

New Jersey Library Association History & Preservation Section Collection

DATES: 1977-2023

VOLUME: 3.2 linear feet (7 manuscript boxes)

HISTORY

The New Jersey Library Association History & Preservation Section is an individual member section open to any person who has paid all dues assessed by the New Jersey Library Association. The objectives of the Section are to recognize and promote the work of New Jersey libraries and their professional employees who collect, organize, conserve, preserve, publish, and interpret historical materials; to encourage and promote publications dealing with the history of New Jersey; to foster the exchange of information through workshops, lectures, tours, and other programs; and to provide a liaison between the Section and other agencies and organizations engaged in the fields of history and preservation. The History & Preservation Section has five standing committees, including Nominating, Program, Awards, Constitution and Bylaws, and History & Preservation Section Archives.

The History & Preservation Section was formed by a merger of two earlier sections: the History & Bibliography Section (formerly the Bibliography Section) and the Preservation Section. The following historical summary is based on a special 2013 issue of *The Chronicle* prepared by Elsalyn Palmisano and Fred Pachman. For further detail, see that publication, which is available in the collection.

As early as April 1961, the NJLA Bibliography Section published a newsletter, *New Jersey Bibliography*. The section published numerous bibliographies including “New Jersey and the Negro.” Section leaders Bernard Bush, later the first Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission, and Donald Sinclair of Rutgers Special Collections were instrumental in transforming the Bibliography Section into the History and Bibliography Section on May 3, 1968. Under the leadership of Rebecca Huehleck from the Trenton Public Library who served as first Section President, this group evolved and prospered throughout the 1970’s in the 1980’s as one of New Jersey’s foremost historical groups. During the term of President Elsalyn Palmisano (1981-1982), the Section fielded the following committees:

- ▶ Afro-American Committee
- ▶ Graphics Committee
- ▶ Library History Committee
- ▶ New Jersey Folk Life Committee
- ▶ Genealogy and Family History Committee
- ▶ Oral History Committee
- ▶ New Jersey Bibliographer Committee
- ▶ New Jersey Historical Research Committee

Programs included:

- ▶ Workshop on map librarianship and a bibliography of New Jersey maps was published in 1972.
- ▶ Program at the NJLA annual conference at the Boardwalk Regency Hotel in Atlantic City on April 30, 1980 “Family History and Genealogical Resources in New Jersey: Locating and Using Them to Build Library Support.”

The first issue of the History and Bibliography’s newsletter, *The Chronicle*, Fall 1977, was edited by Elsalyn Palmisano, who also provided the title for this periodical.

An organizational meeting for the NJLA Preservation Section was held on March 4, 1983, at the Dana Library, Rutgers, in Newark. Fred Pachman, Monmouth Medical Center Library, was one of the signers on the original petition to the NJLA Executive Board. On April 25, 1984, the NJLA Preservation Section was officially formed with the creation of by-laws and appointment of an Executive Board with Madelyn DeSantis and Susan Swartzburg as co-presidents. The first Preservation Section program was presented at the New Jersey Library Association Annual Conference in Atlantic City, April 24, 1983, entitled “Preservation Action for the 80’s.”

The Preservation Section often cosponsored educational programs with other organizations and sections. For example, in the 1990s, the Preservation Section and the Regional Library Cooperative V - Preservation Committee co-sponsored preservation film festivals and specialty workshops such as pest control and book repair. The History & Bibliography and Preservation sections co-sponsored a program at the NJLA Spring Conference at Resorts International in Atlantic City on May 11, 1988 titled "Issues in Preservation of Local History Collections." A memorable reception hosted by the Atlantic City Public Library and sponsored by both Sections followed the program.

Section members also contributed individually to many publications and projects, including the 1985 Spring issue of *New Jersey Libraries*, a theme issue on "Preservation." Editors were Susan G. Swartzburg and Neha Weinstein, both of Rutgers University Libraries. In September of 1984, State Librarian Barbara Weaver contracted with the Northeast Document Conservation Center to conduct a study of the needs for preservation of collections materials in New Jersey libraries and to develop a statewide plan for addressing those needs. Project Director Howard Lowell of the Oklahoma State Library presented the report to selected Section members who were appointed to the Conservation Study Advisory Committee. One of the results was an active grants program for preservation initiatives in New Jersey libraries, funded by the New Jersey State Library.

The first issue of the *Preservation Section Newsletter* appeared in Fall 1985 and was edited by Susan Swartzburg. Swartzburg had an international reputation as a preservation advocate. She was Preservation Librarian at Rutgers University Libraries, where she taught the graduate-level Preservation course to future librarians and archivists. She was also founder and president of the Princeton Preservation Group, initiator of the post-Masters certificate offered by Rutgers in Preservation Management, and frequent contributor to preservation newsletters such as *Abbey Newsletter* and *Conservation Administration News*. The last Preservation Section Newsletter, Spring/Summer 1996, Volume 12, Issue 3, was also edited by Susan Swartzburg. Swartzburg's memory is maintained by two annual awards for preservation: the George Cunha-Susan Swartzburg Award of the American Library Association, given since 2008; and the Susan Swartzburg Award, selected by the History & Preservation Section since 2003.

In Spring 1998, after the History & Bibliography Section merged with the Preservation Section, *The Chronicle*, edited by Betty Steckman of the New Jersey State Library, became the primary news and publicity organ for the NJLA History & Preservation Section. The first issue under the combined sections' auspices was designated Volume 1, Number 1. Steckman continued as editor until 2002. Subsequent editors have been Joanne Parra (2003-2009); Mary McMahon (2009-2010); B. Joyce Watson (2011-2013); and Sarah Hull (2013-2017).

Throughout the 1980's and 1990's, both the History & Bibliography and Preservation sections continued to thrive independently. But since the work of both entities often complimented each other, they officially merged into the History and Preservation Section in 1997. The first combined Section Presidents of the modern era were Korin Rosenkrans and George Cooke who continued a legacy of history and preservation advocacy that continued into the 21st Century.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The materials in the collection relate to the records of the History & Preservation Section and its two predecessor sections, the History & Bibliography Section and the Preservation Section. A small amount of information relating to the umbrella organization, the New Jersey Library Association, is also included, some of which mentions Section business and programs. Types of materials include agendas, annual reports, constitutions and by-laws, correspondence, member lists, minutes, newsletters, and other miscellaneous and related material. The collection is arranged in four series.

- I. History & Preservation Section, 1999-2023
- II. History & Bibliography Section, 1977-1996
- III. Preservation Section, 1983-1995
- IV. New Jersey Library Association, 1977-2016

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

This series is open to researchers.

USE

Use of the Collection is unrestricted. See shelf list below for folder headings.

ARRANGEMENT

Materials are arranged alphabetically in four series. Within the series, materials are arranged alphabetically. Only some of the materials were kept in original order.

REPOSITORY (current, may change)

Plainfield Public Library

800 Park Avenue

Plainfield, NJ 07060

Phone: 908-757-1111 ext. 136

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

The records of the section have not been accessioned by the Plainfield Public Library. They were collected from current section members by Gary D. Saretzky, Chair, NJLA H&P Section Archives Committee. Prior to being transferred to Plainfield Public Library, the records were held at the Monmouth County Archives (Manalapan, NJ). It is quite possible that the records may be transferred to another repository in the future.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

Initial processing was conducted by Mary Hussey, Monmouth County Archives and NJLA Member. Final processing completed and finding aid drafted in March 2017 by Jenifer Gundry, Member, NJLA H&P Section Archives Committee, with final editing and additional contributions by Gary D. Saretzky, in 2017. After transfer to Plainfield Public Library, ongoing updates were managed by Sarah Hull, Archivist and Head of the Local History, Genealogy & Special Collections Dept.

RELATED MATERIAL

The Monmouth County Archives holds other collections related to the New Jersey History & Preservation Section Collection, including the Elsalyn Palmisano Preservation Papers. A list of the relevant material in the Palmisano Papers may be found in Box 2, Folder 8 of this collection and in the guide to the Palmisano Papers, available on the Monmouth County Archives website under Special Collections.

<http://visitmonmouth.com/archives>

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1	1	History & Preservation Section: Agendas	2002-2020
1	2	: Annual Reports	2004-2008
1	3	: Awards	2002-2016
1	4	: CAPES Program (MARAC/NJ Caucus)	2013
1	5	: Constitution and By-Laws	2003-2012
1	6	: Correspondence	203-2015
1	7	: Executive Board	2002-2015
1	8	: Membership Survey	1998
1	9	: Membership List	1989; 2012
1	10	: Minutes	1997-2020
1	11	: Minutes (current working)	2021 -
2	1	History & Preservation Section : Miscellaneous	1999-2014
2	2	: Newsletter - The Chronicle	1998-2002
2	3	: Newsletter - The Chronicle	2003-2010
2	4	: Newsletter - The Chronicle	2011-2017
2	4	: Newsletter - The Chronicle	2018-2019
2	5	: Newsletter - The Chronicle	2020-2022
2	6	: Newsletter - The Chronicle	2023-
2	7	: Newsletter - The Chronicle Supplement — History	2013
2	8	: Photo and Image Collections Survey	2011
2	9	: Preservation Topics	2008
2	10	: Related Materials — Elsalyn Palmisano Preservation Papers	[n.d.]
2	11	: Trips and Tours	2002-2003
3	1	History & Bibliography Section: Annual Reports, President's Report, Budget Requests	1977-1986
3	2	: Constitution and By-Laws	1989-2002
3	3	: Newsletter/ Chronicle	1977-1996
3	4	: Membership Lists and Directories	1970-1971
3	5	: Committees	1975-1989
4	1	History & Bibliography Section: Conferences and Workshops, including handouts	1968-1990
4	2	Bicentennial and Bicentennial Project: "Checklist For a History of New Jersey Conference/Workshop Subject: Libraries"	1970-1980
4	3	Folk Life Committee	1979-1980
4	4	Genealogy and Family History Committee	1968-1980
4	5	Map Librarianship and Graphics Committee	1969-1977
4	6	Negro History Committee (Includes book, <i>New Jersey and the Negro: A Bibliography, 1715-1966</i> , compiled by the NJLA Bibliography Committee (1967)	1965-1977

5	1	History & Bibliography Section: Oral History	1975-1976
5	2	: Meetings and Minutes	1976-1990
5	3	: Tours	1972-1988
5	4	: 10th Anniversary	1968-1978
6	1	History & Bibliography Section: Correspondence	1967-1980
6	2	: Correspondence	1980-1990
6	3	: Election Material	1973-1980
6	4	: Publications	1978-1988
6	5	: Newspaper Articles and Obituaries	1977-1982
6	6	: Expenses and Vouchers	1977-1982
7	1	Preservation Section: Annual Reports	1987-1989
7	2	: Executive Board	1986-2004
7	3	: Minutes	1983-2005
7	4	: Miscellaneous	1968-1986

Preservation Section Presidents

1983-1984	Madelyn DeSantis, Rutgers University Libraries Susan Swartzburg, Rutgers University Libraries
1984-1985	Susan Swartzburg, Rutgers University Libraries
1985-1986	Paul Nee, Atlantic City Public Library
1986-1987	Gary D. Saretzky, Educational Testing Service Library
1987-1988	Elsalyn Palmisano, Ann May School of Nursing, Jersey Shore Medical Center
1988-1989	Diane Solomon, Morristown & Morris Township Joint Free Library
1990-1991	Bob Stewart, Asbury Park Public Library
1991-1992	Nan Wright, Trenton Public Library
1992-1993	Lois Densky-Wolff, Morristown & Morris Township Joint Free Library
1993-1994,	Susan Gulick, Morristown & Morris Township Joint Free Library
1994-1995	Peggy Hutchinson, Caldwell College Library
1995-1996	George Cooke, Franklin Lakes Public Library
1996-1997	Chrys Jochem, Morristown & Morris Township Joint Free Library

History & Preservation Section Presidents

1997-1998	Korin Rosenkrans, Morristown & Morris Township Joint Free Library
1998-2000	George Cooke, Oradell Public Library
2000-2001	JoAnn Cotz, Seton Hall University Library
2001-2002	Anthony E. Lee, Seton Hall University Library
2002-2004	Joseph DaRold, Plainfield Public Library
2004-2005	Alan Delozier, Seton Hall University Library
2005-2006	Lawrence Green, Morristown & Morris Township Joint Free Library
2006-2007	Bruce Bardarik, Paterson Public Library
2007-2008	Joseph DaRold, Plainfield Public Library
2008-2009	Bob Golon, Plainfield Public Library
2009-2010	John Beekman, Jersey City Public Library
2010-2011	Nancy Madacsi, Centenary College Library
2011-2012	Mary McMahan, Morristown & Morris Township Joint Free Library
2012-2013	Paul Martinez, Montclair State University Library
2013-2014	Jessica Myers, Plainfield Public Library

2014-2015 Danny Klein, Jersey City Public Library
2015-2016 Debra Schiff, Chester Public Library
2016-2017 Carolyn Dorsey, Morristown & Morris Township Joint Free Library
2017-2019 Tom Ankner, Newark Public Library
2019-2020 Sarah Hull, Plainfield Public Library
2020-2021 Ken Kaufman, Somerset County Library System
2021-2023 Beth Zak-Cohen, Newark Public Library
2023-2024 John Beekman, Jersey City Public Library