

# VIEWS: *The Newsletter of the Visual Materials Section Society of American Archivists*

Volume 16, Number 3

August 2002

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Miriam Meislik, University of Pittsburgh

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Well, it is that time of year again. Time to figure out which of the many fabulous SAA Annual Meeting sessions to attend. So many sessions and so little time it always seems. Here are some of the sessions and tours that may be of interest to VM'ers.

### Monday, August 19

9:00 am-5:00 pm

*Archival Perspectives in Digital Preservation* (2-day workshop)

### Tuesday, August 20

9:00 am-5:00 pm

*Preservation Management of Machine-Based Audio-visual Collections*, taught by Alan Lewis. If you have never had a chance to hear him speak, this would be an excellent opportunity to share his wealth of knowledge and experience. [*She's right—he's great!*—Ed.]

### Wednesday, August 21

*Standards Committee*. All are welcome.

### Thursday, August 22

1:30 pm-3:00 pm

*Architectural Records: Unique Reference Needs and Issues*. An excellent session featuring Waverly Lowell, Megan Spriggs, Nancy Loe, and Annemarie van Roessel

3:30 pm-5:00 pm

*Oral History and the Art of Acquisition*. Colleagues in Cultural Resources Management: Archivists, Librarians, Curators, and Conservators

**6:00 Visual Materials Section dinner.** Meet in the conference hotel lobby.

### Friday, August 23

**8:00-10:00 Visual Materials Section meeting.** Be sure to bring your session ideas to this one.

1:00 pm-2:30 pm

*Creating Web Access to the Cultural Record*. Another must-attend session featuring Thomas Hickerson, Eleanor Brown, Kari R. Smith, Richard Ovenden

*True Confessions: The Real Story Behind Image Scanning*. Featuring our very own Laurie A. Baty, Mark E. Martin, and Cythia Ghering

3:00 pm-4:30 pm

*Veterans Voices: Recording, Saving, and Publishing Wartime Oral History*. This session features Sarah

Rouse, Fred Allison, Beth Millwood, Linda Sellars, and Jeffrey Suchanek.

10:45 am-12:00 pm

*Witness to History: Archivists and the World Trade Center Disaster*.

### Saturday, August 24

**8:00 am – 10:00 am Visual Materials Cataloging and Access Roundtable meeting.** Again, bring your session ideas to the meeting. See Sue's column for more details.

1:00 pm-2:30 pm

*Archives Unplugged: Visual Materials in Archival Collections*. (Not just for the uninitiated! I highly encourage section members to attend to help with discussion! Hosted by Waverly Lowell)

3:00 pm-5:00 pm

*Planning a Preservation Re-recording Project for Sound Recordings*

*Digital Preservation: Image Quality and Project Development* (This session features some of the top experts Steve Dalton, current VMCAR Chair Sue Kriegsmann, Paul Conway. This is a must-go-to session.)

Keep in mind that many of the sessions are recorded. You can always order a copy of sessions that you are unable to attend or to have for future reference.

Don't forget our annual section dinner on Thursday evening. Meet in the hotel lobby at 6:00. There will be a sign-up sheet on one of the bulletin boards near the registration desk. Also, how about those T-shirts? If you haven't ordered one, you may still have a chance to get one at the meeting [*See order form, page 5—Ed.*].

On a more personal note, I would like to say thank you to everyone who volunteered this year. Nothing, and I really mean it, would have gotten done without you. I think the section has had a productive year. I look forward to giving my support to our incoming chair, Laurie Baty and to continuing my work with the section in a much lower profile.

## FROM THE CHAIR-ELECT

Laurie A. Baty, US Holocaust Memorial Museum  
<lab0254@aol.com>

In April I wrote about standards and combined catalogs. Even though I'd mentioned that combined catalogs were discussed by attendees at the VMCAR meeting in Washington, DC, and were reported by that Roundtable in the December 2001 issue of *Views*, sometimes I worry that I'm operating in a vacuum. It appears that my comments struck home and I heard from a reader. [*Wow, imagine anyone reading a Chair-elect's column!*—Ed.] I want to share part of the letter with you. What can we do as a Section to move these ideas

forward, and better yet, what do we do to have our IT folks who don't understand professional cataloging standards "Get it"? So here goes with a letter from Bob Sink in New York.

Laurie:

I just read your column in *Views* [April 2002], and it appears as if we are working on very similar projects.

My main task at the Center for Jewish History is to purchase and install an OPAC that will contain the archival, library and museum holdings of our five Partners. We issued our RFP last month and vendors' responses are due on May 3rd. We hope to have our first records available to the public a year from now.

To facilitate the implementation, the Partner archivists, librarians, and curators have been meeting to try to work out authority control issues and to reconcile their (at times) divergent work processes. The Partners have agreed to adopt common authority control practices, to standardize the use of local terms to the extent possible, and to try to get national bodies to adopt terms that reflect our holdings. So, we would respond to your column with a hearty, Yes!

Robert Sink  
Chief Archivist & Project Director  
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So not only am I not operating in a vacuum, I apparently am not out in left field. More institutions (not just the Center for Jewish History) are recognizing the importance of one catalog and standards. In fact, when I was in Texas almost two years ago to speak to Archives and Information Science graduate students at the University of Texas, Austin, David Gracy mentioned that he recently had been appointed the Director of the Center for Cultural Information at the University. This center looks at all kinds of material culture—books, manuscripts, and objects—as relevant holders of information that we can use to understand what's come before.

Sounds like a session proposal to me. Any takers? Any talkers?

See you in Birmingham.

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## **ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS ROUNDTABLE** **Beth Bilderback, University of South Carolina** **<bilderbk@gwm.sc.edu>**

It is that time of year again! The annual meeting of the Roundtable will be Saturday morning, 24 August at 8:00 in Birmingham, Alabama. The program is not final yet, but come with your questions, news, and interest. Sarah Turner and Beth Dodson, co-chairs, are trying to arrange a lunch or dinner get-together. Last year in Washington, a group went out for lunch and had a great time. So check the information board and come to the business meeting.

After a quick scan of the SAA online program, I found one session of interest to architectural records archivists: *Architectural Records: Unique Reference Needs and Issues* on Thursday, 22 August, at 1:30-3:00 p.m. Waverly Lowell from University of California Environmental Design Archives chairs the session with Megan Spriggs from Canadian Centre

for Architecture, Nancy Loe from California Polytechnic State University, and Annemarie van Roessel from Art Institute of Chicago. They will discuss access, duplication, licensing, digitizing, and other topics. SAA is trying a new approach with their Archives Unplugged series of talks. There is one on Saturday at 1:00-2:30 p.m. that promises information on architectural records. In *Archives Unplugged: Visual Materials in Archival Collections*, Waverly Lowell will discuss the processes involved in creating architectural records and why this is important. She will discuss also all the issues from arrangement to reproduction facing keepers of architectural records. Plan to be in Birmingham to learn, share, catch up with colleagues, and have a good time.

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## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE NEWS** **Marcy Flynn, Silver Image Management** **<silverim@mindspring.com>**

The Standards Committee received support from the Preservation Section on its project to update SAA's online *Standards for Archival Description: A Handbook* by Victoria Walch. Spearheaded by Diane Vogt-O'Connor, the project has recruited several participants including Susan DuBois, Sheila McAlister, and me. More participants are needed to help add new standards, update out-of-date standards and develop new sections for such areas as metadata and EAD standards. Anyone interested in joining this effort can contact Diane at <Diane.VOC@nara.gov>.

Chris Prom, Assistant University Archivist at the University of Illinois, has agreed to serve as the SAA Standards Committee Liaison with the Open Archives Initiative (OAI). The OAI is scheduled to release version 2.0 of the Open Archives Protocol for Metadata Harvesting on June 1, 2002. A list of the version changes is available at <<http://www.openarchives.org/pipermail/oai-general/2002-February/000130.html>>.

NISO recommended reaffirmation of 11 standards. They will now remain valid through 2007. Standards include Permanence of Paper for Publications and Documents in Libraries and Archives, Micropublishing Product Information, Electronic Manuscript Preparation and Markup among others.

The NARA Archival Training Calendar is available through the Archives Library Information Center at <<http://www.nara.gov/alic/traincal.html>>. It contains a monthly list of continuing education opportunities and other items of interest.

The Standards Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, August 21st during the annual meeting in Birmingham. All are welcome!

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## **ASSOCIATION OF MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVISTS (AMIA) CATALOGING AND DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE** **Jane D. Johnson, <jdj@ucla.edu>**

### **Library of Congress Hosts Meetings on AMIA Moving Image Gateway**

The Library of Congress hosted an LC-AMIA joint meeting on the AMIA Moving Image Gateway in Washington, D.C., April 3, 2002. The AMIA Moving Image Gateway, a collaboration of the Association of Moving Image Archivists and the Library of Congress, is a union catalog and portal for discovery of moving image resources for education and research which will

facilitate collaborative cataloging, preservation, and digitization activities. The Library plans to serve as host for the Gateway. Participants reviewed the grant proposal and work plan prepared by AMIA consultant Grace Agnew, which was submitted to the National Science Foundation's National Science Digital Library program in April. Seven moving image archives with significant moving image collections in both analog and digital format have been selected as alpha implementer sites, and include the Library of Congress, Cable News Network, National Geographic Television, National Library of Medicine, Oregon Health and Sciences University, Research Channel and the Smithsonian Institution.

The Library of Congress will host an invitational meeting in Washington, D.C., July 25-26, to develop the Archive Directory component of the Gateway; participants will determine Directory data elements and associated controlled vocabularies.

The AMIA Moving Image Gateway is designed to include a union catalog, an international directory of moving image repositories, a cataloging facility, and an education/outreach component; it will accommodate a dynamic Web page for each archive and incorporate a flexible portal design to integrate directory information with the union catalog.

#### **Standards Review Subcommittee Formed**

A Standards Review Subcommittee was appointed within the C&D Committee to review and make recommendations on national standard cataloging submitted to AMIA for comment. Thus far it has reviewed documentation on use of conventional terminology for the SMD in AACR2 Chapter 7, and the ALA ALCTS MRC/OLAC/AMIA proposal to amend Chapter 7 rules on chief source of information for film and videorecordings.

#### **AMIA Annual Conference**

The twelfth annual AMIA conference will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, November 19-23, 2002. Headquartered at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, it is expected to draw approximately 600 attendees from around the world. The conference will include a diverse range of workshops, technical symposia, and special screenings; the theme will be "Digital Issues."

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#### **WEB IMAGES POLICIES AND GUIDELINES COMMITTEE**

**Miriam Meislik, <miriam@pitt.edu>**

The Web site has been recently reviewed and all the links should work. A few adjustments have been made for links that no longer work. I have saved the old site, so if there was a link you liked to use and it no longer appears on the site let me know. I haven't searched for the documents that were behind those links, I merely removed them if they didn't work. I hope to make an attempt to locate those documents this coming year. If anyone has any suggestions for the site or something that the site should cover please let me know. I am very interested in placing guidelines and policies from member organizations on the site to guide others in developing their own policies and guidelines.

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#### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS**

**Miriam Meislik, <miriam@pitt.edu>**

Well, we didn't get all the sessions that we wanted for Birmingham included in this year's program. But . . . we are trying again. We were asked by the SAA Program Committee

to give a couple of them another go with some minor revisions. We also have three sessions in the works that didn't quite get as far as we had hoped, so were never submitted for the 2002 meeting. That said, we will be going to SAA this year with at least five ideas in near ready to go format for submission in October. The deadline is tight. After the annual meeting we only have one month to get everything ironed out. If you have session ideas with speakers in mind, please send them to me in advance of the Annual Meeting. I will bring them to the Section meeting for discussion with the whole group. I also will try to get them in the proper format for submission so that all we have to do is fill in the blanks where information lacks.

The goal of this committee is to oversee the development and submission of session proposals. This committee will take some of the pressure off the Chair and also alleviate the annual mad dash after the meeting to get all the details in order. Ideas for sessions and workshops can be submitted at any time. Currently the committee is comprised of Miriam Meislik, John Slate, and incoming chair Laurie Baty. This is a new committee, created this year, and there are many details that we are still trying to organize. The one detail that we do know is that the VM chair will always be a member of the committee. We would appreciate any suggestions on anything related to programming.

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#### **VISUAL MATERIALS CATALOGING AND ACCESS ROUNDTABLE**

**Sue Kriegsman**

**Harvard University**

**<Suzanne\_kriegsman@harvard.edu>**

It's time to gear up for the SAA annual meeting in Birmingham. The program is full of great sessions that are of direct interest to VMCAR. There are pre-conference workshops about Encoded Archival Description and XML. With EAD and XML it is possible to create digital finding aids with links going directly to images. There is also a great new set of sessions being offered this year titled Archives Unplugged. These sessions will cover the fundamentals of archives and there is one presentation (session 41) about visual materials that will cover issues of arrangement and description. RLG is providing an update on metadata initiatives on Wednesday afternoon that should be an informative overview of the current landscape.

The other thing that will happen at the SAA meeting is a discussion about sessions for the 2003 conference. I would encourage everyone to come to the VMCAR session at 8am Saturday, August 24, with at least one proposal in mind for 2003. We can brainstorm and have a minimum of 4 session ideas, along with a list of participants who will work on the programs, by the end of the meeting. Once again I'd like to bring up the idea about doing a session on scrapbooks—it was proposed at last year's meeting but not carried out. Over the last 8 months there have been almost 50 postings to the Archives and Archivists Listserv about scrapbooks and some of those were with questions about description. If you have experience on this topic please speak up and help guide the rest of us during a session in 2003. The updates and changes on the VMCAR Web site continue and Mark Martin will discuss some the changes in the December issue of *Views*.

Hope to see many of you in Birmingham.

## AMIA News

- The AMIA annual conference will be held from Monday, November 18, 2002 to Sunday November 23, 2002 at the Park Plaza Hotel in beautiful and historic Boston. In addition to the many panel sessions on a wide range of moving image archive activities from preserving 28mm film to providing access to film and video on the Internet, there will be many digital sessions. The digital workshops and sessions are intended for archivists to gain a foundation of knowledge to help them transition from the care of "analog" materials to "mixed format" collections and to the purely "digital" environment. See the AMIA Web site for full listing of program sessions and days <amianet.org>. All AMIA sessions will include leaders in their fields from both the U.S., Canada and European countries.

- The AMIA Education Committee is currently in the process of adjudicating applications for our 4 scholarships (Pickford, Sony, CFI Sid Solow, The Chace Foundation) and the Kodak Fellowship in Film Preservation; names of award recipients will be announced in July.

- Work continues between AMIA and the Library of Congress on the Moving Image Gateway Project. The purpose of this project which is being conducted in 3 phases over 7 years is to develop an extensive archives directory database that provides searchable information about preservation and cataloging practices for the moving image archive community as well as information for dynamic web displays to provide a home page for participants to search a union catalog.

- AMIA's new journal, *The Moving Image*, is going into year two with the third issue in the mail. Reviews of this AMIA/University of Minnesota joint publication have been extremely favorable. The journal is a benefit of AMIA membership.

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## THESAURUS FOR GRAPHIC MATERIALS (TGM) RECEIVES FACELIFT

Have you longed to index pictures with "Blasting," "Reflecting pools," "Synchronized swimming," and "Yurts"? Those subjects are now at your beck and call through the redesigned, streamlined search screens at the Library of Congress' *Thesaurus for Graphic Materials: Subject Terms (TGM I)* and *Genre and Physical Characteristics (TGM II)*. The terms "Digital photographs" and "Digital images" have been added to *TGM II*, following up on a VMCAR listserv discussion about headings for digital media.

After a year-long software upgrade process, new terms are being added again to both *TGM I* and *TGM II*. The Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs (P&P) Division staff who compile these thesauri will continue to work with IT staff to ensure more stable access, but the worst of the outages should be over. A full list of terms added since August 2001 is available via the *TGM* home pages. Proposals currently under consideration include "Ink-jet prints" and "Laser prints" along with "Sidesaddle riding" and "Life-size cutouts."

Your suggestions for new terms are welcome. A proposal form can now be downloaded and attached to an e-mail request. You also can print a compact two-column alphabetical version of each thesaurus, or download an online copy for a local database application.

A recent article by P&P catalogers Arden Alexander and Tracy Meehleib traces the history, development, and current use

of *TGM*, with nine illustrated examples of pictorial indexing principles. "The *Thesaurus for Graphic Materials: Its History, Use, and Future*" appeared in *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, vol. 31, no. 3/4 (2001), pages 189-212.

Bookmark the following addresses for quick access to the Library of Congress thesauruses for indexing still pictures:

*TGM I* <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/print/tgm1/>

*TGM II* <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/tgm2/>

For additional information, contact *TGM* chief editor Arden Alexander: <aale@loc.gov>.

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## A REQUEST FOR HELP!!!

Kay Cattarulla has written through a Section member with a request for help in locating film footage. Here's what she has to say.

Dear Laurie:

I'm co-producer with KERA in Dallas of a public television documentary about the American theater pioneer Margo Jones, who ran a notable theater here from 1947 to 1955. It was the country's first professional resident theater outside New York, and became one of the principle inspirations for the regional theater movement that changed the national cultural map. Margo was a dynamo (Tennessee Williams called her "a combination of Joan of Arc, Gene Autry and nitroglycerine") and had a short, vivid, but sadly undocumented life. There are a few news clips on her from the Fifties, and one home movie from the Thirties taken by the actor Ray Walston.

I've been trying hard for a long time to track down her television appearances, without success. She appeared on CBS's "We the People" in early October 1948 with Tennessee Williams (don't have the exact date); NBC's "New York Closeup" 9/29/50; CBS's "G.E. Guest House" in late August or early September 1951 (again no exact date); CBS's Goodson-Todman show "It's News to Me" 9/24/51; Dumont Network's "Date on Broadway" 1/15/52; and a show called "Summer School," 8/18/52, that originated with WCAU in Philadelphia and had some distribution on CBS stations. Correspondence and/or photos verify most of the appearances, but I haven't been able to locate a single kinescope or other piece of footage.

I've tried CBS, NBC (both news and entertainment archives), WCAU-TV, Paley Library Urban archives at Temple, UCLA archives, Library of Congress archives, Museum of TV and Radio, and a game show expert David Schwartz in Los Angeles—all to no avail. I do realize that a great deal is lost from these years, and have been told that my last hope might be private collectors of early television. If there's an Internet posting for these, I don't know about it. I'm tackling footage.com and McDonald, both commercial footage houses, and no luck so far.

Would you please have your readers contact me directly at <KCattarulla@dm-art.org> or they can call me at (214) 922-1278 if they have any information on this topic?

Ok, folks, here's your chance to help out a researcher! Hope she hears from someone.

Once again it's VM Section t-shirt order time. This year's VM Section t-shirt features the Sloss Furnace which was established in Birmingham in 1899. It was the world's largest manufacturer of Pig Iron, which is used in making cast-iron products.

To receive the size you want, advance orders are necessary. The Section must have your order and check in hand **no later than August 1, 2002**. If you are unable to order in advance, the section will have large and extra large shirts for sale at the meeting.

Any profits go to support newsletter costs (we always get great support from SAA and we want to help out).

We will deliver shirts at the meeting, but you may send us the correct postage and we will mail your shirt to you after the meeting. **Order now to get the fit!**

Send this form with a check made payable to: Miriam Meislik, 452 Geisler Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Prices: S-XL \$12 2X, 3X \$15 Postage \$3.50

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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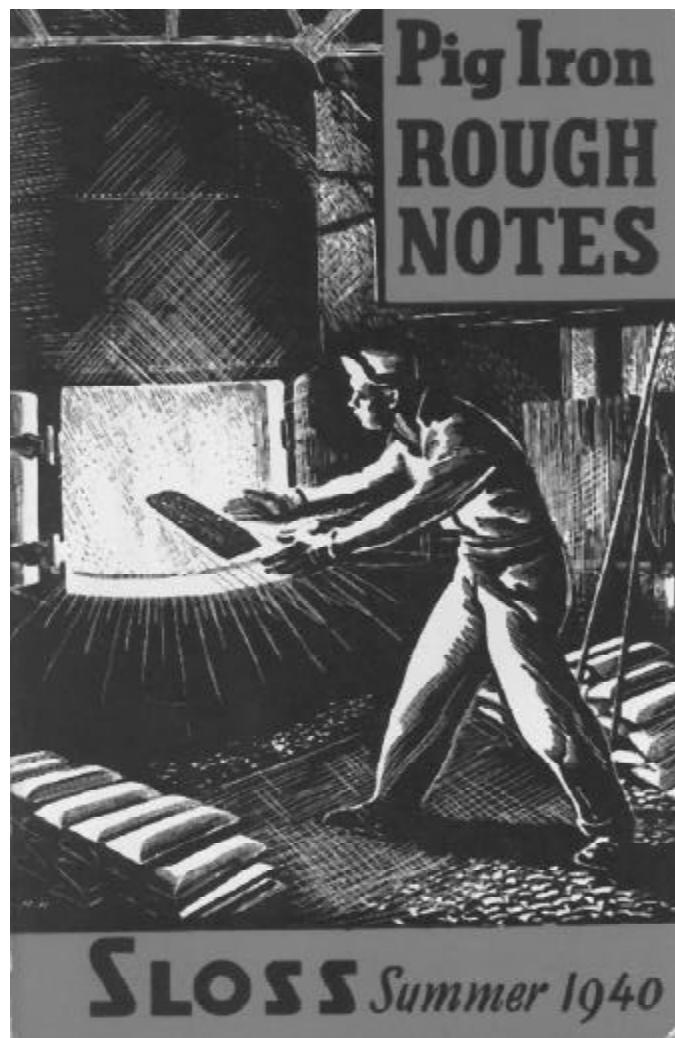
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 2X  3X @ \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Postage @ \$3.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## FIRST ROUND OF NHPRC ARCHIVAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

The first group of NHPRC Archival Research Fellows selected to receive fellowship awards are Nancy Deromedi (Bentley Historical Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan), Richard Hollinger (University of Maine Special Collections, Orono, Maine), Elisabeth Kaplan (Charles Babbage Institute, University of Minnesota), and Richard Pearce-Moses (Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records). Fellows are required to conduct research and write about a topic of importance to the archival profession. The grant requires that proposals concerning electronic records be given a higher priority than others. This first group of fellows will present their findings in June 2003 in Boston at a symposium that will engage a broad spectrum of individuals.

Project funding is administered by the Massachusetts Historical Society. Application materials for the next round of funding will be available shortly by contacting Brenda Lawson at the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, MA, 02215 (phone: [617] 646-0502, e-mail: <blawson@masshist.org>).

## WHAT'S UP

through August 18. *Revealed Treasures: Prints from the Permanent Collection*. Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, TX.

through September 2. *Alfred Stieglitz: Known and Unknown*. National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

through September 20. *Traveling the Pennsylvania Railroad. The Photographs of William H. Rau*. Library Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.

[**Views** welcomes additions to this ongoing column documenting visual-materials exhibitions around the world. If your institution is having such an exhibition, please send the relevant information to the editor. To keep this column timely, please remember that **Views** is in print three months after the deadline posted on the last page—Ed.]

## IN PRINT

### The Books

Greenough, Sara. *Alfred Stieglitz: The Key Set*. Washington, DC: National Gallery of Art, 2002. ISBN 0-894-68290-3 \$150 (cloth).

**The Society of American Archivists**  
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AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

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From the exhibition Alfred Stieglitz:  
Known and Unknown at the National  
Gallery in Washington, DC. See  
**What's Up**, p. 5.

**TIME-DATED MATERIALS  
PLEASE EXPEDITE**

Taylor, Roger, and Edward Wakeling. *Lewis Carroll, Photographer. The Princeton University Library Albums*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002. ISBN 0-691-07443-7 \$49.95 (cloth).

Van Horne, John C., ed. *Traveling the Pennsylvania Railroad. The Photographs of William H. Rau*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press in cooperation with the Library Company of Philadelphia, 2002. ISBN 0-8122-3625-4 \$49.95 (cloth).

[**Views** welcomes additions to this column documenting visual-material publications. If you know of such additional publications, please send relevant bibliographic information to the editor.—Ed.]

## MEETINGS, CONFERENCE, AND OTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**August 17-22.** Well, if you can't find your way to Birmingham and SAA, perhaps you can head north and attend the IPI/George Eastman House's annual *Preserving Photographs in a Digital World* seminar. Fee is \$1,400 [Hmm...Birmingham doesn't look so bad, after all!—Ed.] and registration information may be found at <[www.rit.edu/IPI](http://www.rit.edu/IPI)> or <[www.eastman.org](http://www.eastman.org)>.

**October 17-20.** Sacramento, CA. Daguerreian Society annual meeting. For more information, check the Society's Web site at <[www.daguerre.org](http://www.daguerre.org)>.

## ARTFUL DODGING: Things Heard, Enhanced, and Passed On

**London.** A daguerreotype by Thibault of the Paris Revolt of 1848 showing the Rue St. Maur before French army barricades were destroyed sold with another image at auction in London on May 11 for \$265,000.

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Your comments and suggestions for improvements will always receive a cordial hearing. The next deadline is October 1, 2002. Opinions expressed are those of the authors.