

SMH Archivist's Annual Report, 2016

The past year has been a time of transition for Records.

There have been changes in our network of associations. As noted last year, our liaison at Kansas State University (KSU), University Archivist Anthony Crawford, a long time SMH supporter and friend, retired. He has been succeeded by Director of Special Collections Dr. Keli Rylance, an Art historian formerly of Tulane University, as Director of the Hale Library Special Collections Department. Since her new role will be management-oriented, our liaisons will be Curator and Archivist David Allen and Rare Books Librarian Dr. Roger Adams as military subject matter expert. Due to on-going concerns with space and the present "Doomsday Budget", space at KSU, we are informed that room for new collections may be limited for the near future. They are now concentrating on collections linking Kansas and the military. We should consider providing some support for KSU's Special Collections Department in the near future.

The collection has grown considerably over the past several years, achieving over 152 archival boxes. Several new donations were processed and transmitted for storage, including the selected papers of members Bill Allison, Samuel Watson, Gregory Urwin, and Gregory Stern. Together, they showcase our regional conference presence, the role of a longstanding North Eastern Regional Coordinator, and the professional activities of the first SMH Mark Grimsley Social Media Fellow. Other additions to the Records include the Urwin Administration's White Paper, the John Terino and Paul J Springer Papers (containing copies of photos of the last conference), and material personally collected to document the Annual Meeting. Similarly, contributions were also processed and added to the established papers of Kurt Hackemer, Thomas Morgan, Joseph Fitzharris, and Bruce Vandervort's Journal papers, including many digital files. These donations of both paper and electronic forms are both personally appreciated and improve the Record's intrinsic value as an exemplar of military history, academic scholarship, publishing, and business subject matters.

Several on-going projects were also completed. The situation in Kansas offered an opportunity to upgrade and streamline our KSU reference material. Unlike most archival collections, our Records continue to grow years after their initial installment, which has resulted in several supplementary addenda and, as a byproduct, has left the collection prone to potential structural and usage problems. Hence, time was invested in integrating the past several years of addenda into the body of the main collection, creating placeholders for natural internal growth, and reconciling finding aid changes. After several months, we are now whole once again. Again much thanks is also owed to Kurt Hackemer for graciously continuing to promote our Records in the newsletter, including publishing articles on the origins of the organization's Official Seal, covering the first paid Journal editor, Harvey DeWeerd, AMI's proposed World War II War Council, and the transformative meeting in which AMI gave birth to SMH. On a related matter, our new Biographical section of the Records was also utilized in sadly announcing the death and writing on the life of our former *Military Affairs* Editor, Robin Higham.

Much of the next year will be spent completing several more long-term projects. Given the administrative changes at KSU, the SMH Archivist has asked for an assessment of the current state of our publications collection to check for gaps in our Journal and newsletter holdings. With the changes made to the Kansas finding aid, correlative changes will now need to be made to our companion Digital collection's structure. Likewise, KSU's present space constraints will now focus our collection efforts towards procuring more digital content. After several discussions, creating a topical layout, and an initial generating of textual/graphic content, Kurt Hackmer and I

are moving forward with making key elements of the Records available as a supplement to the "From the Archives" column of the newsletter, including historic reports, papers, and correspondence from 1932 onward. The effort should aid scholarly research, bolster our brand on-line, and share with a wider audience the modern history of military history. These actions will continue to augment our Record's value and visibility.

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SMH Archivist
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