Last week a researcher spent a few days at the Library looking for documentation of foodways in South Carolina. She kept apologizing for having such a broad topic, but I like a challenge. And it allowed me to pull photographs and artwork that I haven’t seen for awhile.

My search for visual food also turned my mind to real food and to my upcoming trip to Austin. Most southerners are passionate about their food, especially barbecue (the noun, not the verb.) In South Carolina, we have pulled pork barbecue with three regional sauces. Heated discussions about the best sauce are not uncommon, and sometimes friendships have ended because of it. So we’re serious about our barbecue, and while I know it won’t measure up, I’m looking forward to trying Austin’s barbecue (no offense to Texas VMers.)

I am looking forward also to seeing you in Austin. Our Section’s annual meeting will be on Friday, August 14 from 1:00 to 3:00. We will be voting on changes to our Bylaws and new officers. Also, check out the 2009 T-shirt at CafePress.com. The SAA program has four sessions this year that look interesting. You will have to choose Saturday morning because Session 502 “My Face/Public Space: Privacy Issues for Photographs and Film in the Web 2.0 World” conflicts with Session 505 “From Traditional Formats to Digital Delivery: Visual Collections Sustained for Research in the Internet Age” in the 8:00-9:00 time slot. Following those is Session 602 “Focusing the Wide-Angle Lens: Minimal Processing of Visual Materials Collections” in late morning and “Building Sustainable Preservation Environments for Born-Digital Records: Three Case Studies” in the afternoon. And do not forget about the Architectural Records Roundtable at 1:00 and the Visual Materials Cataloging and Access Roundtable at 5:30 on Wednesday.

This year has gone by very quickly. It seems like we just had our Midwinter Meeting, even though it is 100 degrees outside today. We have tried some new things this year, such as blogging Midwinter, and we have a new Views editor. While the current economic situation has many thinking outside the box on ways to involve members without great expense, there are still the standard options of working group participation and helping with the newsletter and website. Please do not wait for someone to ask you directly, just jump in there and say you want to participate. We will find a place for you!

It has been an honor to lead the Visual Materials Section, and I know the Section is in good hands with its many able members. See y’all soon!
Intermuseum Conservation Association Treats Important Portraits

By Anne Cuyler Salsich
Assistant Archivist
Oberlin College Archives

Photography by John T. Seyfried for the ICA

This academic year two historically significant portraits in the Oberlin College Archives received treatment by the Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA), Cleveland. The conservation activity was made possible with income from the endowed Hunt Fund for Preservation and Digital Access established in 2007. This fund enables the Oberlin College Archives to undertake preservation, conservation and digital access projects for artworks, recordings, photographs, and other objects in need of treatment, stabilization and/or migration to new media. Without this dedicated fund, the Oberlin College Archives would not be able to proceed with preservation projects, especially during the financial downturn of the past year. Emeritus Archivist Roland M. Baumann established the Fund in the last years of his tenure as College Archivist.

Bas-Relief Photographic Portrait of Amzi L. Barber, ca. 1900

One of the two portraits treated is a rare, bas-relief photogravure of Oberlin graduate Amzi L. Barber, made by the Taber Bas-Relief Photographic Syndicate in San Francisco around 1900. It had been encased in a damaged metal frame under broken glass. Particles of glass had scratched the photograph’s surface, and the frame did not provide enough space for the object to expand and contract normally in response to changing humidity levels. Conservation treatment involved removing glass particles and dust from the surface of the photograph, retouching a small loss in the image caused by the broken glass and reframing the object in a larger sink mat to allow for expansion and contraction. ICA returned the Barber portrait to the Oberlin College Archives in May of 2009.

The Intermuseum Conservation Association had never seen this type of photographic object before, and were so intrigued that they pursued research on the object, the patented process and the photographer, Isaiah West Taber (1830-1912). They learned that the process for “embossed photographs” was patented in 1896 by Freeman A. Taber, brother of Isaiah West Taber. The brothers operated a studio in Syracuse, N.Y., 1857-1864, before Isaiah Taber moved to San Francisco. He opened his own studio there in 1871, and took over the studio of the better-known Carleton E. Watkins in 1876.

The back of the Barber portrait indicated that Taber had established studios in London and Paris. The finding guide to the Isaiah West Taber Family Photographs Collection at the Bancroft Library at U.C. Berkeley informed us that Taber had received a commission to photograph Queen Victoria’s Jubilee pageant and to make a portrait of King Edward VII. Unfortunately Taber’s career ended in 1906 when his entire collection of glass plates, view negatives and portraits on glass were destroyed in the earthquake and fire in San Francisco. The Ban-
croft Library holds a small amount of Taber's family portraiture, including Taber's self-portrait using the bas-relief process. It can be viewed from the Online Archive of California's website at http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf1199p1s5&brand=oac/.

Amzi Lorenzo Barber (1843-1909) received the A.B. degree from Oberlin in 1867. He was a successful businessman as the founder and president of the Barber Asphalt Paving Company, which paved Washington D.C.’s thoroughfares. He served Oberlin as the Principal of the Preparatory division prior to his business career, and later continuously as a Trustee from 1889 until his death in 1909.

The other portrait treated by ICA, painted on porcelain in 1862, is significant for its subject, Charles Grandison Finney (1792-1875). Finney was the foremost evangelist preacher in pre-Civil War America with a long tenure at Oberlin, from 1835 until his death in 1875. He was the College’s second president, from 1851-1866.

Finney’s oval portrait on a rectangular porcelain plate came to the Archives’ collection as two broken pieces glued together and placed into a plain black metal frame. The frame obscured the edges of the piece and did not provide adequate stability for the fragile porcelain. The crack through the portrait greatly marred the delicate painting of the fiery preacher. The treatment at the Intermuseum Conservation Association consisted of separating the two pieces, removing the old adhesive and reattaching both pieces of the object with conservation grade epoxy. The areas around the break were retouched to diminish their appearance, and the object was fitted into a custom-made sink mat padded with felt to protect the object and placed into a walnut frame. The new rectangular window mat allows the viewer to see the edges of the oval painted area and the signature of the artist, which had previously been obscured by the original mat.

SAA Austin Events

VM Section’s annual meeting will be held on Friday, August 14 from 1:00 to 3:00. We will be voting on changes to our Bylaws and new officers. (Proposed Bylaws changes are on pages TK). Also, check out the 2009 T-shirt at CafePress.com.

Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Sessions:

Session 502 “My Face/Public Space: Privacy Issues for Photographs and Film in the Web 2.0 World.”
Saturday morning, 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Session 505 “From Traditional Formats to Digital Delivery: Visual Collections Sustained for Research in the Internet Age.”
Saturday morning, 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Session 602 “Focusing the Wide-Angle Lens: Minimal Processing of Visual Materials Collections.”
Saturday morning, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Saturday afternoon. 1:30-3:00pm

Ransom Center Tour
Wednesday, August 12
1:00-3:00pm

Exhibits

by Shawn Waldron
Archive Director
Conde Naste Publications


NEW In Print

By Liz Ruth
Assistant Editor
Los Angeles Maritime Museum


North Carolina Architectural Resource is Online

A collaboration of the North Carolina State University Libraries and Preservation North Carolina has digitized 2,710 measured drawings and 5,543 photographs documenting 800 North Carolina buildings and structures from the 1700s to the early 1900s.

Titled “The Built Heritage of North Carolina: Historic Architecture in the Old North State,” the project provides access to the images through an online database. In addition the project website includes a timeline of architectural styles, maps for locating individual buildings, virtual 3-D models of 16 historic structures, and links to other resources on historic architecture in North Carolina. In addition, there are nine K-12 lesson plans available through the resource.

Built Heritage is targeted for diverse audiences, including architects, architectural historians, historic preservationists, students, and the general public. The resource can be accessed at http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/builtheritage/

Buildings represented in this project include well-known examples of historic architecture, such as Baldhead Lighthouse, the Bellamy Mansion in Wilmington, and Blandwood Plantation in Greensboro. A number of buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Also represented is work by Thomas Day, a prominent nineteenth-century African American cabinetmaker who also created architectural features such as staircases and fireplace mantels.

For further information about Built Heritage, please contact Todd Kosmerick at todd_kosmerick@ncsu.edu or (919) 513-3673.
GALLERY

Images courtesy of South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina

John Benjamin “Bud” Washington, volunteer fireman in Georgetown, S.C., photograph by D.C. Simpkins, Georgetown

Dr. D.S. Black’s medical office, Georgetown, S.C., 1899

Veterans of Chester Volunteer Company of Palmetto Regiment, who fought in the Mexican War, gathered in Chester, S.C., ca. 1858, half-plate daguerreotype; flag in picture was lost for many years, turned up in New York, was conserved and returned to South Carolina in 2005; a copy will be presented to the Chester County Veterans Affairs in May 2009.
SAA VM Section Midwinter Meeting - Proposed Changes to Bylaws

The following proposed revisions are made to bring the Section into compliance with SAA regulations. SAA requires Sections to have Steering Committees, and the changes reflect the addition to our administrative structure. If you have any questions about or corrections to the proposed changes, please contact Beth Bilderback: BILDERBK@mailbox.sc.edu

Bylaws, Visual Materials Section, Society of American Archivists

Last Adopted 1990 August 31
Seattle, Washington

Revised, 2004 January
Boston, Massachusetts

Revisions adopted, 2004 August
Boston, Massachusetts

Revisions adopted, August 2008
Revised, February 2009

Article 1. Name.

The name of this section shall be the Visual Materials Section of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), hereinafter referred to as the Section.

Article 2. Objective.

To promote greater communication among visual materials archivists and to represent and promote appropriate care, management, and use of visual materials collections to the greater archival community through annual meetings, continuing education programs, and publications, including a newsletter reporting on the Section’s activities and other matters related to visual materials collections.

Article 3. Membership.

Membership is open to any member of the Society of American Archivists who elects to join.

Article 4. Leadership Officers.

A. The Section shall be guided by a Steering Committee composed of Chair, a Chair-elect, Immediate Past Chair, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and two elected members.

B. Terms of office.

1. The Chair and Chair-elect shall serve a term of one year each. The Chair may not be elected to serve as Chair-elect in the year immediately following his/her term of office.

2. The two elected Steering Committee members shall serve alternating two year terms. The Chair may not be elected to serve as Chair-elect in the year immediately following his/her term of office.

3. The Newsletter Editor and Webmaster are appointed by the Chair, with advice from the Steering Committee, to a two-year term each, which can be renewed indefinitely.

4d. The Chair, and Chair-elect, an elected Steering Committee member shall assume office at the close of the annual Section meeting in which they are elected, and shall serve until their successors have taken office.
C. Nomination and Election.

1. Nomination

   a. The Elections Committee shall call for nominations for Chair-elect and Steering Committee member on the Section listservs and the second newsletter of each year.

   b. Only individuals who have consented to nomination may be listed on the slate of candidates.

2. Election.

   a. The Elections Working Group shall prepare a ballot for distribution 2 months preceding the annual Section meeting and for distribution at the meeting. This ballot shall include provision for a write-in candidate.

   b. The Elections Committee shall work with SAA to distribute an electronic ballot. SAA will report the results to the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee will, in turn, report the results of any election at the annual Section meeting and in the newsletter following the election.

   c. Ballots may be submitted using SAA's electronic balloting system or at the annual Section meeting.

3. Vacancies in Office.

   a. Chair. In the case of vacancy in the office of Chair, the Chair-elect shall assume the office and duties of Chair.

   b. Chair-elect. In the case of vacancy in the office of Chair-elect, the office shall remain vacant until the next annual Section meeting, at which time a new Chair and Chair-elect shall be elected. The Chair shall assume the duties of Chair-elect in the interim, although the Chair may ask a member of the Section to assist in fulfilling the duties of Chair-elect.

   c. Elected Steering Committee Members. In the case of vacancy, the Steering Committee shall appoint a replacement, who shall serve to the end of the unexpired term.

D. Duties of the Officers.

1. Chair. The Chair shall preside over Section meetings, and with the advice and assistance of the Steering Committee and Working Group Chairs shall direct the Section’s activities. The Chair, with advice of the Steering Committee, appoints Committee Chairs, Working Group Chairs, and Liaisons; submits the final Three-Year Plan and summary to SAA Council after receiving a draft from the Three-Year Plan Working Group chaired by the Chair-elect; submits budget requests to SAA Council; and turns over the records of his/her administration to the Chair-elect.

2. The Chair-elect shall advise and assist the Chair in conducting the Section’s business. In the absence of the Chair, the Chair-elect assumes the duties of Chair. The Chair-elect will chair the Three-Year Plan Committee and submit a draft plan to the Chair for approval and submission to SAA Council.

Article 5. Business.

A. Meeting times. The Section shall meet once a year at the time of the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists. The time of and agenda for this meeting shall be announced in the newsletter immediately preceding the meeting.

B. Other meetings. Additional Section meetings may be scheduled at the call of the Chair. Such meetings shall be announced on the VisualMat listserv, the SAA Section listserv, and in the newsletter preceding the meeting.
SAA VM Section Midwinter Meeting - Proposed Changes to Bylaws

1. A report of a meeting called by the Chair must be published in the newsletter immediately following the meeting and posted on the Section web site.

2. Decisions proposed during any meeting called by the Chair must be published in the newsletter immediately following the meeting, posted on the Section web site, and approved by the membership at large during the annual meeting by a plurality of members voting at the annual meeting.

C. Voting. All policy decisions shall be determined by a plurality of members voting at the annual meeting.


A. Elections Working Group.

1. The Elections Committee shall consist of the two most recent, available, past Chairs. Members of the Working Group shall serve for no more than two consecutive years. Members of the Working Group may not nominate themselves or each other for office.

2. The Working Group shall prepare a slate of candidates for election reflecting the diversity of the Section’s membership, especially in terms of location, size, and type of employing institution. The Working Group shall request of nominees consent to candidacy and a brief biographical and position statement for publication in the newsletter immediately preceding the annual Section meeting.

B. Newsletter Working Group.

1. The newsletter Editor is the Chair of the Working Group as appointed by the Section Chair. The Editor may appoint assistant Editors from among the Section members. Prior to publication, the newsletter shall be prepared and reviewed by the Editor and Assistants and forwarded to the Section Chair for approval.

2. The newsletter shall be published in compliance with the SAA Guidelines for Section and Roundtables.

C. Committees and Working Groups. The Chair may appoint or dissolve other Committees and Working Groups as needed. Each Committee and Working Group shall have a written charge and a specified period of service. Committees shall report on their activities at the annual Section meeting or in the newsletter prior to the annual Section meeting.

Article 7. Policy for Revision of Bylaws.

Bylaws shall be reviewed every 4 years by the Steering Chair, Chair-elect, Committee and Working Group members. All proposed changes to the bylaws shall be published in the newsletter and posted on the Section web site prior to the annual meeting. Changes shall be determined by a plurality of members voting at the annual meeting.

Article 8. Parliamentary Authority.

Roberts Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern the proceedings of the Section, except as otherwise provided for in the bylaws of the Section, or in the constitution, bylaws, or other special rules of the Society of American Archivists.
VIEWS: The Newsletter of the Visual Materials Section of the Society of American Archivists is published quarterly by and for the Visual Materials Section.

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Your comments and suggestions for improvements will always receive a cordial hearing.
The next deadline for material for the newsletter is September 15, 2009.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors.