Hello and Happy Holidays!

I really enjoyed seeing everyone who attended SEMC in Northwest Arkansas. If you couldn’t come this year, I hope you can make it to Louisville in 2023. Plans are already in the works for some great SERA events!

Speaking of 2023, session proposals for SEMC are due on February 6. We brainstormed potential topics at the Business Luncheon and shared the list on Facebook, so please check that out if you need some ideas. 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 2022 business meeting, SERA announced three new board members: Alyssa Magnone as Secretary, Ainsley Powell as Development Chair, and Sabra Gossett as Communications Chair. Please join me in welcoming Alyssa, Ainsley and Sabra to the board and in thanking Erica Hague and Kali Mason for their hard work over the last several 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 2022, the award was presented to Annelies Mondi in recognition of her service to SERA and to the museum profession. Annelies served on the SERA board and recently retired from the Georgia Museum of Art. Congratulations, Annelies!

Take care and stay safe!

Corinne
Greetings SERA Members,

The big news from the Treasurer’s chair is that we have recently made the switch from the desktop version of QuickBooks to QuickBooks online. Using a TechSoup subscription, this will be an annual expenditure of $75. As a regional organization with officers spread across the southeast, having our financial data hosted on the cloud, rather than a local computer, will make future officer transitions much more streamlined.

I was able to import data from the past 18 months, so beginning in January we will be able to very easily run comparisons from year to year and get detailed information by category.

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership for 2022! As of November 12, 2022, SERA has 99 active members, up from 90 (+10%) this time last year. We still have 33 2021 members who did not renew, so we hope to bring them back for 2023.

As of November 12, 2022, the current balance in the Chase checking account is $11,537.03. The current balance in the PayPal account is $3,398.39. The combined total on-hand is $14,935.42, up $2,508.22 (+20.18%) from the $12,427.20 on-hand reported this time last year.

SERA’s Year to Date fiscal activity as of November 12, 2022 is outlined below. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney, Treasurer/Membership Chair

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MEMBERSHIP

Arkansas
Carolyn Reno
Assistant Director/Collections Manager, Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

Aaron Loehndorf
Grounds Curator and Collections Specialist, Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

Stephanie Carter*
Image Collections Manager, Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

Rachel Whitaker*
Research Specialist, Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

Angie Albright*
Director, Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

Florida
Angie Barry*
Curator of Exhibitions & Collections, Gadsden Arts Center & Museum

Jennifer Guida
Curator of Collections, Collier County Museums

Elaina Gyure
Curator of Education, Collier County Museums

Elise LeCompte
Registrar and Coordinator for Museum Health and Safety, Florida Museum of Natural History

Thomas Lockyear
Museum Manager, Collier County Museums

Stephanie Long
Museum Manager, Collier County Museums

Lisa Marciano
Museum Manager, Collier County Museums

Rebecca Mazeroski
Museum Manager, Collier County Museums

Helen Midney*
Museum Manager, Collier County Museums

Georgia
Amber Barnhardt*
Associate Registrar, Georgia Museum of Art

Kentucky
Hannah Mahnken*
Registrar, Kentucky Historical Society

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

North Carolina
Loran Berg
Collections Manager, Mountain Heritage Center

Lauren Brunk*
Brunk Auctions

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

South Carolina
Alyssa Magnone
Collections Manager, Aiken County Historical Museum

Patricia Shandor
Visitor Services Coordinator, Lexington County Museum

Tennessee
Ellen Lofaro
Director of Repatriation and Curator of Archaeological Collections, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Sharon Osofsky*
Program Assistant, Tennessee State Museum

Nicole Nomany*
Assistant Registrar, Tennessee State Museum

TréAnna Stewart*
Curatorial Assistant, Tennessee State Museum

Caleb Williams*
Curatorial Assistant, Tennessee State Museum

Ed Dismukes*
Executive Assistant, DHSMC Liaison, Tennessee State Museum

New*/Returning Associate Members
Hayley Singleton Hyde*
Head of Collections and Operations, Beneski Museum of Natural History at Amherst College
Hi all,

This is my first newsletter for SERA and I just want to take a moment to thank Erica Hague for the immense help she has given me in my new position as Communications Chair.

A few things:
1) We are looking for a Louisiana state representative. The state rep is responsible for contacting members in their state to solicit news for the quarterly newsletter. If you are interested, please contact Corinne Midgett at corinne.midgett@highpointnc.gov.
2) SERA is now on LinkedIn. Make sure to follow our page!
3) The SERA Facebook page has 587 likes! Make sure to like our page if you haven't yet!
4) If you know of a collections job that you would like shared on SERA's job board, please send it to me and I can make that happen!

Stay Warm,
Sabra

SERA NEWS

ALABAMA

Haley Aaron
Registrar
Alabama Department of Archives and History
In September, the Alabama Department of Archives and History opened a new temporary exhibit, Alabama Radio Moments. The new exhibit explores ways in which radio influenced the lives of Alabamians in the twentieth century --how they learned about current events, enjoyed sports and music, and connected with the world beyond their local community. Curated and designed by ADAH staff, the exhibit is presented in partnership with the Birmingham-based Alabama Historical Radio Society (AHRS) and features a number of artifacts from the group, as well as Huntsville collector Marc Bendickson and Tuscumbia radio station WZZA. Alabama Radio Moments will be on view through May 2023.

Pamela Bransford
Registrar
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts
Pam Bransford said a sad goodbye to curatorial intern, Sarah Webb Gilson. Sarah received a paid (!) six-month internship at the MMFA for two days a week. Sarah is a recent graduate of Texas Christian University with a MA in Art History. Sarah’s projects included lender research and photography of 60 remaining abandoned loans from the 1930s and 40s, numerous condition reports on the permanent collection and temporary exhibitions, accessioning new acquisitions, and inventory of the permanent collection. She drove 1 ½ hours each way from her home in Enterprise, Alabama even at 35 weeks pregnant. Sarah and her husband, Arin expect a baby boy in December and will move to Huntsville in the spring. Pam wishes Sarah the best and thanks her for so much excellent work.
Pam Bransford and Sarah Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Registrar welcomed Kristina Bottomley, Assistant Director of Exhibitions and Collections at The Block Museum of Art at
Northwestern University. Kristina oversaw the installation and deinstallation of the exhibition, A Site of Struggle: American Art against Anti-Black Violence. Kristina rode on the truck to Montgomery, came back for a week of installation and returned in November for the deinstallation. The subject matter of the exhibition was challenging as well as the installation. There were numerous lenders with very specific installation instructions. There was one “human” courier from the Baltimore Museum of Art and virtual couriers from the National Gallery of Art and the Amistad Research Center. Despite the pressure, the installation went well and Pam and Sarah Elizabeth really enjoyed working with Kristina. In the photo, Kristina (in blue shirt) assists with the moving of a very heavy crate containing Minority Majority by Theaster Gates which is made of decommissioned fire hoses.

Sabra Gossett  
Collections Manager  
Berman Museum, Anniston Museums & Gardens
Sabra Gossett received exciting news that the Berman Museum has been chosen as one of 56 institutions from across the country selected to participate in the Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program in 2022. She looks forward to working with the assessment team.

ARKANSAS

Stephanie Carter  
Image Collections Manager  
Shiloh Museum of Ozark History
Carter has been working with the museum’s Washington County Historical Society image collection in an IMLS grant-funded digitization project. Donated to the museum by the society back in 1996, the collection’s original organization had been altered. Carter is returning the collection to its original order and numbering system. In the course of the reorganization she is inventorying the collection and making note of missing images and duplicate reference prints and correcting numbering errors. The reorganization will serve several purposes. It more closely adheres to archival best practices by maintaining the original order of the collection. It shows how it was used by the historical society more accurately. It will also allow the digitization team to work through digitizing the collection more easily, as they will be able to work in numerical order, if needed. It will also allow the digitization team to see which copy is in the best condition for digitizing. Besides this funded project, Carter has used the museum’s digitization equipment to copy two large photo collections. Carter is also collecting information on cold storage for negatives.

Jennifer Kick  
Collections Manager  
Rogers Historical Museum
Fall 2022 was busy with the museum hosting SEMC and the SERA behind the scenes tour,
the biennial Ghost Walks night, and an event celebrating Veterans Day showcasing the museum’s two World War 2 commemorative quilts. That event also hosted quilt expert Linda Pumphrey who displayed her British soldiers quilts. The Eversole Collections Storage building has had some update work done this season. The front lobby of the building was remodeled entirely and its HVAC systems have new controls. As for collections work, Kick says she always has plenty to keep her busy but is looking forward to sorting through a recent donation of items from the local Lions Club which recently ceased operations after 75 years of community service.

Rachel Smith
Assistant Director/Curator of Collections
Rogers Historical Museum
Rogers Historical Museum welcomed museum professionals during the SEMC conference in October which included a behind-the-scenes tour of the collections storage spaces for SERA members. The museum is welcoming the holiday season with a special themed tour of the historic Hawkins House, with rooms decorated to depict scenes from the famous poem “The Night Before Christmas,” and the annual Holiday Open House. Looking to the new year, several new exhibits are in the works. In January the museum will open “From Portraits to Polaroids”, which will look at the evolution of photography through a selection of cameras and photographic prints from the permanent collections. The major exhibit for the year, “A Parade of Apple Blossoms”, opens in April and will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first Apple Blossom Festival held in Rogers in 1923. The exhibit focuses on the Apple Blossom Festivals of the 1920s and how they were a celebration of the apple industry in the Arkansas Ozarks, and served to showcase the growing region to the world.

Carolyn Reno
Collections Manager/Assistant Director
Shiloh Museum of Ozark History
Reno reports that the SEMC off-site workshop, HHMAG Helping Hands held at Shiloh Museum was a great success. Session members, a studious bunch, cataloged about 300 books from the museum’s historic Searcy House. The museum acquired the house and many of its furnishings in 1981. The Searcy collection contains books from the 19th to mid-20th century collected by Lockwood and Annabel Searcy. They have been on display in the house for years but had never been cataloged. Reno and Aaron Loehndorf, collection specialist, have been buttoning up the project and send thanks to HHMAG and session attendees.

Heather Culligan
Curator of Collections
Tampa Bay History Center
The collections and curatorial staff at the Tampa Bay History Center is happy to report that its staff, building, and collection suffered

FLORIDA
no damage due to Hurricane Ian in November. Curator of Collections Heather Culligan and her colleagues prepared the exhibits and collections areas as best as possible before evacuating the building, which is located in Zone A of the evacuation zones. Hurricane Nicole brought the end of hurricane season, and luckily, downgraded to a tropical storm by the time it neared Tampa. The end of hurricane season couldn’t come soon enough! In other news, Lyndsey Jeunelot, an intern from the University of South Florida, completed her project of cataloging a recent donation of over 350 postcards. This collection came from a donor in Utah who had a love for the Tampa Bay area. Interestingly, the collection came with very few duplications of postcards in the existing collection. That’s quite the feat given the collection includes several thousand postcards. The collection also came with several matchbooks from Tampa area hotels and restaurants. Lyndsey was able to catalog and digitize each item, and used her work as part of her final project for her class. Heather looks forward to having Lyndsey again next semester, along with another intern from the University of South Florida. Finally, Heather has tediously been working on data cleanup in PastPerfect! With decades of past collections staff entering information with little standardization over those years, it’s no wonder that the data needs a little tidying up. To date, Heather has updated over 10,000 records with accurate lexicon information, and finally upgraded to the latest nomenclature. The work continues, and will hopefully wrap up next year.

We are grateful to our fellow museum colleagues that came to our aid and want to thank them again- Curator Cody Rademacher from the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center and Curator Scott George & Mike Grebing from the Revs Institute. Cody was on site completing a post-storm inspection of the museum’s Boxcar that had been previously on display at our depot for the month September and assisted in our recovery and relocation of artifacts to a safe location. The Revs Institute also assisted in mobilizing a team to evacuate our historic wagon off its destroyed platform. We truly appreciate our museum friends!

Lisa Marciano  
Museum Manager  
Collier County Museums, Naples Depot Museum  
On Wednesday September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian hit Southwest Florida. Collier County Museums’ Naples Depot Museum was unfortunately not so lucky in that we took in roughly 3’+ feet of water in half of our 8,000 square foot historic railroad depot. Thankfully none of our artifacts were damaged!
Georgia

Erica Hague
Collections Manager
Atlanta History Center

Atlanta History Center has been gearing up for a large range of projects, in thanks to the sale of our Transferable Development Rights of our midtown campus. The museum collections will have a digitization project that incorporates inventory of the collection along with increased research of specific objects to improve metadata. The goal of this project is to make 1,000 records web-ready over 2023 and early 2024. We hope to use this project to inform and improve future grant asks for similar work. We are utilizing Graduate Research Assistants from the University of West Georgia for this project, as well as a part-time Project Registrar. This project will improve database records for thousands of records, and improve future educational use of the collections through programs and exhibits. These materials will be available through our website portal for collections, and are also slated to be incorporated into a federated search of all our collections (archives, museum, and living collections) which we are in the process of developing.

This fall I have been part of the team that is working to consolidate the Heritage Emergency Response Atlanta (HERA) and Savannah Heritage Emergency Response (SHER) groups into the Georgia Heritage Responders (GHR). GHR is a voluntary affiliation, of institutions and professionals within the state of Georgia, that strengthens disaster mitigation and response capabilities to ensure the preservation of Georgia’s cultural heritage resources held in public trust. If you’re in Georgia and interested, please reach out! Finally, NCPH is in Atlanta this year! If you’re planning on coming and would like to meet up, please let me know and we can arrange a time that works for folks.

Christa McCay
Collections Manager
Marietta History Center, City of Marietta

The Marietta History Center has been busy setting up for a holiday season. Christa McCay has been working on installing vintage Christmas decorations from the City of Marietta’s Parks and Recreation department. Throughout the year, the MHC, worked with Kennesaw State University’s Museum of History and Holocaust Education, on exhibiting six of their traveling exhibits. These six exhibits brought new audiences into the MHC and have fostered a great working relationship with our local university. We hope to continue to work with the Museum of History and Holocaust Education in 2023.

Tricia Miller
Head Registrar
Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia

Amber Barnhardt, associate registrar, is coordinating the installation of a large, complex exhibition entitled Object Lessons in American Art. This exhibition features four centuries of works from the Princeton University Art Museum that collectively explore American history, culture, and society. The exhibition brings groups of objects together to ask fundamental questions about artistic significance, materials and how meanings change across time and contexts. With a focus on race, gender, and the environment, these pairings demonstrate the

value of juxtaposing diverse objects to generate new understanding. We will welcome couriers of the Princeton University Art Museum to Athens for the weeks-long installation. Christy Sinken, associate registrar, has been busy coordinating the latest in the traveling exhibition series, Highlighting Contemporary Art in Georgia, a collaborative venture with the Lyndon House Arts Center in Athens. The current exhibition in this series, Picture This, features contemporary Georgia painters and after opening at the Lyndon House, it is now traveling to five additional venues in Georgia.

**KENTUCKY**

**Chris Goodlett**  
**Senior Director of Curatorial & Educational Affairs**  
**Kentucky Derby Museum**  
The Kentucky Derby Museum is currently working with Solid Light of Louisville on a new permanent exhibit featuring 1973 Triple Crown winner Secretariat. “Big Red”, as he was often known, is one of the greatest racehorses ever and arguably the most recognized Thoroughbred in history. In August, KDM worked with Churchill Downs to secure the perpetual Arlington Million trophy for its Bill Shoemaker exhibit. The Museum houses the Bill Shoemaker Collection of over 500 artifacts. As one of the premier jockeys in history, Shoemaker was the winner of the inaugural Arlington Million in 1981. So, this trophy has special significance to his career. In 2023, the Museum will work with the Kentucky Derby Festival on updating its permanent exhibit. The Festival is a non-profit that has coordinated a three-week Derby celebration since the 1950s highlighted by “Thunder Over Louisville,” one of the largest fireworks shows in the world.

In November, KDM worked with the Ed Brown Society of Lexington, Kentucky on hosting an exhibition highlighting African American achievements in racing. The Museum’s Black Heritage in Racing exhibit was a focal point. The exhibition was done in celebration of the Breeders’ Cup, the official world Thoroughbred championships held in Lexington for the second time ever.

**Laura Hendrickson**  
**Registrar and Collections Manager**  
**National Quilt Museum**  
We’re thrilled to announce our most recent acquisition from Audrey Esarey, a Louisville, Kentucky artist! Audrey’s 2020 quilt “Neon Radial” is a fabulous addition to our “Modern” style sub-collection, and her hand-dyed fabrics and precision machine quilting give it rich detail. Last year, NQM moved to CatalogIt as our collection database, and it has been a great experience! I am thrilled to be able to access and edit everything through the app on my phone. Also, the majority of our collection is now live on their Hub (which we will host on our
new website in 2023). You can take a look through our incredible quilts at https://hub.catalogit.app/2444. If anyone is curious about the upload process, or Catalogit in general, I’m happy to chat about it anytime!


We also had engineers take core samples from under our building. Last fall, a ground-penetrating radar project showed voids under our main campus building. We are awaiting a report to see what type of fix is needed. In the meantime, we are reinstalling, focusing on areas we can reinterpret in the short-term, and planning for a long-term project of redoing the entire gallery.

Audrey Esarey and Neon Radial

Hannah Mahnken
Registrar
Kentucky Historical Society
Beginning in August, collections staff began deinstalling large portions of our permanent exhibit, A Kentucky Journey, for carpet replacement and building maintenance. All told, a staff of 3 deinstalled, condition reported, and temporarily stored 640 objects in 6 weeks. The carpet, which was over 20 years old and becoming a tripping hazard, is replaced.
Sandy Staebell
Registrar/Collections Curator
Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University
Sandy Staebell provided close study access to WWI and WWII material culture to ten sections of WKU students enrolled in World Civilization II and one section of Military History. She also worked with Fashion Merchandising students enrolled in Perspectives of Dress and History of 20th Century Fashion. Please note that look don’t touch rules applied!

The Kentucky Museum was awarded an NEH Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections grant ($48,384) to do additional upgrades to its HVAC system. In October, Staebell gave a presentation at the Midwest Fabric Study Group on the process followed and the reference resources utilized in researching, developing, and installing the Crazy Quilt Mania exhibit. Free, publicly accessible internet resources were emphasized.

Tommie Rodgers
Registrar
Lauren Rogers Museum of Art
The Lauren Rogers Museum of Art will kick off 2023 with events and festivities that celebrate the Museum’s 100th anniversary! LRMA will be celebrating with exhibits throughout the year beginning with an exhibition of blown glass by Dale Chihuly titled Laguna Murano and History of the LRMA Collection highlighting 100 years of collecting. Other exhibits planned throughout the year include Contemporary Works from the Permanent Collection and an exhibit featuring Laurel artists. The year will be rounded out with the traveling exhibit Van Gogh for All.

The Museum’s anniversary celebration will feature a weeklong schedule of lectures, concerts, and programs during the first week of May. Check in with the Museum’s web site and social media sites for event schedules.

Jordan Cao
Associate Registrar for Collections
North Carolina Museum of Art
In early October, the North Carolina Museum of Art re-opened its permanent collection galleries following a complete reinstallation. "The People’s Collection, Reimagined" brings new insights into the works in our care and a focus on broader representation of underrepresented groups both in the world of art and within our own community. Staff worked tirelessly to install 1,000 works spanning over 5,000 years of history, supplemented with new technology initiatives like in-house developed interactive programs and digital labels where visitors can zoom in on high-resolution photos of works. An increased focus on accessibility for all brought Spanish translations, new fonts, and thoughtful design choices aimed at creating an inclusive and engaging experience for all. The
introduction of Community Voices labels highlights the focus on our fellow North Carolinians; twenty labels appear in the galleries with narratives by local leaders, artists, students, and citizens on the works they find compelling.

Mary Hauser
Associate Director and Registrar
 Gregg Museum of Art & Design, NC State
From September 2021-August 2022 the Gregg Museum partnered with NC State's Digital Education and Learning Technology Applications (DELTa) department through their course exploration grant program to create 3D models and enhanced images of textiles from its collection. These objects are regularly used for a class taught by NC State's College of Design at the museum. Using photogrammetry of both video and still images captured by the team in the museum’s storage area and a production studio, models of garments and textile were made that can be interacted with by users in sketchfab. Other more flat objects are shared as very high res images that allow viewers to zoom all the way to the finer level of the object. The results of this project are viewable from the museum’s website [https://gregg.arts.ncsu.edu/collections/3d-modelsand-scans/], and they will be incorporated into the class through the university’s online learning platform. Though resources are not currently available to capture more images, the project’s participants are excited to see how these images are used, and they look forward to pursuing this in the future when technology improves.

Ainsley Powell
Curator of Collections
City of Raleigh's Historic Resources and Museum Program
The Collections team recently hit the threshold of more than 24,000 items searchable on the public artifact database. The HRM Program Collection consists of more than 25,000 items and more are added every month increasing passive public engagement.

Welcome to our Online Collections Database!
City of Raleigh Historic Resources and Museum Program
The artifacts you will find on this database are connected to the City of Raleigh's Historic Resources and Museum (HRM) Program sites including Chavis Park Carousel, City of Raleigh Museum, Dorchester Orphans, Fred Fletcher Park/Methodist Orphanage, Lake University Historic Park, Moore Square, Midtown Historic Park, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, Pope House Museum, Pullen Park Ammuneum, Top Grease Community Center, and the Tucker House. We manage more than 25,000 decorative art objects pertaining to local history and material culture.

Jonathan Schwartz
CEO
Atelier4
Jonathan Schwartz reports that Atelier4, provider of fine-arts shipping and handling logistics, is opening a brand new state-of-the-art 26,000 square foot, 22’ high ceiling, COMPLETE climate control warehouse with separate carpentry shop (soon to offer crating, pedestals, etc.), massive viewing room and conference rooms in January 2023.

TENNESSEE
Elizabeth Le
Registrar
Hunter Museum of American Art
Hunter Museum Registrar Elizabeth Le reports that conservation work was recently performed again on the museum’s Marsden Hartley
painting, "Chanties to the North", after small losses were noticed by museum security. The painting was conserved in Nashville in 2021 after significant losses were discovered. Apparently there were areas of lifting that contributed to the new losses. Inpainting was done as well as coaxing the lifting paint flakes flat, first with gentle pressure and then gentle heat. Who knew your finger could provide just the right amount of heat. Thanks to Amanda Kasman, Assistant Paintings Conservator at the Atlanta Art Conservation Center.

Collection storage will get a boost in storage with the addition of 4 art screens to be added in Spring 2023. The 30 existing art screens were originally installed in 2005 with the museum expansion.

**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