

SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA ARCHIVISTS NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 173

ISSN 1931-5473

WINTER 2020

Join Us for the Western Archivists Meeting 2020 in San Francisco!



Contingent for disability rights in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade, 1977. Photograph by Marie Ueda. Marie Ueda Collection (#2006-12), Courtesy of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

The Program Committee and Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) would like to warmly invite you to the upcoming Western Archivists Meeting (WAM) being held in San Francisco, California at the InterContinental San Francisco from April 22-25, 2020.

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Calendar

WAM, last hosted in Denver, Colorado in 2015, is a special opportunity for archivists from the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists (CIMA), Northwest Archivists (NWA), Society of California Archivists (SCA), and Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists (SRMA) to participate in a joint conference.

The conference hotel is situated in the heart of downtown San Francisco, making it an ideal landscape for exploring all the city has to offer, and offers a modern, beautifully renovated (and LEED-certified) backdrop for the largest meeting of archivists in the west.

The Program Committee, which is comprised of leadership from all four of the regional organizations, solicited session proposals that addressed the conference theme of **Labor, Power, and Privilege**. We were gratified to receive a large number of thoughtful session proposals from members of all of the regional organizations. Because of the overwhelming number of proposals, we expanded the number of sessions during the conference from twenty-one to thirty-two, and selected sessions that fell into the four areas of labor, power, privilege and oppression, Native American collections-focused topics, and those with broad general interest. We have invited two speakers: **Mark Matienzo**, of Stanford University, who is the author of a recently completed white paper on contingent labor; and **Wendy Teeter**, who will be in conversation with Liza Posas of the Autry Museum about Wendy's work at the Fowler Museum and its Native American collections.

The Program Committee, working with Local Arrangements, has also tried to build in a number of opportunities for socializing and space for regional organizational meetings. We hope that there will be something of interest for everyone in the program, and that it will be a generative and educational meeting, while also allowing for cross-regional knowledge sharing and social interaction.

The LAC is currently organizing repository tours, discounted admissions to local museums, and other special events to benefit attendees, including an exciting opening reception. We hope that you will join us for the entire time and enjoy all that WAM and San Francisco have to offer. Conference registration will be available on the SCA website by early January. We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco in 2020!

Tanya Hollis
SCA 2020 WAM Program Committee Chair

Teresa Mora, Kate Tasker, and Emily Vigor
SCA 2020 WAM Local Arrangements Committee


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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

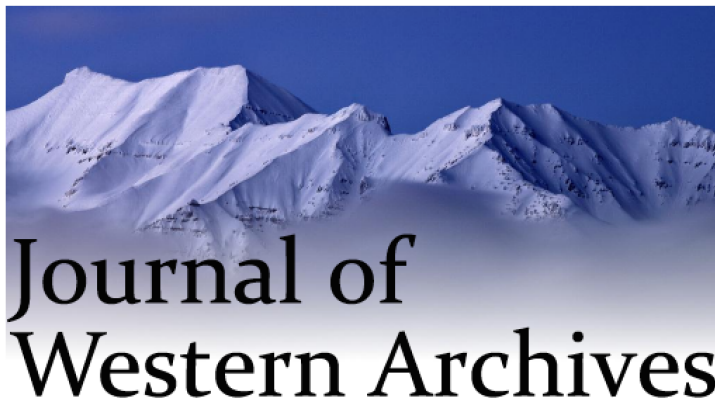
California is my home state. I was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and have spent much of my adult life in Southern California's Inland Empire. Over the years I have witnessed the growth and evolution of California from both ends of the state. While most changes have been positive, others have proven challenging for residents, most notably the high cost of living found in our state that many Californians are struggling with today.

As a non-profit organization operating in California, SCA has not been immune to these rising costs and is beginning to feel the pressure of supporting the needs of an ever growing membership that currently stands at more than 500 strong. A core tenet of SCA has always been to provide members with high quality benefits at an affordable price. In line with this, the SCA Board has worked diligently over the past fifteen years to not increase membership dues, while providing low-cost workshops to members, financially supporting member initiated events, and keeping AGM registration rates as low as possible for attendees. However, with the considerable rise in costs over the past few years we are beginning to experience shortfalls in our annual operating budget. Increased costs associated with the AGM have resulted in significant losses over the past two years and with the high cost of meeting in San Francisco for the 2020 Western Archivists Meeting (WAM) we anticipate additional losses this year.

Discussions on how to stabilize the budget are currently underway by the Board as we look toward a solution to reverse this course. We are planning to conduct an assessment of services with input from membership later this year to see where adjustments can be made to increase revenue and lower operating costs. One of the main areas that we'll be focusing on pertains to the high hotel, reception, and audiovisual costs associated with the AGM. Due to our organization's size we are heavily reliant on large hotel chains as they typically are the only available option to accommodate our meeting space and hotel room needs. The Board is interested in exploring alternative, non-traditional solutions for the AGM in order to keep associated costs manageable for both the organization and its members. At this point we're not sure which direction this will take us in, but we do recognize that the AGM might need to be drastically reconceived in order to gain the necessary cost savings.

The Board's goal is to minimize the financial impact on members so that SCA remains an affordable professional association for archivists, librarians, and other allied professionals in the state of California. To be fully transparent, the Board is currently reviewing the cost of membership and exploring the idea of a modest increase to membership dues. Updates on this will be communicated to members as our discussions progress. I am confident that with some minor adjustments on a few fronts we can collectively ensure that SCA remains affordable and maintains a solid financial footing moving forward.

Eric Milenkiewicz
SCA President



Journal of Western Archives

The *Journal of Western Archives* is a peer-reviewed, open access journal sponsored by Western regional archival organizations. The journal focuses on contemporary issues and developments in the archival and curatorial fields, particularly as they affect Western archives and manuscript repositories.

Journal Contents

The *Journal of Western Archives* gives archivists, manuscript curators, and graduate students in the American West a place to publish on topics of particular interest and relevance to them. The journal features research articles, case studies, and review essays on regional topics. These include:

- Important Western regional issues in archives and manuscript repositories;
- Unique archival developments in the western United States;
- Technological innovations and their effect on archival theory and practice;
- The history and development of the archival and curatorial professions in the American West;
- Collaborative efforts and projects between various cultural institutions.

Contributing to the Journal

If you are interested in contributing to the journal or serving as a peer reviewer for journal content, please contact the managing editor, John Murphy (john_m_murphy@byu.edu). Article submissions may also be made online at the journal website.

JWA

<http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/westernarchives/>

The Society of California Archivists, Inc.

The Society of California Archivists, Inc. exists to support and develop those who collect, care for, and provide access to the documentary heritage of California and adjoining areas. To this end it:

1. acts as a vehicle for dissemination of information about archival collections, issues, and methodology to the profession and the public;
2. provides a forum for the discussion of matters related to the creation, preservation, and use of historical documents;
3. develops, offers and supports archival education programs;
4. cooperates with individuals and organizations on matters of common concern; and
5. advocates the identification, collection, preservation, use, and appreciation of historical records and manuscripts.

The SCA Newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. All submissions, advertisements for e newsletter should be directed to the Editors of the Newsletter:

Newsletter Editors
The Bancroft Library
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Email(s): newsletter@calarchivists.org

Copy Deadlines: September 1, December 1, March 1, & June 1

Format for Submissions: Articles and other items submitted for consideration should be sent via e-mail attachment.

SCA Newsletter editors
Amanda Mack, Sue Luftschein, and Patricia Delara

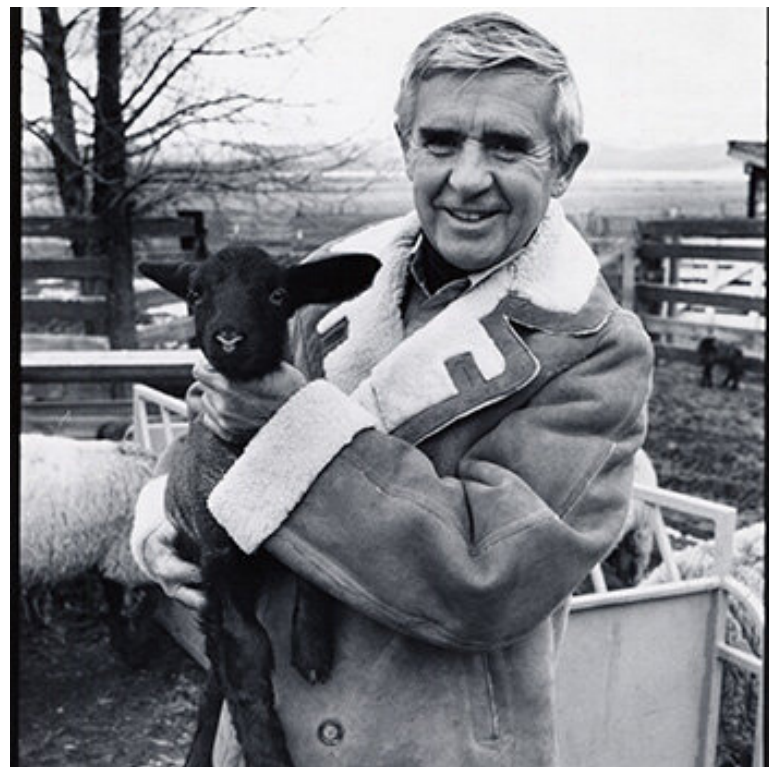
COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

Paul Laxalt U.S. Senatorial Papers Now Available For Research

How was one conservative Republican U.S. Senator from Nevada, which is comprised mostly of public lands, able to work with a majority Democratic Congress to get things done? U.S. Senator Paul Laxalt served two terms in the Senate (1974-1986), the only Basque-American to do so, and chose the University Libraries [Special Collections and University Archives Department](#) at the University of Nevada, in which to deposit his personal congressional papers of approximately 850 linear feet. Thanks to funding provided by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the [Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records](#), the Paul Laxalt U.S. Senatorial Papers are now organized and open for [research](#). The papers provide numerous research opportunities for users wanting to understand Laxalt's former legislative role not only in its original context, but also in the context of how it shaped events and issues that this country is still experiencing today.

The Laxalt Papers contain important decisions on issues of public lands in the American West during the 1980s—including the Sagebrush Rebellion and the proposed MX Missile system. Laxalt, a close confidant and informal advisor to President Reagan, was a proponent of the Sagebrush Rebellion, which favored transfer of public lands to state and local control. At the same time, Laxalt opposed an increase of MX Missiles to Western states. Despite his dedication to the President, Laxalt became the leading opponent to the MX project, swayed by the popular opinions of his state's constituents.

The collection also sheds light on federal legislative processes and decision making including uses of public lands for such things as: cattle ranching, wild horses and burros, the care and preservation of native and endangered species, land swaps, land claims and uses by Native Americans, mining and power companies, and the use and allocation of water in arid areas. Historically, public land management has been an issue in the West and will continue to be into the foreseeable future.



U. S. Senator and Basque-American Paul Laxalt with a lamb. Photo courtesy the University Libraries Special Collections and University Archives Department.

Recently, the incidents with the Bundy family have reignited debates about who should administer public lands in the West—individual states or the federal government.

Processing of a previous portion of Senator Laxalt's papers, which dealt with his professional relationship with Ronald Reagan, was completed by Special Collections and University Libraries in 2016. Funding for this project also came to the University Libraries through the same funder mentioned above.

Laxalt, often referred to as the "First Friend" of President Reagan, assisted Reagan with his campaign and later re-election for President of the United States. With both groups of files now completed, researchers can see the totality of Laxalt's influence in Washington as well as Republican Party politics within this manuscript collection. **5**



Ronald Reagan and Paul Laxalt shaking hands in the Oval Office. Photo courtesy the University Libraries Special Collections and University Archives Department.

Laxalt's political life in Nevada goes back to 1951 when he became the District Attorney of Ormsby County. From 1963 until 1967, he was Lieutenant Governor, then became Nevada's 22nd Governor from 1967-1971. He decided to run for the U.S. Senate and was elected in 1974 for two terms, leaving office in 1987. Those interested in using or learning more about the Paul Laxalt Senatorial Papers collection can view the University Libraries [finding aid](#) for this collection online.

Assistance is also available in-person or by phone. Contact the University Libraries Special Collections and University Archives Department via email at specoll@unr.edu or phone at 755-682-5665.

The Special Collections Reading Room is open to the campus and northern Nevada community from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is located on the 3rd floor of the [Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center](#).

Funds for this project have been provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records.

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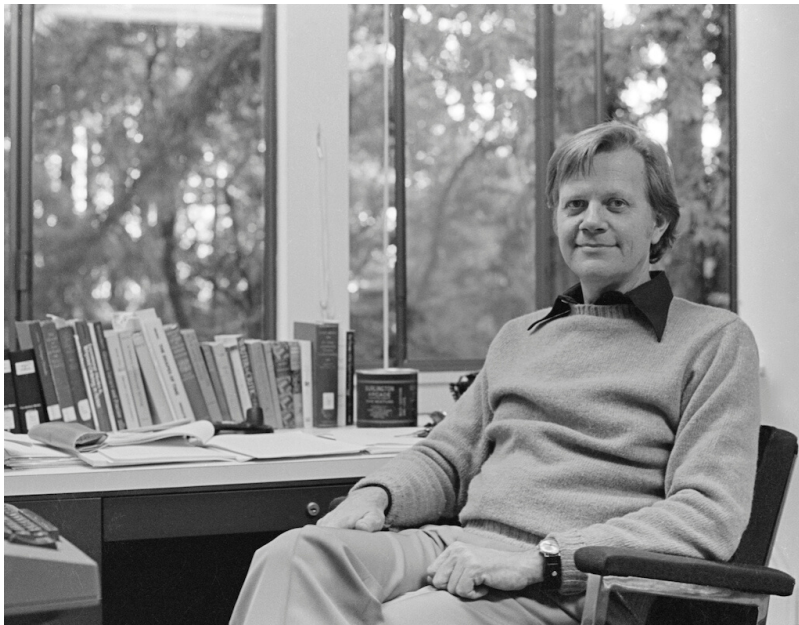
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Hayden White Papers: Finding Aid & Exhibit at UC Santa Cruz

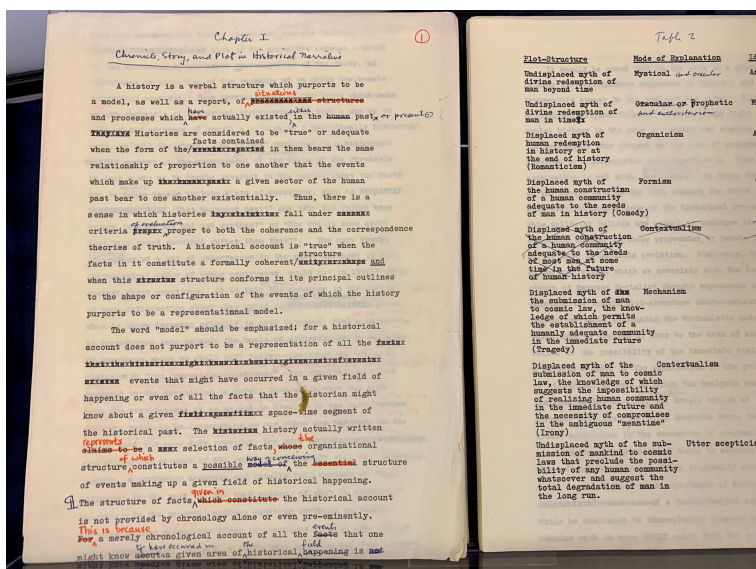


Photograph from Carol Foote photographs of the University of California, Santa Cruz. MS 259. Special Collections and Archives, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz.

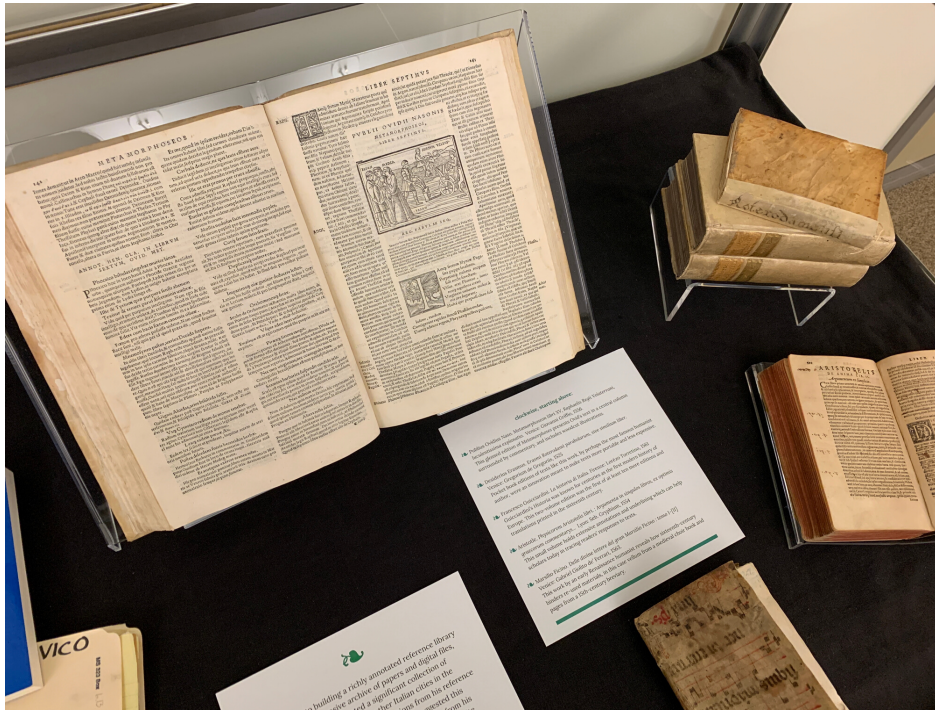
The [Papers of Hayden V. White](#) are now available for research at the UC Santa Cruz University Library Special Collections & Archives. Hayden White was a literary critic and historical theorist who helped form and cultivate the History of Consciousness program at UC Santa Cruz in the late 1970s. As a teacher and researcher, White held the distinguished title of University Professor in the University of California system, teaching primarily at UC Santa Cruz as well as UC Los Angeles and UC Berkeley, the University of Rochester, Wesleyan University, and Stanford University.

The collection contains materials ranging from White's student work from his time at the University of Michigan in the 1950s to his digital notes in the months before his death in 2018. Included are drafts and reviews of his renowned 1973 publication *Metahistory*, as well as paper and digital drafts of his 2014 work *The Practical Past*. White traveled abroad extensively for teaching purposes, research, and conferences, the products of which are reflected in the collection. Also of note are the files related to White's involvement as complainant in the 1975 White v. Davis high-profile suit brought against the Los Angeles Police Department, after undercover LAPD officers registered for and sat in on White's UCLA classes for the purposes of gathering intelligence. In the resulting landmark legal ruling, the California Supreme Court determined that police surveillance of political activity was illegal without reasonable suspicion of a crime.

This collection was processed by two graduate fellows in the Elisabeth Remak-Honnef Center for Archival Research and Training ([CART](#)), under the direction of CART Archivist Alix Norton. Patrick King and Christian Alvarado, both pursuing their PhD in the History of Consciousness department, view White's work as integral to their own research and scholarship. Christian organized and described the paper materials in the collection, while Patrick appraised and processed White's born-digital materials. The White papers are a great use case for processing a hybrid collection of personal and professional manuscript materials; Patrick worked closely with Alix and Supervisory Archivist Kate Dundon to test out and refine the department's recently developed processing procedures for born-digital materials.



An early draft of *Metahistory*.



The UC Santa Cruz Special Collections & Archives is grateful to Margaret Brose, UCSC Professor Emerita and widow of White, who generously donated Hayden White's papers as well as their shared collection of early printed books to the University Library. The finding aid for the Hayden V. White papers can be viewed on the [Online Archive of California](#).

Alix Norton

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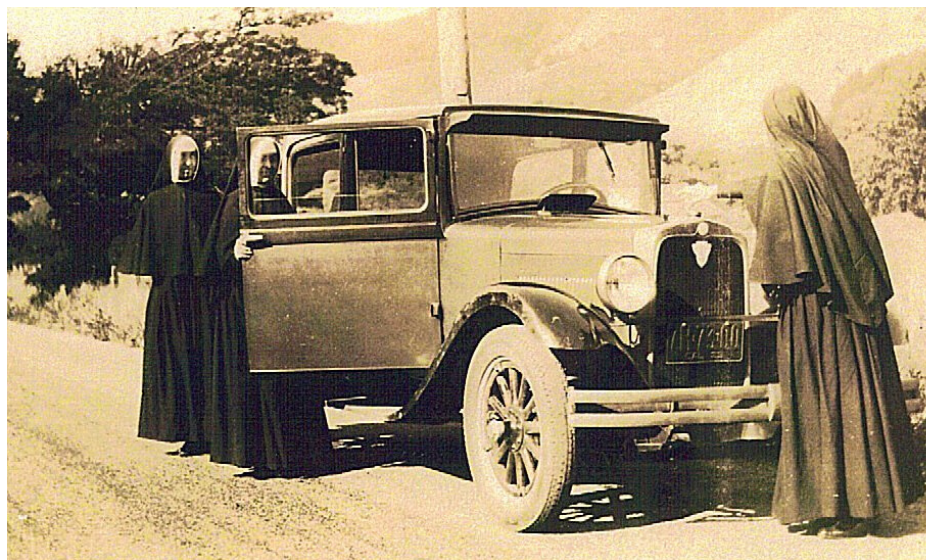
King and Alvarado co-curated the exhibit "Archival Research as Penance": The Papers and Library of Hayden V. White, which will be on display until March 2020. The exhibit presents the various sites of Hayden White's intellectual production and teaching roles throughout his career through his writings, correspondence, and selections from his own library of contemporary and early printed books. The exhibit title, "Archival Research as Penance," draws from a handwritten note on the outside of one of the folders in White's papers.

Left image: A selection from the Hayden White and Margaret Brose collection of early printed books.

The Nuns Who Drive, and Other Stories of Sister Pioneers

Archives & Special Collections (A&SC), Santa Clara University, is collaborating with the Sisters of the Holy Family (SHF) in Fremont, California, to preserve the legacy of women religious congregations in the West.

From its very founding in 1872 SHF embraced a pioneering spirit in service to others, seeking out San Francisco's hidden poor and neglected who lived beyond the reach of Catholic and social institutions. They learned to drive cars in and around California. They voyaged to Hawai'i by ship for five days, not knowing where they would live, what work they would do, or whether they would ever return home. They delivered special religious education to the developmentally disabled while also providing for their physical needs.



Sisters en route to a new vacation school. Because driving was a mostly male activity in the early 1900s, SHF became known as "The Nuns Who Drive."

As they approach their 150th anniversary SHF, like many congregations across the country, is preparing to close and they have donated their historical records to A&SC. As this historical chapter ends, SHF is forging a future to preserve the work of Catholic women religious in the West by establishing two endowed funds: one to support the long-term care and display of their archives, and a second to support A&SC's future collaborations with other congregations in the Bay Area and beyond.

In August, after seven months of work in Maryland by History Associates, Inc. to prepare documents, photographs, artifacts, and audio and visual media for use by researchers, the SHF Archive collections came home to Santa Clara University. These invaluable records document the work of the Sisters who provided religious education, material assistance, early education, and other services to underprivileged children and their families in California, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Hawai'i, and Alaska. These collections are a rich, historical treasure we cherish and are committed to preserving for future generations.

Nadia Nasr

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Day Home: Sisters read to children at the Holy Family Day Home. In post-Gold Rush California, Sisters provided a safe place for the children of working class mothers and fathers to leave their children during the work day.

Making Lesbian History Accessible Through Archival Preservation



Mazer Board members and visiting conservators display a custom rehousing for a frequently displayed object, the Bell Telephone commemorative doll.

What does it look like for a community-based archive to conduct preservation activities that allow the archive to serve the community it represents through full, unfettered access while also making sure the materials last and thrive well into the future?

The June L. Mazer Lesbian Archive was founded in Oakland, California in 1981 and works to collect, preserve, and make accessible lesbian, feminist, and women's history. In 1989, the Mazer received space from the City of West Hollywood, where it remains today. The Mazer is committed to gathering and preserving materials by and about lesbians and feminists of all classes, ethnicities, races and experiences and encourages all lesbians to deposit the everyday mementos of their lives so that others can discover them in the future.

Grassroots actions have sustained the archive and its collections for decades. Since 2018, however, preservation activities at the Mazer have particularly flourished. With support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through the UCLA Community Archives Internship Program, Julie Botnick interned at the archive while she was a second-year MLIS student at UCLA. Under the direction of Ellen Pearlstein, Julie and her classmate Nicollette Brant produced a full preservation assessment of the manuscript materials and 3D objects in the space, and left the archive with short, medium, and long-term preservation priorities. The top priority, to conduct an inventory, was achieved over the course of the year through inventory days overseen by Julie, which invited community members and students to use web-based tools to examine materials and participate in the inventory process. While inventorying, participants also noted any apparent preservation concerns.

The abundance of preservation issues observed was daunting, but also provided a clear roadmap for future work. It was particularly apparent that there was a gap in knowledge among archives stakeholders and volunteers in the area of audiovisual material identification and preservation. The board successfully applied for a second year of support through the internship program, and onboarded audiovisual archivist and MLIS candidate Casey Winkleman as the 2019-2020 intern. The Mazer was also selected as a host site for an LA as Subject Resident Archivist, Azatuhi Babayan, who is creating a plan to digitize and rehouse the fragile subject files collection.

On November 5th, 2019, a group of 25 volunteer conservators from around the Western United States and UCLA MLIS students had the opportunity to explore and enhance the collection as part of a Community Partnership Project, supported by a \$1,000 grant for materials from the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation.



Volunteer conservators work on an item-level inventory of audiovisual materials.

The project, suggested by Ellen Pearlstein and coordinated by Julie, Casey, and Los Angeles-based conservator Jessica Chasen, preceded this year's Western Association for Art Conservation Annual Meeting at the Getty and focused on better understanding the collection's holdings of audiovisual materials on an item level and creating custom enclosures for several unique objects, including a commemorative Bell Telephone Company doll, a softball uniform from the 1950s, life-sized silkscreens of artistically posed women, and vinyl banners from lesbian and feminist organizations active in Southern California in the 1980s and 1990s.

Incredibly, the Mazer received an email the very same day announcing its selection as one of the recipients of the California State Library's 2020-2022 Preserving California's LGBTQ History grants. With this funding, the Mazer can build a more stable, accessible collection through a dedicated intern working on preservation projects, a consultant to write preservation workflows for volunteers, and preservation supply purchases. Because Julie and Nicollette had already completed professional-level preservation assessments, the Mazer was able to apply for and be awarded the full \$15,000 to act on the top recommendations from these assessments.

Taken together, the many preservation-related successes of the last two years — as well as the failures, such as the multiple rejected grant applications, which have been omitted here for space but each of which was a learning experience — have set the Mazer on a preservation-focused trajectory. Most importantly, this work has happened with the input and involvement of the community the archive represents and serves. Those with formal training and experience in preservation and conservation have filled in gaps in Mazer volunteers' knowledge about how to handle and store materials, and Mazer volunteers have been able to share precious materials and community-based archiving methods with students and professionals in the field who may only have classroom or institutional experience.

CSU Dominguez Hills Acquires the Holt Labor Library Collection

The Gerth Archives and Special Collections at California State University, Dominguez Hills recently acquired the holdings of the Holt Labor Library, formerly in San Francisco, which now forms the Holt Labor Library Collection at CSU Dominguez Hills. The library, founded by Rod Holt, was active from 1992-2019 and collected approximately 1,218 linear feet of books, pamphlets, periodicals, manuscript collections, posters, photographs, and ephemera that document the labor, civil rights, and anti-war movements from the 20th through the 21st centuries, as well as movements within radical political history.

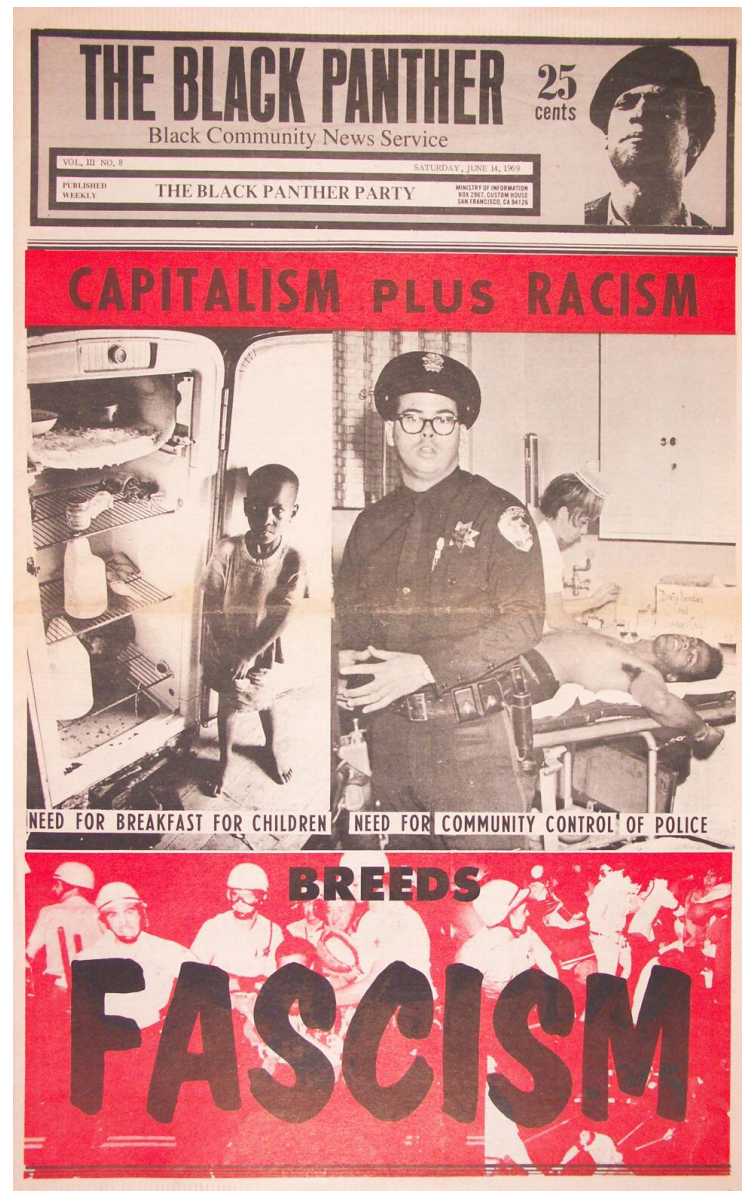
The collection comprises the papers of various civil rights activists, including Berta Green Langston, a member of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) who fought for justice during the Monroe, North Carolina civil rights cases with Robert F. Williams, President of the Monroe, North Carolina NAACP chapter. A run of *The Black Panther* newspaper from 1967-1976, a weekly periodical published by the Black Panther Party from 1967 to 1980 that chronicled the party's activities and ideologies, is present, as is the journal *Freedomways*, which reported on the civil rights movement. There is also a significant collection of rare pamphlets related to the Chicano movement and the women's rights movement surrounding the Equal Rights Amendment.

Acknowledgements: Nicollette Brant, Angela Brinskele, Jessica Chasen, Madeline Corona, Ann Giagni, Ellen Pearlstein, and Casey Winkleman.

Julie Botnick

June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives

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The Black Panther, vol. 3, no. 8, 1969.



Guaranteed Wages the Year Round. Washington DC : Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), Department of Research and Education, 1947.

Assets related to 20th century radical history include the personal papers of various leftist political activists, such as Asher Harer, one of the founding members of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) who was the executive secretary of the Bay Area Fair Play for Cuba Committee, as well as an opponent of the Vietnam War and an advocate for women's rights. A collection of socialist periodicals includes Socialist Workers Party (SWP) internal bulletins from 1944-1990, Spartacist League internal bulletins from 1961-1988, and Socialist Action internal discussion bulletins, in addition to minutes and correspondence, from 1984-2000. Early issues of the *New International*, the *New Left Review*, and complete runs of the *Workers League* bulletin, which began as the news organ of the American Committee for the Fourth International in 1964, and *The Liberator* magazine, which was the publishing organ of the Communist Party of America from 1918 to 1924, are present. Also included are pamphlets regarding various movements within Marxism, Communism, Socialism, and Anarchism.

The collection also contains periodicals regarding the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), such as the Northern California Teamster newsletter from 1971-1994, and the personal papers of Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) members Bob Mattingly, from the Bay Area, and Jim Hamilton, from St. Louis, Missouri. Other labor-related holdings include a complete run of the AFL-CIO newspaper from 1951-1996, in addition to various pamphlets and ephemera concerning the California Labor Federation, the California Labor School, and other labor organizations and unions.

The Gerth Archives and Special Collections have currently processed the Berta Green Langston Papers, 1958-2005, the Marjorie and Paul Colvin Papers, 1957-1991, the William and Beatrice Eisman Papers, 1964-2005, the Thomas F. Barton Papers, 1964-2015, and the Jim Hamilton Papers, 1962-2012. Finding aids for these collections have been published on the Online Archive of California (OAC), and finding aids for the rest of the collections will be published in the order in which they are processed. Bibliographic assets will be discoverable through the University Library's catalog.

Allison Ransom

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The Liberator magazine, vol. 4, no. 3 [serial no. 37] April, 1921.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Applications and Nominations for SCA Awards and Scholarships Now Open!

The Awards Committee of the Society of California Archivists is accepting applications and nominations for its annual awards and scholarships until noon on Saturday, February 1, 2020. This is a great opportunity to nominate a colleague or yourself for notable work in the field with the Career Achievement Award or to recognize service to SCA over a twelve year period with the Sustained Service Award. Sponsored by Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc., the Archives Appreciation Award recognizes an agency, organization or institution that has provided extraordinary support for archival programs such as arrangement and description programs, public service programs, reference, exhibits, or outreach.

SCA also has several scholarships named in honor of some of our former archival colleagues, including the James V. Mink Scholarship, which promotes professional development and enables archival studies students or recent graduates to attend both the SCA Annual General Meeting and a pre-conference workshop at the April 22-25, 2020 conference in San Francisco. The Walter P. Gray III Scholarship funds travel and registration for SCA Workshops and other related training and educational opportunities offered in California. All SCA members in good standing who have limited or no access to institutional funding for continuing education may apply for up to \$500 per workshop. Four Gray scholarships are available each year. The Lynn A. Bonfield Scholarship funds up to \$1,000 for travel and registration for SCA members to attend non-SCA sponsored continuing education events outside of California to enhance their professional training, and two Bonfield scholarships are available annually.

For more information about these opportunities to support and recognize excellent work in the archival field, or to access the application information, please visit the "Awards" section of the SCA website at www.calarchivists.org.

Jennifer Martinez Wormser
Chair, SCA Awards Committee



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EXCLUSIVES

Exhibition Explores Art and Advocacy of Rainbow-Flag Creator Gilbert Baker

A new exhibition at the GLBT Historical Society Museum uses textiles, costumes, photographs and ephemera to paint a complex portrait of artist Gilbert Baker (1951–2017), who designed the iconic rainbow flag. In 2017, shortly after Baker's death, his estate selected the [GLBT Historical Society](#) to preserve his personal archives, artwork and memorabilia. These precious materials are at the heart of a new exhibition, "[Performance, Protest and Politics: The Art of Gilbert Baker](#)," showing at the GLBT Historical Society Museum from November 1 thru March 8, 2020.

In 1978, Baker created a flag to represent the LGBTQ community at that year's San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade. Over the subsequent 40 years, the rainbow flag has become an internationally recognized symbol of the LGBTQ community and an icon of contemporary design. Yet the success of this design has in some ways overshadowed the larger story of its creator and his exceptional creative work.

"Performance, Protest and Politics" examines how Baker blurred the lines between artist and activist, protester and performer, emphasizing his intuitive understanding of the ways art can serve as a powerful means to address political and social issues. Over the course of four decades, Baker melded his artistic gifts with his devotion to justice, employing a range of media and approaches — including sewing, painting, design and performance — to advocate for positive social change.

Co-curated by Joanna Black, the archivist who oversaw the donation of the Gilbert Baker Collection, and Jeremy Prince, who has overseen many exhibitions at the museum, the exhibition positions the rainbow flag as a starting point for exploring Baker's artistic endeavors, showcasing how Baker deployed his talents in service of his activism.

Referring to the many extravagant costumes on display, Prince notes that Baker employed drag "as a vehicle to critique injustice and express outrage.



Gilbert Baker holds the rainbow flag against a pink background (1989). Photograph by Robert Pruzan, collection of the GLBT Historical Society.

From Betsy Ross to Pink Jesus, from Lady Liberty to the uniform of a concentration-camp prisoner, Baker's drag wardrobe and personas represent the intersection of patriotism, discrimination and social justice."

By exploring the less well known dimensions of Baker's wide-ranging oeuvre, the exhibition places the rainbow flag back into the unexpected and evocative context of his exceptional life as an activist and artist. "We highlight some of the political flashpoints of Baker's life and how his creative responses at those moments reveal a multilayered character — a man intent on being publicly seen and using his visibility as a declaration," says Black.

"Performance, Protest and Politics: The Art of Gilbert Baker" is open from November 1 thru March 8, 2020 at the GLBT Historical Society Museum, 4127 18th St., San Francisco.

For more information, visit the GLBT Historical Society website at www.glbthistory.org. To visit the GLBT Historical Society Dr. John P. De Cecco Archives & Special Collections, please visit www.glbthistory.org/archives.

Joanna Black
Chair, Archives Working Group
GLBT Historical Society

Collaboration in the Archives



As the Society for American Archivists (SAA) states, American Archives Month is an “opportunity to raise awareness about the value of archives and archivists.” This year, we celebrated Archives Month with a series of collaborations between San José Public Library’s California Room, and San José State University’s Special Collections & Archives, and the Sourisseau Academy. To promote our holdings, we used Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter as our method of outreach. We created five different weekly slideshow posts that were posted on each library’s social media accounts. Each video was comprised of photos of materials each library has in its holdings that contain shared and complementary subject matter.

The process began by first having a meeting to discuss how we would like to celebrate Archives Month, keeping the SAA’s statement in mind. We believed that creating some type of pictorial post would be best, as it really allows the users to see the unique items from our different collections. Next, we went through our collections to determine what type of items we could feature that would promote both of our archives.

We settled on featuring the following people and subjects: (1) poet Edwin Markham, (2) artist Edith Harvey Heron, (3) vintage yearbooks from SJSU and other local schools, (4) maps and aerials of the city of San José, and (5) historic postcards of local areas.

From this list we were able to take photos of different items from within our collections that we believed would catch the viewer’s interest. Each video consisted of more than ten photos and lasted around a minute or less. We also linked to the relevant collections or items so that researchers would know how to access these materials either online or in-person.



Left image: Bird’s Eye View of San Jose from 1956 from the San José Public Library’s California Room’s collection.

Right image: A double exposure lantern slide from the Sourisseau Academy collections that featured poet Edwin Markham.

Through this experience, we found that collaborating gave each of us a better idea of our shared holdings and the ways that we could point patrons and researchers to materials in both of our libraries. We felt that it benefits both of our institutions when we can offer people a wider range of resources, as well as helping the public understand the ways that we are preserving the cultural heritage of San José. The use of social media allowed us to engage patrons and students that might not otherwise hear about our collections, and offered us an easy way to link our two institutions via subject matter and location (we’re right next door to each other!) We look forward to continuing this collaboration by continuing to identify collections with shared materials and subjects, and exploring ways to further promote these resources.

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East Side Dreams: The Untold Story of East San José

A year ago, the San José Public Library's California Room hosted its largest exhibit ever. The subject: the history of lowriding in San José. The success of the exhibit and the associated programming was documented in the Summer 2019 issue of the SCA Newsletter.

In 2021, the California Room will return to the spotlight with *East Side Dreams: The Untold Story of East San José*. Inspired by the connections we made and the stories we heard as we put together our lowrider exhibit, East Side Dreams will examine the larger social context of which lowriding was but one small aspect.

Prior to the 1950s, San José's East Side was uninterrupted farmland stretching towards the eastern foothills. Its residents, mostly migrant agricultural workers, lived in a patchwork of rural barrios. As the growing city expanded eastward, ethnic divisions became more defined, and borders more concrete. The intersection of Story and King roads became the symbolic gateway to another world--a world of lowered cars, pachucos, canneries, murals, music, and cultural pride undiminished by poverty and misfortune.

It was on the East Side, in a barrio nicknamed Sal Si Puedes, that a young Ceaser Chavez began his journey to become one of the country's most famous organizers, but the Chavez legend overshadows other equally important stories. These are the stories of activists who remained in San José, battling police brutality and housing discrimination, and lobbying for improved public services and minority representation in city government. Defined by groups such as the Community Alert Patrol, United People Arriba, the Community Service Organization, and the Mexican American Political Association, the East Side's thriving activist culture set a powerful precedent for grassroots community organizing across the country.



Performers from the Mexican dance group, Los Lupeños de San José

The California room is currently gathering material with the aim of creating both an exhibit and a comprehensive history of the East Side from the 1950s through the 1980s. We encourage anyone in possession of photographs, artifacts, ephemera, or other information relating to the culture, recreation, work life, family life and activism of the East Side to contact Shane Curtin (408-808-2136) or Estella Inda (408-808-2394).

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SCA BUSINESS

What I Got Out of My First SCA AGM

I was fortunate enough this past April to attend the SCA Conference in Long Beach, CA thanks to the Mink Scholarship. I was able to connect with new, interesting people in the field as well as visit with familiar faces. Some of the sessions I was able to attend have followed me as I have transitioned from student to new professional, having graduated with my Master's in Library and Information Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles in June and moved across the country for a two-year fellowship at North Carolina State University Libraries in July.

The how-to seminar "Anything is Better than Nothing: Minimum Viable Actions for Accessioning Born-Digital" and "There and Back Again: Web Archive Collection Development, Arrangement, and Access," were both solid backdrops to understanding some of the processes of Special Collections at NC State University and how my department of Acquisitions and Discovery collaborates with them to archive architecture websites, for example.

The "Empowering Indigenous Communities Through Inclusion" session spoke to research that is important to me, considering ethics in digital workflows for Indigenous cultural heritage in libraries, archives, and museums. It was helpful as I finished and presented my final portfolio for my MLIS in May and inspired me to help host a roundtable at the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) Conference in Temecula, CA this past October.

The mini-workshop "Crafting Shareable Metadata: Good Practices for Better Discovery" has come in handy for a project in my current fellowship focusing on improving the user search experience by rethinking metadata's role in connecting data silos, such as websites and catalogs. The research portion of this project is coming to a close and we hope to share what we learned at Code4Lib. Fingers crossed our proposal gets accepted!

I am so glad to have gone to the SCA Annual General Meeting, and hope to be able to attend more in the future. It was the perfect size and scope for a newcomer, with plenty of stimulation without being overwhelmed. Even though my first professional title doesn't contain "archivist", archival thinking has given me a valuable perspective as a librarian—one that has already allowed me to contribute in my current position by asking questions about metadata, preservation, and ethics.

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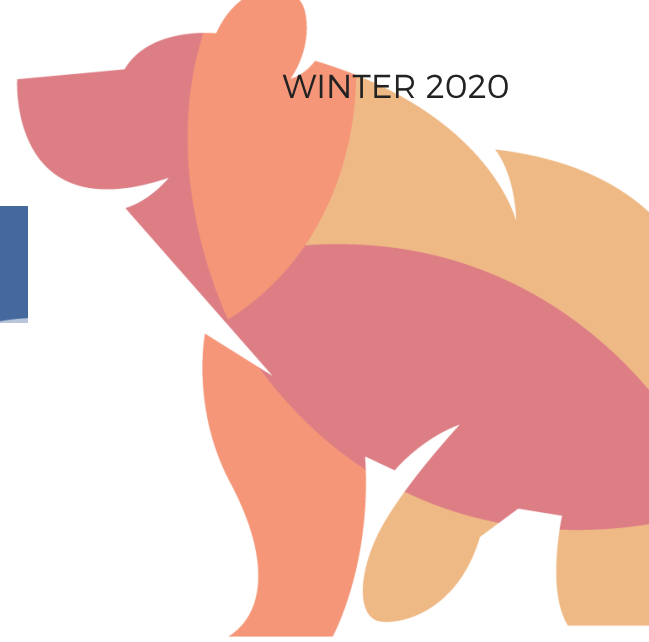
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CALENDAR



Western Archives Meeting 2020
April 21-25, 2020
The InterContinental
San Francisco, CA

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