



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

SHAMIN MALMAS, PRESIDENT

Once again it has been a busy fall and winter for the ASA. We are thrilled to announce that we had a successful application for the Documentary Heritage Communities Program through Library and Archives Canada. Our project is an Audiovisual Preservation and Access Strategy which involved hiring an Audiovisual Preservation Specialist in early January. The Board is confident that this new program will provide much needed support and services to our member institutions. Stay tuned for more details about this exciting project.

In early December I was one of 36,000 people who visited the Royal Alberta Museum for a final farewell. As I am sure you all know the RAM closed its doors and is in the process of moving its exhibition space to a new downtown Edmonton location. Scheduled to open in 2017 it will be the largest museum in western Canada. The ASA wishes our colleagues at the RAM well during this period of transition and is excited for opening of the new space.

Also in December I stood in line for several hours to see a copy of the Magna Carta that was on exhibition in the Borealis Gallery

at the Alberta Legislature. I was thrilled that it took over two hours to reach the front of the line. What an amazing experience realizing that hundreds of people came to see a single record. Now if only I could convince that many people to visit me in the archives!

The ASA Secretariat continues to grow and evolve. We are pleased to welcome Katrina Foster as our new Administrative Assistant. Rene will be taking a year of leave and so the ASA will be hiring a replacement soon. Stay tuned for an announcement on the listserv and website.

On February 2, 2016 Ricardo Miranda was appointed Minister of Culture and Tourism. Rene and I will be meeting with Minister Miranda in March. The Grants Committee meets in early March to review and adjudicate grant applications, and the ASA Board is preparing for the AGM and Conference from May 4 to 7. We hope to see as many of you as possible in Canmore.

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The Archives Society of Alberta is supported in part by a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR

RENE GEORGOPALIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ARCHIVES ADVISOR

The ASA is currently preparing for all the spring happenings. Grant applications have arrived and are awaiting adjudication, board and committee meetings continue, the Flood Advisory Programme continues to help our members prepare for potential disasters, plans are underway for the conference and pre-conference workshop and we have received funding for a new project.



The new project is courtesy the new grant from Library and Archives Canada called the Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP). The ASA successfully acquired a grant to help our institutional members with their audiovisual holdings. The project is called the Audio-Visual Preservation and Access Strategy. We have recently hired an Audio-Visual Preservation Specialist to examine all of our member archives to see what the audio-visual needs of Alberta are. She will be examining not just our members, but the types of services and knowledge that are available in the province. From her research, she will compile a report of recommendations so Alberta can improve the preservation and access of audio-visual archival holdings. I am really excited to see the project underway and I suspect that many of our institutional members will find it very useful. The project is funded until March 2017. Please welcome Deborah Tabah, our new Audio-Visual Preservation Specialist to the ASA team!

The ASA also hired three Contract Archivists for the Flood Advisory Programme. More about these Contract Archivists can be found in this newsletter. In other ASA personnel news, Maryna has changed positions from Database and Administrative Assistant to just our Database Administrator. We are really happy to have Maryna continue to help ASA with its database. We then hired a new Administrative Assistant, Katrina Foster. The ASA have never had so many staff!

In addition to extra ASA projects and hiring of staff, I have been busy trying to do the usual ASA work. Spring is always quite busy here and we are preparing for the Archives Institute which will take place in early April as well as grant adjudication, the spring workshop, AGM, annual reporting and the 2016 conference. Our conference this year will be taking place in Canmore and the program has just been set! I really hope that you are able to come to the Rockies and enjoy the conference with this year's theme, The Truth About Archives, which explores archival biases as well as the topic of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Our keynote presenter is Greg Bak, professor of the MAS program at the University of Manitoba. He presented a plenary at our conference in 2014.

Finally, we have a meeting scheduled with the new Culture and Tourism Minister, Ricardo Miranda. We will keep our membership updated on our discussion with the Minister regarding the needs of our community.

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# SUMMARY OF THE ASA RAD INPUT SESSION FOR CCA

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CCA received funding from LAC to investigate how to update RAD. CCA asked all the provincial and territorial councils to host input sessions. The ASA hosted a RAD input session on November 25. We had 8 members attend in person and 7 members attend virtually via Adobe Connect. Members who attended virtually had audio from the in person session and used chat to send in their thoughts. The members who joined varied from senior archivists to those without any training in RAD. The majority of members in attendance had been using RAD for about 5 years. The session ran for about one hour.

We went through the questions posed by the CCA in the RAD Update Project document.

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of RAD in its current form?

## Strengths:

- RAD is detailed
- Easy to navigate because of the electronic pdf versions.

## Weaknesses:

- Too much cross-referencing and it is a very large document
- Punctuation rules are outdated
- RAD is based upon a library standard and there are fields from that standard that are never or rarely used
- Difficult to use when crossing archives over with records management
- Every institution uses RAD differently which is a problem when RAD entries from various institutions are condensed in one system
- What data should be going into certain data elements can be unclear
- The custodial history description is too broad to meet authenticity requirements
- Digital environments and a/v media need to be better incorporated
- Punctuation rules are not useful and cause inconsistencies – such as last name before first name in some areas and the other way in other areas
- Many “RAD” descriptions in databases are not even RAD compliant - is that an issue of education or a problem with the standard?

2. What should the scope of the standard be?

- RAD is not currently a one-stop shop
- Our descriptive standards needs to work for both official languages
- Concern that a new/updated descriptive standard not stray from 2008 RAD as members do not want to have re-description projects again; it is also difficult to change the standard re. the current database in use

3. How closely should RAD work with International standards?

- Thoughts of having a standard that is easy for both archivists and users but also a comment that any standard can have issues and education is important
- Some members wished to adopt ISAD-G or to adopt the standard with Canadian needs in mind
- Discussion re. having standards based on ease for users but that users do not understand the needs of archival management. Should keep the archivist’s need in mind.
- ISADG has better descriptive tools for giving records creation context

4. Who should be responsible for governing the standard?

- A body who can afford to maintain it such as ICA; ICA has a description expert group who only deals with description so they have the capacity to govern the standard
- Mention that if an international body governs the standard that Canadian needs still need to be addressed – for example, francophones
- Others felt that a national body should govern the standard
- Question Mentioned – if anyone is concerned about archival training in Canada and abroad and how it could impact international standards - this question turned into a discussion on how a lack of training can be an issue and that testing and training needs to be part of the plan with a revised/new standard in use
- Using an international standard can be a compromise which may result in a standard that is not great for anyone
- Internationally, nobody has heard of RAD.



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## SUMMARY OF THE ASA RAD INPUT SESSION FOR CCA (CONT.)

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### 5. Who should be consulted?

- Archives advisors and educators
- Users to a degree – we discussed that users do not know about technical archival needs
- Those who are developing a databases/IT

### What is the best option from those proposed by CCA?

There were two main thoughts on this amongst the participants - either to develop a Simple RAD or to adopt ISAD-G. The discussion points included:

- One member felt that ISAD-G is a different level from RAD and not comparable

- Another member pointed out that it is clear that CCA is against adopting ISAD-G since CCA's document on updating RAD states that the adoption of ISAD-G is "dubious"

- Some members liked the idea of a Simple RAD as they felt it would not make them change their current database

- A couple members suggested combining ISAD-G with a Simple RAD

- Other comments included using multiple standards for different media, and that metadata crosswalks and data mapping should be considered.

- One member mentioned that RAD does not have space for certain notes and that there may be more possibilities with ISAD-G

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## NEWS FROM THE LEAD TEAM

AMANDA OLIVER, LEAD ARCHIVIST, EMILY TURGEON-BRUNET, LEAD CONSERVATOR

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The Lead Team of the Flood Advisory Programme is currently in the preliminary stages of organizing a two day workshop offered in Calgary. A speaker who works with the Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP on disaster psychology has been invited to discuss the impact that disasters may have on staff working in the heritage field. Ways of overcoming trauma, and how to psychologically prepare for disaster recovery processes will also be discussed. Following a morning on disaster psychology, a short talk will be given by a representative from BELFOR Canada. The Lead Team will also be teaching a short, interactive seminar on how to handle wet records. The following day includes a business continuity planning workshop offered by a specialist from Nova Scotia.

The Lead Team is also excited to announce that the app they have been working on with Calgary based company, App Guys, will be launched at the workshop. Staff members from App Guys will be present at the workshop to assist attendees with downloading and using the app, as well as to answer any questions. More information on registration will be made available in Spring 2016.

In addition to the workshop and app, the Lead Team is currently developing a loan program for the ASA. This program will include material that may assist our members prepare and recover from future disasters. Items in the program include ELSEC monitors, weights, Plexiglas, disaster preparedness and recovery books, among others. More information about how this program will operate will become available when the program is launched later this year.

The Flood Advisory Programme is pleased to welcome three short-term contract archivists who are working in Wetaskiwin, Slave Lake, and Canmore to assist ASA institutional members with intellectual control, rehousing at-risk media, digitizing, disaster planning, and forest fire disaster preparedness. Kate Heikkila began on February 8th at the City of Wetaskiwin Archives, Carey Isaak also began on February 8th at the LSLIRC-TARR Program Archives, and Christa Baxter will be starting her position on March 7th at Canmore Museum and Geoscience Centre.

The Lead Team has completed the site assessments for all ASA institutional members and is continuing their work on completing the proposed work plans.

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## NEW STAFF INTRODUCTION: KATRINA FOSTER, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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Katrina Foster, Administrative Assistant

I am pleased to introduce myself as a recent addition to the ASA team. Hired in January 2016 to fill the role of Administrative Assistant, I'm excited to be working closely with the Executive Director with event planning and other administrative tasks.

I moved to Grand Cayman several years later, where I learned about my long paternal family history in the Islands. I worked in finance while in Cayman, and also obtained a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) degree from the Cayman Islands Law School (campus of the University of Liverpool).

In September 2004, the Cayman Islands were devastated by Hurricane Ivan. It was a Category 5 storm when it reached Grand Cayman, and caused extensive damage to the country, much due to flooding. The importance of records was especially evident in the weeks post-Ivan, when the staggering number of damaged or destroyed documents became known.

I returned to Alberta in 2008, and have enjoyed reacquainting myself with the city and all it has to offer. While living in Grand Cayman, I missed the arts and culture that Edmonton has in abundance, so I have become an enthusiastic volunteer with the Edmonton International Fringe Festival since my return.

Although I spent most of my early career working in banking and finance, I have most recently worked for another non-profit, so I am pleased to now bring my skills and talents to the ASA.

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## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARCHIVES 2015: REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

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SARA KING, GOVERNMENT RECORDS ARCHIVIST, PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA

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In September 2015, with the assistance of the ASA Professional Development Travel Grant, I was fortunate enough to attend the 3rd Annual ICA (International Council on Archives) conference in Reykjavik, Iceland. The theme for this year's conference was Archives: Evidence, Security and Civil Rights and, as it turned out, the banner covered a multitude of subjects. In this one weekend I attended sessions on digital record keeping as it pertained to sustainable management and also practical methods to harness digital records for open data and big data projects; I was able to examine how other regions and countries were moving towards public information management systems that allowed for greater access and transparency while still protecting privacy; and perhaps most intriguing of all, to see how archives could be active partners in advocating for human rights and correcting historical injustice, but also how they can be used and abused for political ends.

The international nature of the conference meant those in attendance were able to examine the subjects presented from many different viewpoints, from very high level projects being undertaken by the United Nations or the European Union such as the creation of the archives of the UN Human Rights Tribunal, to

national level initiatives like the rebuilding of New Zealand's public information management system, to localized initiatives including using crowdsourcing to create metadata in Aarhus, Denmark. In addition I was able to meet and converse with archivists from all over the world and get a sense of my own profession as it is viewed and practiced outside the Canadian context.



SARA KING IN ICELAND, 2015



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# UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY LAUNCHES NEW DIGITAL COLLECTION

LISA ATKINSON, ARCHIVIST, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

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The University of Calgary Archives and Special Collections has launched a new digital collection containing nearly 4000 pages of textual and photographic records which researchers interested in the history of Formosa and the Sino-Japanese war; Arctic exploration, Rotary International, anthropology, climate change and social history will find of interest. The items in the digital collection were selected from the James Wheeler Davidson Family fonds following completion of a project to arrange and describe records which had been organized and reorganized by family members for over a century.

James Wheeler Davidson has been described as a modern Marco Polo and a renaissance man. Born in Austin, Minnesota in 1872 and educated at the Northwestern Military Academy he was invited to join Peary's second Greenland expedition in 1893. After this fifteen-month adventure was complete, he returned briefly to Minnesota and then went to Formosa as a war correspondent in the Sino-Japanese war of 1895. He was appointed US consul agent in Formosa in 1896, a position he held until 1903, when he was transferred to Manchuria and then to Shanghai the following year. He wrote extensively during this period, and his book *The Island of Formosa, Past and Present*, published in 1903, is still considered one of the primary authoritative books on Taiwanese history.

Davidson returned to the United States in 1905 suffering from typhoid and met his future wife, Lillian Dow, on the ship coming home. They married in 1906 and moved to Winnipeg, where he started his life as a businessman in Canada. The couple moved to Calgary in 1907 and in 1915, their daughter Marjory was born. Together with his brother, C.H. Davidson, and investors from the U.S., Davidson was involved in a number of successful business ventures, including the Calgary Colonization Company, the Crown Lumber Company, and the Royalite Oil Company. He was also actively involved in a number of different initiatives in Calgary, including the construction of the Lougheed Building, the Calgary Symphony Orchestra, the Alberta Motor Association, and the Calgary-Banff Tourist Development Association.

Davidson began his involvement with Rotary in 1914. In 1919, he became the President of the Calgary District Rotary Club, and for the remainder of his life, Rotary would play an increasingly important role. In 1921, he travelled to Australia and New Zealand with James L. Ralston, and they were successful in generating enthusiasm for Rotary and instrumental in getting several new clubs chartered. After increasing involvement locally and nationally with Rotary, James, Lillian and Marjory embarked on a thirty-two month trip in 1928 to Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Jerusalem, India and the Far East. The purpose of the trip was to



PHOTO COURTESY OF U OF C ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

promote the expansion of Rotary clubs across the world, and they were successful in getting 23 Rotary clubs chartered in 12 different countries. Throughout this period, James submitted regular reports to Rotary International about his progress, and Lillian maintained detailed journals and contributed regular articles about their travels to *The Rotarian* magazine.

The Davidson family returned to Canada in 1931 and were enthusiastically welcomed home by their Rotarian family at a large formal dinner in Vancouver. In 1932, the family moved to Vancouver, as James was in failing health. In 1933, at the age of 61, James passed away. Tributes poured in from all over the world after his passing, as he had met and touched so many lives. A lasting tribute to James proposed by the Alberta Motor Association and the Rotary Club of Calgary was the dedication of Mount Davidson, near Banff, Alberta.

Lillian and Marjory continued their involvement with Rotary for many years, and kept an active correspondence with many of the people they met on their travels. Lillian was asked to speak at various Rotary events, and her articles about their Rotary extension trip were published in a book, *Making New Friends*, in 1934. Lillian died in Vancouver in 1958. Marjory also spoke at Rotary events, including the Rotary International Convention in Taiwan in 1994. She married Jack Abramson with whom she had three children: Don, Rikki and Heather Lynn. Marjory died in Delta, British Columbia in 2003 at the age of 88.

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## UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY LAUNCHES NEW DIGITAL COLLECTION (CONT.)

LISA ATKINSON, ARCHIVIST, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

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The records in the fonds were created and collected by members of the Davidson family over three generations, from c1873-2010, and include correspondence, travel journals, reports, presentation notes, newsclippings, scrapbooks, photographs, artefacts and published materials. Of particular note is a collection of 264 glass lantern slides depicting scenes from the Arctic, Formosa, Japan, mainland China and Europe during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The online collection can be accessed at <http://asc.ucalgary.ca/davidson-family> where there is a link to the finding aid and a number of customized subject searches that provide researchers with easy access to records that relate to their interests.

The arrangement and description of the records and the creation of the digital collection was supported by a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation through the Archives Society of Alberta. We are very grateful for this support, without which this digital collection would not have been possible.



PHOTO COURTESY OF U OF C ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

### ASA 2016 Biennial Conference

# The Truth About Archives

Canmore, Alberta  
May 4 - 7, 2016

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# NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION: UNITED FARMERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SVEN ANDREASSEN, ARCHIVIST, UFHS

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SVEN ANDREASSEN, ARCHIVIST AT THE UNITED FARMERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

The United Farmers Historical Society was incorporated in 2002 in anticipation of the centenary of the United Farmers of Alberta in 2009, with a mission to document and make available. Throughout its history UFA has occupied a number of roles in Alberta's history: as a farm lobby, a political party, and as a farm supply co-operative. Our holdings span from the start of UFA in the early 20th century to present, though the bulk of our holdings are from the modern UFA Cooperative after 1948.

Since 2014, UFHS has focused on improving its archives program and access to holdings that have been donated from individuals or transferred from UFA Cooperative. We launched an archives website in 2014 ([archives.ufa.com](http://archives.ufa.com)) that has been a good resource for researchers interested in UFA's history. It is with great pleasure that our application for institutional membership with the Archives Society of Alberta was accepted last October.



# HERITAGE AWARDS 2016 Alberta Historical Resources Foundation

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation is soliciting nominations for Heritage Awards 2016. These awards are presented to recognize and celebrate the significant contributions of individuals, organizations, corporations, and municipalities to the protection, preservation and promotion of Alberta's heritage.

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

**Heritage Conservation Award**, for projects that demonstrate excellence in the conservation of a historic place or excellence in the conservation and interpretation of palaeontological and archaeological resources.

**Heritage Awareness Award**, for research, publications or public engagement projects that have deepened our understanding of Alberta's heritage and promoted greater awareness of our province's remarkable past.

**Municipal Heritage Preservation Award**, recognizes a municipal government for exemplary commitment to heritage conservation through the identification, protection and promotion of their historic places.

**Outstanding Achievement Award**, recognizes an individual's exemplary long-term leadership and contribution to the preservation and presentation of Alberta's history.

Nominations will be accepted between  
**March 15 and July 15, 2016.**

Submit nominations to:  
Heritage Awards  
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation  
8820-112 Street  
Edmonton AB T6G 2P8

Guidelines and nomination forms are available at [www.culture.alberta.ca/ahrf](http://www.culture.alberta.ca/ahrf).

If you have any questions, contact Program Coordinator at 780-431-2305.



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## PEOPLE AND PLACES

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Two of our institutional members, Glenbow Archives and Legal Archives Society of Alberta received DHCP grants. Congratulations!

Calgary Police Archives has moved into a new location. The ASA is excited to see their new digs.

The Archives Society of Alberta News is published quarterly by the ASA. Submissions, questions and suggestions should be directed to:

Archives Society of Alberta  
Suite 407, 10408-124 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5N 1R5

Telephone: (780) 424-2697  
Fax: (780) 425-1679  
Email: info@archivesalberta.org

Individuals and institutions are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, reports, photographs or letters to the Archives Society of Alberta News, Issues #1, 2, and 3. Submissions are preferred in electronic format as Word files for textual submissions, or as JPG files for graphic submissions.

Please note:

Issue #4 is reserved for Annual Reports of the Society and its committees.

If you are interested to learn more about advertising opportunities, please direct all inquiries to info@archivesalberta.org

## NEWSLETTER

### Editing

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Katrina Foster

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Katrina Foster

The views expressed in the Archives Society of Alberta Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Archives Society of Alberta.

## ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2016 – 2017

Name (Institution or Individual) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Delegate (Associate) \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation (Individual Members) \_\_\_\_\_

### TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Please Check

- Archives Employee . . . . . \$50.00
- Students, Volunteers, Seniors . . . . . \$25.00
- Associate Institutional Member . . . . . \$75.00
- Institutional Member (Please contact the ASA for further information)
- Yes, I would like to volunteer for an ASA Committee

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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