



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

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Special Edition

VOTE T-shirts VOTE T-shirts VOTE T-shirts

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT - 2006 Visual Materials Section, Society of American Archivists

This year's election is electronic. You must be a Section member to vote so have your SAA membership no. at hand to log in.

Please vote at <http://poll.icommons.harvard.edu/poll/taker/pollTakerOpen.jsp?poll=1-4278-27144>

Electronic voting ends *NOON, Friday, July 28*. If you miss the deadline, bring this ballot with you to the Section Meeting.

Your name: _____ SAA membership no. _____

For Visual Materials Section Chair-elect, vote for one of the following:

_____ Stephen Cohen

_____ Deirdre Scaggs

_____ write in _____ (only individuals who have consented to nomination may be listed)



CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS



Stephen Cohen

The Visual Materials Section leadership made great strides in developing the section into a community of professionals who can freely and openly share ideas. The mid-winter meetings of the last few years have proven this to me. Since becoming an active member three years ago, I have found this group to be the one SAA group that not only pursues professional endeavors in the form of workshops, guest speakers, and reference tools, but also succeeds in building real relationships among the members. I find this aspect unique to the VM Section; it is unlike any other group under the SAA umbrella.

As a records manager, one of my personal-professional goals is to educate colleagues and clients that records come in all formats and media. As an archivist, I maintain the same goal; to treat all records equally. Records are records, whether they are letters, electronic databases, photographs, contracts, architectural plans, medical forms, models, artifacts, or any other type of human-made record. There are instances when the best way to express an idea is not with words but with an image/object. It is our duty to make sure that the visual materials in our repositories are represented in a manner that respects the quality of information they contain, and to make that record accessible.

For too long, visual materials were (and in some places still are) treated as unwanted step-children in the realm of archives. Archivists steeped in the written record did not know what to do with photographs, architectural drawings, objects and artifacts, and the like, especially when they did not neatly fit inside a letter/legal file folder. Consequently, a wealth of historical records has been kept from public access. Through efforts

already undertaken by the VM Section, as well as new ones not yet developed, we can continue to educate our colleagues on the value of archival visual materials.

If elected Section chair, I will do my best to involve more of our membership. To this end, I am a strong supporter of developing local VM social/professional gatherings, and encouraging non-visual material archivists to embrace (or at least consider) visual materials as archival records equal to the written word. In this way, we can further our goals within the group as well as to the broader archival community.

I am records manager and archivist for Forrest Solutions in New York City where I design and implement records-management programs for law firms, real estate developers, and other organizations. I hold an MLIS from the University of Texas at Austin (1998) and a BFA from the University of Connecticut in 1993 (photography and printmaking).

Dierdre Scaggs

The Visual Materials Section has consistently been one of the most active and largest sections in SAA. Since nearly all of my professional experience has involved visual materials it was the first Section that I joined when I became a member. Being chair of a Section that I am so closely connected with personally and professionally would be quite rewarding. I am interested in continuing the work established by past chairs and furthering the dialogue about digitization, best practices, and born digital visual records.

I have been impressed with the quality of SAA sessions related to visual materials and I am

interested in keeping up that standard of excellence. It's always a relief to attend sessions and have conversations about shared problems and discoveries that only someone else involved with visual materials can empathize with or become excited about in the same way. This camaraderie is important to me. In addition to quality sessions and having a network of some of the most interesting archivists in the field, I would like to continue the high quality of the newsletter, work to consistently update the website, and to encourage our colleagues to write more professional articles related to visual materials.

My experience with visual materials goes beyond my archival experience. I went to school for photography, but it was only after I earned my MFA that I became interested in the historical visual document. Personally, I am interested in the cultural impact that images have had on the world but professionally I am also interested in expanding the discussion and awareness to vernacular visual records that often slip through the collection management cracks. The materials that I encounter in my current position have greatly expanded my range of experience. Weekly, I may encounter challenges related to glass plate negatives, videos, blueprints, digital photographs, maps, and more.

I am currently the University Archivist at the University of Kentucky and also manage the *Lexington Herald-Leader* Preservation and Access Project (an estimated collection of 1.5 million negatives). Previously I worked on the Historic Pittsburgh Project selecting and cataloging images. I have an MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh and an MFA from The Ohio State University.



Once again it's VM Section t-shirt order time. This year, in recognition of our meeting in Washington, D.C., home of the Red, White, and Blue; patriotism; and the Nationals we offer this lovely image.

What is it? In an effort to raise money for the First World War, the government promoted early Christmas shopping to speed up the receipt of sales taxes. This Christmas poster, and others, were commissioned by the Federal government in hopes of generating federal taxes to assist in paying the costs of the War through Liberty bonds. The artist, Haskell Coffin, was a well-known magazine illustrator, figure, and portrait painter in New York City famous for his use of the allegorical female figure in many of the patriotic and war support posters he designed. The t-shirt printed in four-colors on patriotic blood-red 100 percent cotton. You definitely will be a trend setter wherever you go in this shirt!

Order in advance to take advantage of a \$3 savings and order in advance to ensure that you get the size you want! Miriam **must** have your order and check in hand **no later than July 14, 2005**. If you don't order in advance, shirts for sale at the meeting will be \$20. Profits go to support approved Section activities.

Order now to save money and get the fit!

☛ Checks should be made payable to SAA-VM.

Send your check and this form to: Miriam Meislik, 452 Geisler Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15221

All pre-meeting sales and sizes (S-3XL) are one price: \$17
Postage \$4.05

Name _____

Address _____

_____ ZIP _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

(Indicate number ordered in the size box below)

Size S M L 1X @ \$17 \$ _____
2X 3X @ \$17 \$ _____

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Total \$ _____