

# The Rocky Mountain ARCHIVIST



Society of  
Rocky Mountain Archivists

## SAA Portland: A First Timer's Immersion into the Community of Archives



*SRMA Poster Sessions at Archives 2017 in Portland, with (l-r) Jessica Bitter, Emily Kintigh, Samantha Mat, and Aaron Davis*

networking opportunity, and as a chance to stamp 'Presenter' on my resume. Having only attended brief local conferences until this point, I had no idea the other rewards I would reap by attending this conference.

Attending the SAA annual conference was enlightening and offered numerous chances to network, expand my knowledge regarding the diverse array of archival institutions, educate me concerning what opportunities for further education and scholarship

*by Jessica Bitter  
MLIS Candidate, University of Denver*

This Summer I had the privilege to attend the Society of American Archivists (SAA) conference in Portland, Oregon due to the generosity of a scholarship provided by the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists (SRMA). Prior to my arrival in Portland I had no idea what would await me at the SAA Annual Meeting. As a student with one year of library school under her belt, and a year of experience working and volunteering in various archives, the

opportunity to attend a national conference was originally exciting to me as an excuse to visit Portland, as a

### In This Issue

1 - SAA in Portland

4 - President's Message

6 - SRMA @ SAA

8 - Featured Collection

10 - Announcements

existed in the archival world, and learn of changing concepts and methodologies happening in the archival practice.

Before I delve into these amazing discoveries, however, it is necessary to explain what made this experience possible. As a presenter at the conference and the rising President of the University of Denver (DU) SAA chapter it was pertinent that I make attending this conference a priority. Neither of these obligations, however, created a financial opportunity to attend the SAA conference. Furthermore, the DU organization which funds such opportunities for students was not guaranteed and did not offer the same expense coverage as the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists scholarship. Attempting to fund this conference while volunteering at the Yosemite archives this past Summer would have been impossible without SRMA. Having the knowledge that this necessary step in my career was supported by SRMA allowed me to navigate the conference and take full advantage of its offerings without exhausting myself mentally or financially during the process.

### More on ARCHIVES 2017

Be sure to read Jane Thaler's report on the rest of SRMA's experience at ARCHIVES 2017 (#saa17) later on in this newsletter.

The most impactful experience that SAA Portland offered was the immersion into new ideas, practices, and research being done in the field of archives. As an individual with a passion for public lands and sustainability my interests within archives are considered by my program and peers to be narrow and unique. In Portland, however, I met individuals researching sustainability in archives. I was delighted to attend the lecture 'Document, Protect, and Mitigate: New Perspectives on the Role of Archives and Natural Environment'. Being able to attend educational lectures regarding topics I was previously unfamiliar with, and fascinated by, expanded my concept of what types of archival research I could explore in the future. These lectures also allowed me to network with those individuals I would most like to collaborate and work with in the future. Many archivists communicated with me after the event and sent me more information regarding their research. I left the conference with a list of future presentations I wished to develop and new research topics I wished to explore.



*Author with fellow DU MLIS student Isabel Folck during*

Presenting at this conference and witnessing other presentations also quelled any fear I had regarding presenting at larger events in front of those with greater professional experience than

myself. The community was welcoming and receptive to all presenters. The process was surprisingly fun and elevated my desire to contribute more poignant research and concepts at future events.

The event also offered career counseling and a mentor program. My mentor has already given me useful advice and contacts and is an amazing individual whom I can be comfortable and confident in contacting throughout the year. I am extremely grateful for her counsel and the resume advice and career postings which the career center offered.

Overall, my experience in Portland was eye-opening and encompassed a much broader learning experience than I imagined. The networking was invaluable. The lectures were innovative and informative. I left Portland inspired to begin new independent research, participate in more events, and pursue continued learning in the future. I discovered instrumental resources, met like-minded individuals, and learned of future programs and events of interest which I would never have discovered without the guidance of senior archivists. I cannot wait to leap into my career path next Summer using the groundwork which SAA Portland has laid for me.

*Jessica Bitter*

### Promoting Your Collections Is Now Even Easier!

As Editor of this newsletter, I realize creating a full-blown article to promote a collection may be a daunting challenge in light of the myriad other duties you have. Allaina Wallace, last year's SRMA President, has provided a handy template to help. While it's not at all a requirement to use this, you might consider it an alternate to the blank-page conundrum of writing.

Institution:

Collection:

Date or Date Range:

Format of materials:

Answer one or more of these questions. (500 words total)

Who or what is the subject of the collection?

What is the significance of the collection to your institution?

What is the significance of the collection to your researchers?

What is the significance of the collection to SRMA members or others in the research community served by SRMA?

What cool points do you collect by housing this collection? Or, what do you, as the archivist, like most about the collection?

## Note from the President

by Jamie Seemiller

Acquisitions Archivist/Librarian

Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library



*SRMA President Jamie Seemiller in front of George Perez's piece entitled "Certified Sourcing"*

I was disappointed that we had to cancel the "Archives Advocacy" Fall Conference with Kathleen Roe. Ms. Roe had a family emergency that prevented her from coming to Denver. I certainly understand the reasons for her canceling, but it was a bummer not to offer the workshop to SRMA members. I want to thank Jessie de la Cruz (Program Director) and the rest of the rock star SRMA Board for all the work they did to make the conference happen and then quickly undo the conference. The Board sprung into action Friday and by Saturday orders were canceled, money refunded and the word had spread from emails to

social media. While I certainly hope we never have to cancel a conference again, I was grateful that the Board came together and got what needed to be done so efficiently.

I hope you all enjoyed the Archives As Muse program and the meet up at the Greedy Hamster. We had a great turnout for both! As a "traditional" archivist, I loved learning about how the artists used archival material in their artwork and hearing about their experiences working with the archives. I think it is important for all of us to begin looking beyond our traditional researchers and explore new ways of reaching different communities. I hope Archives as Muse and our partnership with Arthyve will continue to grow in the coming years, so we can expand the communities we reach with our collections. I also visited the exhibit at the Leon Gallery and got to experience the artwork first hand with my son and parents.

My son's favorite piece was From Touch I Learned by Sarah Gjertson.

As we get ready to close out 2017, I would like to send out a little gratitude to the SRMA Board and to members for continuing to support SRMA and the archives profession. We have big plans for 2018 including the spring conference, continuing education classes and an Archives Bazaar in the fall. Stay tuned and have a wonderful holiday season.

*Jamie*



*Jamie's son exploring Sarah Gjertson's "From Touch I Learned"*

### SRMA Membership Information

SRMA membership is drawn from regular and volunteer staff at archives, historical societies, museums, businesses, government agencies, libraries, colleges and universities, religious institutions, and other persons who are concerned with the identification and care of information that documents the history of our region. Basic membership is only \$25, and you can pay online.

Full information can be found on our web site at:  
<http://www.srmarchivists.org/about-us/membership/>

## SRMA at ARCHIVES 2017: Alike/Different

by Jane Thaler

Project Archivist, University of Colorado-Boulder

This year's annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists took place at the Oregon Convention Center in late July and was the second most registered conference in SAA history. ARCHIVES 2017: alike/different hosted some of the more expected programs like section/group meetings and presentations on projects and tools that can help to inspire, or in some cases dismay, fellow archivists. However, the presenters at this year's meeting, went above and beyond to explore the ideas of cultural competencies (mostly the lack thereof) and archives being inherently an activist pursuit. Here are some tweets for #saa17 that can help illuminate some of the main themes (not including some of the most popular satirical tweets by @evilarchivist):

Andra @audraeagleyn Jul 28

How we can decolonize digital archives #saa17

Joyce Gabiola @gabrarian Jul 26

We do not have a diversity problem. We have a white supremacy problem." @professorcaz @ the Congressional Papers Section Program #saa17

Walidah Imarisha @WalidahImarisha Jul 29

Appreciate yall's excitement to continue convos on liberating knowledge & histories of resistance to built autonomous futures! #saa17

And one of the top twitter, and physical, draws came from our very own Vice President, Kate Crowe, by providing "Archivists Against Racist Nostalgia" name badge attachments.



In terms of SRMA representation, we presented on all sorts of amazing topics that really showed the breadth of research and projects happening in our own backyard:

- Katrina Vandeven, MLIS candidate at DU, presented at the Women Archivists Section, the Oral History Section, and the Congressional Papers Section meetings about he co-founding of and work on the Women's March on Washington Archives Project. She also presented a student poster on the topic.

- Jamie Seemiller, President of SRMA and Archivist/Librarian at the Denver Public Library, spoke on how activism is documented at the Local Government Records Section meeting.
- Kate Crowe, Vice President of SRMA and Curator of SCA at DU, and Nathalie Proulx, Reference Archivist of the Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library, presented on their work creating an exhibit and documentary about 'Festival Caravan' at the Performing Arts Section meeting. Nathalie also presented a poster at the Research Forum on the topic.
- Michele Pacifico, Archival Facility Consultant at Pacifico Archival Consulting, spoke on developing the revised standard for facilities at the Technical Subcommittee on Archival Facilities Guidelines meeting.
- Jane Monson, Digital Initiatives Librarian, and Jay Trask, Head of Archival Services, from UNC presented a professional poster on their project conducting oral histories with first-generation students at UNC.



*Nathalie Proulx sharing the Festival Caravan project she created with Kate Crowe*



*Jane Thaler, now Project Archivist with CU-Boulder, presenting her poster on Archives in Japan*

- Jane Thaler, SRMA Outreach Coordinator and Project Archivist at CU, also presented a professional poster about her work researching archives in Japan.

And, along with Katrina Vandeven's student poster on the Women's March, we had several DU SAA Student Chapter representatives and SRMA members present posters during the Graduate Student Poster Presentations. Emily Kintigh, Aaron Davis, and Jessica Bitter presented on their experience managing an SAA Student Chapter in lieu of an advisor and Samantha Mat presented a poster on work developing a small government archive in Victor, CO.

## Featured Collection:

### The Kathryn Kalmbach Botanical Stamp Collection

...in the Denver Botanic Gardens

by Solange Huggins

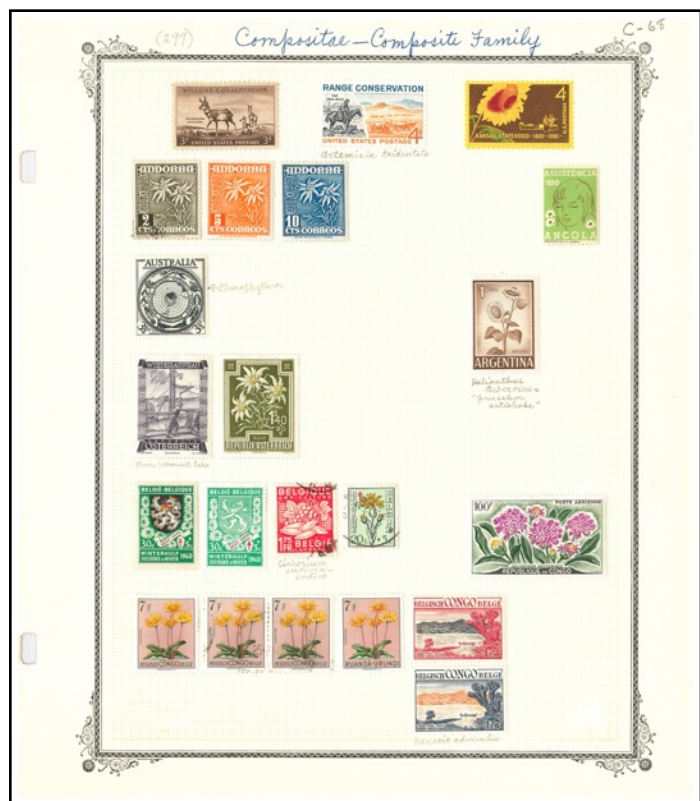
7,000 Stamps

127 Plant Families

*NOTE: Originally published in "The Green Thumb", Autumn 1972. The article has been edited for length by Allaina Wallace, Head Librarian, Denver Botanic Gardens Helen Fowler Library.*

The Helen Fowler Library now houses the Kathryn Kalmbach botanical stamp collection. The four albums of postage stamps, lovingly collected and meticulously classified and arranged by Mrs. Kalmbach, were presented to Denver Botanic Gardens by Dr. Edwin R. Kalmbach.

The name of Kathryn Kalmbach (1886-1962) has been associated with DBG for many years. She was a frequent contributor to "The Green Thumb", writing on botanical and horticultural subjects. Her special interest was in the herbarium which now bears her name, and she worked tirelessly with local botanists to collect and prepare specimens for it.



A collection of botanical stamps is an entirely fitting endeavor for such a person. Characteristically, she made her collection a scientific one, and it came to outstanding in its field. Mrs. Kalmbach was a member of the American Topical Association, an organization of philatelists collecting by subjects rather than by country. Her articles in the journal of this society brought her recognition as an authority in the field of plants on stamps.



The best method of describing the stamp collection is perhaps to use the words of Mrs. Kalmbach in her introduction to the first album, dated November, 1956:

*An article in the American Gardeners' Chronicle in 1945 by Mr. Charles H. Curtis of England, described his collection of plants on stamps, which was arranged by plant families, rather than by countries. At the suggestions of Professor Joseph A. Ewan, then botanist at the University of Colorado, I began a search for stamps picturing plant life, in hopes of making a similar collection. Growing slowly at first, the last few years more rapidly, my collection at this writing shows over 5,000 stamps arranged under 99 flowering plant families, and four non-flowering groups. (In 1960: 7,000 stamps and 127 families.) My collection includes not only those stamps with plants as the main feature, but also those having plants as parts of border designs, or other minor decorations. Used, as well as mint stamps, are included.*

*Stamps in each of the plant groups are arranged alphabetically by countries; except that any United States representative are always at the beginning of each group.*

*The collection also includes, in a separate division, stamps picturing agricultural subjects. These subjects include all forms of farm work, such as plowing, sowing, harvesting, etc., as well as farm machinery, farm buildings, farmers and farm children. Other occupations using plants products are also included, such as basket making, textile work, logging, etc. There are also shown botanists, botanical gardens, agricultural scientists and institutions, parks, etc. This part of the collection will be found in Volume IV, following plant families.*

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The Denver Botanic Gardens appreciates the gift of this collection to Helen Fowler Library. No stamps have been added since the death of Mrs. Kalmbach in 1962.

## News You Might Have Missed

Don't have time to catch all the news? Who does?? Here's a short summary of some archive-related announcements and happenings.

### **Archives & Archivists (A&A) discussion list going away**

[more info](#)

*Originally begun in 1989 by Donna Harlan and John Harlan, the list has seen some changes and more than a few controversies over the years, and has proven a valuable outreach tool to connect with profession with non-members. SAA took over the list in 2006, but is now decommissioning it effective December 31, 2017. The link above explains the rationale, next steps, and links to the full briefing paper.*

### **Journal of Western Archives**

[current issue](#)

*JWA offers a wide-ranging discussion of Web Archiving in Volume 8, Issue 2. Topics include web archiving tools, techniques, and metadata capture. A special issue on cultural competency, diversity, and inclusion in the archival profession will be created and authors on this subject will have an opportunity to write about this subject in the coming year.*

*In 2018, there will be a search for a new editor. If this is something you have experience in and feel you can manage, consider contacting Gordon Daines at: [gordon\\_daines@byu.edu](mailto:gordon_daines@byu.edu) for more information.*

### **Community Webs**

[more info](#)

*Denver Public Library was recently awarded a grant to explore the relatively-new-to-public-libraries world of web archiving. This grant is funded by IMLS and the Internet Archive, and lasts for two years.*

### **International Programs Records Collection (NWRC)**

[finding aid](#)

*The National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) archives in Fort Collins is pleased to announce a new, fully processed collection: The International Programs Records – NWRC 0029. The NWRC's International Programs Records contains research studies, reports, memorandum, maps, images, correspondence, budget data and other materials. For more information contact Sara Szakaly (970-266-6021 / [sara.J.Szakaly@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:sara.J.Szakaly@aphis.usda.gov)).*

### **Independent Archivists Section (SAA)**

[more info](#)

*"The mission of the IA Section is to facilitate and foster the sharing of ideas, information, and support amongst archivists outside the traditional archival repository. This includes, but is not limited to, independent contractors, private archivists, digital archivists, archival firms, freelance and consulting archivists. The Independent Archivists section will do this through an interactive listserv and the section microsite."—Announcement shared via Adam Speirs*