

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Registrars Association

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SERA OFFICERS

Chair:

Corinne Midgett

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Jennifer Spence

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Alyssa Magnone

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Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney

Development Chair:

Ainsley Powell

Communications Chair:

Sabra Gossett

State

Coordinator:

Deanna Taylor

Scholarship Chair:

Elizabeth Le

Nominations Chair:

Christy Sinksen

Notes from the Chair

Corinne Midgett

Greetings!

Planning for our SEMC events is practically complete, which is exciting to be able to say this far in advance! This year's Respite should be a great event and a lot of fun, so I hope to see a lot of you there. (Did you know SERA turns 45 this year??) We'll be sharing more details later in the year.

A few months ago, we found out that there were 14 boxes of SERA records stored at the International Museum of the Horse in Kentucky. The IMH had been kindly storing them for several years, but needed us to move them. SERA didn't have a records retention policy, so the board created one, along with a records destruction form. I'm extremely grateful to Jennifer Spence for spending hours of her personal time reviewing the records and to Zinnia Willits and SEMC for agreeing to store our archived records with SEMC's records in Atlanta. After review, we only have 3 boxes of permanent records, dating from 1978-2009. The records include materials like membership directories, newsletters, meeting minutes, bylaws, publications, and annual financial reports. In the future, we need to review how we're retaining digital records, but we've made a positive step forward.

As we get closer to November and the SEMC annual conference, please be thinking about nominations for the Dan Silosky Award. We'll start accepting nominations in early fall for this award, which recognizes collections professionals for outstanding service to the field. Perhaps you have a coworker, mentor, or colleague who deserves a little recognition. Last year's recipient was Annelies Mondt of the Georgia Museum of Art. The nomination process is simple, but I'm happy to answer any questions you have.

Happy Spring!
Corinne

TREASURER'S REPORT

KAITLYN HOF-MAHONEY

Greetings SERA Members,

Thank you to the 19 members who have renewed since the winter newsletter! This brings us to 60 current members for 2023 with 45 2022 members who have yet to renew. As a reminder, SERA's memberships expire at the end of each calendar year. So, if you have not renewed since the 2022 SEMC Conference, your membership is now technically expired. Please take this opportunity to renew for 2023 if you have not already. You must be a member in good-standing to qualify for SERA's upcoming conference scholarship opportunities.

As of April 26, 2023, SERA has 105 active members, down from 109 (-3.7%) this time last year.

As of April 25, 2023, the current balance in the Chase checking account is \$12,366.01. The current balance in the PayPal account is \$2,145.53. The combined total on-hand is \$14,511.54, up \$2,075.21 (+16.7%) from the \$12,436.33 on-hand reported this time last year.

SERA's year to date fiscal activity for 2023 is outlined below. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney, Treasurer/Membership Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

KAITLYN HOF-MAHONEY

THE SOUTHEASTERN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Statement of Financial Position
As of April 26, 2023

	TOTAL
▼ ASSETS	
▼ Current Assets	
▼ Bank Accounts	
BUSINESS CLASSIC (3379) - 1	12,366.01
PayPal Bank	2,145.53
Total Bank Accounts	\$14,511.54
▼ Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	75.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$75.00
Total Current Assets	\$14,586.54
TOTAL ASSETS	\$14,586.54
▼ LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Total Liabilities	
▼ Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	11,150.36
Retained Earnings	2,872.59
Net Revenue	563.59
Total Equity	\$14,586.54
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$14,586.54

THE SOUTHEASTERN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Statement of Activity
January 1 - April 26, 2023

	TOTAL
▼ Revenue	
▼ Membership	
Associate	50.00
Individual	925.00
Institutional	225.00
Student	15.00
Total Membership	1,215.00
Total Revenue	\$1,215.00
▼ Expenditures	
Business Registration Fees	15.00
Dues, Fees, & Subscriptions	43.99
PayPal Fees	62.42
Respite	530.00
Total Expenditures	\$651.41
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$563.59
NET REVENUE	\$563.59

MEMBERSHIP

NEW* / RENEWING MEMBERS

Alabama**Haley Aaron**

Registrar, Alabama Department of Archives and History

Pamela Bransford

Registrar, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Alexandra Campbell*

Intern, Berman Museum of Anniston Museum & Gardens

Paula Haymon

Collections Manager & Registrar, Wiregrass Museum of Art

Sarah Elizabeth Kelly

Associate Registrar, Montgomery Museum of Fine Art

Florida**Megan Crawford**

Museum Registrar, Artis-Naples, The Baker Museum

Heather Culligan

Curator of Collections, Tampa Bay History Center

Annie Ladehoff*

Assistant Registrar, Artis-Naples, the Baker Museum

Amberly Meli

Senior Registrar, Museum of Florida History

Georgia**Christa McCay**

Collections Manager, Marietta History Center/City of Marietta

Kentucky**Chris Goodlett**

Director of Curatorial and Educational Affairs, Kentucky Derby Museum

Mississippi**Kathleen Barnett**

Director of Collections Management & Registration, Mississippi Museum of Art

Tommie Rodgers

Registrar, Lauren Rogers Museum of Art

North Carolina**Mary Hauser**

Associate Director & Registrar, Gregg Museum of Art & Design

South Carolina**Alyssa Magnone**

Collections Manager, Aiken County Historical Museum

Tennessee**Elizabeth Le**

Registrar, Hunter Museum of American Art

Virginia**Cathy DeSilvey**

Registrar/Curator, Virginia Military Institute Museum System

New* / Renewing Institutional Members**Old State House Museum, AR***

Lark Buckingham, Registrar

Brendetta Murrell, Deputy Director



KEEP
CALM
AND
DON'T FORGET
TO RENEW

SERA NEWS

ALABAMA

Sabra Gossett

Collections Manager

Berman Museum, Anniston Museums & Gardens

Sabra Gossett reports that Berman Museum opened its *Dragons* exhibit at Oxford Performing Arts Center (OPAC) on March 9th to much excitement. The exhibit features thirty pieces from the Berman Museum collection depicting dragons from various Asian countries. The most imposing piece on display is a nineteenth-century damask silk flag that spans the height of the room. Other pieces include a Han dynasty jade pendant, a Tibetan Buddhist's horn, and pieces of ivory and cloisonné. Asian countries represented include China, Japan, Tibet, Thailand, and India. Throughout the exhibit are panels illustrating the history and folklore of dragons. The exhibit was created to coincide with the OPAC program "Dragons & Mythical Beasts." The exhibit will remain up until July 4th.



ARKANSAS

Lark Buckingham

Registrar

Old State House Museum

Old State House recently got a donation from one of Arkansas's most legendary political figures and his wife, C.G. "Crip" and Nancy Hall. Crip was one of the States most iconic Secretaries of State, serving from 1937 until his death in 1961. He got the Arkansas

General Assembly to create the honorary designation of Arkansas Traveler and to build War Memorial Stadium, site of Little Rock Arkansas Razorback football games, of which he was a huge fan. As such he created the Arkansas Boosters Club. He is also credited with maintenance and beautification of the Capitol buildings, including manicured landscaping and decorating the Capitol at Christmas. Nancy Hall was one of the first female Treasurers of Arkansas and served the remainder of her husband's term after his death.



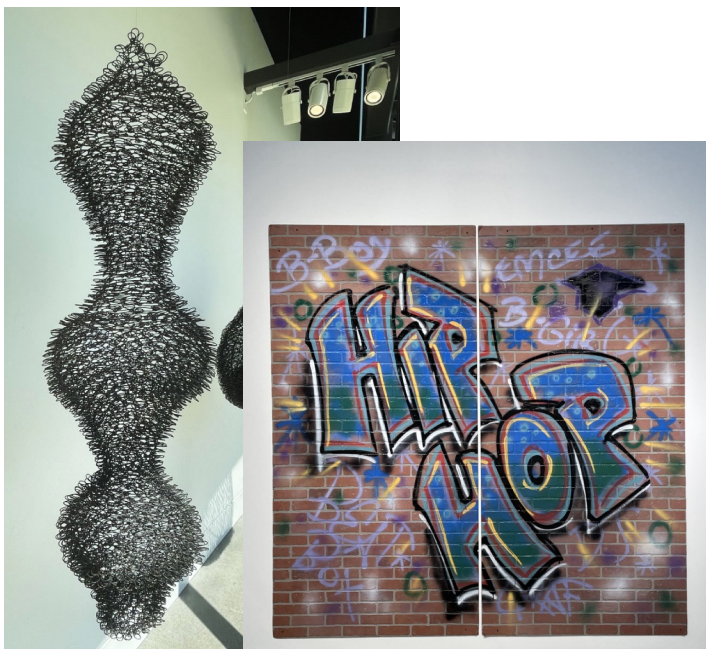
Amanda Cheatham

Registrar

Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College

The Windgate Museum has just opened their late Spring exhibitions: *Making It Happen: Changing the Landscape of Representation*, our annual Senior Art exhibition; *For The Record: A Visual Tribute to Hip-Hop*, an invited curatorial exhibition by Museum Associate Adaja Cooper; *Sculpture and Ceramics at Hendrix College*: recent student work from the 3-D

classes; and an untitled retrospective of works by past art professors.



Diane Karlson

Museum Registrar

William J. Clinton Presidential Library

Stephanie Sims joined the William J. Clinton Presidential Library staff, in May, as the new museum curator. She was recently the Museum Director of the University Museum and Cultural Center at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and previously solely managed former President William J. Clinton collection of personal papers and artifacts. Stephanie obtained her bachelor's degree in Visual Arts at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and later received her master's degree in Public History from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.

Jennifer Kick

Collections Manager

Rogers Historical Museum

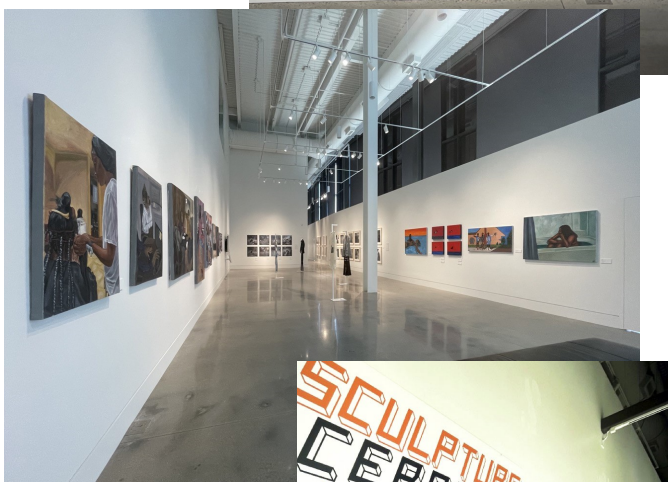
Rogers Historical Museum finished installing their main exhibit for the year "A Parade of Apple Blossoms" which celebrates the 100 year anniversary of the first Apple Blossom Festival in Rogers. Kick is now busy preparing the next Collections Gallery exhibit on Toys, as well as prepping for this year's Family Day Event. She is also collaborating with the education department and the Arkansas Arts Academy of Rogers on a brand new field trip which educates a class of high school art students on the behind the scenes work at a museum and teaches them how to put together an exhibit. Their artwork will be displayed at the museum for a week at the end of May.

Carolyn Reno

Collections Manager/Assistant Director

Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

Shiloh Museum recently acquired what is said to be the 1850s postmaster's desk from Drakes Creek or Draketown (Madison County). Drakes Creek was a thriving town at the turn of the last century but later died out. Author Donald Harington used Drakes Creek as the inspiration for the town of Staymore in his books, such as Architecture of the Ozarks





Rachel Smith

Assistant Director/Curator of Collections

Rogers Historical Museum

The Rogers Historical Museum recently opened their latest exhibit, "A Parade of Apple Blossoms", which commemorates the 100th anniversary of the first Apple Blossom Festival held in Rogers in 1923. The exhibit showcases a number of original costumes and accessories from the Apple Blossom Festival, photos of the elaborately decorated parade floats, a recreation of a downtown Rogers window display, and original music from the Apple Blossom Festivals recorded by local Arkansas Arts Academy students. The historic Hawkins House also opened a new exhibit in February, "The Etiquette of Courtship", focusing on courtship practices at the turn of the 20th century, and featuring decorative calling cards, early love songs, and a 1908 wedding dress. We have happily welcomed record numbers of new visitors this year, for spring break programs, special events, and an uptick in young moms visiting our Children's



Gallery with their kids. We are gearing up for our annual Family Day event in June, as well as other

major projects like beginning the AAM reaccreditation process.



FLORIDA

Heather Culligan

Curator of Collections

Tampa Bay History Center

The Tampa Bay History Center began renovating its third floor galleries at the beginning of April. The new permanent exhibitions will share stories about agriculture and transportation in Florida, as well as feature an exhibition entitled Travails and Triumphs that highlights Black history in the Tampa Bay area. Heather Culligan, Curator of Collections, removed 350 objects from the areas being renovated, and covered the rest of the cases with plastic to prevent the collection of dust. A small percentage of the 350 objects will return to the third floor galleries in some capacity, but the rest will need to find homes in collections storage. Simultaneously, Heather is pulling and preparing 250 objects from storage that will be part of the new exhibitions, which open at the end of May. Two interns from the University of South Florida completed their semester working in collections with Heather to inventory and photograph a large collection of architectural drawings. In all, Lyndsey and Adrian inventoried 235 architectural sheets, or 29 rolls. Those 29 rolls took up one shelf - and there are 25 shelves to go! It looks like this will have to be a long term project for future interns!

GEORGIA**Aimee Brooks***Collections Manager***The Columbus Museum**

The Columbus Museum is currently under renovation, having closed to the public in October 2022. Aimee Brooks, Miles Kirkpatrick and the design/install staff spent last half of 2022 moving out the collection. The staff continues to move forward while working off-site. The Museum has planned several exhibits, what we're calling "Museum on Tour", at local venues through December 2023. We hope this will build excitement for the new building as well as develop relationships with local partners. This summer, Aimee and Miles will work with the gallery design firm to prep the collections going into the new displays. The Columbus Museum's grand re-opening is being planned for Spring 2024.

**Erica Hague***Collections Manager***Atlanta History Center**

We are underway with a digitization project for museum collections here at AHC. We have a goal of 1,000 records to be made web-ready with professional photography and are through about 1,000 items inventoried, and about 200 items that have been selected from the inventory to be made

web ready. Jen Glaze, is our Project Registrar responsible for refining the content and researching these materials, and we have two GRAs from the University of West Georgia that are working as inventorying assistants, Deb Wold and Jess Landers. Part of this work is also to show proof of concept for another round of inventorying and digitization, so we are tracking average time per record as well as other data. We have found some gems that we didn't know much about before, and are looking forward to having all items online by this time next year!

Christa McCay*Collections Manager***Marietta History Center, City of Marietta**

In early, March, Christa served on the SEMC program committee, which met in Louisville. This was her first time working with the committee and there are some really exciting program sessions for this year's conference. The Marietta History Center has been busy with a slate of Springtime programs. Christa will be hosting preservation programs at the Marietta City Cemetery, which includes a short tour of portions of the cemetery. MHC also received a collection of large glass plate negatives that were thought to be gone for good, filling in gaps to the images we already had from the donor.

Tricia Miller*Head Registrar***Georgia Museum of Art**

Associate Registrar, Amber Barnhardt is busy making arrangements for the de-install of the exhibition, *Object Lessons in American Art: Selections from the Princeton University Art Museum*. She will be working with several couriers to pack up this large exhibition and send it on to its next venue. We have enjoyed hosting many of Princeton's iconic works of art from their collection.

GMOA will be the opening venue for the exhibition, *Southern/Modern*, organized by our colleagues at the Mint Museum. Christy Sinksen, Associate Registrar, is working with Eric Speer, Associate Registrar at the Mint to open the exhibition on June 17th. We are grateful to Eric for all his hard work to pull this exhibition together.

Lastly, GMOA's Director of 33 years, William Underwood Eiland, retired at the end of March. We wish Bill a happy and relaxing retirement! We look forward to welcoming our new director, David Odo, in late June.



Mary Cassatt (1844-1926), "Little Girl in a Large Red Hat," ca. 1881. Oil on Canvas, 43.8 x 38.7cm. Princeton University Art Museum. Museum purchase, Fowler McCormick, Class of 1921, Fund (2021.12)

Aaron Douglas (American, 1899 - 1979), "The Toiler," ca. 1935. Oil or tempera on board, 17 x 14 7/8 inches. The Johnson Collection, Spartanburg, South Carolina



KENTUCKY

Leah Craig

Manager of Collections and Educational Programming

National Corvette Museum

This year we received a full-size clay model of a C8 Corvette on loan from General Motors. While an exciting piece to add to our exhibit, this has been a challenge to determine how to keep raw clay of this size clean. At the recommendation of GM's clay sculptors, we recently dusted the vehicle for the first time with a damp cotton rag. This seemed to work well without any noticeable short-term damage to the clay. If you look closely at the picture, you can see the line at the top where PR side has been cleaned and the difference between the PL side. We plan on performing this quarterly and will continue to monitor. We have also been busy with new exhibit

installations, an artwork inventory, and continued work on a file reconciliation project.



Hannah Mahnken

Registrar

Kentucky Historical Society



The collections team at the Kentucky Historical Society is preparing for a new exhibit, *Our Stories, Our Service*. Scheduled to run from June 2023 – January 2025, the exhibit will spotlight Kentucky's Women Veterans. Kentucky women serving in the military in the 20th and 21st centuries struggled to navigate a military experience advantageous to men while fulfilling their needs as women and individuals. The honorable service these women provided is progress for those who follow in their footsteps. This exhibit will provide context, look at change over time, and discuss issues unique to women's military service. These issues include discrimination in job assignments, combat, and leadership roles, and marriage and motherhood. Stories of Kentuckians and collections ranging from objects, images,

documents, and oral histories will illustrate these topics.

The next month will bring all the craziness a new exhibit opening entails. Staff are dressing mannequins in uniforms (attached) and preparing other objects for display. Stop by and see us in Frankfort if you find yourself in Kentucky!



Sandy Staebell

Registrar/Collections Curator

The Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University

This Spring Kentucky Museum Collections personnel engaged with nearly 400 WKU students enrolled in courses offered through the History Department and the Interior Design and Fashion Merchandising Program. These students were given Close Study access to pre-20th century historic costume as well as artifacts and published and unpublished materials that documented World War I and World War II, life in the American South during and after the Civil War and Reconstruction, and dissent during the Swinging



'60s and '70s. We also are reimagining how our onsite storage is organized and work continues HVAC improvements that are funded in part by IMLS Inspire! and NEH Sustaining Cultural Heritage grants.

NORTH CAROLINA

Corinne Midgett

Registrar

High Point Museum

On April 28, the High Point Museum opened *Fields & Feathers: Hunting at Deep River Lodge, 1895-1935*.

The exhibit explores the history of hunting lodges in and around High Point, with a focus on Deep River Lodge, a 1,700 acre estate owned by financier Clarence H. Mackay. Filling the exhibition space are photographs and artifacts from the estate, all on loan from the descendants of Mackay's gamekeeper and dog trainer, Edward Armstrong. The remarkable collection includes personal gifts from Mackay to Armstrong, furnishings and household goods from the lodge, dog crates used for international voyages, portraits of champion dogs, meticulous records of hunts at the estate, and Armstrong's clothing and personal effects. The exhibit is open through January 2024.



Jonathan Schwartz

CEO

Atelier4

We have successfully moved into our new digs in Charlotte and have already begun supporting museums in the region that weren't previously able to store crates for ambitious (read: large scale) exhibitions before we opened our new 26,000 square foot, fully climate controlled (temp and humidity!). We are planning an event in August and will soon announce the dates. All SERA members will be invited for a cookout. More pics available in May.

**SOUTH CAROLINA****Cherish Thomas Danne***Collections Registrar***Florence County Museum**

In April 2022, the Florence County Museum purchased a vast collection of artwork by Sumter, SC native, Elizabeth White. The collection, which includes original White etchings, drawings, paintings, and printing plates, along with personal items of White's, consists of over 1,200 objects and is the largest-scale acquisition in recent FCM history. One year later, I am pleased to report that the collection

has been processed and cataloged in its entirety! I found the processing of this collection to be particularly challenging because White often referred to her work by multiple different titles, which made identifying, documenting, and then cross-referencing these works in the museum's catalog quite a meticulous task! For example, although the drawing pictured is labeled as Gathering Oysters, this same composition has been noted in other media under different titles such as, Live Oaks, South Carolina Coast; Live Oaks, Pawley's Island, S.C.; and The Edge of the Marsh, Pawley's Island. I intend to reach out to the Sumter County Museum in the near future, as they also hold a large collection of White's work, to compare notes in preparation for forthcoming exhibition and programming.



TENNESSEE**Elizabeth Le***Registrar***Hunter Museum of American Art**

Elizabeth Le at the Hunter Museum is thrilled to report that 4 new art screens were added to the existing 31 screens in collection storage. Artist Lesley Dill recently gifted the museum a large outdoor sculpture titled "Women in Dress with Star". The work is sited across from the museum's entrance and a beautiful addition to the sculpture plaza.



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Board, updated
weekly, at
[seregistrars.org/
career](http://seregistrars.org/career)

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