Preserving our past

HSP staff organized 67 collections, conserved almost 1,000 documents, and digitized more than 8,000 items.

This fiscal year, HSP archivists and conservators made great strides in making our collection more accessible to the public, both to on-site researchers and online visitors. The archives staff organized and catalogued a total of 67 collections totaling 656 linear feet, a 17 percent increase in linear feet from the previous fiscal year. Of those newly catalogued collections, 18 were made possible by donors who participated in HSP’s successful adopt-a-collection program. Forty-six new finding aids were posted online, including 20 using software called Archivists’ Toolkit, which displays finding aids in a more user-friendly and web-searchable format.

Among the newly catalogued collections are the papers of U.S. President James Buchanan, including his correspondence, speeches, scrapbooks, and newspaper clippings. Other highlights include the papers of Civil War General George G. Meade, which comprise military papers as well as personal letters (pictured at bottom right) to Meade’s wife, Margaretta, and their children; and the papers of General A. A. Humphreys, including muster rolls, reports, orders, and payment vouchers that may have been collected when Humphreys served in the Army of the Potomac. Archivists also processed wash-and-ink drawings of Confederate prisons by Robert Knox Sneden (pictured at left) and 33 original sketches by artist and Delaware County native Benjamin West.

The Society has more than 21 million items in its collection, and that number continued to climb this fiscal year as HSP accessioned through donation or purchase approximately 50 new collections or additions to existing collections. One of the largest additions to HSP’s library was the papers of the Batcheler, Hartshorne, and Sahlin families, which richly document more than three generations of a Swedish-American family.

With the help of our hardworking interns and volunteers, the conservation staff treated more than 900 items, among them daguerreotypes from the Edwin Forrest Home records and an 1840 cookbook compiled by Ellen Emlen of Philadelphia. The conservation department also worked to preserve Fire Insurance Records, which date back to the 1780s. The staff and volunteers created 187 acid-free boxes to house the records and protect them from dust and rot.

This fiscal year, HSP formally launched the Digital Center for Americana, a new branch of the archives department. The Digital Center for Americana team has catalogued 37 of HSP’s Civil War-related collections and digitized more than 8,000 manuscripts, maps, graphics, works of art, and photographs. HSP also customized its digital access management system, called CollectiveAccess, so these digitized images can be searched and viewed online in 2011. As part of this project, HSP staff and volunteers helped to convert thousands of paper cards from our graphics card catalog to electronic records. When the project is complete, researchers will be able to search online for information about more than 50,000 graphic items in HSP’s collection. This innovative project was made possible with generous support from the Barra Foundation, Robert McNeil Jr., Collin Farquhar McNeil, the McLean Contributionship, and the Raab Collection.
The 2009/10 fiscal year has been one of innovation and growth for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. One major initiative launched this year is the Digital Center for Americana, a branch of our archives department that has already digitized thousands of Civil War-era documents. Another project is PhilaPlace.org, an interactive website where people share their own memories of Philadelphia neighborhoods. Through these efforts and many others, HSP is striving to make its collections—and the stories they contain—more accessible and engaging.

Sharing our stories

More than 372,000 people visited HSP's website last fiscal year. Hundreds of thousands attended events and read our scholarly journal.

HSP shares stories from its collection with hundreds of thousands of people each year through a wide variety of ways—through traditional publications, access to our research library, e-mail newsletters, social media, and public programs. This fiscal year, more than 4,300 researchers visited HSP’s Reading Room, while another 3,102 used HSP’s research/reference-by-mail services. Our website attracted more than 372,000 visits and almost 1 million page views with visitors from all 50 states and 196 countries.

HSP reaches more than 10,000 people through social media. More than 7,000 subscribe to HSP’s e-mail newsletters, including our popular History Hits. HSP also communicates through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and three different blogs. HSP reaches another half a million readers each week by publishing history stories in the Sunday edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

We continued to share our stories through our history magazine Pennsylvania Legacies and our scholarly journal the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography (PMHB). Pennsylvania Legacies was printed in full color for the first time and posted online in a new page-turning format. The online editions of “Mapping Pennsylvania” and “Pennsylvanians and Their Environment” attracted more than 500 visitors and more than 14,000 page views. PMHB articles, which are available online through the History Cooperative website and JSTOR, an online repository of scholarly journal articles, received nearly 210,000 article views.

More than 5,400 people attended events and special programs sponsored by HSP this fiscal year. Highlights included a lecture about radical abolitionist John Brown; a panel discussion about immigrant groups in Philadelphia; and a gathering of local pastors and historians to reflect on the legacy of Bishop Richard Allen. More than 200 people attended HSP’s new series of genealogy workshops, where they learned how to conserve family records, trace their family roots, and use online genealogy tools. Also this year, as part of the Philagrafika 2010 festival, HSP displayed artwork from contemporary artist Duke Riley, who used old maps and documents from HSP’s collection as inspiration.

In December 2009, HSP launched PhilaPlace.org, an interactive website that connects stories to places across time in Philadelphia’s neighborhoods. Since the website went live, 38,000 people have visited and 50 more have shared a story or posted a photo. The PhilaPlace blog has featured community members and educators as guest bloggers writing about Philadelphia neighborhood history, family history, and the uses of technology and mapping to understand our history.

HSP commemorated the 100th anniversary of its building in April 2010 and celebrated with an exhibit and behind-the-scenes tours for the general public. Our anniversary was the theme for HSP’s annual Founder’s Award dinner, called “A 1910 Celebration.” The event honored Cokie Roberts, Marciarose and Jerry Shestack, and Henry Lafayette Collins III. The event for 220 guests, co-chaired by Alice Lea Tasman and Deborah Dilworth Bishop, raised more than $150,000 for the Society.

The Treasures Society, a special group of HSP supporters, gathered for a private tour of the Winterthur Museum, a lecture from author Nancy M. Heinzen about Rittenhouse Square, and an exclusive trip to the Library of Congress and the Folger Shakespeare Library. Also this fiscal year, HSP formed a Young Friends group for adults between the ages of 21 and 45. The Young Friends group held its inaugural event with a “treasure hunt” in December 2009.
Inspiring our future

Teachers and students have a valuable new resource to interpret history and culture. The PhilaPlace website includes neighborhood timelines and several lesson plans designed for grades 6 to 12. Through the lesson plans, students can go on a “treasure hunt” through the 9th Street Market or use a South Philadelphia mural about immigration to interpret neighborhood change.

Hundreds of students, teachers, and college professors visited HSP this fiscal year for tours, document show-and-tells, and teacher workshops. HSP coordinated library orientations for about 150 local college students from Drexel University, the University of Pennsylvania, LaSalle University, Tyler School of Art, Bryn Mawr College, and the University of the Arts. HSP staff went off site for presentations as well, including visits to Masterman High School, Abington Junior High School, and Temple University. More than 100 community college professors and high school teachers visited HSP for orientations and show-and-tells as part of workshops and seminars sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

HSP’s history magazine Pennsylvania Legacies included lesson plans for teachers. In “Pennsylvanians and Their Environment,” students learned about the devastating effects of industrial waste on the drinking-water supply of Philadelphia in the late 19th century and about the solutions employed to improve public health. In “Mapping Pennsylvania,” students were introduced to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping through the exploration of static maps from Philadelphia’s South Fourth Street or “Fabric Row.” The next edition of Legacies, on the subject of the civil rights movement, will be distributed to all public middle and high schools in the state of Pennsylvania.

Many students from local colleges worked at HSP as volunteers and interns this fiscal year. Students from the University of the Arts, Tyler School of Art at Temple University, and the University of Maryland, College Park assisted in the conservation lab, while students from Drexel University, Arcadia University, Temple University, Penn State University, and Cabrini College helped process archival collections. Students from Drexel University wrote content for the PhilaPlace website.

HSP continued to support National History Day and hosted a teacher workshop for the participants in July 2009. Area students performed well at the state and national competition, focusing on the theme “Innovation in History: Impact and Change.” Several school groups used primary sources from the Historical Society for their projects.

Through a joint fellowship program, HSP and the Library Company of Philadelphia welcomed 16 graduate and/or postgraduate scholars who conducted research at our library. These scholars focused on topics as varied as the Seven Years’ War, public housing, and the political thought of William Penn. HSP also independently funded
two Balch fellowships in immigrant and ethnic history and/or 20th-century history. HSP thanks Dr. Dorothy J. del Bueno for her support of this fellowship program. The Historical Society secured funding to endow a new fellowship, which will begin in fiscal year 2010. The Albert M. Greenfield Fellowship will focus on 20th-century history. In addition, the Esther Ann McFarland Fellowship in memory of Judge William Lewis will fund a joint HSP/LCP fellowship on 17th-century Pennsylvania history or African American history.

Collaborating with others

HSP works with other organizations to strengthen the history and heritage community as a whole.

This fiscal year, HSP began the planning process for its new History Affiliates program, designed to provide support and resources to small history and heritage organizations in Southeastern Pennsylvania. HSP hired Calista Cleary to lead the planning process, funded by the Barra Foundation. In the fall of 2010, HSP will conduct a formal needs survey and convene its first History Affiliates event.

For PhilaPlace, HSP worked closely with the project’s lead partners—the City of Philadelphia Department of Records and the University of Pennsylvania School of Design—along with nonprofit institutions, community organizations, members of the PhilaPlace advisory committee, and funders. HSP staff continues to work closely with local organizations to develop programming and add content to the website. HSP has obtained a grant from Temple University to work with journalism students to produce and publish more Philadelphia neighborhood stories and videos during the 2010–2011 academic year. The HSP staff has also partnered with the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program on a project titled Journeys South, a series of public art projects that explore South Philadelphia’s immigrant history.

HSP continued to support the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia by helping to organize and publicize a series of Greater Philadelphia Roundtables in the spring of 2010. These four events, which were held at different locations around the city, promoted dialogue and greater understanding of the Philadelphia region’s recent history. Another collaborative venture is the Civil War History Consortium, a group of more than 60 organizations that are working to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The group launched a regional website (www.civilwarphilly.net) with a calendar of events, maps of self-guided cell phone tours, and links to Civil War resources.

HSP often collaborated with other institutions to co-sponsor exhibits and events. Most notably this year, the Historical Society loaned David Kennedy watercolors (pictured above) to the Arthur Ross Gallery for an exhibition that ran from July to October 2009 and attracted more than 3,000 visitors. Other event partners and sponsors included the Winterthur Museum, the Penn Towne Chapter of the Links, the Philadelphia Tribune, Philagrafika, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, Moonstone, Tria, Southwest Airlines, the 9th Street Italian Market, Yards Brewing Co., the Penn Treaty Museum, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and CBS3.

The staff of HSP continued to serve on boards and advisory committees of more than a dozen organizations, including the Avenue of the Arts Inc., the Delaware Valley Archivists Group, the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, the Mayor’s Cultural Advisory Council, the Pennsylvania Digital Newspaper Project, the Pennsylvania Historical Association, the Pennsylvania Homefront in the Civil War Digital Archives Project, the Philadelphia Area Center for History of Science, the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries, and the State Historical Records Advisory Board.
With appreciation
Donors to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania from July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010

CORPORATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS
Abington Junior High School History Club
Alta Management, LLC
American Friends of St. George's Church in Venice, Italy
American Friends of the Studium Generale Marcianum
Arader Galleries
Beneficial Mutual Bancorp, Inc.
Cooke & Bieler, LP
Delaware River Port Authority
Devon Horse Show & Country Fair
Dilworth Paxson, LLP
Ernst & Young, LLP
Eisner, LLP
EwingCole
eXude Benefits Group
Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation
Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin
The Haverford Trust Company
Holt Chew Family Management Company
Kensington Soup Society
KPMG, LLP
Lincoln Financial Foundation
Masonry Preservation Group, Inc.
Millbrook Friends of Music in the Schools
Moore Brothers Wine Company
Naked Chocolate Café
Pepper Hamilton, LLP
The Philadelphia Tribune
PNC Foundation
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Quaker City Mercantile
Raab Collection, LLC
Reading Terminal Market
SMART and Associates, LLP
Solis Healthcare
Southwest Airlines
Squadron A. Association Inc.
UBS
Union League Library
Valley Forge Flowers, Inc.
Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation
Zarwin, Baum, DeVito, Kaplan, Schaer, Toddy, P.C.

FOUNDATIONS
The Barra Foundation, Inc.
Blue Sky Family Foundation
The Albert M. Greenfield Foundation
John C. and Chara C. Haas Charitable Trust
Heritage Philadelphia Program, a program of the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage
Jewish Community Foundation
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
National Horse Show Foundation
Nelson Talbott Foundation
Pennsylvania Abolition Society Endowment Fund c/o the Philadelphia Foundation
The Philadelphia Foundation
Piasecki Family Foundation
Quaker City Foundation
Raynier Institute & Foundation
Robert S. Waters Charitable Trust

GOVERNMENT
Pennsylvania Department of Education
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
Pennsylvania Humanities Council
Philadelphia Cultural Fund

SUSTAINERS
H.F. (Gerry) and Marguerite Lenfest
Mr. and Mrs. Howard H. Lewis
Mrs. George Conrad McFarland
Mr. and Mrs. Collin F. McNeil
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Price Jr.

CONSERVERS
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lafayette Collins III
Dr. Dorothy J. del Bueno
John C. and Chara C. Haas
Mr. and Mrs. Ranney R. Moran

STEWARDS
Ms. Linda L. Bean
Ms. Lori Cohen
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce K. Fenton, Esq.
Alice L. George
Mr. and Mrs. Leon L. Levy
Charles E. and Mary MacGregor Mather
Nathan Kenneth and Karen Pearlman Raab
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Rittenhouse
Dr. and Mrs. William Tasman

For a copy of HSP’s audited financial statements, please contact mhairston@hsp.org.
TREASURERS
Mr. and Mrs. Majid Alsayegh
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald C. Anderson
W. Graham Arader III
Mr. Mark A. Aronchick
Mrs. Deborah Dilworth Bishop
Mr. Thomas H. Bishop
Mr. Robert W. Bogle
Ms. Diana Brash
Mr. and Mrs. Julian Brodsky
Ms. Sandra L. Cadwalader
Ms. Carol Ann Carlson
Leonard and Patricia Combs
Mr. and Mrs. J. Morris Evans
Mr. Jack M. Friedland
Mr. and Mrs. Walter R. Garrison
Ms. Elizabeth H. Gemmill
Mrs. Barbara L. Greenfield
Ms. Melissa J. Hancock
Bob and Susie Harries
Ms. Eliza Cope Harrison
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hauptfuhrer
The Honorable and Mrs. Louis G. Hill
Ms. Carol A. Ingald
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond E. lx Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kalogris
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Keith
Ms. Erica L. Knuth
Mr. and Mrs. Berton E. Korman
Stephen and Mary Kurtz
Dr. Krishna Lahiri
Dr. and Mrs. Jerry J. Maginnis
Mr. John J. Medveckis and
Ms. Marina Kats
Dr. Randall M. Miller
Barbara J. Mitnick, Ph.D.
Mr. Thomas Moran
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Naples
Mr. David A. Othmer and
Ms. Maureen Barden
Mrs. Vivian W. Plasecki
John Pickering
Ms. Deborah L. Rakasny
Ms. Kim Sajet and Dr. Anthony N. Meadows
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Savitz
Mr. Timothy R. Schantz
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome J. Shestack
Ms. Renee Snowten
Dr. Erik Soiferman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Souaid
Dr. Page E. Talbott and
Mr. James E. Gould
Mr. Carmen D. Valentino
Dr. James D. B. Weiss Jr.
Mr. Thomas C. Woodward

PHILADELPHIANS
Valla Amsterdam
Jim H. Averill
Mr. and Mrs. David Bauman
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Biddle
Mr. and Mrs. J. Linzee Coolidge
Mrs. Amy D. Coxe
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Feldman
Ms. Helen H. Ford
Dr. Sarah Barringer Gordon
Steven A. Grasse
Michael S. Hairston
Mr. Gregory Harvey and
Ms. Emily Wallace
Hannah L. Henderson
Mr. Timothy P. Hughes
Mr. Charles J. Ingersoll
Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Kiesel
Mr. and Mrs. David H. Kilmer
Dr. and Mrs. Francis R. Manlove
Mr. and Mrs. David W. Maxey, Esq.
Prof. John M. Murrin
Arthur E. Newbold IV
Dr. and Mrs. George J. Peckham
Mr. and Mrs. Harold S. Rosenbluth
Mr. David Seltzer and
Ms. Lisa Roberts
Mrs. Louise H. Shafer
Judge and Mrs. Fred Stamp
Dr. Thomas J. Sugrue and
Ms. Dana Barron
Mr. Leon C. Sunstein Jr.
Mr. Arthur Willson and
Ms. Jane Foster
Dr. and Mrs. Harrison M. Wright

SPONSORS
Mr. William C. Allen
Mr. Louis J. Appell Jr.
Catherine Barnes
Jane B. Baron, Esq.
Dr. Richard J. Baron and
Jane B. Baron, Esq.
Ms. Susan H. Bell
Laura Haines Belman
Mr. Peter A. Benoliel and
Ms. Willo Carey
Ms. Sally Berlin
Mrs. John A. Blanchard
Ms. Patricia Z. Bonsall
Ms. Phyllis J. Boyer
Mr. and Mrs. Rex Brien
Mary Dunn Brown Ed.D., Ph.D.
Mr. and Mrs. McBee Butler
Ms. Elizabeth Cahill
Mr. Glenn C. Carter
Mr. and Mrs. Cummings
W. Catherwood Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Chew
Mr. Charles P. Collings
Mr. Edward W. Coslett Jr.
Ms. Mary Ann Coyle
Dr. Donald H. Cresswell
Miss Maude de Schauensee
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Denny
Ms. Joanne Denworth

Mrs. Ineke Dikland
Mr. Thomas M. Doerflinger
Mr. Louis J. Appell Jr.
Honorable Oliver S. C. Franklin Jr.
Mr. John Frazer Jr.
Mrs. Beverly Caplan Freeman
Grace Jean Fried
Mr. David B. Gaspar
Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Gherst II
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Savitz
Mr. Timothy R. Schantz
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey E. Marshall
Ms. Donna J. Meidt
Mrs. James Morone
Dr. Eleanor Smith Morris
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Palmer
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCracken Peck
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Priem
Dr. John M. Roberts
Dr. and Mrs. Donald J. Rosato
Mr. Arthur G. Solmssen
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Stroud Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Strouse, Esq.
Ms. Brenda A. Sudell-Benson
Ms. Patricia S. Walsh
Mr. Sedgwick A. Ward
Mr. Jonathan E. Wood Jr.
Minturn T. Wright III, Esq.
William Levant and Carol R. Yaster
Mr. Kevin Young

BEQUESTS
Mrs. Barbara Gohn Day
Mr. Samuel D. Karavin

GIFTS IN MEMORY
Tevis Goldhaft
Mary Ernestine Newbold
OFFICERS
Sarah D. Price,
Board Chair
Bruce K. Fenton,
Executive Vice Chair
Leonard L. Combs,
Vice Chair
Howard H. Lewis,
Vice Chair
Page Talbott,
Vice Chair
Nathan K. Raab,
Secretary
Majid Alsayegh,
Treasurer

COUNCILORS
Mark A. Aronchick
Deborah Dilworth
Bishop
Thomas H. Bishop
Robert W. Bogle
Alice L. George
Barbara L. Greenfield
Carol Clark Lawrence
Leon L. Levy
Walter Licht
Jerry J. Maginnis
Charles E. Mather III
Collin F. McNeil
Thomas Moran
David A. Othmer
Robert G. Souaid
Thomas J. Sugrue
Alice Lea Tasman
Joseph P. Watkins

EX OFFICIO
John C. Haas

EMERITI
George W. Connell
Jack Friedland
Bruce H. Hooper
David W. Maxey, Esq.
Harrison M. Wright

We inspire individuals and organizations to create a better future through historical understanding.