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Archive Notes

Linda Matthews
Emory University

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The Winthrop College Archives has received a grant that will enable it to assemble two photographic exhibits for the traveling exhibition of the South Carolina Museum Commission. The grant from the South Carolina Committee for the Humanities will provide partial funding for the $3,700 project. Both exhibits will be assembled from holdings in the college's Archives and Special Collections. One exhibit, "John R. Schorb: Portraits of York County," will show people of York County at the turn of the century as seen through the eyes and camera of one of the first commercial photographers in the United States. In 1979 the photographic works of Schorb, who died in 1908 at the age of ninety, were donated to the college. The collection includes rare nineteenth-century photographs, including glass plate negatives, tintypes, and daguerreotypes. The second exhibit will highlight, through the use of photographs, the early history of Winthrop College, founded in 1886. Project director and Winthrop archivist Ron Chepsiuk said he expects the exhibits to be added to the traveling exhibition program after November 1. Before joining the traveling program, the exhibits will be on display in the Winthrop Gallery in the Rutledge Building on the Winthrop College campus.

Legislation has been introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives to establish a National Afro-American History and Culture Commission. The commission, composed of nationally-representative Americans distinguished in the fields of art, history, and the sciences, is to establish a National Center of Afro-American History and Culture at Wilberforce, Ohio. The center would be a repository of Afro-American artifacts, a research institute, and exhibit site for visitors as
well as serious students. The center is to develop programs and exhibits that express major aspects of Afro-American history and culture which include educational, scientific, and religious accomplishments. The center is also to develop programs that will enhance and strengthen the network of those existing museums and collections across the country which are concerned with the cultural and historic contributions of black Americans.

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) will be offering several different educational opportunities of interest over the next several months.

The Charleston Museum will host a workshop on "Interpreting the Humanities Through Museum Exhibits" on December 7-10, 1980. This workshop is one of eight regional programs on how to conceptualize, plan, and design interpretive exhibits. It offers participants a unique educational opportunity to both study and practice interpretation and exhibit design under the guidance of acknowledged experts. Speakers will demonstrate how to conduct historical research, define interpretive objectives, communicate human values through artifacts, and create effective and economical exhibit designs. Participants will engage in discussions, individual consultations, and hands-on activities. Applicants must demonstrate a need for training in interpretive exhibit design and a willingness to prepare an exhibit for evaluation following the workshop. During the workshop two of the speakers, a regional historian skilled in interpreting the humanities and a regional museum advisor skilled in exhibit design, will consult individually with participants concerning their post-workshop projects. After participants return home, these two experts will continue to be available for consultation by mail or telephone. To conclude the training process, each participant, upon finishing his
or her exhibit, will submit a description for review by the regional historian and special AASLH exhibit consultant Arminta Neal, author of *Exhibits for the Small Museum*.

"Re-examining America's Past" will be the theme of another seminar sponsored by AASLH, January 25-30, 1981. The Historic Pensacola Preservation Board will be the site of the meeting, which will focus on the new social history and its implications for interpretive programs. Topics will include the family and domestic life, agriculture and rural life, towns and cities, race and ethnicity, women, and work and workers.

AASLH has also announced the first two courses in its new Independent Study Program: "Education: School Programs and the Museum" and "Documents: Interpretation and Exhibition." Developed with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, these correspondence courses offer in-depth training for historical agency personnel--paid and volunteer--who cannot get the help they need from short-term seminars and workshops and cannot afford time and money for degree-oriented college and university courses. Written by recognized national authorities, the courses are designed to allow students to proceed at their own pace. Course materials include a loose-leaf study guide, books and artifacts for supplementary reading, one or more slide/tape programs, and tools and supplies needed to complete lesson assignments. When the courses are completed, these items become valuable additions to individual or institutional reference libraries. The courses are administered by mail from AASLH headquarters, where trained instructors review and comment on completed assignments and help students tailor course activities to their individual needs and institutional settings. Anyone may enroll who is affiliated with a historical agency or similar cultural organization or has permission to use the facilities of such an institution in carrying out course assignments. By designating one person as "correspondent" with
AASLH, students may also enroll in groups of up to four for a single fee. Institutions can take advantage of this opportunity to train several staff members at once. For information on all programs, write to: AASLH, 1400 Eighth Avenue, South, Nashville, TN 37203.

During the last three years, the King Library and Archives in Atlanta has been closed to allow the staff to devote its full attention to processing and describing the collection. Under a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the staff has prepared descriptive inventories for six of the major civil rights collections: Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, Delta Ministry, United States National Student Association, and the Community Council of Coordinating Organizations. Work is in progress on the papers of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the records of the Congress of Racial Equality, and the National Lawyers Guild records. Freedom Hall, a living memorial to the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which is now under construction in Atlanta, will provide a new home for the collection. After moving into its new quarters in the Freedom Hall complex in the early fall of 1981, the King Library and Archives will reopen its doors to the scholarly community to allow research into the priceless collections which document the history of the American civil rights movement. Additional collections will be opened as they are processed. Inquiries may be addressed to the Archivist, Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Social Change, 503 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30312.
The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), in its annual report issued recently, provides an extensive assessment of NHPRC historical records grant projects completed during the fiscal year 1979. In this expanded report, which marks the fifth anniversary of the records program, the commission notes an increased professionalism in records programs and in sound program development at many institutions receiving NHPRC grants. The commission also points to improvements in planning and proposal review by state historical records advisory boards across the nation. By the end of the fiscal year, over forty state advisory boards had submitted statements of priorities and needs within their states. Such evaluations were the first ever attempted in almost every state, and they provided the basis for both discussion and action within the states and for broader analysis by the commission from a national perspective. Among the representative project activities discussed at length in the report are state archival processing projects, and projects involving historical photographs. Within these categories the report discusses the revitalization of existing programs, the establishment of new programs, the preservation of endangered records and images, tests of new techniques and methods, and improvements in access to different types of records. Overall, the report is evidence of the impact of the commission's 1978 "Statement of National Needs and Preferred Approaches for Historical Records." The records program assessment concluded with a complete list of the eighty-five records grants made during the 1979 fiscal year. The thirty-eight page Annual Report also details fiscal year activities of the publications program, NHPRC educational services, and the National Inventory of Historical Sources. Copies of the report are available free of charge from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, DC 20408.
A new historical agency, the American Patriot Archives Society, has been founded in Biloxi, Mississippi. The society seeks historical materials from all nonprofit organizations and groups, with a particular interest in the records of civic clubs, social orders, fraternal groups, and veterans organizations. The scope of the society's collecting interest is national. For more information, contact the American Patriot Archives Society, Inc., P. O. Box 1036, Biloxi, MS 39533.

The National Endowment for the Humanities recently awarded to the Mid-South Humanities Project (MSHP) at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, a grant which provides funding for the continuation of the regional education program which is directed towards promoting the use of local heritage resources in public schools. Begun in 1978, the project has established specially trained demonstration center teams of teacher/consultants in the states of the Southeast. A major objective of the MSHP in 1980-1982 will be the expansion of the state demonstration teams through teacher-training workshops which will feature the original teacher/consultants, project staff, and others qualified to speak on the use of local heritage resources in the classroom. Beginning in the spring of 1981 and continuing for eighteen months, two-day workshops will be scheduled in Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Application will be open to curriculum coordinators, supervisors, administrators, historical society representatives, museum education coordinators, librarians, and others who work with teachers and students. For more information contact: Mid-South Humanities Project, P. O. Box 23, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37123.
A fourteenth century illustrated Persian manuscript, described as the first general history of the world, has been sold in London for the equivalent of $2.02 million, said to be a world auction record for any manuscript. The successful bid was made by a Geneva agent on behalf of an anonymous buyer, according to Sotheby's, the auction house which handled the sale. The manuscript, owned by the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, is dated 714 according to the Hegira calendar of the Moslem religion, or A.D. 1314. The text was written in Arabic by Rashid al-Din on order of the Mongol ruler Uljaytu, the great-great grandson of Gengis Khan. Its sixty-three leaves are illustrated with one hundred miniature paintings. The text outlines the histories of the prophet Mohammed, of China and its genealogies of emperors, of India and its sultans, and of the Jews, based on the Old Testament. The author lived in Rashidiya, near the Persian city of Tabriz, which at that time was a rich cultural and cosmopolitan city.

L. Ross Morrell has been appointed director of the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, by Secretary of State George Firestone. Morrell succeeds W. Robert Williams, who headed the division since its formation in 1969.

The Museum Assessment Program (MAP) is a general consultation service designed and operated by the American Association of Museums for the benefit of all museums interested in maintaining or improving the quality of their operations. MAP offers: a resource to review and evaluate overall programs; a diagnosis of strengths and weaknesses; a survey of recommendations for long-range planning; suggestions for technical assistance provided by museum service
organizations; and a report to be used in securing financial support from private and public sources. Museum assessment is a program of practical, not abstract, assistance. A MAP survey is not meant to rank or judge a museum's performance. It is intended as a self-motivated review of progress, an encouragement for long-range planning, and an offer of help to museums which want to upgrade the quality of their achievement through the application of professional standards. MAP opportunities are open to any non-profit museum regardless of discipline, size, or financial resources. For more information write to: Museum Assessment Program Coordinator, American Association of Museums, 1055 Thomas Jefferson St., NW, Washington, DC 20007.