

Obituary



Our good old friend Communiqué has left us after a long battle of **absence**. It leaves to mourn all AMA members who will fondly remember the informative news it distributed throughout the years.

In lieu of flowers donations of stories and news items may be forwarded to the AMA office.

Special Interest Articles:

- AMA Board 2003-2004
- Winnipeg City Archives
- Spirits in the Archives?
- Ethics Workshop
- 500-Year-Old Manuscripts
- Feedback
- Film Night
- Upcoming Events

Contest... Name the NEW Newsletter

Prize: Win a \$50 gift certificate from McNally Robinson's.

Eligibility

- Must be an AMA member to enter contest.
- Members of the Board or the Information and Outreach Committee are not eligible to enter.

Terms

- The AMA is looking for a new name for its newsletter.
- A name that should reflect archives across Manitoba.

Deadline

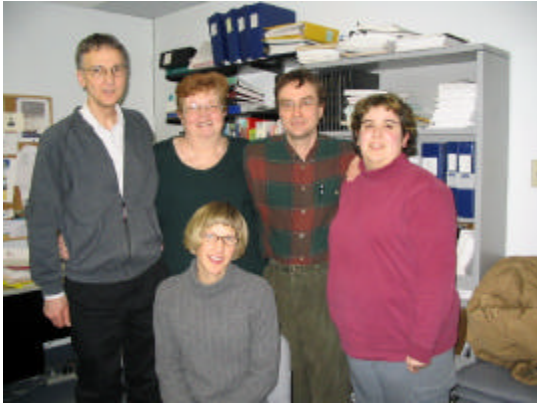
All entries must be received by 19 March 2004.

How to enter

E-mail your suggestions to amal@mts.com. Or snail mail the AMA Office (Box 26005, Westminster Post Office, Wpg, MB R3C 4K9).

Clearly indicate your name, address, and telephone number so we are able to contact you if you win!

AMA Board 2003-2004



Front row: Jody Baltessen (Chair)
 Second row: Alf Redekopp (Finance & Grants), Elizabeth Blight (Membership), Brian Hubner (Education & Advisory Services) & Carole Barnabé (Information & Outreach)

City of Winnipeg Archives and Records Control Branch

Following extensive research, including analysis of by-laws in other municipal jurisdictions, a new records management By-law was drafted to bring the City's records retention and disposition schedules up-to-date. It also addresses issues of custody, control, and the preservation of archival records. By-law No. 166/2003, which came into effect on January 1, 2004, was passed by Council at its meeting on December 17, 2003.

Also in 2003, City Archives coordinated production of the

2003 Directory of City Records. The *Directory* describes the organization of the City of Winnipeg, its functions and information holdings. More information about the activities and operations of the City Archives is available in the *2003 Annual Report of the Records Committee*.

The new by-law, *Directory* and *Annual Report* can be viewed on the City Clerk's website at <http://winnipeg.ca/clerks/>.

Jody Baltessen

Spirits in the Archives ?

The spirits were definitely co-operating Thursday September 11 2003, when the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections successfully hosted a talk by spiritualist researcher Walter Meyer zu Erpen entitled "The Evidence of Life After Death: Researching the T. G. Hamilton Archives", based on investigations into the spirit photographs of Dr. Hamilton held by the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections.

The only problem was the event quickly threatened to become too successful. It was soon clear the 250+ crowd who arrived would overwhelm

the System Communications Theatre, which seats only about 60. The talk's broad appeal had begun to become apparent after it was featured by both *The Winnipeg Sun* and CJOB Radio. Still Archives staff were a little taken by surprise by these numbers after being used to hosting events which appeal to a small, but enthusiastic, core audience interested in archives or literature.

To the rescue came quick-thinking Psychology professor Dr. Jim Nickels who located the close, and thankfully, empty Fletcher Argue lecture hall and the decision was made to move the event. An urgent

call brought University of Manitoba technical staff to the scene who worked wonders by having the hall "wired" and ready for Walter within minutes.

The large crowd created not only a crisis with the venue but also with the supply of toilet paper, in the nearest washrooms, and with the amount of food required after the talk. The first need was satisfied by library staff who handed over some of their precious supply. The second need sent two Archives staff over to "The Daily Bread Café", at St. John's College, where the staff generously baked a large number of cookies on the spot. The

Archives staff was able to slowly bring them back across the campus to the reception on creaky library carts.

Those who are interested in what all the fuss was about are urged to come down to the Archives to examine the T. G. Hamilton Collection or, failing that, tune into CTV's "Creepy Canada", in the comfort of their own home. Episode 6 (Season II) the "Hamilton Archives" was filmed here last June and features the Hamilton spiritualist photographs.

Brian Hubner

Ethics Workshop – 20 January 2004

Terry Cook and Tom Nesmith recently lead an archival workshop that took an enthusiastic group on an ethical journey. Equipped with the notion that ethics are “rules of conduct arising out of moral principles,” the two presenters offered a brief summary of the subject of ethics.

Following these introductory statements, a series of hypothetical questions were distributed to the participants. Terry Cook reminded the group that in responding to these ethical challenges, there were no right answers. Rather, each scenario possessed many alternative courses of action, each with their own consequences.

Prior to the session,

each participant was asked to submit a case study, which were then distributed in a booklet. The afternoon was spent discussing these ethical dilemmas, first in smaller groups and then reporting back to the others. An analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the codes of ethics of the International Council on Archives and the ACA Code of Ethics followed the presentations.

Terry Cook concluded with a brief summary of the day’s events, stating: “I hope our mutual discussions have demonstrated to you the need to be sensitive to the basic conflicts which can arise in archival work between loyalty to the institution, to our

profession, to our clients, to our donors, and to the documents itself, to fairness to ourselves and our colleagues, even to the wider concept of history, heritage, or that of Sir Arthur Doughty’s civilisation itself.”

Tom Nesmith also left us with a final thought: “Is conventional archival theory and practice not just simply mistaken, unethical? The profession

claims in its classic guardianship role to preserve authentic records, but cannot to do so; to be objective, but cannot be so; to be society’s representative archive, but cannot be, or has not been so. While no doubt filled with good intentions, can a profession be ethical when unable to deliver what it promises? What need to change?”



500-Year-Old Manuscripts



A manuscript collection with parts dating back over 500 years primarily from Spain and Italy and used in the liturgy of the mediaeval monasteries was donated to the Canadian Mennonite University and deposited

at the Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives a few months ago by Walter Loewen. There are five identifiable books and approximately 80 leaves of which 9 items are framed for display. The panels beautifully depict musical notation of Gregorian chants etched in color on goatskin. The collection was on display at the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery in October. Several university and community groups have taken the opportunity to

view and examine these rare items. A number of the items will be included in an exhibition to be held at the University of Manitoba in the Gallery 1.1.1, 208 Fitzgerald Building in June 2004, entitled "The Book: A Technology of the Spirit". The University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections is also contributing to this exhibit.

Alf Redekopp

Feedback

What do you want to see in the AMA newsletter?

- Student Corner
- Exhibits
- Feature archive
- Local gossip

These are a few examples of what can be included in the newsletter. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated by the editorial staff. Thank-you!

Don't forget to enter the newsletter naming contest. Be creative.

Film Night



Out of the Archives :
Films of Northern
Manitoba 1930-1970, a
joint programme by the
Manitoba Historical
Society and the Archives
of Manitoba held on
November 20th 2003
highlighted the
communities of Brochet,
The Pas, Churchill,

Pukatawagan, Flin Flon,
Oxford House, Norway
House and Waboden.
Peter Geller of the
University College of the
North provided a lively
commentary to
accompany the mostly
silent film clips. This was
the second of a hoped for
ongoing initiative of the

two organizations to
provide an enthusiastic
audience with the
opportunity to see some of
the film treasures from the
Archives.

Elizabeth Blight

Upcoming Events

AMA Event
Introduction to Archives

March 4 & March 5, 2004
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. both days

Mennonite Heritage Centre
600 Shaftesbury Blvd. -
Winnipeg

ARMA Winnipeg
(co-sponsored by AMA)

**Preserving the Future:
Managing Electronic Records**

April 21-23, 2004

The Fairmount Hotel

CCA

**Forms for the preparation of
the final reports for CCA
projects 2003-2004**

www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/financial.html

AMA Event
**Religious Archives Special
Interest Group Meeting**

March 11, 2004
1:30 p.m.

Anglican Centre
935 Nesbitt - Winnipeg

Conference on Photographs

March 11-13, 2004
University of Manitoba

www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/conferences/photograph/intro.shtml

*In the next issue we
would like to add
People,
Announcements and
more Events. Please
forward your news to
the AMA Office.*

AMA Event
**Advanced Fund
Development Workshop
with
Patricia Hardy, MA, ACFRE**

March 25-26, 2004

University of Manitoba

**Transcona Historical
Museum**

**Virtual Exhibit: Serving King
and Country: Transcona's
Hometown Heroes**

www.virtualmuseum.ca

SHSB

"Au pays de Riel"
www.shsb.mb.ca/paysriel

Communiqué is published by the
Association for Manitoba Archives.
Submissions, questions or comments
should be directed to the Editor, Carole
Barnabé. Views expressed in
Communiqué are not necessarily those of
the Board of Directors of the AMA.
Deadline for next issue: 5 April 2004.
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ISSN 1193-9958