jim Moranfoundation.org

Director

Tomaro I. Taylor, Asst University Librarian,
Special Collections
University of South FL Tampa Library
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, LIB122, G-17
Tampa, FL 33620-5400
P: 813.974-5750
ttaylor@lib.usf.edu

Membership Chair

Mary M. Flekke, Inst. Serv. Librn., FL
Southern Col, Roux Library
111 Lake Hollingsworth Drive
Lakeland, FL 33801-5698
P: 863.616-6452
mfleкке@flsouthern.edu

Complete list: www.florida-archivists.org/officers_committees.htm

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Members of the Society of Florida Archivists SFA now have the privilege of communicating online with their colleagues, posting news or announcements, asking professional questions, or participating in archival discussions through our SFA Listserv. To subscribe, go to the SFA Members Listserv website, at <http://lists.fsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/sfa>. Complete the "Subscribe to SFA" form and click the "Subscribe" button. You will shortly receive a "Welcome to SFA" message, which provides instructions for posting messages to the list and how to change your listserv options. If you have any questions, please send them to our list manager, baltman@mail.fsu.edu, Burt Altman, SFA Webmaster/Listserv Manager. The SFA Listserv is being provided for free, as a courtesy to the Society of Florida Archivists, by Florida State University.

Society of Florida Archivists
P.O. Box 2746
Lakeland, FL 33806-2746

Please renew your membership if you have an asterisk by your name.

The Society of Florida Archivists is an organization of individuals and institutions who share a concern for the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value. It is dedicated to the dissemination of information about such records and about sound archival methodology.



If you don't archive this newsletter, please recycle it.

Florida State Archives

In recognition of the 75th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, the State Library and Archives of Florida re-created a photographic exhibit that was first developed by the Florida Works Projects Administration in 1939. The original exhibit, titled *Conch Town*, documented Bahamian immigrants living in Riviera Beach, Florida. The new exhibit, www.floridamemory.com/PhotographicCollection/photo_exhibits/WPA/, found on the *Florida Memory Project*, includes the 30 original photographs and captions, along with the original catalog and news clippings about the exhibit. The images represent only a small portion of the New Deal-related records and publications found at the State Library and Archives.

In May 1939, Florida WPA photographer and artist Charles Foster accepted an assignment to take photographs for Florida Writers Project writer Veronica Huss' profile of the "Conchs" on Riviera Beach. At the time, locals used the derogatory slang term to describe immigrants from the Bahamas. Armed with his Reflex-Korelle single-lens camera and four rolls of 12-exposure black and white film, Foster spent the day photographing Veronica and her subjects.

