

SPA ica

section of professional associations
international council on archives

section des associations professionnelles
conseil international des archives

NEWSLETTER 2014 No.1

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Welcome to this edition of the SPA *Newsletter*. The purpose of the *Newsletter* is to keep SPA members up-to-date with news on Section activities and projects and to strengthen international cooperation and collaboration between professional records management and archival associations.

Word of the SPA President

Girona: The place to be for archivists this October!

This year ICA's Annual Conference will be held in Girona from 11 to 15 October. This event will also be the 9th European Conference on Archives as well as the 13th Image and Research Seminar. The conference will be held under the title Archives and Cultural Industries. Our colleague Joan Boadas i Raset, municipal archivist of Girona and former member of the SPA steering committee (2004-2012) is the very enthusiast driving force behind the organization of the conference.

In Girona SPA will organize a special meeting, together with the Catalan association of archivists and the ICA section of local, municipal and territorial archives SLMT. This event will give archivists from around the world the chance to exchange views with our Catalan colleagues on various aspects of our profession, especially on advocacy. We hope to learn from the experiences of the Catalan Association on this topic. The Catalans succeeded in the approval of the Universal Declaration on Archives by the Catalan Parliament in 2013. No other association accomplished that so far. This emphasis during our meeting on advocacy is in line with the focus of SPA these years on this important theme.

In a way our SPA meeting in Girona can be considered as a follow up of the SPA conferences in Madrid (2007) and Edinburgh (2011).

I hope to meet a lot of you in Girona!

GIRONA 2014 Archives & Cultural Industries

11th- 15th OCTOBER

Fred van Kan

ICA/ SPA President

SPA Steering Committee meeting

A meeting was held in Brussels, Belgium on November 22, 2013. Minutes are available on the SPA webpage on the ICA website. Three new members joined the Steering Committee: Jean-Philippe Legois for the Association des Archivistes Français, Michal Henkin for the Israeli Archives and Information Association, and José Arturo Yañez for the Mexican Association of Archivists. It was decided advocacy would be a priority and would include work to promote the Universal Declaration on Archives. Members were asked to select advocacy activities which were successful in their country to insert them in the upcoming SPA worldwide advocacy plan. Another priority is the SPA webpage which should include good news from SPA as well as electronic links to reach association members.



SPA Steering Committee members in Brussels, November 22, 2013

Advocacy and other news from members

Association des Archivistes du Québec (AAQ) and Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA)

A Canadian Archives Summit took place on January 17, 2014 to provide the Canadian archival community and users an opportunity to consider the future of archives and envision how Canada's documentary heritage remains a valued part of Canada's knowledge infrastructure. The organizers wanted to enable a national and interactive discussion amongst participants drawn from various sectors and regions across Canada. The summit was broadcasted on internet and made available in French and English with simultaneous translation. In each province, gathering places were also set up so that regional groups could follow the presentations, hold their own discussions, and feed ideas back to the central gathering in Toronto. A series of informative papers have been posted online (<http://archivists.ca/content/resources-canadian-archives-summit>). The Summit is only the beginning of a strategic re-envisioning process for the Canadian archival community. The Summit proceedings will remain online to permit continuing dialogue and to inform discussion at the annual general meetings of the various archival associations. The Summit is the first step towards building a new infrastructure for Canadian documentary heritage.

Association des Archivistes Français (AAF)

The European petition on preserving personal information received more than 51,000 signatures throughout Europe and made people aware of the importance of

archives. There is now time because no decision will take place until 2015 after the European elections and the creation of a new Commission. The Forum of Angers, where all French archivists were invited to participate in 2013, was a major success and will be repeated every three years. The AAF is also planning a Tour de France to discuss the future of archival associations. The AAF is also working on advocacy projects including collaboration from genealogists, researchers and teachers, support from media and use of electronic and social media. The European petition to preserve personal information received an outstanding number of signatures in a few days when genealogical organizations committed their support. The AAF also believes European and international involvement is an asset to their advocacy activities.

Australian Society of Archivists

The Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) and the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ) will hold a joint Annual National Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand from September 29 to October 3, 2014. The conference theme, Connecting: Past, Present and Future, highlights the need for the profession to renegotiate and reinvent relationships in a changing profession, to make connections across professional and sector boundaries; to connect with a range of communities and users who need and use the records for which archivists are responsible and whose activities require documentation, and to connect with those who require professional skills to support government and organizational commitments to good governance. Papers from the 2013 ASA Annual Conference held in Canberra are being posted to the Society's website at - http://www.archivists.org.au/page/Learning_and_Publications/Conference/2013_Conference/ as they become available. They can be accessed at no cost.

A new Special Interest Group (SIG) for those working with or interested in government archives has been established by the ASA. The SIG aims to provide a support network for members, as well as a forum for discussion and the exchange of ideas such as the management of electronic records. For information on the first meeting, see http://www.archivists.org.au/icms_docs/171444_Inaugural_GovSIG_meeting_notes_15_October_2013.pdf

Israeli Archives and Information Association

The Association developed educational workshops and is trying to reach universities. It translated in Hebrew the Manual of Records Management for Municipalities written by Cristina Bianchi.

Society of American Archivists (SAA)

In 2013, the Society of American Archivists (SAA) continued its support and promotion of American Archives Month in October as a time to enhance public awareness of archival collections. SAA shared its public relations kits that offer practical information on talking points on the value of archives, event planning, media interviews, outreach, and more. SAA also continued its tradition of sharing members' stories of how they celebrated American Archives Month on its website.

From hosting behind-the-scenes tours of archival repositories and spotlight exhibits to sponsoring a preservation workshop and movie night, repositories shared creative and insightful advocacy ideas that archivists can replicate at their own repositories. To aid the organization in further advocating for the profession, the SAA Council approved the creation of a new Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy in September. As always, SAA remains committed to helping archivists advocate at their own repositories.. SAA also offers the publication *Many Happy Returns: Advocacy and the Development of Archives*, edited by Larry J. Hackman, which provides tips for effective advocacy (available at www.archivists.org/bookstore).

ICA Universal Declaration on Archives (UDA) Working Group

The UDA Working Group has developed a training package to assist with the promotion of the UDA. The package consists of a background article on the development of the UDA, copies of articles published in various Association newsletters since 2011, and a PowerPoint presentation focusing on encouraging the use of the UDA with accompanying speaking notes. Currently the presentation is only available in English but PCOM funds may help to translate the PowerPoint slides and speaking notes into French and Spanish. A copy of the package in English can be obtained from Claude Roberto at Claude.roberto@gov.ab.ca

Activities undertaken recently to promote the UDA have included:

- A presentation to the 2013 PARBICA Conference held in the Solomon Islands in August. At the General Assembly of the Branch members endorsed the UDA, called on PARBICA members to sign the online register declaring their support, and urged all PARBICA members to look for opportunities to promote the UDA;
 - Adoption of the UDA by the Catalan Parliament in July 2013, see http://www.parlament.cat/web/actualitat/noticies?p_id=138008598, and
 - Adoption of the UDA by the University of Western Sydney in December 2013.
- We would be very pleased to hear about any activities undertaken by associations to promote the UDA. Please email details to Claude Roberto at Claude.roberto@gov.ab.ca

FIDA needs you.

What is FIDA for? Helping colleagues in low-resourced countries help themselves: the Fund for the International Development of Archives (FIDA/ICA). FIDA grants are intended to help specific institutions and individuals working in low-resourced or challenging conditions to develop their skills and capacities. For information on projects supported by FIDA, see <http://www.ica.org/267/funded-projects/fida-funded-projects.html> and [Flash 26](#). Twenty three applications were received in 2013; 13 were considered likely to be successful but FIDA could only fund five. For 2015 funds are very limited and after that there will be none unless we can find more funding. If you wish to make a donation, see <http://www.ica.org/12243/donate-to-fida/donate-to-fida.html>.

SPA meetings

A SPA Steering Committee meeting was held in Boston, U.S.A., on March 24-25, 2014. Minutes are available on the SPA webpage on the ICA website.

The 2nd ICA Annual Conference will be held on October 13-15, 2014 in Girona, Spain. The SPA 2014 General Assembly and a SPA Steering Committee meeting will take place during this event. The event in Girona will include also the 9th European Conference on Archives and the 13th Image and Research Seminar meeting. The theme of the event is: *Archives and Cultural Industries*.

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