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Book Review: Helen Matthews Lewis: Living Social Justice in Appalachia

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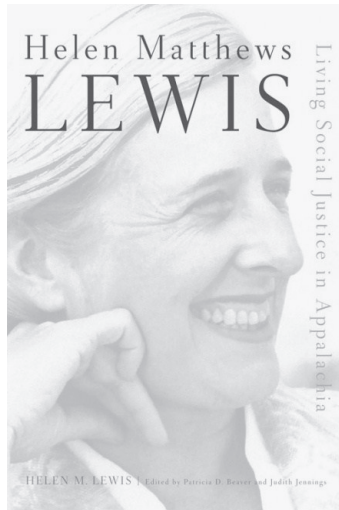
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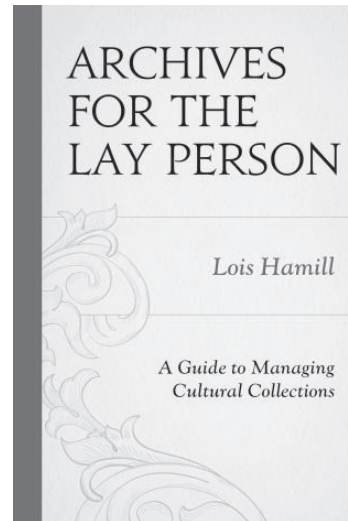


Beaver, Patricia D. and Judith Jennings (eds.). *Helen Matthews Lewis: Living Social Justice in Appalachia*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2012. 263 p. ISBN 978-0-8131-3437-6. \$40.

This beautifully presented story of the life and career of Helen Matthews Lewis is a jewel for anyone's library who is fascinated by the history of Appalachian culture and the social movements in the years between the 1960s and the present day. A revealing portrait of a woman seemed called to identify, examine and find ways to make life better for those she met and chose to help. Time spent reading the biographical review of Helen's childhood, intervening years and final years of this scholar and social humanitarian will reward the reader. One can see Helen as a little girl absorbing the social discriminations around her and reflecting upon those as driving forces in her choice of research as a social counselor and activist. To learn about her linking of human and cultural observations to her plans to make life better for others is truly inspiring. Her social justice career spanned issues that are relevant today around the world. Concern for the plight for the less fortunate, concern for the environment, concern for health and wellness, concern for sustainability of all good things may remind us of humanitarians serving today in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and those areas near and far in our hemisphere—those whom we know are the struggling victims of quiet desperation anywhere in the world.

Helen's 12 Step Plan to improve and sustain communities that present cultural ills similar to the towns and villages of Appalachia is a visionary creation of someone who lived and worked to bring wellness, productivity and hope. It might be said that one must live poverty and its ravages to be able to know what must be done to truly help. Also steps and time as reflected in Helen's revelations unveil truths only learned by patience, hope and reflection. Anyone with a passion for finding ways to live one's own life in service to others will truly enjoy "Helen Matthews Lewis: Living Social Justice in Appalachia".

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Hamill, Lois. *Archives for the Lay Person: A Guide to Managing Cultural Collections*. New York: Altamira Press, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2013. 296 p. ISBN 978-0-7591-1972-7. \$70.

In this concise but extremely thorough book, Lois Hamill, University Archivist at Northern Kentucky University bridges the gap for individuals and smaller institutions that need to organize what may often be long neglected collections. In this era of resource constraint, Lois takes a methodical approach to the description of these items, relying heavily on the affordable Past Perfect Software which can generate museum quality records for the beginner, with the informed narrative from Ms. Hamill to lead the way.

Replete with templates and appendices of needed documentation, Ms. Hamill builds on her initial definitions of archival terms with specific application of method to the process of building a collection, frequently referring to fundamental concepts to reinforce each phase of the process. This approach supplies both the how and the why for the uninitiated, making the development of the collection follow a logical and scholarly path. The book is full of specific recommendations and processing details for the fledgling archivist, such as the purchase of acid free folders and use of the number two pencil for marking items; small things perhaps, but nonetheless important, as anyone who has tried to digitize a photo with markings reverse embossed on its face from someone marking the item with a ball point pen will attest to.

The most challenging issue for any archivist or institution must be the often murky area of ownership, which Ms. Hamill deals with in her explanation of the PANE principal, an acronym for Purpose, Amount, Nature and Effect to evaluate the property rights attached to an item. For example, if someone hires a photographer to take wedding photos, where do the intellectual property rights lie? Since the photographer is the creator of the photo, he or she retains the rights to their publication, just as the original subject must go back to the photographer to obtain copies.