



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Debby Shector, President

It's been a long time coming, but spring is finally just around the corner, and we can all breathe a sigh of relief. It's been a long, hard winter, but the end is in sight! We can also breathe a sigh of relief over the Government of Alberta's Budget, which came down on March 7th.

There were some tense moments of nail biting there, but our major source of funding, the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, has remained untouched in the present budget, phew. Unfortunately, the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) grants, Community Spirit Program grants, and Community Facilities Enhancement Program grants have been eliminated, and this may affect some of you. I know the ASA received a Community Spirit grant in the past. Also Community Initiative Program (CIP) grants have been reduced slightly. So like the

federal government last year, our provincial government is now cutting away at culture, arts and heritage institutions.

There is still no word from Canadian Heritage about a reinstatement of the NADP or a similar program, even though we here in Alberta have joined archivists from all over the country to lobby for it. And it looks like Library and Archives Canada is still undergoing cuts as they had their budget reduced even further since last year. Will these slash and burn tactics never end? In the meantime, we keep toiling away, trying to preserve what

we can with the few resources remaining in culture.

Nonetheless, small successes can be found in negative situations. It looks like not all items in the ancient library of Timbuktu were lost in the recent fighting in Mali. Like in Iraq, and Sarajevo before, some wise individuals had the foresight to hide some of that library's greatest treasures. There is also progress on the art restitution front, with several important paintings having been returned to their rightful owners



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SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

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

recently, including some from the Max Stern collection which were recently returned to Concordia University, its rightful home. And our own Provincial Archives of Alberta received a 2% increase in its annual funding in the recent budget.

On the ASA front, change has taken hold. Rene and Ericka are settled in to their new positions and things are running smoothly. Carrie Lunde is hard at work on the transition from Cinemage to ICA AtoM, which will take place soon. Training on the new system is soon beginning, so watch for upcoming workshops on that. I hope to see many of you at the ACA conference in Winnipeg, where I and some of my Jewish Archives colleagues will be presenting. And please plan on attending our upcoming AGM, to be held on May 25.

In the meantime, keep chipping away at your respective archival mountains. Remember that every cloud on the horizon has a silver lining, and be happy for small things. This year's ASA grants will soon be distributed.



## ASA Spring Workshop Cancelled Due to Weather

On Thursday, March 21, 2013, Highway 2 between Edmonton and Calgary saw one of its worst snowstorms. The storm resulted in a 100+ vehicle crash that saw at least 100 injuries, most of which were minor and treated on site.

This was the day that many participants from all around Alberta were traveling to Calgary to attend the ASA's Planning and Designing Archival Exhibits course. Fortunately no one was injured but it led to a last minute cancellation of the course. It will be offered again in the Fall of 2013. Details on the re-scheduled workshop will be coming this summer, so stay posted for the announcement.

# FROM THE DESK OF THE NEW ARCHIVES ADVISOR

Rene Georgopolis, Executive Director/Archives Advisor



Much has been happening at the ASA this Spring. We prepared for a workshop on Planning and Designing Archival Exhibits in Calgary for March. Unfortunately there was a snowstorm which caused the instructors and I to be stuck on Highway 2 for a couple of hours, resulting in the course being cancelled.

Some of those who registered in the workshop from various locations in Alberta and Saskatchewan were stuck in traffic from the storm or unable to traverse closed highways. We do plan to reschedule the workshop again in September when the weather should hopefully be better. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months on our plans for the rescheduled workshop.

The good thing about the course being cancelled was that I was then able to attend the Provincial Archives of Alberta's film night, *Film is Dead: Long Live Film* and *The Naked Flame*. Film night is something I look forward to every year. This year, the event was followed by a panel discussion on the transition from film to digital in the film industry which was very interesting and attracted people from film studies and film associations.

The ASA has also been planning to launch our new database and to provide training sessions for all of our institutional members. We are very excited about

this new database as it allows institutions to include multiple levels of archival description resulting in better access to our members' holdings. The new database has also been assigned a new name, so ANA will be changed to Alberta on Record. The database training sessions will be happening throughout the province, so stay tuned for when training will be offered at a community near you.

I have also been doing a lot of advising for places that would like to start an archival program - these places include various associations, a college and a First Nations community. We have added a new institutional member, my first one, Milo Library Archives. And I taught the Archives Institute, May 6 - 11, for the first time. The ASA has also attended two conferences, the Alberta Genealogical Society as well as the Alberta Library Association's conferences, to get the word out on the services the ASA provides. Planning for the AGM and reporting on the year end has also kept the ASA busy.

Amidst all the activity at the ASA, some interesting developments have been happening in the Canadian archival community. LAC has written a Code of Conduct to silence archivists. The actions of the federal government have been so troubling and challenging for archives. In addition to the problematic developments at LAC, I have been witnessing that some archives here in Alberta also feel there is a lack support. Recently, one of Alberta's municipal archives was under threat of no longer existing. I have seen other archives that are under the umbrella of a library or museum who feel they are not receiving the support they need. Advocacy seems to be an uphill battle for archives. Sometimes it seems that the general public has no idea how important we are and what work we do. I have hope that all these challenges bring the archival community together in a way that increases advocacy for ourselves, so that next time government cuts occur, our importance will not be ignored.

# University of Calgary Archives and Special Collections

## Has a New Home(s)

Lisa Atkinson, Archivist, The University of Calgary

The University of Calgary Archives and Special Collections (ASC) completed its move into the new Taylor Family Digital Library in August when the last book was shelved in the Rare Book room. The Taylor Library houses the University's main library, archival, rare book and museum collections, the University Press and a number of student-focussed campus units.



New Reading Room



Boxes on Shelves in new Storage Room

The university also recently completed construction of the Taylor's sister building, the High Density Library (HDL), which is situated on the university's Spy Hill Campus, a 15 minute drive from the main campus. 60% of the library's holdings are housed at the HDL along with a significant portion of the archival and rare book collection. New facilities have been a long time coming: initial discussions about a new building for the UofC's library, archives and museum had begun in the late 1990s, planning the spaces within the building began in 2004, and preparing collections for relocation has been ongoing for the past 4 years or more.

The move of collections began in October 2011 and involved the relocation of approximately 35,000 boxes of archival records; 2200 boxes of architectural drawings; 75,000 books and other published materials; 64 architectural models; 36 map cabinets; 24 plan holds; and 4600 boxes of non-permanent administrative records which are being retained by the University Archives until their retention period has elapsed and they can be destroyed. Records and books were removed from eight locations including four offsite facilities in and around Calgary and as far afield as Edmonton. As our collections grew over the years and traditional storage spaces on campus filled to overflowing, Archives and Special Collections had entered into storage agreements with Iron Mountain, the Provincial Archives of Alberta, Sentinel Self-Storage and with other units on campus. The number of locations where records were stored made the move highly complex. Add to that the fact that collections were being moved into 2 separate buildings which are miles apart in Calgary and the degree of complexity increased exponentially. Decisions about the final location of collections were based on a number of elements including the records' fragility, frequency of use, financial value, physical characteristics

that impact transportability, and the opportunity the new storage spaces offered to reunite dispersed parts of a fonds or collection.

The Taylor's environmentally-controlled storage areas feature 10 foot high state-of-the-art mobile shelving. Specially designed spaces accommodate regular and oversized archival boxes, rolled architectural drawing boxes, flat drawings housed in map cabinets, plan holds and an iron maiden, framed paintings, rare books and three-dimensional objects. The over-height compact shelving in the Taylor allowed ASC to house a much larger percentage of our collections on the main campus than had been anticipated during the earlier stages of planning which envisioned static shelving for the building. While having more record onsite was welcomed, the half-day retrieval service provided by the High Density Library has resulted in excellent access to collections stored offsite.

Archives and Special Collections' space in the Taylor Library includes a reading room, two presentation rooms, a holding room for collections being accessed by researchers, a processing room, and an exhibition area. The presentation rooms provide staff with a secure space to teach classes involving archival and rare book collections, while allowing researchers to continue their work uninterrupted in the reading room. The Taylor's focus on technology that 'encourages experiential learning, exploration and innovative ways of creating new knowledge' did not overlook Archives and Special Collections. The presentation rooms house large screens, a document camera for projecting magnified images of collection items, and one of the university's few Smart Tables which allow researchers to bring together diverse resources from our collections – as well as those located elsewhere -- to explore them in new ways. The teaching spaces have been very popular with university classes and with external groups including school children attending University School Week and adults participating in life-long learning opportunities.



Planholds and Map Cabinets

# Film Night at the Provincial Archives of Alberta

Braden Cannon

The Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA) held its 28th annual Film Night on March 22nd at the Metro Cinema at the Garneau Theatre, Edmonton. This year's theme was "Film is Dead; Long Live Film!," which offered a chance to assess the on-going transition from celluloid to digital media in the film industry.

**PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA  
28TH ANNUAL FILM NIGHT**

**FILM IS DEAD;  
Long Live Film!**

**FREE EVENT!**  
**2 GREAT EXPERIENCES**  
**ONE GREAT NIGHT!**

**7:30 p.m. – "Film is Dead; Long Live Film!"**  
The Provincial Archives of Alberta invites you to watch films from our vaults, projected on celluloid and compare them with digitized films made with our brand new film scanner. See the analogue past and the digital future of film culture.

**THE NAKED FLAME**

**ARCHIVAL DOUBLE BILL**

**9:30 p.m. – The Naked Flame**  
This "Canuxploitation" flick from 1964 was shot in Alberta and takes a leering look at a highly sensationalized version of the Doukhobor sect, a faction of which protested government policy with mass nudity and arson in the early 1900s.

**7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, 8555 Reper Road, Edmonton**  
Please RSVP by email: [paaevents@gov.ab.ca](mailto:paaevents@gov.ab.ca) or by telephone: 780-427-1750

**There's more –** Following Film Night – Join us for a Follow-up Panel Discussion "Film is Dead; Long Live Film!"

**PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA**

The first part of the program featured the projection of several short films on 8mm and 16mm film, followed by a comparison screening of short films that have been digitized by the PAA's new film scanner. The program allowed for PAA staff to discuss the difference between celluloid and digital media, the process of digitization, the importance of maintaining the original record even when digital access copies have been created, and the aesthetics of film.

The second part of the program featured a screening of the *The Naked Flame*, a "Canuxploitation" film that was shot in Calgary, Canmore, and Banff National Park in 1963, but not actually released until 1968. Directed by Larry Matanski, *The Naked Flame* uses the actual history of the Freedomite faction of the Doukhobor religious sect as a flimsy excuse to flaunt female nudity and a bit of sensationalized violence. According to the late Alberta Film Commissioner Bill Marsden, who

worked as an assistant camera operator on this film, Matanski used the Doukhobor scenario as a way to give the nudity a semi-documentary aura in order to escape the ire of the censors.

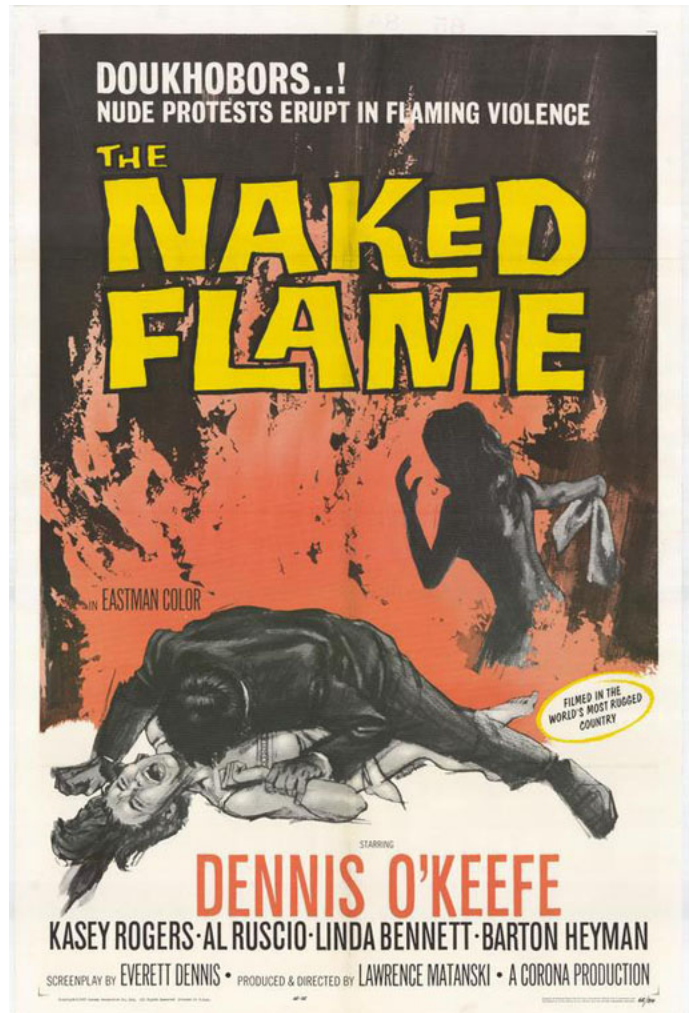
The *Naked Flame*, along with the digitized short films screened in the first part of the program, was digitized at the PAA using our new scanner. The scanner was custom-designed specifically for the PAA by Research Technology International. The machine was built in Italy and shipped to Edmonton in December 2012, accompanied by its designer, who then set it up and trained PAA staff. The scanner has the capability to capture 8mm, Super 8, 16mm, and 35mm film with either optical or magnetic soundtracks at 2K resolution. The film is run through a series of heads on a flat bed and each frame is essentially photographed and saved as a digital file. The flat bed structure of the scanner differs from a film projector because the sprockets are not constantly pulled through the device by a

hook as found on a projector; instead, the sprockets are only pulled through a wheel that controls the scanner light, which prevents wear-and-tear. When the scanning is complete, the thousands of digital images are then combined into one continuous, moving image.

This year's Film Night introduced several topics of debate that could not be adequately covered at the film screening. Therefore, a follow-up panel discussion was held at the PAA on March 27th that focused on the massive changes in cinema brought about by the emergence of digital technology at all points in film culture, including production, distribution, exhibition, study, and preservation.

The panel featured Tom Bernier (independent filmmaker and Provincial Archives of Alberta Audiovisual Technician), who offered his perspective on independent celluloid-based filmmaking in an increasingly digital world; Jeff Brinton (Alberta Film Commissioner), who spoke about changes to the mainstream film industry, with a focus on commercial filmmaking in Alberta; Braden Cannon (Private Records Archivist, Provincial Archives of Alberta), who addressed challenges facing archives in the acquisition, appraisal, and preservation of film and digital moving images; Liz Czach (professor in the University of Alberta, Department of English and Film Studies), who offered an academic perspective

The Film Night screening and panel discussion were very successful and well-received, especially by Edmonton's cinephile and filmmaking communities.



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

The Musee Heritage Museum has appointed Vinothaan Vipulanantharajah as its full-time Archivist.

Leslie Pearson will be getting married in June and will change her name to Leslie Gordon. Congratulations!

Debby Shoctor was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in February 2013 for her involvement in the community.

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SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

## SUBMISSIONS, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The **Archives Society of Alberta News** is published quarterly by the Archives Society of Alberta. Submissions, questions and suggestions should be directed to the Newsletter Editor c/o:

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Individuals and institutions are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, reports, photographs or letters to the editor 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.**

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



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## ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2013 – 2014

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Province

Postal Code

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Business Phone ( ) -

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Voting Delegate (Associate)

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- ☐ Yes, I would like to volunteer for an ASA Committee

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