

## The Newsletter of the Southeastern Registrars Association

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Notes from the Chair</i>	1
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	2-3
<i>Membership</i>	4
<i>SERA News</i>	5-10

### SERA OFFICERS

**Chair:**

Tricia Miller

**Vice-Chair:**

Jennifer Spence

**Secretary:**

Alyssa Magnone

**Treasurer/  
Membership Chair:**

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney

**Development Chair:**

Ainsley Powell

**Communications  
Chair:**

Sabra Gossett

**State  
Coordinator:**

Deanna Taylor

**Scholarship Chair:**

Elizabeth Le

**Nominations Chair:**

Christy Sinksen

## Notes from the Chair

Tricia Miller

Dear SERA Members,

I hope everyone has survived the summer and any heat or bad weather that might have come your way. I know we're all looking forward to cooler months ahead!

First, just a quick reminder to renew your membership. Renewals are down compared to this time last year and we want to be able to continue to include you in this fabulous peer group. Most of all, we want you to be eligible for a wrist band to the Registrar's Respite during SEMC. It's going to be a fun time!

Second, I want to thank Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney for her service as Treasurer and Membership coordinator for SERA. In her report below, you will see that she is leaving her current position and, thus, will be vacating the SERA treasurer position. We can't thank Kaitlyn enough for all her work keeping track of the expenses and income for SERA. Miranda Helton will be joining the SERA officers to fill Kaitlyn's seat until the end of her term. We will officially transfer the position to Miranda at our business meeting at SEMC in October. Thank you, Miranda, for stepping up and Kaitlyn, all the best to you in your next endeavors!

Lastly, the SERA Nominations Committee recently sent out a call for nominations to the SERA board. The positions currently open for nominations are Development Chair, Secretary, and Communications Chair. This is a unique opportunity to actively participate in the SERA organization, network with fellow registrars, and gain valuable professional experience. The deadline for nominations is September 2 and the upcoming election will take place on September 9. Officers will be announced at the SERA Luncheon at SEMC. Please consider running for office and working with this great group of fellow collections people.

SEMC is quickly approaching, so if you were thinking about attending the conference I would recommend that you make a commitment soon. The block of rooms at the conference hotel are filling up fast. I look forward to seeing SERA members there, attending some sessions and celebrating our achievements together.

All my best,  
 Tricia Miller

## TREASURER'S REPORT

KAITLYN HOF-MAHONEY

Greetings SERA Members,

I hope you all are having a wonderful summer and staying as cool as you can. This will be my final report to you as Treasurer/Membership Chair. At the end of September I will be leaving my position with the Matheson History Museum after nine years. While I will miss serving on SERA's board, I am thrilled to share that Miranda Helton, Registrar at the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in South Carolina, will be stepping up to complete my current term in office. It has been wonderful getting to know you all from this position over the last few years and I look forward to staying connected to museums through SERA.

We still have 48 2023 members who have not yet renewed for 2024. If you would like to be eligible for participation in SERA activities at SEMC in October (including the Respite!), you must be a current member for this year, so please don't forget to renew.

As of August 9, 2024, SERA has 125 active members, up from 117 (+6.8%) this time last year.

As of August 9, 2024, the current balance in the Chase checking account is \$11,519.76. The current balance in the PayPal account is \$1,900.74. The combined total on-hand is \$13,420.50, down \$62.81 (-0.5%) from the \$13,483.31 on-hand reported this time last year.

SERA's fiscal activity for January 1 – August 9, 2024 is outlined below. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney, Treasurer/Membership Chair

## TREASURER'S REPORT

## KAITLYN HOF-MAHONEY

## THE SOUTHEASTERN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION, INC.

**Statement of Activity**  
January 1 - August 9, 2024

	<b>TOTAL</b>
▼ Revenue	
▼ Donations	
Sponsorship	2,000.00
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>
▼ Membership	
Associate	50.00
Individual	1,350.00
Institutional	375.00
Student	30.00
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>1,805.00</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,805.00</b>
GROSS PROFIT	<b>\$3,805.00</b>
▼ Expenditures	
Dues, Fees, & Subscriptions	391.99
PayPal Fees	90.14
Respite	200.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$682.13</b>
NET OPERATING REVENUE	<b>\$3,122.87</b>
NET REVENUE	<b>\$3,122.87</b>

**Statement of Financial Position**  
As of August 9, 2024

	<b>TOTAL</b>
▼ ASSETS	
▼ Current Assets	
▼ Bank Accounts	
BUSINESS CLASSIC (3379) - 1	11,519.76
PayPal Bank	1,900.74
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$13,420.50</b>
▼ Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	2,075.00
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$2,075.00</b>
▼ Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	0.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$15,495.50</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$15,495.50</b>
▼ LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	
▼ Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	11,150.36
Retained Earnings	1,222.27
Net Revenue	3,122.87
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$15,495.50</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$15,495.50</b>

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# MEMBERSHIP

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## New\* / Renewing Members

### AL

#### **Pamela Bransford**

Registrar, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

### AR

#### **Amanda Cheatham**

Registrar/Exhibition Designer, Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College

#### **Harrison Mitchell**

Registrar, Historic Arkansas Museum

#### **Emma Shortess\***

Collections Assistant, Rogers Historical Museum

### FL

#### **Annie Ladehoff**

Assistant Registrar, Artis-Naples, the Baker Museum

#### **Solana Rostick\***

Graduate Student, University of Florida

#### **Deborah Van Horn**

Senior Curator, Walt Disney Imagineering

### GA

#### **Katie Dillard\***

Director of Curatorial Affairs, Albany Museum of Art

#### **Jen Glaze\***

Associate Registrar, Atlanta History Center

#### **Tricia Miller**

Deputy Director of Collections & Exhibitions, Georgia Museum of Art

#### **Corinne Roth**

Registrar, Delta Flight Museum

#### **Shalan Webb**

### KY

#### **Leah Craig**

Program Consultant, Kentucky Historical Society

#### **Connor Humphrey\***

Parks Museum Curator, John James Audubon State Park

### LA

#### **Michelle Schulte**

Chief Curator of Exhibitions and Collections, LSU Museum of Art

### MS

#### **Tommie Rodgers**

Registrar, Lauren Rogers Museum of Art

### NC

#### **Mary Hauser**

Associate Director and Registrar, Gregg Museum of Art & Design

#### **Marian Inabinett**

Curator of Collections, High Point Museum

#### **L. Catherine Riddle**

Collections Manager, Duke Lemur Center Museum of Natural History

### SC

#### **Rebekah Cobb**

Collection Support Staff/Contract Registrar, Museum & Gallery at Bob Jones University

#### **Miranda Helton**

Registrar, Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum

### TX

#### **Kali Mercy**

Curator, Perot Family Collections

## New\* / Renewing Associate Members

#### **India Crawford**

Senior Director, Transport Consultants International

#### **Annelies Mondt**

Retired, Georgia Museum of Art

## SERA NEWS

ALABAMA**Sabra Gossett***Collections Manager***Berman Museum - Anniston Museums and Gardens**

In October, I will be leaving Berman Museum to become the Curator at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum in Florida. I will deeply miss Berman Museum and AM&G, as it has been a part of me for seven years, but I am excited to see where this next position takes me! Luckily, I will still be in the southeast region, so I can still be a part of all the awesomeness SERA has to offer!

**Anna Grace Silvey***Intern***Berman Museum - Anniston Museums and Gardens**

Recently, I had the privilege of designing my first exhibit at the Berman Museum with the help of Collection Manager Sabra Gossett. Titled *Tribal Traditions*, the exhibit explores the traditions and cultural significance of the Tribal People across Africa through artifacts. On display items range from a Tebu Dagger used by the Toubou People to a Prestige Stool used by the Songye People. The exhibit covers many different artifacts used by the Tribal People in their everyday life. The exhibit will be on display in the Berman Museum lobby until 2025.

ARKANSAS**Amanda Cheatham***Museum Registrar/Exhibition Designer***Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College**

Bill Roan, *Reverse Motorized Penny Farthing*, forged steel, cast bronze

Over the summer we have been working toward the installation of three exhibitions opening on August 27. William Roan: Artist Blacksmith | Retrospective: The blacksmith famous for making the original Bay Bridge Troll will have 20 of his one-

of-a-kind steel and bronze creatures in the museum's window gallery. Matthew Zupnick: Tools of the



Matthew Zupnick, *Peace Driver*, bronze, steel, found tool

Trade: Matthew's sculptures are primarily made from traditional materials such as bronze, steel, and wood. His motivation and inspiration come from historical and current world events, human interactions, and the way we treat our environment. Tools As Art: Work And Play: Unprecedented in its scope and singular appeal, Tools as Art explores the unsung elegance of tools with sixty-five highlights from the unique holdings of hardware pioneer John Hechinger, toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington DC.



Wayne Thiebaud, *Paint Cans*, 1990, Color lithograph on wove paper, Photograph by IA&A, © Wayne Thiebaud/Artist Rights Society (ARS), New York

**Jennifer Kick***Collections Manager***Rogers Historical Museum**

Rogers Historical Museum is happy to announce we hired a new Collections Assistant, Emma Shortess, who started with us in July. Collections work has really sped along since then. This summer at RHM we have put together some new art shelves and reorganized our art collection, inventory of the collections has started, and we have acquired a freezer for our 35mm reel collection. Our Collections Gallery exhibit A Century of American Glassware has come down and we are preparing for the next exhibit: Building Rogers. We are also preparing our quilt collection for display next year in the Stitches in Time quilt exhibit. Finally, we hosted the last Rogers Explorers of the summer: a program where children learn about the area they live in by visiting local institutions.

**Carolyn Reno***Collections Manager and Assistant Director***Shiloh Museum of Ozark History**

Stephanie Carter, Image Collections Manager, and Aaron Loehndorf, Collections Specialist and Grounds Curator, have been holding transition meetings with Carolyn Reno as she prepares to retire later this fall. Reno has been managing the museum's three dimensional, archival, and manuscript collections for forty years. Carter will assume those duties as well continue image collections management. Loehndorf will

continue collections duties as well. Reno extends her thanks and best wishes to the SERA community.

**GEORGIA****Aimee Brooks***Collections Manager***The Columbus Museum**

In May, The Columbus Museum reopened after 18 months of construction to undergo a major transformation. This reimagining—the building's first in more than 30 years—offers an enhanced visitor experience, featuring American art and historical artifacts from the Lower Chattahoochee River Valley. Without any additions to its footprint, the Museum and architects Perkins & Will strategically optimized existing square footage to offer more expansive galleries with an increase in linear wall space. The renovation features open-sight lines and increased natural light for a more welcoming atmosphere. This design allows for better flow between exhibitions, enhancing the connection between visitors and objects. For the first time, the building's art and history wings are connected, encouraging visitors to explore all the Museum has to offer. Significant improvements to accessibility ensure that all visitors can comfortably explore the galleries, including wider pathways and improved signage. The removal of an artificial berm in front of the building drastically increased physical visibility along a busy but narrow road, and a rebranding campaign has sought to reintroduce the Museum with updated graphics, bright colors, and a new nickname: COMU. Aimee Brooks, Miles Kirkpatrick and the rest of the curatorial and design staff spent the first part of 2024 reinstalling all the galleries. The whole staff is now settling into the building and looking forward to offer exciting new exhibitions and programs. Aimee and Miles have plenty of reorganizing projects in the storage area (itself newly renovated in 2021-2022) to keep them busy for the foreseeable future.

**Erica Hague***Collections Manager***Atlanta History Center**

This past June we opened a new exhibit entitled, "More Than Brave: The Life of Henry Aaron" which covers the life of Hank Aaron from his youth through

to his retirement and life after his record breaking baseball career. This exhibit was made possible by funding from the Atlanta Braves Foundation, the Henry Louis Aaron Fund, The Rich's Foundation, and through the generous loan of items from Billye Aaron and several others. If you're in the area before it closes in September 2025, I hope that you'll check it out!

July was a busy month for Collections Manager, Erica Hague, who went up to Beloit College for a week to learn textile conservation skills during a week-long course as part of the Center for Collections Care (C3) summer sessions. This was a lot of fun, and the international group of 8 students spent the bulk of their time in hands on training at the direction of Camille Meyers-Breeze, Director & Chief Conservator of Museum Textile Services (MTS).

Our digitization project was also completed this past July with 1001 items now up and searchable online. Jen Glaze, Associate Registrar, has now moved to working on inventorying, condition reporting, and database cleanup in preparation for digitizing the 1400+ items in our Turning Point exhibit which is slated to close this coming Spring. We anticipate completing this digitization project by the end of 2026. Inventory, condition updates, and location updates have been completed by Project Registrar, Deb Wold, for the 523 items that will be digitized from our Shaping Traditions exhibit which closed this past Spring. We anticipate completing this work before June of 2025.

Finally, we have received \$150,000 from the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS) under their Museums for America Grant to inventory 4,000 items



and further digitize 1,000 of those items. With these we will create 20 free lesson plans centered around these materials in order to further support K-12 teachers and students. Implementation of this will start in September of this year, and three part time and one full time role will be hired for the project. Final submission of materials will be completed by fall of 2026.

### **Christa McCay**

*Collections Manager*

### **Marietta History Center/City of Marietta**

The Marietta History Center is gearing up for a busy late summer and early fall, with projects happening in the galleries and storage spaces. We received support to have all of our galleries and exhibit spaces painted, good bye 1990s yellow-gold, hello neutral grays and black walls. This will be the first time that we have been able to do full gallery refreshes and not just one space. Also, we are about to have 6 HVAC systems replaced, including two in our storage spaces.

Collections Manager, Christa McCay, is working on the final preparations on two sessions for SEMC 2024, in Baton Rouge. The first session Behind Closed Doors: Stories of Survival During a Collections Storage Renovation and Roll of the Dice: Dealing with Collections Conundrums are just a couple of great collections based sessions at the conference in October.

### MISSISSIPPI

### **Cheryl Munyer Waldrep**

*Museum Curator*

### **Natchez National Historical Park**

Cheryl Waldrep, Museum Curator at Natchez National Historical Park, reports the completion of a multi-year project to more accurately interpret the Melrose mansion parlor. The park installed new window treatments and reupholstered and rearranged furniture so the room more closely resembles its mid-19th century appearance.

An 1865 inventory of the Greek Revival mansion notes a parlor set of "marron velvet" and also mentions window treatments. Period-correct window treatments were created based on an 1851 copy of

Godey's Lady's Book, the most widely circulated and first successful woman's magazine in mid-19th century America. The park also selected a period-appropriate velvet fabric to reupholster what is believed to be the original McMurrin parlor set. Over twenty pieces of furniture were shuffled between the first and second floors of the mansion to be in line with the 1865 inventory, and 39 were recovered in more appropriate fabric.

While there is still work to be accomplished per the furnishings plan, today visitors have a better idea of the opulence found in this suburban estate, which was home to the wealthy white planter family and the enslaved people who lived and labored there. Like most of the rooms in the house, the parlor retains its original bell crank near the mantle which rang a bell on the rear gallery to summon an enslaved servant. The mansion furnishings stand in stark contrast to the rooms of the slave cabins behind the big house, and are even further removed from the more sparse living conditions for people enslaved on the McMurrins' five plantations. The Natchez National Historical Park is also searching for a museum technician! The job posting can be found on USA Jobs.

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### **Ainsley Powell**

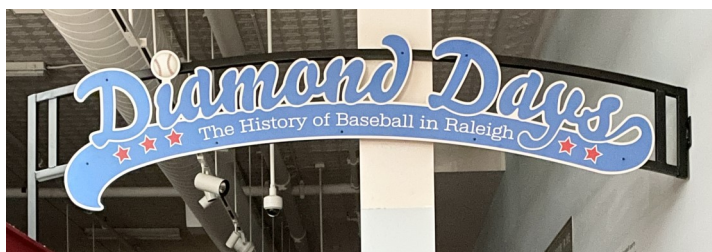
*Curator of Collections*

#### **City of Raleigh's Historical Resources and Museum Program**

After two years in the making, the City of Raleigh's HRM Program opened, "Diamond Days: The History of Baseball in Raleigh" in April. Also, the Collections



team will be done with a large inventory project by the end of this year.



### SOUTH CAROLINA

#### **Maggie Claytor**

*Associate Registrar*

#### **Gibbes Museum of Art**

Summertime at the Gibbes Museum of Art is quiet as the heat settles in on Charleston (well not for the education and programs



team busy with summer camps.) This time allows the collection and exhibition team a chance to tackle smaller projects before the busy fall exhibition turnovers begin. Maggie Claytor, Associate Registrar, completed inventories of the sculpture and painting collections. Grayson Miller, Curatorial Intern from

University of Virginia, conducted research on the history of the art glass dome atop the museum. Claytor and David Petitpain, Head Preparator, collaborated with a local photographer to digitize art in the GMA collection by artists of color funded through a grant obtained by the Education and Program department. Claytor and Brenna Reilley, Associate Curator, were awarded a conservation grant from the Joan Mitchell Foun-





dation to help fund the conservation of a painting by Mitchell in the GMA collection. The painting will be featured in the upcoming winter exhibition featuring work in the GMA collection along with fashion from the Barrett Barrera Projects collection. As the fall approaches, the collection and exhibition team are prepping for exhibitions highlighting David Driskell, Edward Middleton Manigault, and the past winners of the 1858 Prize for Contemporary Southern Art all opening this fall.

## VIRGINIA

### **Cathy DeSilvey**

*Registrar & Curator*

#### **Virginia Military Institute Museum**

Recently the family of Lt. Benjamin Rives Kearfott, VMI 1943, presented the burial flag used during his interment in the Normandy-American Cemetery

above Omaha Beach, Normandy, France. At 4:30 a.m. on June 6th, Lt. Kearfoot and approximately two hundred men of Company 116th Regt. 29th DIV, disembarked from their ship into six landing craft and began the two-hour crossing to the beach. Comprised of Virginia National Guard troops – many of whom were from Bedford, VA – these men were destined to be the first troops to land in France that morning. Kearfott was



killed leading his men ashore during the first wave of the D-Day Landing, June 6, 1944. This flag arrived at the VMI Museum on June 6, 2024 — exactly 80 years to the day after Lt. Kearfott's sacrifice. His relatives visited the VMI Museum on

August 2nd to view the "Recent Acquisition" exhibit installed in honor of Kearfott. Events such as this attest to the power of artifacts and their meaning, and is one of my favorite parts of my job!



### **Jeanne Nicolls**

*Retired Collections Manager*

#### **Loudoun Museum**

At the Loudoun Museum, retired Collections Manager Jeanne Nicolls is volunteering a few hours a week with the Director to help clean up loan records in their PastPerfect (Web edition) database: identifying what items are still on loan and what has been returned. The project sounded straightforward and as if it would take just a few months, but as many collections projects are wont to do, it has turned out to be to be anything but! The museum acquired PastPerfect in the mid-2000s. Since that time a number of people, mostly well-intended volunteers, did their best to enter records into the database. However, few had any experience as a registrar, background in collections management, or sound understanding of PastPerfect. As a result, untangling incoming loans that were entered as accessions, finding and deleting duplicate records, identifying a handful of objects whose Object ID numbers need changing, and organizing details to get incoming loan information as accurate as possible has taken some time (going on a year) and is still in progress. As part of the cleanup, a slew of entries in the 'Source' field were changed from 'FIC' to 'Unknown' and 'FIC' moved to the 'Received As' (Type of Acquisition) field, 'Unknown' was inserted where the Source field

was empty, 'Due Date' was filled in on loan records so they would be flagged as Overdue, duplicate terms were culled from dropdown menus. Back records from a box full of files marked 'Returned Loans' from the 1960s and 1970s are being added to the database. Many records, along with several boxes of objects whose acquisition status is unclear, will need to be reconciled with the objects and their document files. To make future data entry easier, a Data Standards Manual specific to the Loudoun Museum is being crafted. Eventually the museum also plans to create a separate system for institutional materials mistakenly accessioned into the Permanent Collection, appropriate records will then be moved into the new Institutional Archives. Like so many collections projects, this one will be 'ongoing' for some time...



See you at SEMC!



**SERA NEWS** is published quarterly by the Southeastern Registrars Association. The Southeastern Registrars Association (SERA) recognizes high standards of museum practice and fosters professional growth among museum registrars in the Southeastern region of the United States. We promote the exchange and dissemination of information and ideas through education seminars, publications and other means. SERA initiates and supports activities and projects which help create an atmosphere of cooperation and communication among, and between, registrars, other museum professionals, and those in related fields, and pursues further development of professional practices in the field.

**Membership:** Individual membership (\$25.00) is open to museum professionals who perform registrarial functions for institutions in the twelve states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Associate membership is also available to those outside the region or those employed by for-profit businesses or organizations who express interest in the objectives of SERA.

**Membership Contact:**  
SERA Treasurer/Membership Chair  
Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney