

# THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST

VOLUME 77 ■ NUMBER 2 ■ FALL/WINTER 2014

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS ■ WWW.ARCHIVISTS.ORG



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*The American Archivist* (ISSN 0360-9081) is published semiannually (Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter) by:

### The Society of American Archivists

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Tel 866-722-7858 or 312-606-0722 Fax 312-606-0728 www.archivists.org



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### Institutional subscription rate

- \$209 print
- \$209 online
- \$259 for both print *and* online

### Individual subscription rate

- \$169 print
- \$169 online
- \$199 for both print *and* online

Online editions of *The American Archivist*, including the entire back run from 1938 to date, are hosted by MetaPress and may be accessed at <http://archivists.metapress.com/>.

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## ABOUT THE COVER

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The cover photograph was captioned “Mrs. Worcester with Igorot girls who are showing her how to make baskets.” It was taken on April 25, 1907, in Atok, located in the province of Benguet, a mountainous region in the northern part of Luzon island, Philippines. This image is one of the thousands of photographs attributed to Dean C. Worcester (1866–1924), an American natural scientist, colonial official, and entrepreneur, who occupied several key positions in the US colonial government of the Philippines. A zoologist by training, Worcester travelled to various regions of the Philippines to conduct ethnological surveys, and during these trips he coordinated the photographic documentation of many indigenous groups throughout the islands. Worcester circulated many of these photographs through his publications as well as by selling them to collectors or donating them to natural history museums. The Worcester ethnographic photographs continue to stir controversy both for their content depicting indigenous Filipinos as savages needing American tutelage, as well as their use by Worcester and others to support the case for US annexation of the Philippines. In this issue’s article “Archival Diasporas,” author Ricardo L. Punzalan discusses the dispersion of Worcester’s ethnographic photographs throughout North America and Europe. Punzalan examines the implications of understanding this “archival diaspora” as it affects archival concepts of provenance, uniqueness, and originality when representing photographic images in archival custody. (*Dean C. Worcester, Photo 10N027, scanned from original glass plate negative. Reproduced with permission of the University of Michigan Museum Anthropological Archaeology.*)

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# Editorial Janus: Reflections on the End of a Term

Gregory S. Hunter

This is a time of “editorial Janus,” recalling the Roman god who faced both the past and the future. With volume 77, number 2, I complete my first term as editor of *The American Archivist*. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the profession in this way. I look forward to beginning a second three-year term this January.

Looking to the past, I wish to thank the authors, peer reviewers, members of *The American Archivist* Editorial Board, and SAA staff for your contributions to the success of the journal over the past three years. In particular, I want to thank everyone who answered my call to become involved with the journal for the first time. We now have over 150 peer reviewers, many of whom are new to the process. I am mentoring these peer reviewers and would welcome the opportunity to add many more to the list.

Looking to the future, the journal is in a time of transition, as is the entire publishing industry. MetaPress has decided to end its online hosting arrangement with *The American Archivist* as well as several other journals. While we are in the process of selecting a new online platform, online access to the journal will not be interrupted. However, we are also using this opportunity to explore the full range of options for improving manuscript tracking and journal production. I will provide additional information as it becomes available.

But what about the present? To stay with the theme, the current issue of the journal does look both backward and forward. It contains twelve articles, three in a special section on Twitter and archives. There also are six book reviews.

The first nine articles cover the following topics:

- Ricardo L. Punzalan explores the challenges posed by dispersed photographic collections. He provides a framework for understanding the “diasporas” of archival photographs. A prepublication version of this article was discussed during a “brown bag” lunch at the recent SAA Annual Meeting in Washington.
- Donna E. McCrea, Elizabeth A. Nielsen, and Anne Foster discuss the mentoring program established by the Northwest Archivists. This case study documents NWA’s experiences designing and managing a mentoring program within a volunteer-run professional association, reflects on the program’s successes and challenges, and recommends areas for future investigation.
- Speaking of mentoring, John A. Fleckner discusses the professional contributions of his mentor, F. Gerald Ham. Fleckner’s article traces Ham’s career, reviews his writings for insights, and suggests the ways Ham’s ideas remain relevant today.
- Sammie Morris, Lawrence J. Mykytiuk, and Sharon A. Weiner explore archival literacy for history students. In this first of a series of articles, they identify faculty expectations for archival research skills and encourage comment from members of the wider archival profession.
- Robert X. Browning presents a case study of the C-SPAN Video Archives. Now in its twenty-sixth year, the archives has created an off-site satellite archives, developed an indexing and cataloging system, provided access, and implemented new technology. C-SPAN’s experience provides insights for archives of all types.
- Scott Cline continues his ongoing discussion of what it means to be an archivist. In the current article, Cline explores archival ideals and the “moderate disposition” that can help us cope with disappointment while creating great value through our work.
- Libby Coyner and Jonathan Pringle discuss collaborative collection development and the documentation of underrepresented communities and subjects. They report on a multi-institutional survey initiative that put collaboration and collection development under a critical lens.
- Adrienne R. S. Harling documents how “More Product, Less Process” (MPLP) was used to process a large twentieth-century manuscript collection. She presents a nuanced understanding of MPLP as a decision-making framework (not a set of processing techniques) and the potential value of MPLP in a wide range of archival scenarios.
- Elizabeth Dunham and Xaviera Flores discuss the creation and use of bilingual finding aids. They describe the process of creating a Spanish


finding aid template; review the challenges encountered and solutions designed while translating, encoding, and publishing Spanish guides; and analyze use of the final documents.

Three articles are grouped together in a special section on Twitter and archives. They cover a range of issues and approaches to this social media platform:

- Timothy Arnold and Walker Sampson provide guidance to collection developers interested in curating subject-centered collections of tweets. Using the revolution in Egypt as a case study, they discuss how to collect tweets as well as collection development issues related to Twitter.
- Adam Kriesberg presents a picture of archival activity on Twitter, using data collected from thirty-four institutions. He seeks to understand current institutional behavior on the platform and asks, “What are archival institutions doing on Twitter?”
- Finally, Katy Lalonde, Chris Sanagan, and Sean Smith discuss using Twitter for outreach. The bicentennial of the War of 1812 provided the Archives of Ontario with a unique opportunity to employ social media to reach new audiences while speaking to the value of the archival record.

The issue also offers reviews of six books dealing with a broad range of topics: U.S. colonial rule of the Philippines; J. Edgar Hoover’s secret FBI; women’s archives; the “allure” of the archives; the boundaries of the literary archive; and practical digital preservation. The issue concludes with the journal’s editorial policy and annual index.

As we transition from one editorial year—and calendar year—to the next, I hope your own experience with Janus is a positive one!



Editor

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