



# VIEWS



February 2009

Volume 23, Number 1

## VM Section Midwinter Meeting Returns to Metropolitan DC

FEBRUARY GATHERING TO PLAN FOR 2009

The Visual Materials Section Midwinter Meeting will be held in University Park, Maryland on February 20th and 21st. Your participation, even if you cannot attend the meeting, is important because we will be planning the Section's activities for 2009. We need your input and involvement.

Friday's sessions will feature reports on administration, publications, education, and special topics; Saturday's will begin with discussions deferred from Friday, plans for the 2009 SAA Annual Meeting in San Antonio and ideas for 2010 in Washington, D.C., then consideration of new initiatives and ideas from section members. The meeting will cap off with a review of action items identified during the meeting.

To keep the cost down for attendees, we provide family-style meals at a low price, there is no meeting registration fee, and there is always plenty of free laughter.



### MIDWINTER MEETING AGENDA

#### Friday, February 21:

##### Administrative Reports

- Three-year plan/goals review and revisions
- Brief review (revisions likely throughout the meeting)
- VM finances
- T-shirt report
- Book Fair
- Annual SAA meeting
- Session updates for 2009
- VM Section tours / planning
- Ideas for 2009 section meeting in Austin
- Elections/Nominating for 2009-2010
- Midwinter meeting review
- Liaisons

##### Publications Groups (reports)

- Newsletter (*Views*)
- Bibliography
- Website
- Other publications
- VM Reader Project
- VM Special Issue of *American Archivist*

##### Education and Special Topics Groups (reports)

- Professional Development/Education
- Advanced Workshops
- VMCAR
- Preservation
- Digital Collecting

*continues on page 4*

# Visual Materials Section Meeting Minutes

**SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVIST MEETING  
SAN FRANCISCO, 29 AUGUST 2008**

## **Call to Order**

The section meeting began 12:00 p.m. Deirdre Scaggs opened the meeting and welcomed new and returning members.

## **Liaison Reports**

Bill Kaufman representing the program committee for next year's conference urged members to plan to attend the 2009 conference which will be held in Austin, Texas. He explained that the proposal process is now automated (see web site: [saa2009@archivists.org](mailto:saa2009@archivists.org)). Deadline is Oct 8, 2008 – submit early and often! He also noted that under the new process all SAA sections and roundtables may now endorse up to two proposals which will be given a higher ranking if they have endorsements; October 20th deadline for endorsement. Solveig DeSutter, Director of Education Programs for SAA, would like ideas for pre-conference workshops and her deadline is Oct. 15, 2008. Later in the meeting we were joined by Leon Miller, our new council liaison. Leon reported that the council is creating a government issues working group to advise and write position papers and track important issues. He also reported that the council has approved two minority scholarships in the amount of \$5000 each. Before the meeting ended we were joined by Brenda McClurkin, program chair for the Society of Southwest Archivists, who announced that they were looking for proposals, especially related to visual materials, for their annual

meeting to be held in Shreveport, LA, May 20-23, 2009.

## **Reports**

### ***Professional Development and Continuing Education Working Group***

Paula Mangiafico spoke of the group's interest in going further in collaboration with the Education Dept. in proposing and developing new curriculum content, finding instructors, and keep the membership informed about current offerings.

### ***Listserv***

James Eason reported on current status and raised issues concerning what to do with the Section listserv which has been hosted by Berkeley since the 1990s. Now that SAA is hosting section and roundtable listservs we should think about whether to discontinue the original one which is quiet but reasonably healthy. Question was raised about whether SAA intends to archive the lists it hosts.

### ***Collecting Digital Working Group***

Stephen Fletcher followed up on suggestions from last year's break-out session including a successful session proposal and a best practices guide. He and Tim Hawkins were joined by Jessica Bushey in presenting a session called "Toward a Best Practices Guide for Collection Born-Digital Photographs (8/28/08). The program was well attended and there was lots of good feedback. Stephen and Tim plan to

continue with the project and are still looking for volunteers.

### ***Cataloging and Standards Committee***

Marcie Flynn had several announcements. The committee is reviewing their role and potential projects – stay tuned for more on this. Expressed concern that when standards are put out in draft form for comments there are rarely any comments from members. The DACS working group is beginning a revision of DACS and will be setting up a prototype information site that will be used for comments – please participate!

At this point the meeting was turned over to George Oates and Helena Zinkham who gave a delightful introduction to the Library of Congress's Flickr Commons experience. Now eight months into the project LC is seeing some interesting results and see the partnership as a great way to increase access to publicly held photograph archives and to gather context about the images by getting information from the community. Additional Commons partners now include the Powerhouse Museum (Sydney), the Brooklyn Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, the Bibliothèque de Toulouse, the George Eastman House, the Biblioteca de Arte-Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, and the National Media Museum. [Editor's note: as of December 2008 there are also the National Maritime Museum, the State Library of New South Wales

### *Section Business Meeting Minutes, continued*

collection, the Library of Virginia, the Musée McCord Museum, the Nationaal Archief, the Australian War Memorial collection, the Imperial War Museum, the National Library NZ on the Commons, and the New York Public Library]. The LC reports updating more than 500 records from useful data that has come in. [editor's note: see the report]. Joanna Sassoon and Joan Schwartz both raised interesting questions about what is new here and how will archives use Flickr as a tool. Lynn Ann Davis urged continued concern for the respectful use of images of aboriginal peoples.

### **Additional section business**

**Three-year plan:** Deirdre announced that the three-year plan is on the website and that we are continuing to update it – comments and suggestions welcome.

**Bylaws**—Suggested changes have been available on the web and in VIEWS (August 2008). After reviewing these suggested changes Deirdre called for a vote; the changes were approved.

**Mid-winter**—Not having a mid-winter meeting in 2008 made clear the value of the opportunity to get section work done and continue discussions started during the annual meeting. Beth will be making arrangement for the 2009 mid-winter meeting which will be held in DC this year and mentioned that attendance is a great opportunity to be involved in the work of the section. Deirdre had pursued the idea of having a VM dedicated issue of *American Archivist*. It seems that this is unlikely to happen but there remains some interest in publishing a book that is a collection of theory-based articles.

**Election**—Ardys Kozbial, chair of the elections committee announced that Stephen Fletcher is the in-coming chair-elect.

**Honors**—Deirdre and Beth offered congratulations to Helena Zinkham and Joan Schwartz who (along with 6 others) were inducted as Fellows of the Society of American Archivists during an Awards ceremony held August 29th. The distinction of Fellow is the highest honor bestowed on individuals by SAA and is awarded for outstanding contributions to the archives profession. The program was established in 1957 and conferred annually. There are currently 182 Fellows.

Beth announced that a task-force to look at the mid-winter meeting will be established and called for volunteers; reminder that session proposals are due on October 8th, and encouraged everyone to work on ideas, use the listserv and get the discussion going.

## Message from the Chair

The Visual Materials Section has much in which to take pride. We had 102 people attend the annual meeting in August, which is outstanding! Also, at the SAA awards ceremony, two section members were inducted as SAA Fellows: Joan Schwartz and Helena Zinkham. They join other VM members such as Laurie Baty, Maygene Daniels, Waverly Lowell, Richard Pearce-Moses, and Diane Vogt-O'Connor, all of whom have added greatly to the ongoing promotion of visual materials in archives and SAA.

While it is humbling to be part of such great company, it is also encouraging to know that these Fellows and other equally knowledgeable section members are so willing to share with others. One of the biggest SAA benefits I have enjoyed over the years, is being a member of the Visual Materials Section. I have learned so much from you all, built a great professional network, made some terrific friends, and gotten to know some truly fascinating people.

There are two opportunities to meet section members: the annual meeting at SAA and the VM midwinter meeting. The latter is truly a time to get to know fellow VM members as well as become more active in the section. This year we will meet February 20-21 at Laurie Baty's house just outside of D.C. We hope, despite tight travel budgets, that you can join us. Look for more information in this issue and through the VM listserv.

Sadly, the August 2008 issue of *Views* was Martha Mahard's last issue as editor. She has put a lot of work into the newsletter, and we hate to see her step down. She leaves us with a bright future for the newsletter, so, Martha, thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the section. On behalf of the section leadership, we apologize for the delay in getting out the newsletter in a timely fashion. Stephen Fletcher, chair-elect, has stepped in as "guest editor" for this issue, but we are in immediate need of a successor. The next scheduled newsletter is April, so ideally a volunteer will step up in time for that issue. We hope to have the editor selected during the midwinter meeting.



## MIDWINTER MEETING AGENDA

*continued*

### Saturday, February 22:

- Discussion deferred from Friday
- Annual SAA meeting / planning for 2009-2010
- Session ideas
- New Initiatives
- Ideas from membership
- Review action items

### NEARBY ACCOMMODATIONS

#### About one mile away:

[Quality Inn & Suites](http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-college_park-maryland-MD021?promo=gglocal) (301) 276-1000  
[http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-college\\_park-maryland-MD021?promo=gglocal](http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-college_park-maryland-MD021?promo=gglocal)

#### At least 2 miles away:

Holiday Inn-College Park  
[www.holidayinn.com](http://www.holidayinn.com) - (301) 345-6700

Super 8 College Park/ Washington DC Area  
[www.super8.com](http://www.super8.com) - (301) 474-0894

Comfort Inn & Suites College Park  
[www.comfortinn.com](http://www.comfortinn.com) - (301) 441-8110

Ramada College Park  
[www.ramada.com](http://www.ramada.com) - (301) 345-4900

Clarion Inn - College Park  
[www.collegeparkinn.com](http://www.collegeparkinn.com) - (800) 442-1644

Hampton Inn College Park  
[www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com) - (301) 345-2200

Best Western College Park Inn  
[www.ejslanding.com](http://www.ejslanding.com) - (301) 474-2800

Howard Johnson College Park  
[www.hojo.com](http://www.hojo.com) - (301) 513-0002



*Views: The Newsletter of the Visual Materials Section of the Society of American Archivists* is published three or four times a year by and for the Visual Materials Section. For membership information, call or write the Society of American Archivists, 17 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60602-3315, (312) 606-0722.

Editor: Open. Contact Beth Bilderback if you are interested in taking on this fun position.  
 Guest Editor: Stephen J. Fletcher.

Section Chair: Beth Bilderback, University of South Carolina.  
 (BILDERBK@mailbox.sc.edu)

Chair-elect: Stephen J. Fletcher, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
 (fletches@email.unc.edu).

Your comments and suggestions for improvements will always receive a cordial hearing. The next deadline for material for the newsletter is March 15, 2009. Opinions expressed are those of the authors.