

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Registrars Association

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SERA OFFICERS

Chair:

Corinne Midgett

Vice-Chair:

Meg Cook

Secretary:

Amy Beisel

Treasurer/Membership

Chair:

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney

Development Chair:

Kali Mason

Communications

Chair:

Erica Hague

State Coordinator:

Deanna Taylor

Notes from the Chair

Corinne Midgett

Greetings! I hope everyone is enjoying fall and the cooler temperatures.

I'm sorry I wasn't able to attend SEMC in Chattanooga in person - it looks like everyone had a great time! I really appreciate Austin Bell and Kali Mason taking care of SERA's business meeting and respite. I can't wait for next year's SEMC in Northwest Arkansas!

Speaking of 2022, session proposals for SEMC will be due in January. We've had so many great collections-related sessions in the last few years and I hope to see lots of sessions this time around. If you have questions about the session proposal process or need help finding presenters for a session, please contact one of SERA's officers and we can help out. We all have expertise to share and I love hearing about your experiences!

At the 2021 business meeting, SERA re-elected me and Meg Cook to the positions of chair and vice chair and Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney was elected treasurer & membership chair. Please join me in welcoming Kaitlyn to the board and in thanking Austin Bell for his hard work as treasurer over the last few years.

At the SEMC conference, we present the Dan Silosky Award for Excellence in Collections Management & Registration. This memorial award is meant to recognize great work and professional service in the field. In 2021, the award was presented to Deb Van Horn in recognition of her service to SERA and to the museum profession. Deb served as SERA chair and has edited two editions of Basic Condition Reporting: A Handbook. We're grateful for all she does!

Lastly, the new edition of Basic Condition Reporting is available for pre-order from Rowman & Littlefield. It's been fun to work on with Deb and Heather Culligan and we're all excited to see it in print. There are several new chapters and new authors, so it should be more useful than ever!

Take care and stay safe!

Corinne

TREASURER'S REPORT

KAITLYN HOF-MAHONEY

Greetings SERA Members,

I am thrilled to share my first update as your new Treasurer and Membership Chair! Let me briefly introduce myself for those of you I have not yet had the opportunity to meet. I recently became the Executive Director of the Matheson History Museum in Gainesville, Florida after serving as the Curator of Collections since 2018. We are a very small museum, so I still get to be involved with our collections, which is way more fun than some of the other things that I am responsible for. I have been a member of SERA since 2017 and am looking forward to this opportunity to give back to our wonderful professional network.

Thank you to Austin for all of the work he has done over the past several years to keep our financial and membership information in good shape. He has made this transition seamless (including compiling all of the numbers in this report while I got up to speed) and I am grateful to be inheriting such a well organized system. If only all of our databases could be as tidy as SERA's!

As of November 5, 2021, SERA has 91 active members, up from 90 (+1.1%) this time last year.

As of November 5, 2021, the current balance in the Chase checking account is \$8,218.79. The current balance in the PayPal account is \$4,208.41. The combined total on-hand is \$12,427.20, up \$2,356.62 (+23.4%) from the \$10,070.58 on-hand reported this time last year.

SERA's fiscal activity for August 1 to November 5, 2021 is outlined below. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney, Treasurer/Membership Chair

SERA Income/Expenses: August 1 – November 5, 2021

Opening Balance \$14,101.15**Income**

Royalties (BCR) \$506.11

Membership renew/sales \$400.00

Income total \$906.11**Expenses**

Scholarships (\$1,750.00)

2021 Registrar's Respite (\$697.47)

SurveyMonkey (\$99.00)

PayPal fees (\$20.79)

Office supplies (\$12.80)

Expense total (\$2,580.06)**Ending Balance \$12,427.20**

MEMBERSHIP**NEW* / RENEWING MEMBERS**

Florida

Valarie J. Kinkade*
Principal, Museum and Collector Resource

Elise V. LeCompte
Registrar and Coord. for Museum Health and Safety, Florida Museum of Natural History

Kentucky

Leah Craig
Registrar/Collections Manager, National Corvette Museum

Sandy Staebell
Registrar/Collections Curator, Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University

Louisiana

Viola Berman
Associate Registrar, The Historic New Orleans Collections

Monika Cantin
Assistant Registrar, The Historic New Orleans Collections

Susan Eberle
Assistant Registrar, The Historic New Orleans Collections

Rachel Ford
Assistant Registrar, The Historic New Orleans Collections

Jennifer Ghabrial
Head Registrar, The Historic New Orleans Collection

Kristin Hébert-Veit
Curatorial Cataloguer, The Historic New Orleans Collections

Kelly Hines
Assistant Registrar, The Historic New Orleans Collections

North Carolina

Jordan Brothers Cao
Assistant Registrar, Gregg Museum of Art & Design, NC State University

Mary Hauser
Registrar and Associate Director, Gregg Museum of Art & Design, NC State University

Camille Hunt*
Senior Museum Registrar, North Carolina Museum of History

Tennessee

Ellen Lofaro
Director of Repatriation & Curator of Archaeology, University of Tennessee

Michelle Lopez
Collections Manager/Registrar, National Civil Rights Museum

Rebecca P'Simer*
Curator of Collections, East Tennessee Historical Society

Virginia

Sandra Cintron-Goitia*
Chief Registrar and Collections Manager, The Fralin Museum of Art

New* / Renewing Associate Members

India Crawford
Senior Director, Transport Consultants International, Lithia, FL

Jeanne Niccolls
Museum Collections Consultant, Practical Matters for Small Museums
Chicago, IL

SERA NEWS

ALABAMA



Sarah Elizabeth Kelly
Associate Registrar

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Sarah Elizabeth Kelly supervised another installation in the MMFA's John and Joyce Caddell Sculpture Garden. This time it was *The Yellow Wallpaper* by California-based artist, Ashley Blalock. The artist's response to the COVID lockdown, the sculpture consists of four pressure-treated lumber posts, an entranceway, and walls made up of crocheted doilies in the pineapple pattern connected with zip ties. Visitors are able to enter the "room". Shipping was easy, no cranes or riggers, just FedEx and a trip to Lowe's. Sarah Elizabeth at first decided she would try to condition the doilies but since they were all new and all the same, she just documented an initial count of 535. Then the artist arrived with a suitcase full of additional doilies and spent the four-day installation crocheting more doilies while directing preparators, Brad Echols and Christen Napp. The sculpture will be on loan for two years. The photos show Sarah Elizabeth at the

end of day one and the whole crew on day three with Sarah Elizabeth under the UV Blocker umbrella.



ARKANSAS

Carolyn Reno

Collections manager/assistant director
Shiloh Museum of Ozark History



Carolyn Reno and exhibit staffer, Curtis Morris, continue work on exhibits at the Shiloh Meeting Hall although the projected was halted in order to do some work in the attic- vacuuming out old loose insulation and putting in new. It took three dumpsters to remove about 150 years of original construction debris and mid-20th century insulation.



Jennifer Kick

Collections manager

Rogers Historical Museum

Jennifer Kick transported the museum's coverlet collection to a photo shoot at Shiloh Museum of Ozark History. Weavers, Laura Redford and Marty Benson, authors of *Ozark Coverlets*, which covered the Shiloh's collection, are working on a second book documenting coverlets in other Northwest Arkansas institutions. Kick also reports that a new curator will begin work at RHM in 2022.

FLORIDA

Lisa Marciano

Museum Manager

Naples Depot Museum - Collier County Museums

My name is Rebecca Coffman and I am the newest hire for Collier County Museums working as a Museum Assistant at the Naples Depot Museum in Naples, Florida. I am a recent

graduate from Florida Gulf Coast University with a B.A in Anthropology and a Minor in Spanish. My academic pursuits and experiences fostered my love and appreciation for culture, past and present. I've had the privilege of helping create an exhibit for the IMAG History & Science Center in SWFL as well creating a student documentary for my university's Communities in Transition Initiative. I completed an internship at Marco Island Historical Society working in Collections. My



internship project focused on processing thousands of unprocessed archaeological material and ultimately, cataloging these materials into PastPerfect. I am delighted to start my professional career within the museum system.

GEORGIA

Christa McCay

Collections Manager

Marietta Museum of History

Christa McCay at the Marietta Museum of History has been busy working on numerous photograph collections that include, negatives, slides and color images. The images are all mid to late 20th century and into the beginning

of this century. These images have been put to great use on different social media platforms. The local Visitors Bureau provided many images of events and happenings within Marietta to add to our collection. The Museum will be undergoing a name change and rebrand in 2022 to the Marietta History Center.

Erica Hague
Collections Manager
Atlanta History Center

It has been a busy fall. We installed two travelling exhibits here at AHC, *Responding Heroes* and *American Democracy*. The later has in depth local components to it which we researched and wrote for the exhibit. One of our oldest textiles is on display, a colonial era woven whitework coverlet, as well as some of our newest pieces, protest signs from the summer 2020 protests around the Governor's



mansion. I've also been working with several coworkers on completing a submission for an IMLS *Museums for America* grant to inventory and digitize museum collections related to our traveling trunk program.

KENTUCKY

Laura Hendrickson
Registrar & Collections Manager
National Quilt Museum

In July, the National Quilt Museum welcomed Matt Collinsworth as its 6th director/CEO. Matt is an Eastern Kentucky native from Magoffin County. He was the director of the Kentucky Folk Art Center at Morehead State University for 15 years, and most recently served as the director of the National Music Museum in Vermillion, South Dakota. We are thrilled to welcome him to Paducah and look forward to accomplishing great things together.



Additionally, NQM welcomes Stacey Watson as Director of Equitable Partnerships, and Lonnie Peck as Volunteer Coordinator.

In other news, we had an opening reception on November 5th (with safe numbers!) for our newest exhibit "The Roots and Refuge Series" by Valerie C. White. It was our first reception in years, and was a smashing success! Also, our 2022 schedule will be available by December 1st, and includes a wonderful range of varied styles and artists.

Photo credit: Valerie C. White in her exhibition at NQM

Leah Hendrickson
Registrar/Collections Manager
National Corvette Museum



The National Corvette Museum recently underwent the peer reviewer site visit as part of the AAM Museum Assessment Program - Collections Stewardship. Staff have already learned a great deal from the visit and we eagerly await the peer reviewer's report that should be due the end of the year. The Collections department continues to undergo a major file reconciliation project. Our Collections Cataloger, Sharon Kinser, was also promoted from part-time to a full-time position. Recent acquisitions include this 2016 Chevrolet Corvette Z06 that will complete our collection of C7 generation production vehicles.

Sandy Staebell
Registrar/Collections Curator
Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University

Sandy Staebell, the Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University, announces the opening of *Styles & the Gist of It*. This exhibit explores the life and career of Carrie Taylor, a Bowling Green woman who went from small-town dressmaker to a nationally significant dress designer and entrepreneur.

This fall, she is working with Education Curator Christy Spurlock and University Experience



Library Skills Coordinator/Instructor Sara McCaslin to offer WWI/WWII close study sessions to students enrolled in eleven sections of World History since 1500. Material culture artifacts put on view range from military issue uniforms, equipment and battlefield souvenirs to ration cards, service banners, and Liberty Loan pins.



MISSISSIPPI**Arianna Kitchens***Collections Manager***Mississippi Department of Archives & History**

Mississippi Department of Archives and History has embarked on an initiative to rejoin Native Ancestors removed from Mississippi soil and housed in other institutions with their present day descendants. Through this initiative, tactfully deemed the "Repatriate Mississippi initiative," the Department seeks to locate, document, and repatriate Native Ancestors as well

as funerary, sacred, and cultural objects. MDAH has currently worked with 19 institutions in different capacities to facilitate Tribal consultation, provide site documentation, transfer collections, research collections histories, and author Notices of Inventory Completion to be published in the Federal Register. If you are interested in learning more about this initiative, please visit our website <https://nagpra.mdah.ms.gov/our-process>. MDAH was awarded a Save America's Treasures grant totaling over \$600,000 to assist in the curation of a portion of collections housed in our facility. This grant will fund two time limited positions dedicated to the rehousing, cataloging, and documenting of collections which have not been addressed since recovery from the field as well as a cargo van suitable for artifact and NAGPRA collection

transfers. MDAH archaeology collections staff looks forward to this new opportunity to bring portions of the collection up to curatorial standards and welcomes a couple new faces in our work. We are eager to update you on the progress of this 3-year project on the next newsletter!

Kathleen Barnett*Director of Collections Management & Registration***Mississippi Museum of Art**

Curatorial assistant, Lydia Jasper, has kick-started a project to create a digital catalog for the museum's extensive resource library collection, with the help of curatorial post-baccalaureate fellow, Anastasia Taylor. This library was once managed by volunteers, but it has not been kept up for several years, and an incomplete card catalog is currently the only way to view the entire collection. Over the next year, the goal is to digitize every book on the shelves, go through the card catalog, and create an online database of books in the MMA library organized by Library of Congress Controlled Vocabularies and Library of Congress Classifications as call numbers. Hopefully in the near future we can begin circulating books among staff and members of the public!

NORTH CAROLINA**Corinne Midgett***Registrar***High Point Museum**

The High Point Museum opened *A Love Supreme: The Jazz of John Coltrane* through the Eyes of Chuck Stewart, a traveling exhibit from the Grammy Museum on September 3, 2021. The exhibit was originally scheduled to open in September 2020 to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the John Coltrane Jazz Festival, but the festival and exhibit were both postponed due to COVID-19. This is the museum's second exhibit to feature Chuck Stewart's photographs of Coltrane, who grew up in High Point. Registrar Corinne Midgett



coordinated the loan of a saxophone from a private lender for the exhibition. The saxophone was played by John Coltrane on Gene Ammons' All Star Sessions recording in 1958. A Love Supreme is open through December 5, 2021.

Despite the pandemic, the museum still did an Adopt-an-Artifact campaign in late 2020. The selected object, a wooden pulpit from the now-demolished First Baptist Church on Washington Street, recently returned from conservation. This item was selected because

of its connection to High Point's Black business district, Washington Street, which thrived in the early 20th century and declined after urban development rerouted roads and segmented the



neighborhood. During conservation, everyone involved was surprised to learn that the oak pulpit was actually faux-painted pine. Several other items from the church were previous Adopt-an-Artifact beneficiaries: a stained glass window and an altar chair and plant stand. Corinne is finishing up the final reporting for the museum's first National Endowment for the Humanities grant, which funded an HVAC planning project. For 18 months, museum staff worked with consultants from the Image Permanence Institute to study the preservation environment in the museum's storage and exhibit spaces. With the IPI report in hand, work on a follow-up grant is under way!

Some of you might remember that the High Point Museum was faced with closure back in June 2020. Several positions were eliminated and staff members laid off. I'm happy to report that we got all but one position back in this year's budget and we've refilled all but one of those positions. The remaining position, a part-time historic interpreter, should be opening soon and you can find the [listing here](#)!

TENNESSEE

Elizabeth Le

Registrar

Hunter Museum of American Art



Registrar Elizabeth Le reports this fall has been an extremely busy time for the Hunter Museum with submitting paperwork for reaccreditation, being the host city for SEMC (great to see everyone!) and preparing for the "Spectrum" art auction which is the museum's largest fundraiser. This year the auction netted the highest art sales in auction history! All proceeds go to support exhibitions and educational programs. Hannah Wimberly Lowe has joined the staff as the new Curatorial and Registration Assistant. Hannah is new to the museum field and currently working on her Master of Liberal Arts, Extension Studies, Museum Studies from Harvard University.

VIRGINIA

Lauren Kraut

Sr. Collections Manager & Registrar

National Sporting Library & Museum

Recently opened at the National Sporting Library & Museum is 2020 Hindsight: 40 Years of the American Academy of Equine Art. The American Academy of Equine Art (AAEA) was founded in 1980 in Middleburg, Virginia by ten leading sporting artists of the day, including Jean Bowman and Richard Stone Reeves. This exhibition explores the rich history of the AAEA with a dynamic selection of works by founding and current members selected to highlight the varied talents fostered by this influential organization over the years. The exhibition will remain open until March 20, 2022.

Cathy DeSilvey

Registrar/Curator

Virginia Military Institute

The Virginia Military Institute Museum System is excited to host the Military Women's Memorial's Color of Freedom traveling exhibit in VMI's Preston Library in Spring 2022. For the first time in VMI history, a female cadet, Kasey Meredith, VMI Class of 2022, was named VMI's Cadet First Captain and Regimental Commander, the highest-ranking position a cadet can earn. This exhibit is extremely well-suited and timely, and we look forward to its arrival.

SERA NEWS is published quarterly by the Southeastern Registrars Association. The Southeastern Registrars Association (SERA) recognizes high standards of museum practice and fosters professional growth among museum registrars in the Southeastern region of the United States. We promote the exchange and dissemination of information and ideas through education seminars, publications and other means. SERA initiates and supports activities and projects which help create an atmosphere of cooperation and communication among, and between, registrars, other museum professionals, and those in related fields, and pursues further development of professional practices in the field.

Membership: Individual membership (\$25.00) is open to museum professionals who perform registrarial functions for institutions in the twelve states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Associate membership is also available to those outside the region or those employed by for-profit businesses or organizations who express interest in the objectives of SERA.

Membership Contact:
SERA Treasurer/Membership Chair
Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney