

# VIEWS:

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE VISUAL MATERIALS SECTION  
SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

JULY, 2009

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 3

## FROM THE CHAIR

**Beth Bilderback**  
University of South Carolina

Last week a researcher spent a few days at the Library looking for documentation of foodways in South Carolina. She kept apologizing for having such a broad topic, but I like a challenge. And it allowed me to pull photographs and artwork that I haven't seen for awhile.

My search for visual food also turned my mind to real food and to my upcoming trip to Austin. Most southerners are passionate about their food, especially barbecue (the noun, not the verb.) In South Carolina, we have pulled pork barbecue with three regional sauces. Heated discussions about the best sauce are not uncommon, and sometimes friendships have ended because of it. So we're serious about our barbecue, and while I know it won't measure up, I'm looking forward to trying Austin's barbecue (no offense to Texas VMers.)

I am looking forward also to seeing you in Austin. Our Section's annual meeting will be on Friday, August 14 from 1:00 to 3:00. We will be voting on changes to our Bylaws and new officers. Also, check out the 2009 T-shirt at CafePress.com. The SAA program has four sessions this year that look interesting. You will have to choose Saturday morning because Session 502 "My Face/ Public Space: Privacy Issues for Photographs and Film in the Web 2.0 World" conflicts with Session

505 "From Traditional Formats to Digital Delivery: Visual Collections Sustained for Research in the Internet Age" in the 8:00-9:00 time slot. Following those is Session 602 "Focusing the Wide-Angle Lens: Minimal Processing of Visual Materials Collections" in late morning and "Building Sustainable Preservation Environments for Born-Digital Records: Three Case Studies" in the afternoon. And do not forget about the Architectural Records Roundtable at 1:00 and the Visual Materials Cataloging and Access Roundtable at 5:30 on Wednesday.

This year has gone by very quickly. It seems like we just had our Midwinter Meeting, even though it is 100 degrees outside today. We have tried some new things this year, such as blogging Midwinter, and we have a new *Views* editor. While the current economic situation has many thinking outside the box on ways to involve members without great expense, there are still the standard options of working group participation and helping with the newsletter and website. Please do not wait for someone to ask you directly, just jump in there and say you want to participate. We will find a place for you!

It has been an honor to lead the Visual Materials Section, and I know the Section is in good hands with its many able members. See y'all soon!

## SEE YOU THERE!



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## Intermuseum Conservation Association Treats Important Portraits

By Anne Cuyler Salsich  
Assistant Archivist  
Oberlin College Archives

### Photography by John T. Seyfried for the ICA

This academic year two historically significant portraits in the Oberlin College Archives received treatment by the Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA), Cleveland. The conservation activity was made possible with income from the endowed Hunt Fund for Preservation and Digital Access established in 2007. This fund enables the Oberlin College Archives to undertake preservation, conservation and digital access projects for artworks, recordings, photographs, and other objects in need of treatment, stabilization and/or migration to new media. Without this dedicated fund, the Oberlin College Archives would not be able to proceed with preservation projects, especially during the financial downturn of the past year. Emeritus Archivist Roland M. Baumann established the Fund in the last years of his tenure as College Archivist.



***Bas-Relief Photographic Portrait of Amzi L. Barber, ca. 1900***

One of the two portraits treated is a rare, bas-relief platinotype of Oberlin graduate Amzi L. Barber, made by the Taber Bas-Relief Photographic Syndicate in San Francisco around 1900. It had been encased in a damaged

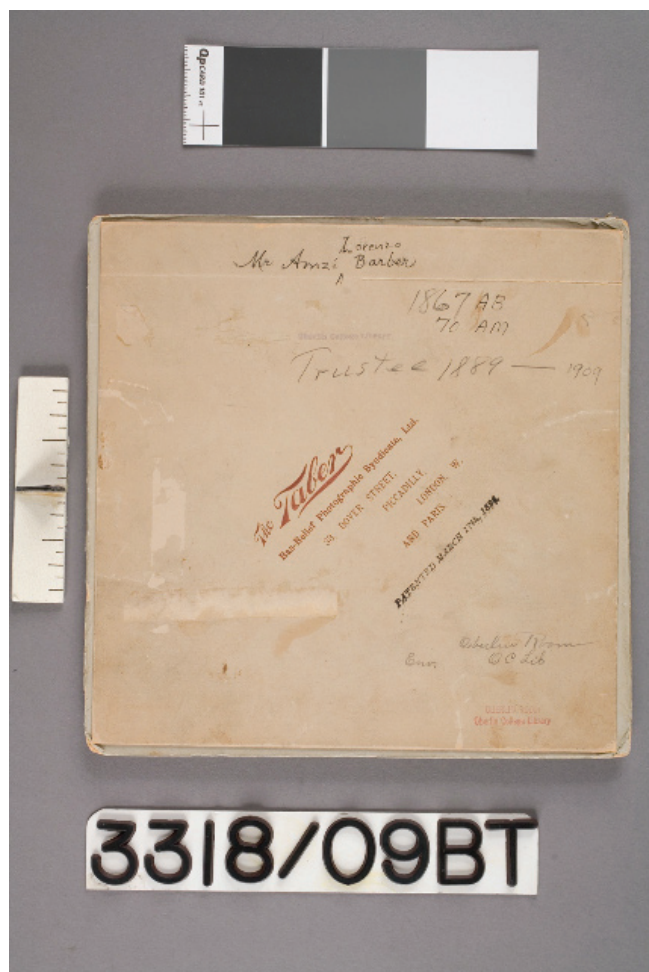
metal frame under broken glass. Particles of glass had scratched the photograph's surface, and the frame did not provide enough space for the object to expand and contract normally in response to changing humidity levels. Conservation treatment involved removing glass particles and dust from the surface of the photograph, retouching a small loss in the image caused by the broken glass and reframing the object in a larger sink mat to allow for expansion and contraction. ICA returned the Barber portrait to the Oberlin College Archives in May of 2009.



The Intermuseum Conservation Association had never seen this type of photographic object before, and were so intrigued that they pursued research on the object, the patented process and the photographer, Isaiah West Taber (1830-1912). They learned that the process for "embossed photographs" was patented in 1896 by Freeman A. Taber, brother of Isaiah West Taber. The brothers operated a studio in Syracuse, N.Y., 1857-1864, before Isaiah Taber moved to San Francisco. He opened his own studio there in 1871, and took over the studio of the better-known Carleton E. Watkins in 1876.

The back of the Barber portrait indicated that Taber had established studios in London and Paris. The finding guide to the Isaiah West Taber Family Photographs Collection at the Bancroft Library at U. C. Berkeley informed us that Taber had received a commission to photograph Queen Victoria's Jubilee pageant and to make a portrait of King Edward VII. Unfortunately Taber's career ended in 1906 when his entire collection of glass plates, view negatives and portraits on glass were destroyed in the earthquake and fire in San Francisco. The Ban-





croft Library holds a small amount of Taber's family portraiture, including Taber's self-portrait using the bas-relief process. It can be viewed from the Online Archive of California's website at <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf1199p1s5&brand=oac/>.

Amzi Lorenzo Barber (1843-1909) received the A.B. degree from Oberlin in 1867. He was a successful businessman as the founder and president of the Barber Asphalt Paving Company, which paved Washington D.C.'s thoroughfares. He served Oberlin as the Principal of the Preparatory division prior to his business career, and later continuously as a Trustee from 1889 until his death in 1909.

The other portrait treated by ICA, painted on porcelain in 1862, is significant for its subject, Charles Grandison Finney (1792-1875). Finney was the foremost evangelist preacher in pre-Civil War America with a long tenure at Oberlin, from 1835 until his death in 1875. He was the College's second president, from 1851-1866.

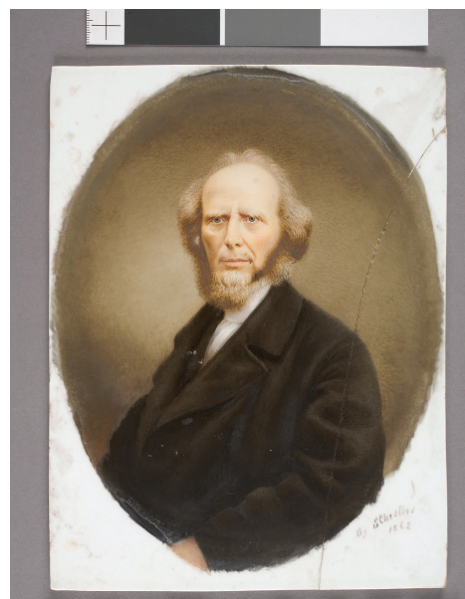
Finney's oval portrait on a rectangular porcelain plate came to the Archives' collection as two broken pieces glued together and placed into a plain black metal

frame. The frame obscured the edges of the piece and did not provide adequate stability for the fragile porcelain. The crack through the portrait greatly marred the delicate painting of the fiery preacher. The treatment at the Intermuseum Conservation

Association consisted of separating the two pieces, removing the old adhesive and reattaching both pieces of the object with conservation grade epoxy. The areas around the break were retouched to diminish their appearance, and the object was fitted into a custom-

made sink mat padded with felt to protect the object and placed into a walnut frame. The new rectangular window mat allows the viewer to see the edges of the oval painted area and the signature of the artist, which had previously been obscured by the original mat.

For more information on Charles Grandison Finney, see the Finding Guide for the Finney Papers at the Oberlin College Archives, <http://www.oberlin.edu/archive/holdings/finding/RG2/SG2/index.html>. Other portraits of Finney can be seen in the Archives' Select Historic Portraits digital collection at <http://www.oberlin.edu/archive/historicalPortraits.html>.



**Portrait of Charles Grandison Finney  
by S. Chesters, 1862**



## SAA Austin Events

**VM Section's annual meeting** will be held on Friday, August 14 from 1:00 to 3:00. We will be voting on changes to our Bylaws and new officers. (Proposed Bylaws changes are on pages TK). Also, check out the **2009 T-shirt at CafePress.com**.

### Visual Materials Cataloging and Access Roundtable.

Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

## Sessions:

Session 502 "My Face/Public Space: Privacy Issues for Photographs and Film in the Web 2.0 World."  
Saturday morning, 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Session 505 "From Traditional Formats to Digital Delivery: Visual Collections Sustained for Research in the Internet Age."  
Saturday morning, 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Session 602 "Focusing the Wide-Angle Lens: Minimal Processing of Visual Materials Collections."  
Saturday morning, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Session 708: "Building Sustainable Preservation Environments for Born-Digital Records: Three Case Studies."  
Saturday afternoon. 1:30-3:00pm

**Ransom Center Tour**  
**Wednesday, August 12**  
**1:00-3:00pm**

## Exhibits

by Shawn Waldron  
Archive Director  
Conde Naste Publications

*Walker Evans*. Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland. May 30, 2009 to August 23, 2009.

*Robert Frank's "The Americans"*. SF-MOMA, San Francisco, California. May 16, 2009 to August 23, 2009.

*"For My Best Beloved Sister Mia": An Album of Photographs* by Julia Margaret Cameron. Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine. July 7, 2009 to September 7, 2009.

*Nude Visions - 150 Years Body Images in Photography*. Münchner Stadtmuseum, Munich, Germany. May 27, 2009 to September 12, 2009.

*Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie*. Various locations, Arles, France. July 7, 2009 to September 13, 2009.

*\*Edward Steichen: In High Fashion the Condé Nast Years, 1923-1937*. Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, Massachusetts. May 30, 2009 to September 13, 2009.

*Modern Treasures*. Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. May 9, 2009 to September 13, 2009.

*Avedon Fashion 1944-2000*. International Center of Photography, New York, New York. May 15, 2009 to September 20, 2009.

*New Topographics*. George Eastman House, Rochester, New York. June 13, 2009 to September 27, 2009.

*Ansel Adams: A Life's Work*. Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, California. May 23, 2009 to October 4, 2009.

*Richard Avedon: Photographs 1946-2004*. SFMOMA, San Francisco, California. July 11, 2009 to November 29, 2009.

*Irving Penn: Small Trades*. Getty Museum, Los Angeles, California. September 9, 2009 to January 10, 2010.

## NEW In Print

By Liz Ruth  
Assistant Editor  
Los Angeles  
Maritime Museum

Burns, Stanley B, and Sara Cleary-Burns. *News art : manipulated photographs from the Burns Archive*. New York : PowerHouse ; London : Turnaround [distributor], 2009. 1st edition. 128 p. ISBN: 9781576874646 (hbk.) 1576874648 (hbk.) \$45.00. Available from the publisher, <http://www.powerhousebooks.com/#>

Burroughs, Henry D., and Margaret Wohlgemuth Burroughs. *Close-ups of history : three decades through the lens of an AP photographer*. Columbia : University of Missouri Press, 2007. 288 p. ISBN: 9780826217257 (hard cover : alk. paper) 0826217257 (hard cover : alk. paper). \$34.95. Available at: <http://press.umsystem.edu/spring2007/burroughs.htm>

Gardullo, Paul. *The Scurlock Studio and Black Washington : picturing the promise*. National Museum of African American History and Culture : In collaboration with the National Museum of American History, 2009. 224 p. ISBN: 9781588342621 (hardcover) 158834262X (hardcover). \$35.00. Available from <http://www.smithsonianbooks.com/>



Lee, Anthony W. and Elizabeth Young. *On Alexander Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book of the Civil War. Defining Moments in American Photography, 1*. Berkeley, Calif. : University of California Press, 2008. 128 p. ISBN 9780520251519 \$50.00; ISBN 9780520253315 \$19.95 (pbk.) Available at <http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/10776.php>

McCusker, Carol, and Vicki Goldberg. *Breaking the frame : pioneering women in photojournalism*. San Diego, Calif. : Museum of Photographic Arts, 2006. 188 p. ISBN: 1878062069 (pbk.) 9781878062062 (pbk.). \$35.00. Available from the publisher, <http://www.mopa.org/>

Naef, Weston J. *Carleton Watkins in Yosemite*. Los Angeles, Calif. : J. Paul Getty Museum ; Hove : Roundhouse [distributor], 2008. 88p. ISBN: 9780892369454 (hbk.) 0892369450 (hbk.) \$29.95. Available from the publisher, <http://www.getty.edu/>

Newhall, Nancy. *A literacy of Images*. San Diego, Calif. : Museum of Photographic Arts, 2009. xxp. ISBN \$60.00. Available from the publisher, <http://www.mopa.org/>

Pegler-Gordon, Anna. *In Sight of America: Photography and the Development of U.S. Immigration Policy*. *American Crossroads, 28*. Berkeley, Calif. : University of California Press, August 2009. 352 p. ISBN 9780520252974, \$60.00. ISBN 9780520252981, \$24.95. Available at <http://www.ucpress.edu/books/>

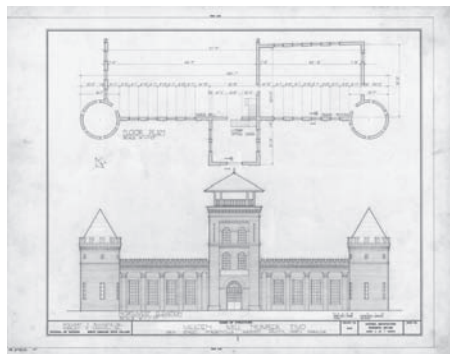
Wilson, Fredric Woodbridge, and Richard Traubner. *The theatrical world of Angus McBean : photographs from the Harvard Theatre Collection*. Boston : David R. Godine, Publisher, 2009. 175 p. ISBN: 9781567923605; 1567923607. \$40.00. Available from the publisher, <http://www.godine.com/>

## North Carolina Architectural Resource is Online

A collaboration of the North Carolina State University Libraries and Preservation North Carolina has digitized 2,710 measured drawings and 5,543 photographs documenting 800 North Carolina buildings and structures from the 1700s to the early 1900s

Titled "The Built Heritage of North Carolina: Historic Architecture in the Old North State," the project provides access to the images through an on-line database. In addition the project website includes a timeline of architectural styles, maps for locating individual buildings, virtual 3-D models of 16 historic structures, and links to other resources on historic architecture in North Carolina. In addition, there are nine K-12 lesson plans available through the resource.

Built Heritage is targeted for diverse audiences, including architects, architectural historians, historic preservationist, students, and the general public. The resource can be accessed at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/builtheritage/>



**McAden Mill Number Two, built 1885 in McAdenville, North Carolina. Drawing by Marley P. Carroll and Stewart T. Shumate.**

Built Heritage has digitized items from the holdings of the two partners. The NCSU Libraries' Special Collections Research Center holds numerous collections of drawings, plans, papers, and other materials from North Carolina architects. Specifically for this project it drew upon a

collection of measured drawings and photographs created by the university's College of Design Historic Architecture Project from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Historic Preservation North Carolina is the only private nonprofit statewide historic preservation organization in the state. Built Heritage makes use of PNC's rich photographic collections, including images created by renowned photographer Tim Buchman.



**Currituck Lighthouse and Keeper's House, built 1875 in Currituck County, North Carolina. Photograph by Tim Buchman.**

Buildings represented in this project include well-known examples of historic architecture, such as Baldhead Lighthouse, the Bellamy Mansion in Wilmington, and Blandwood Plantation in Greensboro. A number of buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Also represented is work by Thomas Day, a prominent nineteenth-century African American cabinetmaker who also created architectural features such as staircases and fireplace mantels.

For further information about Built Heritage, please contact Todd Kosmerick at [todd\\_kosmerick@ncsu.edu](mailto:todd_kosmerick@ncsu.edu) or (919) 513-3673.

# GALLERY

Images courtesy of South Caroliniana Library,  
University of South Carolina



*John Benjamin "Bud" Washington, volunteer fireman in Georgetown, S.C., photograph by D.C. Simpkins, Georgetown*



*Dr. D.S. Black's medical office, Georgetown, S.C., 1899*



*Veterans of Chester Volunteer Company of Palmetto Regiment, who fought in the Mexican War, gathered in Chester, S.C., ca. 1858, half-plate daguerreo-type; flag in picture was lost for many years, turned up in New York, was conserved and returned to South Carolina in 2005; a copy will be presented to the Chester County Veterans Affairs in May 2009.*

## SAA VM Section Midwinter Meeting - Proposed Changes to Bylaws

*The following proposed revisions are made to bring the Section into compliance with SAA regulations. SAA requires Sections to have Steering Committees, and the changes reflect the addition to our administrative structure. If you have any questions about or corrections to the proposed changes, please contact Beth Bilderback: BILDERBK@mailbox.sc.edu*

### Bylaws, Visual Materials Section, Society of American Archivists

Last Adopted 1990 August 31  
Seattle, Washington

Revised, 2004 January  
Boston, Massachusetts

Revisions adopted, 2004 August  
Boston, Massachusetts

Revisions adopted, August 2008  
Revised, February 2009

#### Article 1. Name.

The name of this section shall be the Visual Materials Section of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), hereinafter referred to as the Section.

#### Article 2. Objective.

To promote greater communication among visual materials archivists and to represent and promote appropriate care, management, and use of visual materials collections to the greater archival community through annual meetings, continuing education programs, and publications, including a newsletter reporting on the Section's activities and other matters related to visual materials collections.

#### Article 3. Membership.

Membership is open to any member of the Society of American Archivists who elects to join.

#### Article 4. Leadership Officers.

A. The Section shall be guided by a **Steering Committee composed of** Chair, ~~and a~~ Chair-elect, **Immediate Past Chair, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and two elected members.**

B. Terms of office.

1. The Chair and Chair-elect shall serve a term of one year each. **The Chair may not be elected to serve as Chair-elect in the year immediately following his/her term of office.**

2. **The two elected Steering Committee members shall serve alternating two year terms.** ~~The Chair may not be elected to serve as Chair-elect in the year immediately following his/her term of office.~~

3. **The Newsletter Editor and Webmaster are appointed by the Chair, with advice from the Steering Committee, to a two-year term each, which can be renewed indefinitely.**

43. The Chair, ~~and~~ Chair-elect, **and elected Steering Committee member** shall assume office at the close of the annual Section meeting in which they are elected, and shall serve until their successors have taken office.



## ***SAA VM Section Midwinter Meeting - Proposed Changes to Bylaws***

### **C. Nomination and Election.**

#### **1. Nomination**

- a. The Elections Committee shall call for nominations for Chair-elect **and Steering Committee member** on the Section listservs and the second newsletter of each year.
- b. Only individuals who have consented to nomination may be listed on the slate of candidates.

#### **2. Election.**

- a. The Elections Working Group shall prepare a ballot for distribution 2 months preceding the annual Section meeting and for distribution at the meeting. This ballot shall include provision for a write-in candidate.
- b. The Elections Committee shall work with SAA to distribute an electronic ballot. SAA will report the results to the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee will, in turn, report the results of any election at the annual Section meeting and in the newsletter following the election.
- c. Ballots may be submitted using SAA's electronic balloting system or at the annual Section meeting.

#### **3. Vacancies in Office.**

- a. Chair. In the case of vacancy in the office of Chair, the Chair-elect shall assume the office and duties of Chair.
- b. Chair-elect. In the case of vacancy in the office of Chair-elect, the office shall remain vacant until the next annual Section meeting, at which time a new Chair and Chair-elect shall be elected. The Chair shall assume the duties of Chair-elect in the interim, although the Chair may ask a member of the Section to assist in fulfilling the duties of Chair-elect.
- c. Elected Steering Committee Members. In the case of vacancy, the Steering Committee shall appoint a replacement, who shall serve to the end of the unexpired term.**

### **D. Duties of the Officers.**

1. Chair. The Chair shall preside over Section meetings, and with the advice and assistance of the **Steering Chair-elect and** Committee and Working Group Chairs shall direct the Section's activities. The Chair, **with advice of the Steering Committee**, appoints ~~Committee Chairs~~, Working Group Chairs, and Liaisons; submits the final Three-Year Plan and summary to SAA Council after receiving a draft from the Three-Year Plan Working Group chaired by the Chair-elect; submits budget requests to SAA Council; and turns over the records of his/her administration to the Chair-elect.
2. The Chair-elect shall advise and assist the Chair in conducting the Section's business. In the absence of the Chair, the Chair-elect assumes the duties of Chair. The Chair-elect will chair the Three-Year Plan Committee and submit a draft plan to the Chair for approval and submission to SAA Council.

### **Article 5. Business.**

- A. Meeting times. The Section shall meet once a year at the time of the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists. The time of and agenda for this meeting shall be announced in the newsletter immediately preceding the meeting.
- B. Other meetings. Additional Section meetings may be scheduled at the call of the Chair. Such meetings shall be announced on the VisualMat listserv, **the SAA Section listserv**, and in the newsletter preceding the meeting.



## ***SAA VM Section Midwinter Meeting - Proposed Changes to Bylaws***

1. A report of a meeting called by the Chair must be published in the newsletter immediately following the meeting and posted on the Section web site.

2. Decisions proposed during any meeting called by the Chair must be published in the newsletter immediately following the meeting, posted on the Section web site, and approved by the membership at large during the annual meeting by a plurality of members voting at the annual meeting.

C. Voting. All policy decisions shall be determined by a plurality of members voting at the annual meeting.

### **Article 6. Committees and Working Groups.**

#### **A. Elections Working Group.**

1. The Elections Committee shall consist of the two most recent, available, past Chairs. Members of the Working Group shall serve for no more than two consecutive years. Members of the Working Group may not nominate themselves or each other for office.

2. The Working Group shall prepare a slate of candidates for election reflecting the diversity of the Section's membership, especially in terms of location, size, and type of employing institution. The Working Group shall request of nominees consent to candidacy and a brief biographical and position statement for publication in the newsletter immediately preceding the annual Section meeting.

#### **B. Newsletter Working Group.**

1. The newsletter Editor is the Chair of the Working Group as appointed by the Section Chair. The Editor may appoint assistant Editors from among the Section members. Prior to publication, the newsletter shall be prepared and reviewed by the Editor and Assistants and forwarded to the Section Chair for approval.

2. The newsletter shall be published in compliance with the SAA Guidelines for Section and Roundtables.

C. Committees and Working Groups. The Chair may appoint or dissolve other Committees and Working Groups as needed. Each Committee and Working Group shall have a written charge and a specified period of service. Committees shall report on their activities at the annual Section meeting or in the newsletter prior to the annual Section meeting.

### **Article 7. Policy for Revision of Bylaws.**

Bylaws shall be reviewed every 4 years by the **Steering** ~~Chair, Chair-elect~~, Committee and Working Group members. All proposed changes to the bylaws shall be published in the newsletter and posted on the Section web site prior to the annual meeting. Changes shall be determined by a plurality of members voting at the annual meeting.

### **Article 8. Parliamentary Authority.**

Roberts Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern the proceedings of the Section, except as otherwise provided for in the bylaws of the Section, or in the constitution, bylaws, or other special rules of the Society of American Archivists.

**VIEWS:** *The Newsletter of the Visual Materials Section of the Society of American Archivists* is published quarterly by and for the Visual Materials Section.

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Your comments and suggestions for improvements will always receive a cordial hearing.  
The next deadline for material for the newsletter is September 15, 2009.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors.