

Capital Area Archivists of New York State

CAA

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NEWS

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CDLC Digital Collections

The Capital District Library Council is pleased to announce CDLC Digital Collections. This is a cooperative project that currently includes 17 institutions, although some of these institutions do not yet have material on the web site. The purpose of this project is twofold: to train librarians and archivists in the region in digitization practices, and to create a publicly accessible web site of digitized images with detailed descriptions so that the riches of our local repositories will be better known.

The Capital District Library Council is providing the software, server, web site, and training for the project. The participating institutions are responsible for selecting material, digitizing it, and creating metadata (cataloging information).

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University at Albany Student Newspaper, 1916-1985 Now Available Online



The M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives is pleased to announce the online availability of the University at Albany's student newspaper from 1916-1985. You can browse each issue from the State College News, 1916-1963, State University News, 1963-1964, and the Albany Student Press (ASP), 1964-1985. The ASP, 1986-2009, and The Echo, 1892-1916, are available in hard copy at the Special Collections' Marcia Brown Reading Room. Issues are available at:
<http://library.albany.edu/speccoll/findaids/studentnewspapers.htm>

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“CDLC Digital Collections” continued

Although we have not yet had an official unveiling, the site has already created a lot of interest. People report having great fun and a few chuckles perusing images such as a photo of NEBA Roast Beef in Albany, courtesy of Albany Institute of History and Art; the description of social life at The College of Saint Rose in their first student publication, Canary Trills; and a physician's prescription for whiskey during the Prohibition, courtesy of Town of Ballston Community Library and Town of Ballston Historian. It is our hope that as material is added, this site will be useful and fun for researchers, K-12 educators, and the general public.

To view the site, visit <http://contentdm.cdlc.org/>. It is currently undergoing a redesign, so please be patient if you have some trouble using it. It also may look significantly different in the coming weeks.

CDLC's site is also being crawled by another relatively new site, New York Heritage (www.nyheritage.org). New York Heritage serves as a research portal to several sites throughout the state that use CONTENTdm software and users can search across these colleges through the site.

“University at Albany Student Newspaper, 1916- 1985” continued

Support for this digital project came from the Friends of the Libraries and would not have been possible without their assistance. In collaboration with the Library Systems Department, we are developing a full text database of the newspaper that will allow searching across multiple issues, years, or decades. In addition, the Department of Special Collections will develop a plan to digitize the ASP, 1986 -2009, and The Echo, 1892-1916, a student news and literary magazine.

RPI History Revealed Blog

RPI History Revealed is a new blog authored by Amy Rupert, Assistant Institute Archivist, aka amythearchivist. The purpose of the blog is to reveal images, artifacts, documents, and bits of information that pertain to the history of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. A favorite feature is the “Mystery Image” posts which, through reader comments, have successfully identified orphan images in the collection. The blog is a hit with alumni who have shared lots of positive feedback. Add *RPI History Revealed* to your blog reader to see what’s new. Posts are added several times a month.
www.rpiarchives.wordpress.com

New Publication on Developing a Policy to Manage Email

The New York State Archives has issued a new publication, “Developing a Policy for Managing Email,” which brings together current principles and best practices for state agencies and local governments to develop internal policies to manage email. The publication also provides three models that state agencies and local governments of any size can use to create their own policies on managing email.

The publication includes sections on principles and best practices, policy components, and model policies for small and medium-sized local governments and large state agencies. The publication is available for free on the New York State Archives website (www.archives.nysed.gov) or contact archpubs@mail.nysed.gov.

RPI Professor Shares History of Geology

The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Archives and Special Collections acquired a history of geology book collection from professor emeritus, Gerald M. Friedman last fall. The gift totals nearly 250 rare history of geology volumes collected by Professor Friedman during his career. The Friedman volumes, which

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have named the Gerald and Sue Friedman History of Geology Collection, build on the department's strength in natural history and the history of geology. The collection constitutes a major research resource for Rensselaer students and faculty and history of science scholars throughout the world.

The collection contains many icons of the history of geology, including William Smith's famous map, *A delineation of the strata of England and Wales, with part of Scotland*, and James Hutton's *Abstract of a dissertation read in the Royal Society of Edinburgh, upon the seventh of March, and fourth of April, M,DCC,LXXXV, concerning the system of the earth, its duration and stability*. William Smith (1769-1839) is best known for his development of the science of stratigraphy. While working as a canal-site surveyor, Smith undertook a systematic study of the geological strata and the fossils appearing in each layer. His map, published in 1815, was the first modern geologic map and is the subject of Simon Winchester's 2001 best seller, *The Map That Changed the World*.

Gerald Friedman taught at Rensselaer from 1964 to 1984 when he was appointed Professor Emeritus of Sedimentology and Geohistory. Professor Friedman is the founder and director of the Northeastern

Science Foundation in Troy, New York, which hosts symposia and publishes several journals, including *Northeastern Geology*, *Environmental Science*, and *Carbonates and Evaporites*.

One Archivist's Trip to the Spring 2009 MARAC Conference

By Raymond LaFever

On April 16, as I descended from the clouds, around the mountains and over the trees in a twin prop plane to land at Charleston, West Virginia's Yeager Airport, my first thought was 'Where's the runway?' The airport is not only in the mountains but almost on the top of them – and surrounded by trees. We went from trees to runway in a hurry. I was landing in Charleston to attend MARAC's Spring 2009 conference "Surveying Archives: Wild and Wonderful." Charleston had had several days of rain preceding the conference but for the three days of the conference, it was sunny and pleasant. I must have brought with sun with me (ok, maybe it was some other MARACer).

Charleston was a pleasant city. The main draws to me were 1) the walk along the Kanawha River and 2) the tour of the State Capitol. The Capitol was built in the 1920s and designed by Cass Gilbert, who also designed the Woolworth Building. The building was a very elegant statement in

marble. During our visit to the Capitol, we got a glimpse of and a hello from West Virginia's first lady. After the Capitol, we toured the governor's mansion, also built in the 20s. The front hall and staircase were incredible and the mansion itself, while spacious, had comfortable proportions. I would have been very happy living in a house like that. The final leg of our tour took us into the State Museum, part of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. The major part of the museum is undergoing a renovation, including the installation of a new exhibit on the history of West Virginia. It is due to be opened by the governor on June 20. It was very interesting to see the behind-the-scenes work of exhibit installation. They estimate that if someone going through this new exhibit reads everything in it, it would take something like 18 hours!

This conference was my first strong exposure to Web 2.0 and how it might be used in archival institutions. In particular, I saw how a number of institutions are using Flickr to share their images. The Library of Congress, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and Dickinson College (also in Pennsylvania) are all utilizing Flickr. All three institutions also display images on their websites, but with Flickr, they can take

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MARAC continued

they can take advantage of the site's ability to let people add tags and comments. The Library of Congress has received a lot of useful information about some of their more popular images, including corrections of erroneous metadata.

Attendees from the Capitol Area included Geof and Nancy Huth, Bonnie Weddle, Geoff Williams and me. From a bit further away, but not much further, Bob Clark from the FDR Library in Hyde Park attended. Also attending was my Buffalo-based State Archives colleague Jim Tammaro. And we saw a couple of former Capital Area colleagues: Amy Schindler, now at William and Mary (and 'Twittering' or 'Tweeting' like mad during the conference), and Jean Green, now at SUNY Binghamton. The conference attendance numbers were in the 180 range. Given the economy and the fact that Charleston is at one of the far edges of the MARAC region, this number was considered quite good. It may be that the economy is moving people to go to less expensive regional conferences.

On April 18, about 50 hours after my arrival at Yeager Airport, I was once again airborne for my return trip home. And a few hours after I ascended into the air, the rains once again descended on Charleston. The sunshine that

archivists can bring to a community can easily go away with them, too.



Exterior of the State Capitol



Interior of the State Capitol



Interior of Governor's Mansion



Staircase in the Governor's Mansion



A reminder that articles for the CAA newsletter can be sent to Emily Allen at eallen@mail.nysed.gov on a continual basis. Your contributions make this newsletter complete!

Capital Area Archivists of New York

Membership Application and Renewal – 2009

Membership in Capital Area Archivists of New York (CAA) is available for individuals and institutions. Dues are only \$5 a year, and membership benefits include two editions of our informative newsletter and three meetings a year.

Please complete and return this form to:

Michael Martin
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Cultural Education Center
Albany, NY 12230

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Institution

Division, Department or Unit

Preferred Mailing Address

City, State, Zip code

Is this your *Home* or *Business* Address

Business Telephone Number () _____ - _____

Fax Telephone Number () _____ - _____

Email Address

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Is this a *new membership* or a *renewal* ?

Please include annual membership dues of \$5, payable to "Capital Area Archivists of New York". Information from this form will be included in the membership directory. Please mark any information you do not want included in the directory.

Questions? Contact Membership Chair, Michael Martin at (518) 486-1741 or by email at mmartin@mail.nysed.gov.

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