

Grant Cycles, Deadlines, and Labor Advocacy

A Roundtable about the Changing Work of Project Archivists

**ALL ARE WELCOME
TO ADD AND EDIT
SESSION NOTES
AS WE GO ALONG**

<http://tinyurl.com/projectarchivists>

PRESENTATION SLIDES/NOTES

<http://tinyurl.com/projectarchivistspresentation>

#marac16 #maracpgh #s7

SESSION PARTICIPANTS

Rosemary K. J. Davis

@widelight

Rachel Mattson

@captain_maybe

Elliot McNally

Alison Reynolds

@alison_reyn

ROSEMARY K. J. DAVIS

❑ **BACKGROUND/EDUCATION**

- MSLIS, 2011: Pratt Institute [Archives Certificate]
- BA in Liberal Studies, 2007: New School University

❑ **JOB DESCRIPTION/TIMELINE**

- Samuel French Collection Processing Archivist
- 2 years of funding from CLIR Hidden Collections grant [2014-2016]

❑ **FUNDING/SALARY/BENEFITS.**

- \$50,000 with benefits with 2% cost-of-living salary bump for second year
- Funding from grant & directly from Archives/Library for professional development
- I am here at MARAC with funding from my institution

☐ **WHAT I WAS HIRED TO DO**

- **Process 450 linear feet of the Samuel French Collection**
- **Produce a finding aid**
- **Perform outreach for the collection**

☐ **WHAT I ACTUALLY DO**

- **Training and supervising student workers**
- **Collaborating with faculty**
- **Researching accession history of collection**
- **Basic preservation**
- **Contribute to exhibition development**
- **Collaborate and communicate with donor**
- **Reference requests**

ROSEMARY K. J. DAVIS

☐ **STAFF SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION STRUCTURE**

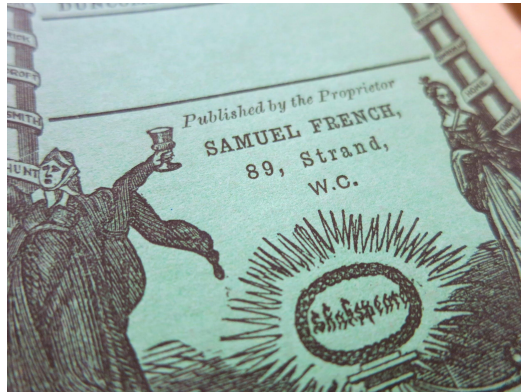
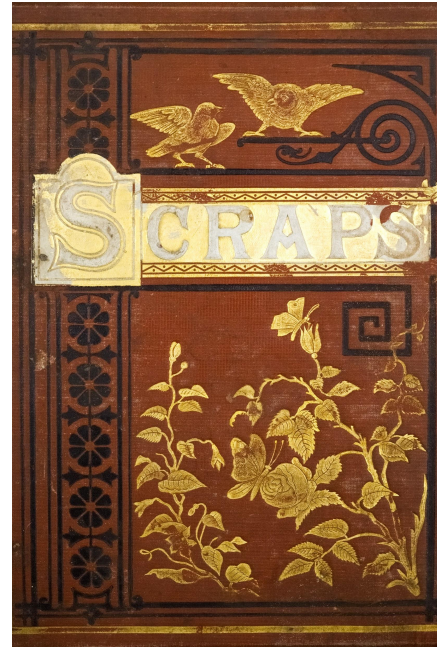
→ **I SUPERVISED:**

- ◆ **1-2 student workers per semester**

→ **I WAS SUPERVISED BY:**

- ◆ **Head of Archives & Special Collections**
- ◆ **Intensely self-directed with minimal supervision**

ROSEMARY K. J. DAVIS



ROSEMARY K. J. DAVIS



BOSTON THEATRE
ERINENT TRAGEDIAN
EDWIN BOOTH
MONDAY AND TUESDAY EVENINGS,
OCTOBER 2ND AND 3RD, 1895.

SHAKSPERE'S CLASSICAL TRAGEDY
HAMLET!
PRINCE OF DENMARK.

Hamlet..... Edwin Booth
Ghost of Hamlet's Father, Mr. W. H. Whalley
King Claudius..... Mr. W. H. Hamblin
Laertes..... Mr. J. C. Huxley
Polonius..... Mr. W. H. Curti
Horatio..... Mr. E. W. Beatti
Rosencrantz..... Mr. W. H. Danve
Guildenstern..... Mr. E. Bar

SELECTION
The Theatre Guild presents
The Theatre Guild Studio in

The GARRICK

GAIETIES
1926

LYRICS BY
LORENZ HART
MUSIC BY
RICHARD RODGERS

DIRECTED BY
PHILIP LOEB
SCENE SUPERVISOR
HERBERT FIELDS

HARMS
NEW YORK

SELECTION

OUTSTANDING SONG HITS
From
HOLD EVERYTHING!
By B.G. DE SYLVA, LEW BROWN AND RAY HENDERSON

YOU'RE THE CREAM IN MY COFFEE

CHORUS
You're the cream in my coffee You're the salt in my

The Best is Cheapest

DISCOVERED AT LAST.

ODORLESS

RED FIRE

WHY It's Better

- 1st—No Smoke.
- 2d—Burns Longer.
- 3d—Positively no Odor.
- 4th—More Perfect and Desirable than any Red Fire in the Market.

OCTOBER 1895.

To Whom it Benefits:—This certifies that I find by the test of experience that the "Odorless Red Fire," as manufactured by the Central Drug Co., of Cranbury, Middlesex Co., N. J., is the only perfect, lasting, truly odorless stage light I have used in 25 years of stage experience as a Manager and Stage Director, and can safely recommend it as a purity, freedom from any odor whatever, no matter how heavily loaded the fire pan may be—and for its lasting qualities—being three times more durable than any yet invented.

Respectfully,
G. E. WILSON, Manager.

MANUFACTURED ONLY BY
CENTRAL DRUG CO.

CRANBURY, N. J.

PRICE, \$1.00 PER LB.,
SAMPLE SENT FOR 10 CENTS.

RACHEL MATTSON

❏ BACKGROUND/EDUCATION

- MLIS, 2014: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- PhD, 2004: New York University
- BA, 1994: Oberlin College

❏ JOB DESCRIPTION/TIMELINE

- Manager of Special Projects, The Archives of La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club
- Hired: April 2014. CLIR-funded Hidden Collections cataloging project
- *When the grant ended, La MaMa offered me a permanent position*

❏ FUNDING/SALARY/BENEFITS

- \$40,000/year plus benefits
- Minimal conference support: I am here at MARAC on my own dime

☐ WHAT I WAS HIRED TO DO

- Manage the Project of Cataloging La MaMa's "Pushcart Collection" (show files, photographs, audiovisual materials, artifacts, 1962-1985)

❏ WHAT I ACTUALLY DO

- Some cataloging
- Hiring + supervision
- Outreach + Reference
- Born-digital workflows, digitization
- Establishing collaborations w/area grad programs
- Tech stuff
- Strategic planning, policy development, fundraising
- etc etc etc

RACHEL MATTSON

☐ **STAFF SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION STRUCTURE**

→ **I SUPERVISED:**

- ◆ **A rotating staff of part-time catalogers**
- ◆ **A total of 4 interns over the course of the project**

→ **I WAS SUPERVISED BY:**

- ◆ **I work closely with the La MaMa's Managing Director, Artistic Director, Director of the Archives, and Director of Development**

RACHEL MATTSON



Mary Alice in Adrienne Kennedy's
"A Rat's Mass" (1969).
Photographer unknown.



La MaMa's founder Ellen Stewart w/ the cast of "The Contestants" (1966). Photo: H. Gloaguen.



Bette Midler in Tom Eyen's "Miss Nefertiti Regrets" (1965). Photo: J. Gossage.

RACHEL MATTSON



Still from documentation of the Native American Theatre Ensemble's 1973 production of "Foghorn." (Transferred from ½ inch open reel.)



A poster for a Playhouse of the Ridiculous production (1967?)



Ozzie Rodriguez w/ a costume from La MaMa's Trocadero Gloxinia Ballet Collection

ELLIOT MCNALLY

❏ **BACKGROUND/EDUCATION**

- MLIS, 2012: University of Pittsburgh
- BFA, Fiber Art, 2009: Savannah College of Art and Design

❏ **JOB DESCRIPTION/TIMELINE**

- Project Archivist, Poetry Collection, University at Buffalo
- 21 months funded by CLIR Processing Hidden Collections grant awarded 2013

❏ **FUNDING/SALARY/BENEFITS.**

- \$47,500 with benefits after 16 weeks of employment
- Funding directly from Poetry Collection for grant related conference presentations
- I am here at MARAC on my own dime

☐ **WHAT I WAS HIRED TO DO**

- **Process eleven little literary magazines' business and editorial records [>273 LF]**
- **Produce finding aids**

❏ WHAT I ACTUALLY DO

- Processed 17 collections; surveyed 15 collections
- Mold/fire/water/pest mitigation
- Best practices development
- Created digital collection
- Created metadata application profiles
- Basic preservation
- Exhibitions + outreach
- Hiring + supervision
- Paging + scanning

☐ STAFF SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION STRUCTURE

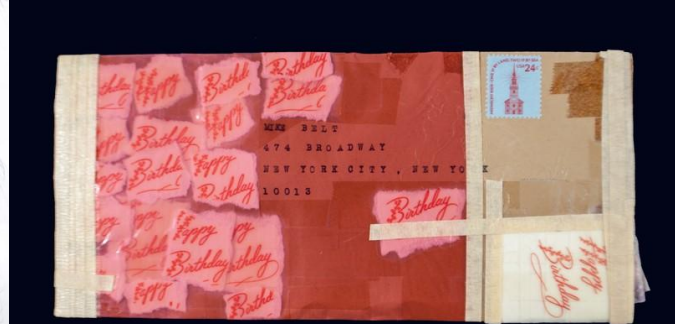
→ I SUPERVISED:

- ◆ Grant covered 2 student assistants at 10 hours a week

→ I WAS SUPERVISED BY:

- ◆ 2 curators and 1 processing archivist

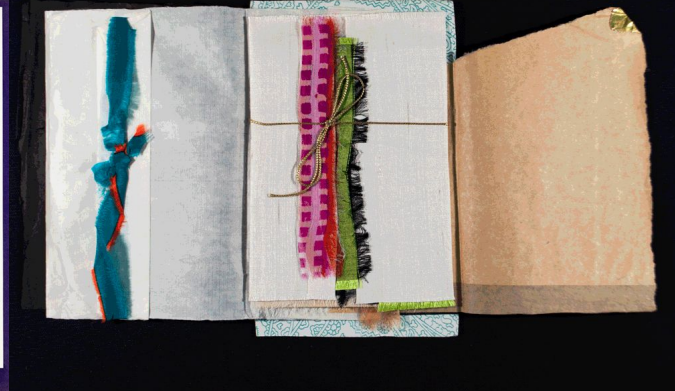
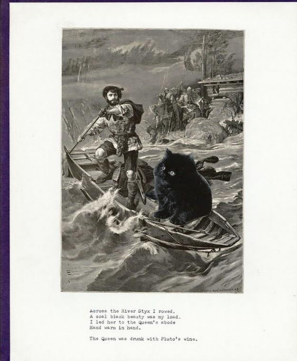
ELLIOT MCNALLY



A lesson at the stable.
"Witchcraft has some of the qualities of a church. A church, it may be objected, of malignity. But now will we say that in its essence it is malign? The blood of the wicked, of those who died glorifying their faith, cries out against this. What



GET A JOB
GET ANOTHER LANGUAGE
GET SOME WEED
GET LESS BEER
GET THE OFFICE ON LINE
GET QUALITY TIME w/ Jolie
GET THE SAME w/ KOLYAD
GET IT ALL WRITTEN. DOWN
GET A LIFE. Bahal Forum



ALISON REYNOLDS

❑ BACKGROUND/EDUCATION

- MLS, Archives & Records Management Specialization, 2012: Indiana University Bloomington
- MA, English, 2009: University of Connecticut
- BA, English & History, 2007: Denison University

❑ JOB DESCRIPTION/TIMELINE

- William Henry Seward Project Archivist, University of Rochester
- Funded 3 years by Emerson Foundation grant

❑ FUNDING/SALARY/BENEFITS.

- \$47,000 with full benefits, 1.6% raise after first year
- Professional development fully funded

❏ WHAT I WAS HIRED TO DO

- **Revise and encode existing finding aids for Seward papers and Seward addition**
- **Act as liaison to Seward Family Digital Archive project**
- **Provide reference and instruction services using Seward papers**
- **Conservation and preservation review**

☐ WHAT I ACTUALLY DO

- Item level description
- Help design public interface for finding aid
- Outreach
- Curate exhibitions
- Develop and Revise workflows for in-house digitization
- Accession new materials and assist in collection development

☐ STAFF SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION STRUCTURE

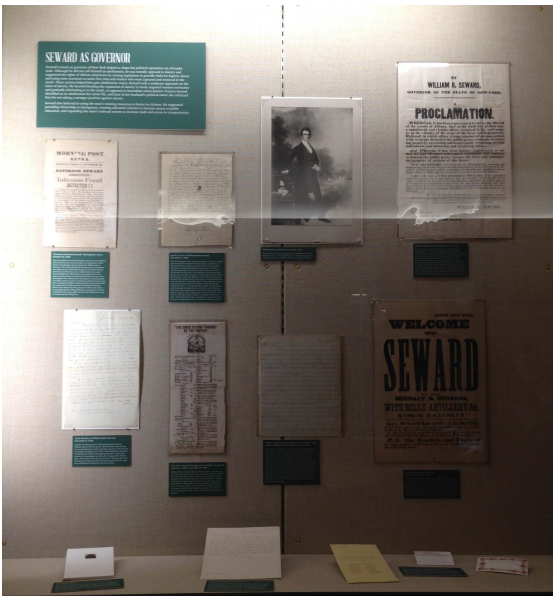
→ I SUPERVISED:

- ◆ One student employee

→ I WAS SUPERVISED BY:

- ◆ Special Collections Librarian for Historical Manuscripts

ALISON REYNOLDS



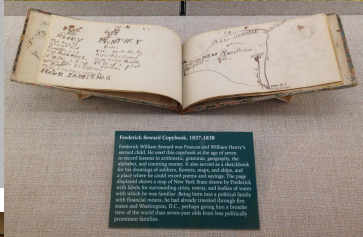
Springfield, Ills. Dec. 8. 1860

My dear Sir:

With your permission, I shall, at the proper time, nominate you to the Senate, for confirmation, as Secretary of State, for the United States. Please let me hear from you at your own earliest convenience.

Your friend, and
obedient servant
Abraham Lincoln

Wm. H. Seward.
Washington
D.C.

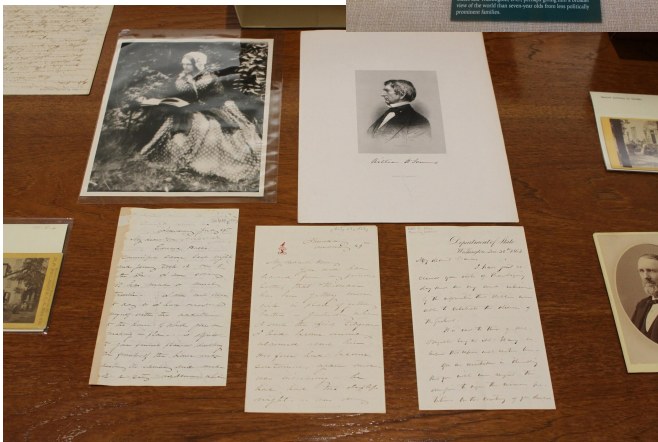


Jan 1839

Albany, January 1839

Dear Sir

I feel my self entirely incapable of addressing your original request as I thought I had P^rone month ago your notice but allow me the ^{undiscovered} honor of telling you that a friend of yours settles on me the other evening and tells me there was a gentleman of business in the City that he had heard would be sorry happy to see me and I made him tell me who it was and the subject was dropped for the present but he might call alone in my or some uncertain manner only by name that he with all things I take this opportunity to write you write and if you wish to see me I am at your pleasure and you convenient and see to answer and make as I have said you at home at a business for I and many much respect in that place myself and you and not be afraid to see me for no soul living shall see you but my self and if you wish to see me you can have a note in the post office to Richard Tappan and there I will tell you where you can find my dwelling without my trouble yours most unworthy servant
Alison R Reynolds



SEWARD FAMILY--FRANCES ADELINE (MILLER) SEWARD

Box 105:

- Folder:1. Calling Lists ca. 1839-42.
2. Commonplace book with hand-written excerpts of texts addressing topics that include military history, philosophy, religion, and English literature, Frances Adeline (Miller) Seward's and William Henry Seward, 1834.
3. Diary, Trip through Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland, 1835.
4. Woman's Mission, hand-written copy of the text, *Woman's Mission* attributed to Sarah Lewis based upon the French work *Sur l'education des meres*, written by Aime Martin, 1850.
5. Fragments in Frances Adeline (Miller) Seward's handwriting, ca. 1840-60.
6. Fragments in Frances Adeline (Miller) Seward's handwriting, ca. 1818-65.
7. Reading notes and poetry copy book, ca. 1818.
8. Arithmetic Practice Book Used by Mrs. Seward, November 1817; Arithmetic Practice Book Used by Mrs. Seward, no date.
9. School atlas used by Frances Adeline (Miller) Seward's, 1816.
10. Calling cards.
11. Scrapbook of calling cards, 1850-1859.

SEWARD FAMILY--AUGUSTUS HENRY SEWARD

Box 106: Correspondence.

Folder:

1. 1840-1859.
2. 1860-1865.
3. 1866-1869.
4. 1870-1874.
5. 1875.
6. 1876.
7. no date.

Family and Personal
Correspondence, 1817-
1917

+ General Correspondence
(Formerly unindexed
correspondence)

Public Papers +

Seward Family Personal Papers -

- Frances Adeline (Miller)
Seward Personal Papers

Box 105: 1816-1865,
undated

+ Augustus Henry Seward
Personal Papers

+ Frederick William Seward
Personal Papers

RIVER CAMPUS LIBRARIES

MY ACCOUNTS CHAT CONTACT RBSCP GIVING

Search

Seward Family Personal Papers

Frances Adeline (Miller) Seward Personal Papers, 1816-1865, undated

Box 105: 1816-1865, undated

Folder 1: Calling Lists, ca. 1839-1842, undated

Scope and Content Note: Folder contains a leather-bound book with cover inscription "His Excellency Governor W. H. Seward," suggesting the book was written during Seward's term as governor of New York from Jan. 1839 - Dec. 1842. The first page is torn out, and following pages list names with the subsequent headings "Trojans," "New York," "Buffalo," "Philadelphia," "Baltimore," "Washington," and "Auburn," as well as some notes and a list of merchants.

Folder 2: Commonplace Book, 1834, undated

Scope and Content Note: A commonplace book with the cover inscription "Sold by H. Ivison & Co. Auburn." First page is marked "Auburn November 8th 1834," but the rest of the book is undated. The book contains hand-written excerpts of texts addressing topics that include military history, philosophy, religion, and English literature. It likely belonged to William Henry Seward or Frances Adeline (Miller) Seward.

Folder 3: Diary of Trip through Pennsylvania, Virginia, & Maryland, 1834-1835

Scope and Content Note: Paperbound notebook begins with a "to do" list of tasks dated November 8, 1834 including letters to write, an affidavit to prepare, and money that needed to be collected. The next 27 pages contain an account of Frances's trip through Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland from May 23-August 12, 1835. The final page in the notebook is headed "Agenda at Albany" and shares a "to do" list. The bottom of the page is filled with a more detailed list of destinations visited by Frances between May 23rd and June 24th. The diary also contains miscellaneous notes and quotations.

Folder 4: Woman's Mission Book Excerpt, 1850

ALISON REYNOLDS

→ **TRIAL BY FIRE**

→ **INDEPENDENCE AND COLLABORATION**

→ **THE BEST STUFF**

CONCERNS

→ **INSTABILITY**

→ **ISOLATION AND FRUSTRATION**

→ **AFTERMATH**

→ **HOW CAN PROJECT ARCHIVISTS BE STRONG ADVOCATES FOR THEMSELVES ON THE JOB AND IN THE ARCHIVAL PROFESSION AT LARGE?**

QUESTIONS

→ **HOW CAN SUPERVISORS BE BETTER
ADVOCATES FOR THEIR PROJECT
ARCHIVISTS, FOR THEIR PERMANENT
EMPLOYEES, & FOR THEIR
COLLECTIONS?**

QUESTIONS

→ **HOW CAN THE ARCHIVAL PROFESSION IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE WAYS TO FUND CULTURAL PRESERVATION WHILE ENACTING MORE EQUITABLE LABOR PRACTICES?**

SESSION NOTES

<http://tinyurl.com/projectarchivists>

PRESENTATION SLIDES/NOTES

<http://tinyurl.com/projectarchivistspresentation>

SESSION PARTICIPANTS

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Elliot McNally

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Alison Reynolds

@alison_reyn

alison.reynolds1001@gmail.com

THANK YOU!