

srma

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CHRAAB Grant Showcases Mid-Century Colorado Railroads

Craig Haggit

Senior Catalog Librarian, Denver Public Library

In 2017 the Colorado Railroad Museum (CRRM) in Golden collaborated with Denver Public Library (DPL) to seek a grant to digitize 313 film negatives from CRRM's Ralph Hallock Collection. Hallock photographed various railroads in Colorado in the late 1940s, documenting the types of engines and rolling stock working in the state at the height of railroading in the United States. The Colorado Historical Records Advisory Board (CHRAAB) provided the funds to hire a temporary paid intern to digitize these photographs, work with Stephanie Gilmore and Tom Madden at CRRM to help develop the metadata, and finally to ingest the materials into DPL's digital asset management system, CONTENTdm.

For this project, CRRM provided the material and specialized subject expertise that DPL did not have, while DPL provided the digitization facilities, imaging and metadata expertise, and online access platform that CRRM lacked.

In addition to increasing the accessibility of this valuable collection to the public, an important goal of this grant was to explore the ways institutions like DPL and CRRM could work together to better enable this type of project in the future. What worked, what didn't, and what takeaways did we come up with?

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Happy Spring SRMA! This photo is the view from the window by my desk at the Denver Public Library. The construction next door at the Denver Art Museum reminds me of the work the Board has done over the past year during my term as President. The financial setbacks of having to cancel the fall conference and the phishing scam have forced the Board to take a close look at the organization and do some rebuilding. Laura Uglean Jackson (Treasurer) received several bids from accounting firms to help revamp our financial practices and procedures. The Board approved the expenditure to hire Management Partners and work will begin this spring. The Board has also revised the budget for the current year and started to outline the budget for 2018-2019. These actions are helping to create a stronger foundation for the organization for many years to come.



In other Board news, I would like to thank Craig Haggitt for his term as the Newsletter Editor. Craig will continue to coordinate the monthly meet-ups, but I wanted to thank him for all his work the past year! Nathalie Proulx, Archivist at the Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library at the University of Denver was appointed by the Board at our April meeting as the new Editor. Welcome Nathalie! I would also like to thank Julie Carmen for serving as the SRMA representative on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Western Archives (JWA). The Board decided that the duties on the JWA Editorial Board should be the responsibility of the Past President on the SRMA

Board. Since we financially support the journal with \$500 a year, the Board felt that we needed to take a more active role in the Journal to make sure that SRMA members are benefitting from our investment. I will be joining the JWA Editorial Board when my term as Past President begins in June. Thanks Julie!

We have some exciting plans for the Spring and Summer. I hope you can all come to the Spring Conference on June 7th at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Jessie de la Cruz (Programming Director) and Lisa Dunn (Member-at-Large) have put together a wonderful conference to explore the idea of "Archives as Activism." The Spring meeting will also include the SRMA Annual Business Meeting, where we will announce elections results and give members an update of the past year.

Amanda Stow (Continuing Education Coordinator) has been working on the "Photo Preservation Workshop" with John Waggener, Photo and Audiovisual Archivist at the American Heritage Center to take place on July 20th at the Morgan Library at Colorado State University.

I hope to see many of you at the Spring Conference. Please remember to renew your membership and vote in the Spring election! Thanks to all our members for your continuing support over the past year!

Jamie Seemiller

Feature Project

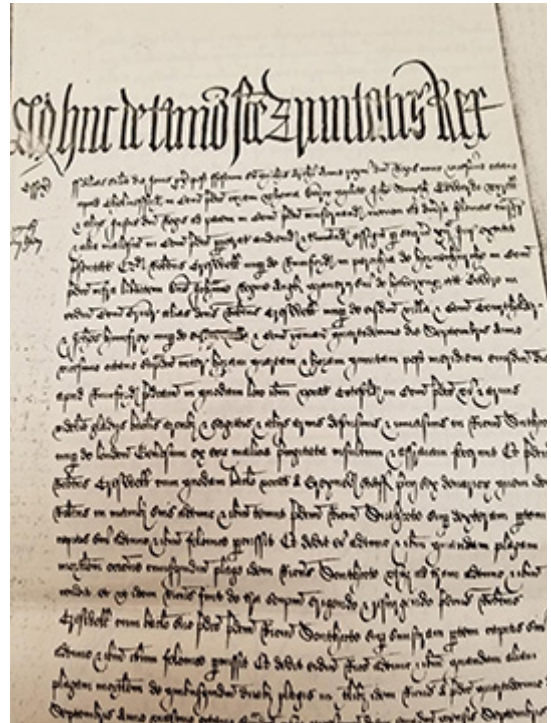
A Collection of Multitudes: Celebrating Diversity in the McIntosh Collection

Leslie Cook

MA Student in English at the University of Colorado

Marjorie K. McIntosh, Distinguished Professor of History Emerita at the University of Colorado Boulder, donated decades worth of research and work on the many books she wrote throughout her impressive academic and professional career. McIntosh boasts an Ivy League pedigree and the privilege to dedicate her life to academia; despite—or perhaps because of—this, she has defined her career by devoting years of research and writing about disenfranchised, underprivileged, and underrepresented groups in history. Professor McIntosh began her career as a historian in British studies, writing about poor relief, social regulation, women's labour in medieval through early modern England among other topics. Later in her career, McIntosh ventured into studying and writing about the women of the Yoruba and the effects Christian colonization and capitalism had on their autonomy and once egalitarian role in their communities. Even after her retirement, she interviewed members of the Latino community of Boulder County and wrote a book based on the Hispanic experience, tackling topics such as anti-immigration sentiment, racial profiling, and systematic oppression. Because this archive is only partially processed as of April 2018, the following description of the collection is limited to McIntosh's British and Yoruba work.

The bulk of the McIntosh Collection is research, early drafts and outlines, and photocopies from British archives used to write her six books on medieval and early modern England. During a conversation with McIntosh, she asked how the secondary sources she had included in her donation would benefit researchers as a piece of the archive; the answer lies in her handwritten annotations on the secondary sources. These sources actively shaped McIntosh's research and her highlights and marginalia would guide future users of the archive through her process of learning and interpreting these sources to inform her own knowledge.



McIntosh also donated material obtained and photocopied notable British archives, such as the British Royal Library Archives. These materials include hand-drawn maps of Essex county in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, a royal commission from Queen Elizabeth I to Matthew Parker and Sir Anthony Cooke, and manor court rolls from Havering-atte-Bowe.

McIntosh used a multitude of archival and secondary research from Yoruba to conduct her research on the shift of power during the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries in Nigeria. Once infamous for the power and responsibility bestowed upon the women, imperialist and capitalist interests upended the Yoruba social structure to install a patriarchal dynamic. McIntosh used the Nigerian National Archives, Christian Missionary Society Archives, and Nigerian university archives to retrieve

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Announcements



REMINDER: SRMA Listserv Moves to New Platform on May 1

A reminder that SRMA's member listserv will move from Yahoo Groups to Google Groups on May 1, 2018. The Yahoo Group will cease operations on June 1.

The Google Group name is SRMArchivists, and all current members of SRMA will be directly added to the group (unless they chose the "opt-out" option when registering or renewing their membership).

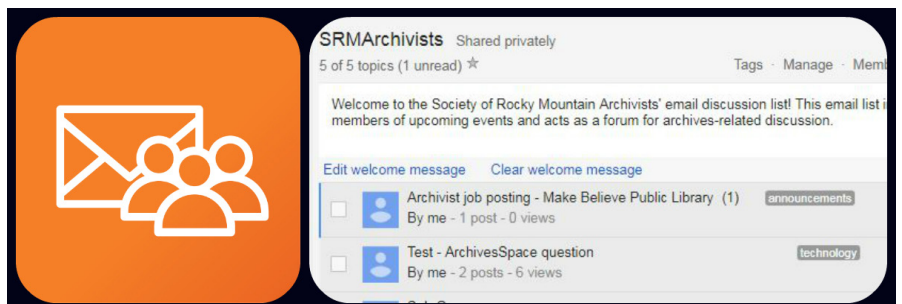
The Google Group listserv will function the same way the Yahoo listserv has in the past. SRMA listserv posts will arrive in members' inboxes, and members can post messages to the group through their email.

SRMA members with Gmail or G Suite email addresses will have the extra bonus of being able to tag posts, directly control how often they receive listserv messages in their inbox (digest mode anyone?), and view the listserv's archives through the Google Group's web forum interface.

The switch provides SRMA with several benefits, allowing list administrators to direct-add members and archive discussion threads.

Comments or concerns about the move? Want to change to digest mode? Feel free to reach out to:

Katie Rudolph
(SRMA Archivist)
archivist@srmarchivists.org



Overcoming Obsolescence: Digitizing Legislative History at the Colorado State Archives

Aaron Davis, MLIS

Audio and Media Archivist, Colorado State Archives

Over the last five years the Colorado State Archives (CSA) has been working to preserve the Legislative History of the State's Legislature in what is referred to as the Legislative Audio Collection (LAC). The Legislature has been recording hearings on the House and Senate floor since 1973, as well as all of the committees where bills are discussed. These recordings are stored on various mediums and are the only copy of the proceedings of the Legislature. No transcripts were ever created to accompany the hearings on the tapes.

In a prime example of the obsolescence of media formats, the LAC has five different media types containing Legislative History: magnetic 7 inch reel-to-reel tapes, ½ inch Dictaphone tapes, 1 inch Magnasync tapes, 4mm Digital Audio Tapes (DATs), and a proprietary WAV format generated by a software called the Freedom System. Over multiple decades, the State Legislature chose to change the medium with which they would be recording the audio in their chambers and meetings.

There was no effort to convert older formats to new ones or preserve any of the over 40 years of audio materials until the last decade. Because of the variance in media types across this collection, the digitization and preservation of each medium are handled in slightly different ways.

The Dictaphones have been targeted as one of the most at-risk formats in the LAC. The 1000+ tapes in this format range in date from 1973-1981. In order to preserve the audio on these tapes (around 13 hours in length and 10 tracks recorded simultaneously on each reel), a custom-made Dictaphone converter for digitization was purchased.



Before a tape is digitized, it undergoes a preservation process which involves repacking the tapes in a tail-out spool and baking them in an incubator for 3-5 days. Baking the tapes helps to reduce sticky-shed, where the data on a tape peels off when played back. Once this process is complete, the tape is loaded onto the Dictaphone converter and digitized in real time. The digitized file created is a stable WAV format and generally around 100 gigabytes in size and embedded with descriptive and technical metadata. Metadata is also recorded in the CSA's Re:Discovery content management system. Eventually, all of the WAV files will be stored in a digital repository which is slated to be active in the next few months.

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Upcoming Programs



Archives as Activism

Archives play a critical role in preserving both the “moment” and the historical impacts of activism. What stories do your collections tell about how activism shapes our society? How do you make these stories come alive to your communities?

Want to get involved? Share your experiences? We’re looking for PechaKucha presenters for Archives as Activism, SRMA Spring Meeting June 7. Submissions are due May 10th.

Interested in giving a PechaKucha presentation (20 slides for 20 seconds each)?

Please contact Jesse de la Cruz, jdelacruz@clyffordstillmuseum.org or Lisa Dunn, ldunn@mines.



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CHRA Grant Showcases Mid-Century Colorado Railroads

I worked initially with Stephanie Gilmore, CRRM's Curator of Collections, and Tom Madden (CRRM volunteer) to lay the initial groundwork, establish an agreement on reproduction procedures, and to transfer the curated set of negatives from CRRM, focusing on those negatives in good condition and that were interesting both for visual appeal as well as subject matter. For reproduction, DPL agreed to make fee-based reproductions on demand, with CRRM handling the financial transactions. CRRM splits the fees for print reproductions with DPL, but gets all of the fee when DPL merely transfers the pre-existing digital master.



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Overcoming Obsolescence: Digitizing Legislative History at the Colorado State Archives

Each tape takes a full day to convert, so the total time to preserve and digitize one Dictaphone reel is about a week. As such, this process has been a lengthy one. Just last month, CSA hit the 25% mark on digitized Dictaphone tapes. CSA now has all of the tapes from the 1973 and 1974 sessions, about 177 tapes in all, completely digitized. Another 133 tapes from different years have also been digitized. CSA is proud of this milestone, but recognizes there is a long ways to go in saving these invaluable records.

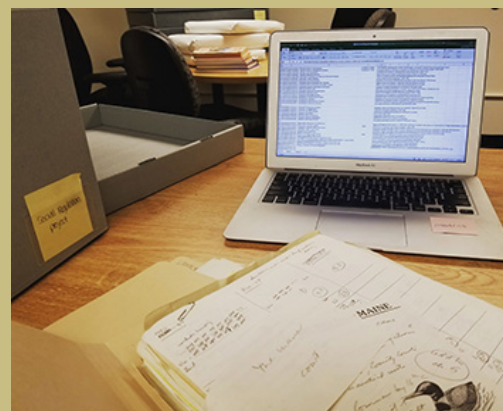


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A Collection of Multitudes: Celebrating Diversity in the McIntosh Collection

mostly secondary sources that take up three boxes--twenty-seven folders worth--of the McIntosh collection. Each document is annotated by McIntosh in some way, again guiding future researchers through her process.

The McIntosh Collection is expected to be completely processed by August 2018 and made more accessible through a digital exhibit. As the remainder of the documents are processed, archivists at CU Boulder are excited to produce a collection that exemplifies the importance of representing diverse groups and interests in academia. The McIntosh Collection will hopefully inspire students, staff, and faculty of the university as well as visiting scholars to expand their own research interests to include more underrepresented groups, just as Professor McIntosh has spent her career doing.



On The Ballot

Keep a lookout for our new ballot for the 2018-2019 SRMA Board. The ballot and candidate bios will be posted online to the SRMA website by Monday, May 7th.

Ballots will close on Thursday, May 31 (one week prior to the Spring Conference). The incoming board will be announced at the business meeting on the morning of June 7.

Make sure to get your vote in!

Secretary

Two-year commitment. Records all official minutes, submit minutes at annual business meeting, give notices on time.

Laura Hoff
Jordan Cundiff

Member-at-Large

Two-year commitment. Assists Program Director with programming opportunities in first year. Acts as Program Director in second year.

Emily Kintigh
Rosemary Evetts

Vice President

Heather Ryan



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Western History and Genealogy Dept.
Denver Public Library

Vice President: Kate Crowe
Curator of Special Collections & Archives
University of Denver

Past President: Allaina Wallace
Head Archivist and Librarian
Denver Botanic Gardens

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Archives Processing and Metadata Librarian
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James A. Michener Library
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Research & User Interface Librarian
Special Collections Manager
Arthur Lakes Library,
Colorado School of Mines

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Archivist and Digital Collections Manager
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Special Collections and Archives
University of Colorado Boulder Libraries

**Continuing Education Coordinator:
Amanda Stow**

**Electronic Resources/Website
Coordinator: John Major**
Reference Librarian
Bud Werner Memorial Library

**Need to renew your
membership?**

Contact Mary Elizabeth Ruwell
mary.ruwell@usafa.edu

**Do you have any interesting projects
or collections to feature in the next
issue of *Rocky Mountain Archivist*?**

Contact Nathalie Proulx at
nathalie.proulx@du.edu