

AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER & VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT
Library of Congress
Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2008
(October 2007-September 2008)

The American Folklife Center (AFC), which includes the Veterans History Project (VHP), had another productive year. Over a quarter million items were acquired by the AFC Archive, which is the country's first national archive of traditional life, and one of the oldest and largest of such repositories in the world. About 240,000 items were processed, and thus made available to researchers at the Library and beyond. In addition, the Center continued to expand programming through symposia, concerts, and public lectures; by providing field school training to universities and international organizations; and by providing technical assistance to individuals and groups. AFC also continued to be a leader in international discussions concerning traditional culture and intellectual property, and the AFC director served as a member of US delegations to meetings convened by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), UNESCO, and the Organization of American States (OAS). Both AFC and VHP provided substantial services to Congress.

The Veterans History Project (VHP) continued making major strides in its mission to collect and preserve the stories of our nation's veterans, receiving upwards of 100 collections a week and acquiring over 22,000 items. The maturation of the Project was reflected by its partnership with WETA-TV and PBS in their presentation of the Ken Burns film, *The War*, which told the story of World War II through the memories of individual veterans from four American towns. VHP also continued to foster solid working relationships with a wide variety of project participants nationwide, including the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Court Reporters Association, retirement communities, colleges and universities, libraries and historical societies.

The following report details AFC and VHP's activities during FY 2008.

ARCHIVAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

KEY ACQUISITIONS

Marjory Bong-Ray Liu Collection: A multi-format collection that documents traditional Chinese Kunqu theater, as well as Chinese musical theory and performance. It constitutes Professor Marjory Bong-Ray Liu's lifetime of research on these subjects, and includes unpublished manuscripts, rare handbooks of gongchi notations with song text and dialogue, a bound compendium of 50 kunqu operas, audio recordings, graphic images, and books.

Jean Ritchie/George Pickow Collection: The first increment of this collection includes 119 motion pictures, over 1,000 photographic prints and negatives, 9 DVDs, one linear foot of manuscript material, and other items. The material extensively documents the

long career of Jean Ritchie, a celebrated singer of traditional Appalachian ballads who is also a National Heritage Fellow. As well, it includes documentation of the folklore of the Cumberland Mountains, and related Old World traditions in the British Isles, that was created by Ritchie and her husband, George Pickow, a professional documentary filmmaker and photographer. The stories, songs and folkways recorded in this collection represent one of the pillars of American culture: early Anglo-Irish traditions as preserved in isolated mountain communities of the eastern United States.

John P. Dixon and Floyd Ramsey Collection of Romaine Lowdermilk

Cowboy-Song Recordings: Non-commercial sound recordings of cowboy songs performed by Romaine Lowdermilk, of Arizona, during the 1950s.

Audrey R. Duckert Collection: Hundreds of audio cassettes containing field recordings of New England dialects of English, recorded by pioneering linguist Audrey R. Duckert.

Fay Vincent Oral History Project Collection: Sixty-six video recordings comprising thirty-six oral-history interviews with former professional baseball players, managers and others associated with the game. The project was sponsored by Fay Vincent, the former Commissioner of Baseball, who also conducted many of the interviews.

David Jacobs Collection: Twenty-nine audio recordings of live performances by folk singers performing in coffee houses in and around Boston during the 1960s.

Margaret Mills Collection: 531 field audio recordings of the traditional narratives and music of Afghani women and men, recorded by folklorist Mills from the 1970s through the 1990s. It is believed to be the largest and best collection of its kind in the world.

National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA) Collection: The 2008 increment of this collection includes 23,860 digital files and 310 reel-to-reel tapes that contain audio recordings of hundreds of performances by musicians and other artists who performed at the National Folk Festival and other public events sponsored by NCTA; one linear foot of detailed logs of the recordings is also included.

StoryCorps Collection: The 2008 increment of this collection includes 53,326 digital files and 920 CD-Rs that contain hundreds of audio recordings of oral histories collected from a broad cross-section of the American public, along with related photographs and logs.

Surviving Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Houston Collection: The first increment of this collection contains digital files of audio recordings of interviews with 104 people who lived through Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; the interviews were conducted by fellow survivors of the hurricanes.

Jun'ichi Yamada Collection of Bluegrass Recordings: 137 field audio recordings of performances of bluegrass music, most of which took place at bluegrass festivals in

Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia. The recordings were made by Jun'ichi Yamada, of Japan, during the 1970s.

International Storytelling Collection: Audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, publications and other materials that document the annual National Storytelling Festival, held by the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, Tennessee. (2008 increment)

Veterans History Project Collection: Reminiscences of thousands of American war veterans, and others who served, recorded on audiotape and videotape; the collection also includes photographs, letters, memoirs, and interview logs. VHP added around 10,000 collections during the fiscal year, bringing to a grand total of nearly 59,000 individual collections comprising oral histories, letters, photographs, diaries, and memoirs.

DIGITAL ARCHIVAL PROJECTS:

Card Catalog Conversion Project: During FY 2008, AFC completed digitizing its card catalog and then made it available online. The fully searchable catalog is part of the Library's "LC Presents" website, and is also accessible from AFC's homepage. The database consists of approximately 34,000 bibliographic records representing individual songs, tunes, or spoken performances on the field recordings in AFC's collections; most date from 1933 to 1950. The content fields in the database were designed for MARC bibliographic records, and therefore were easily converted to MODS (Metadata Object Description Schema) bibliographic records by staff in the Library of Congress Network Development and MARC Standards Office. Although much of the work for this accomplishment was done during FY 2007, a significant amount of fine-tuning, an addition of some 1,000 records, and the final push toward the launch all occurred in FY 2008. The catalog, titled "Traditional Music and Spoken Word Catalog from the American Folklife Center," went online on November 1, 2007.

Ethnographic Thesaurus: AFC continued to develop and improve the Ethnographic Thesaurus (ET), a comprehensive, controlled list of subject terms created to describe multi-format ethnographic research collections. The ET was created by the American Folklore Society, with significant input and guidance from AFC. Primary support for the development of the Ethnographic Thesaurus was provided by a major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation from 2004-7. Now that the period covered by the Mellon grant has ended, the AFC has remained involved, in an advisory capacity, in the ongoing maintenance and expansion of the thesaurus. The ET is available on the American Folklore Society website. It uses MultiTes Pro, a program which presents thesauruses in a dynamically-searchable format.

Website Redesign/Updates: AFC and VHP maintained and expanded their websites, adding text, images, audio and video. In addition to webcasts and flyer essays for most

AFC Homegrown concerts and Botkin lectures, the 2008 additions included web pages for symposia and conferences, which contain general information about each event, photographs, biographical information, related essays, and webcasts. AFC also updated the *Folklife Sourcebook*, the list of collections in the archive, and the annual reports. AFC released its latest online presentation, *The Mary Sheppard Burton Collection*, consisting of high-resolution images of magnificent hooked rugs, with the artist's commentary. VHP continued to update its online database, and launched five new Web presentations: *China-Burma-India: WWII's Forgotten Theater*, *Women of Four Wars*, *Jewish Veterans of World War II*, *The Global War on Terror*, and *Hispanics in Service*.

Major Presentations in Development: AFC currently has two major web-based presentations in development. One will present AFC's Center for Applied Linguistics Collection, which is a survey of American English dialect from 43 states. It will be released as part of American Memory in FY 2009. FY 2008 milestones in this project include the digitization of 59 audiotapes containing 405 interviews, the digitization of textual transcriptions of the 405 interviews, the capture of 90% of the necessary metadata in an Access database, and the completion of 95% of the necessary permissions work to ensure we can publish the interviews on the Web. The second presentation will present AFC's James Madison Carpenter Collection, a large multiformat collection of British traditional song, music, and drama. It will be released in FY 2009 as part of the Library's Performing Arts Encyclopedia. FY 2008 milestones include the creation of the prototype website and the assimilation of large amounts of metadata provided by a team of researchers in the UK.

PROCESSING:

During FY 2008, the American Folklife Center's Archive had three full time employees (FTEs), one junior fellow, and five interns available to process collections. The Veterans History Project (VHP) had eight FTEs, one part-time employee, one temporary worker, and four contractors.

The American Folklife Center's permanent processing staff continued the physical and intellectual processing of collection materials, as well as the preparation of manuscripts, photographs, and audio and video holdings for digitization. They collaborated with the LC Conservation staff on the treatment of materials, supply-order requests, and management of storage environments. They worked with Collections Access, Loan and Management (CALM) Division, planning for the eventual transfer of collections to Ft. Meade.

AFC staff continued their cooperative project with selected Network Development staff to develop StoryPortal, a browser-based search interface designed to provide a unified interface at AFC for the 18 individual StoryCorps Collection databases. They also continue to add information about acquisitions, collections, and individual items to the MAVIS database in order to make basic information about collection materials available,

and to track collections as they are moved to and from the NAVCC facility in Culpeper, Virginia.

At VHP, a team of contract employees helped reduce a significant backlog in unprocessed collections, resulting in a high number of processed items. The hiring of a full-time archivist allowed VHP to address ongoing concerns of preservation and documentation. The VHP public database provided access to information on all processed collections. Fully digitized collections, whose materials are available through our web site to any computer with internet access, now number over 5,000.

Below are two categories with sub-lists: AFC collections that were fully or partially processed, and collection finding aids that were completed or neared completion in FY2008. The completely processed collections have MARC records in the LC Online Catalog.

1. Collection Processing FY 2008:

1a. Fully Processed (16 Collections)

- Alan Lomax Haiti Collection (AFC 1937/010)
- Eleanor Dickinson Collection (AFC 1970/001)
- Elizabeth Atwood and Catherine Walker Collection of Black Children's Chants (AFC 1977/028)
- Helen Creighton Collection of Nova Scotia Recordings (AFC 1944/016)
- Henrique Vieira Leite Collection of Brazilian Literatura de Cordel (AFC 2007/025)
- Ivan Walton Collection from Beaver Island, Michigan (AFC 1941/025)
- Ivan Walton Songs from Michigan (AFC 1939/014)
- James Madison Carpenter Collection (AFC 1972/001)
- Karen Cardullo Collection on Ruth Crawford Seeger (AFC 1988/008)
- Mary Sheppard Burton Collection (AFC 2006/005)
- Nancy-Jean Seigel Collection on Helen Hartness Flanders (AFC 1999/007)
- Peggy V. Beck Collection on New Mexican Midwinter Masquerades (AFC 2005/005)
- Sara L. M. Davis Collection on Tai Lüè Culture (AFC 2006/004)
- Steve Green Collection of Home Disc Recordings (AFC 1997/031)
- W.P.A. California Folk Music Project Collection, 1938-1940 (AFC 1940/001)
- William Barnes Interview Collection (AFC 1978/006)

1b. Partially Processed (52 Collections)

- Alliance for American Quilts Interview Collection (AFC 2007/009)
- Alan Lomax Collection (AFC 2004/004)
- Artifacts and Gifts Collection (AFC 9999/003)
- Au Ho-Nien Interview Collection (AFC 2007/024)
- Barry Lee Pearson Collection of Rev. O.C. Matthews Recordings (AFC 1980/005)
- Black Banjo Songsters, Volume 2 Digitization Project (AFC 9999/004)

- Center for Applied Linguistics Collection (AFC 1986/022)
- David A. Taylor Cordel Collection (AFC 2008/001)
- Debora G. Kodish Collection on Robert Winslow Gordon (AFC 2004/019)
- Discoteca Publica de Sao Paulo Collection (AFC 1943/001)
- Don Yoder Collection of Tape Recordings (AFC 2003/051)
- Don Yoder Collection of Wire Recordings (AFC 1970/004)
- Edward Bell Collection of Ruth Mae Gasper Bell and Margot Mayo Recordings (AFC 2004/022)
- Eloise Hubbard Linscott Collection (AFC 1942/002)
- Frances Densmore Collection of Visual Materials (AFC 1944/002)
- Ghanaian Highlife and Traditional Music Collection (AFC 2007/007)
- George Korson Collection (AFC 2003/011)
- Herbert Halpert Collection (AFC 2004/008)
- Hongyi He Chinese Papercuts Collection (AFC 2006/008)
- International Storytelling Collection (AFC 2001/008)
- Irish Folklore Commission Wax Cylinder Collection (AFC 2004/002)
- Jean Thomas Scrapbook Collection (AFC 1954/001)
- Jens Lund Ohio River Valley Collection (AFC 2004/023)
- Jens Lund Collection of Folklife Center of Ohio Valley Recordings (AFC 2004/025)
- Joel M. Halpern Collection (AFC 1998/001)
- Joseph S. Hall Great Smoky Mountains Original Recordings Collection (AFC 1987/035)
- Kay Shelemay Ethiopian Music Collection (AFC 2007/019)
- Literatura de Cordel Brazilian Chapbook Collection (AFC 1970/002)
- Local Legacies Project Collection (AFC 2000/001)
- Margaret Mills Collection (AFC 2008/022)
- Marjory Bong-Ray Liu Collection (AFC 2003/053)
- Mars Hill College Collection of Bascom Lamar Lunsford Recordings (AFC 2005/012)
- Mike Seeger Collection of Audiocassette Tapes (AFC 2008/002)
- Mitsuru Yuge Collection of Shakuhachi Notation (AFC 2005/009)
- National Council for the Traditional Arts Collection (AFC 2001/019)
- National Visionary Leadership Project Interviews and Conference Collection (AFC 2004/007)
- Neil V. Rosenberg Bluegrass Music Collection (AFC 2002/009)
- Nora Yeh Kemeny Family Collection (AFC 2000/018)
- Pete and Toshi Seeger Film Collection (AFC 2003/027)
- OzarksWatch Video Magazine Collection (AFC 2000/027)
- Robert Sonkin Alabama and New Jersey Collection [Gee's Bend] (AFC 1941/018)
- Roberts, Borders, Mauney, Howell, Briggs and Related Families Reunion Collection (AFC 2005/010)
- Ryl's'kyi Ukrainian Cylinder Collection (AFC 1992/005)
- Simon Bronner Collection (AFC 2006/018)

- StoryCorps Collection (AFC 2004/001)
- Tesfaye Lemma Collection (AFC 2007/020)
- Ted Grame and Kathy Monahan Recordings (AFC 2001/031)
- Veteran's History Project (AFC 2001/002)
- Vida Chenoweth Collection (AFC 1994/003)
- Voices of Civil Rights Project Collection (AFC 2005/013)
- Aaron Ziegelman Foundation Collection (AFC 2003/002)
- Zuni Pueblo Storytelling Collection (AFC 1996/073)

Note: Some collections, such as International Storytelling, Veterans History Project and StoryCorps, are open collections, meaning that new items are being added at regular intervals. These collections will remain partially processed every year until no more items are added and they are considered "closed."

2. Status of Collections Finding Aids FY2008:

2a. EAD encoded and published (2 finding aids)

- Sam Eskin Collection (AFC 1999/004) - Revised
- Sara L.M. Davis Collection on Tai Culture (AFC 2006/004)

2b. Completed finding aids under review (5 finding aids)

- James Madison Carpenter Collection (AFC 1972/001)
- Eleanor Dickinson Collection (AFC 1970/001)
- Mary Sheppard Burton Collection (AFC 2006/005)
- Peggy V. Beck Collection on New Mexican Midwinter Masquerades Collection (AFC 2005/005)
- W.P.A. California Folk Music Project Collection, 1938-1940 (AFC 1940/001)

2c. Finding aids in draft form (23 finding aids)

- Adelaide de Menil Men's Lives Project (AFC 1998/015)
- Au Ho-Nien Interview Collection (AFC 2007/024)
- Alliance for American Quilts Interview Collection (AFC 2007/009)
- Captain Pearl R. Nye Ccollection (AFC 1937/002)
- Coal River Folklife Project Collection (AFC 1999/008)
- Curtis Cook Zuni Pueblo Storytelling Collection (AFC 2004/010)
- Chang Yu-Chen Chinese Opera Video Collection (AFC 2005/003)
- George Korson Collection (AFC 2003/011)
- Hongyi He Chinese Papercuts Collection (AFC 2006/008)
- Julie McCullough FSGW Collection (AFC 2002/003)
- Lands' End All-American Quilt Collection (AFC 1997/011)
- Literatura de Cordel Brazilian Chapbooks Collection (AFC 1970/002)
- Magdalena Nowacka-Jannotta Wycinanki Polish Papercutting Collection (AFC 2000/005)
- Mary Sheppard Burton Collection (AFC 2006/005)

- Peggy V. Beck Collection on New Mexican Midwinter Masquerades (AFC 2005/005)
- Omaha Indian Interviews Collection, 1999 (AFC 1999/014)
- Robert Sonkin Alabama and New Jersey Collection (AFC 1941/018)
- Roberts, Borders, Mauney, Howell, Briggs and Related Families Reunion Collection (AFC 2005/010)
- Robin Hiteshow Irish-American Print Materials Collection (AFC 1998/013)
- Simon Bronner Collection (AFC 2006/018)
- Sol Biderman Collection (AFC 2006/019)
- Voices of Civil Rights Project Collection (AFC 2005/015)
- W. Dean Edwards Collection (AFC 1995/015)

CATALOGING:

AFC added 101 collection-level records to the Library's Online Catalog in FY2008. Most of these are for the earliest collections of sound disc recordings in the Archive (circa 1933-1945) and were created in conjunction with the AFC Card Catalog Conversion Project. Each collection represents a field-recording trip or session. These disc recordings include collections made by the notable African American collectors John W. Work, Lewis Jones, Sterling Brown, and Zora Neale Hurston, as well as the Hampton Institute's early recordings, and the early recordings of African American music made by Alan Lomax, John A. Lomax, John Henry Faulk, and Herbert Halpert. Ethnic recordings from the Upper Midwest and California are also included. Many of these recordings were collected as part of the New Deal documentation of American culture, and by the Radio Research Project of the Library of Congress. These recordings also document the World War II years, beginning with the "Man on the Street" interviews conducted on the day following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. In addition to the collection-level catalog records listed below, one Item-level catalog record, namely a published recording, "The Live Wire: Woody Guthrie in Performance 1949," was created. The Henrique Vieira Leite Collection of Brazilian Literatura de Cordel was received and cataloged in 2008; it adds to the already extensive collections of Literatura de Cordel (Brazilian chapbooks) held by the Center. In addition, AFC established 83 name authority headings (corporate, personal names, and conferences) for AFC collection-level MARC catalog records.

Collection-level Catalog Records Created (101 Records)

- Alan and Elizabeth Lomax Collection of Virginia Recordings (AFC 1941/028)
- Alan and Elizabeth Lomax Kentucky Collection (AFC 1937/001)
- Alan Lomax Collection of Michigan and Wisconsin Recordings (AFC 1939/007)
- Alan Lomax Haiti Collection (AFC 1937/010)
- Alan Lomax Recordings of Aunt Molly Jackson (AFC 1939/012)
- Alan Lomax Recordings of Carrie Grover (AFC 1941/023)
- Alan Lomax Recordings of French Canadian Folksongs (AFC 1941/021)
- Alan Lomax Recordings of Huddie "Leadbelly" Ledbetter (AFC 1941/024)

- Alan Lomax Recordings of Los Tres Rancheros (AFC 1937/009)
- Alan Lomax Recordings of Myra E. Hull (AFC 1937/008)
- Alan Lomax Recordings of Rehearsals for White House Program (AFC 1941/006)
- Alan Lomax, Zora Neale Hurston, and Mary Elizabeth Barnicle Expedition Collection (AFC 1935/001)
- Artus Moser Recordings (AFC 1948/003)
- Bess Lomax Hawes Oral History (AFC 2004/049)
- Blue Sky Boys Duplication Project (AFC 1975/052)
- Captain Richard Maitland Recordings of Sea Shanties (AFC 1939/011)
- Carlie and Jackie Tart Recordings (AFC 1944/005)
- Celebration of the Acquisition of the Alan Lomax Collection (AFC 2004/050)
- Center for Applied Linguistics Collection (AFC 1986/022)
- Charles J. Finger Recordings (AFC 1937/005)
- Charles L. Todd and Robert Sonkin New York State Recordings (AFC 1941/013)
- Chilean Folk Music (AFC 1941/022)
- Daniel Boorstin Farewell Reception Collection (AFC 1987/028)
- David Pryor Recordings of Bahaman Spirituals (AFC 1944/006)
- E. M. Blevins Recording Project (AFC 1973/003)
- Eddie Nesbitt and Carlie Tart Recordings (AFC 1944/010)
- Elise Eppes Collection of Negro Folk Songs Made at Appomattox Manor, Virginia (AFC 1948/008)
- Elizabeth Atwood and Catherine Walker Collection of Black Children's Chants (AFC 1977/028)
- Eloise Hubbard Linscott Collection (AFC 1942/002)
- Fay Vincent Oral History Project Collection (AFC 2008/019)
- First National Intercollegiate Folk Singing Competition Collection (AFC 1975/036)
- Fort Valley, Georgia, Recordings (AFC 1944/003)
- Four Freedoms Quartet Recordings (AFC 1944/007)
- Frank A. Melton and Blaine Stubblefield Recordings (AFC 1939/009)
- Frink and Alberts Recordings from the Gold Coast of West Africa (AFC 1944/015)
- Hampton Institute Duplication Project (AFC 1948/015)
- Helen Creighton Collection of Nova Scotia Recordings (AFC 1944/016)
- Henrique Vieira Leite Collection of Brazilian Literatura de Cordel (AFC 2007/025)
- Henry Baxley 1963 National Championship Country Music Contest Collection (AFC 1987/029)
- Herbert Halpert 1939 Southern States Recording Expedition (AFC 1939/005)
- Herbert Halpert New York City Collection (AFC 1938/002)
- Hiroko Sue Collection of Music and Stories of the Hare Indians of the Northwest Territories, Canada (AFC 1965/003)
- Howard S. Watt Collection of "Songs from my past" (AFC 1986/016)
- Interview with George Harris (AFC 1939/015)
- Ivan Walton Collection from Beaver Island, Michigan (AFC 1941/025)
- Ivan Walton Collection of Songs from Michigan and Ohio (AFC 1939/014)

- James E. Strates Carnival Collection (AFC 1941/008)
- Jane Day Abb Collection of Maryland Legends (AFC 1975/039)
- Jane Kendall Abell Recordings (AFC 1948/026)
- Janie Ellis Mason and Alan Lomax Recordings (AFC 1937/006)
- Jason Baird Jackson and Victoria Lindsay-Levine Collection of Yuchi Dance Music (AFC 2001/ 009)
- Jelly Roll Morton Collection, 1938 (AFC 1938/001)
- Joan and Betty Raynor Recordings (AFC 1941/019)
- John A. Lomax Recording of an Arkansas Song (AFC 1941/020)
- John A. Lomax Recordings of Oda Smith (AFC 1940/006)
- John A. Lomax Texas Recordings (AFC 1941/017)
- John and Ruby Lomax 1939 Southern States Recording Trip (AFC 1939/001)
- John Becker and Alan Lomax Recordings of Negro Longshoremen from the Ball Steamship Company (AFC 1944/013)
- John Hammond and Alan Lomax Recordings of Blues and Jazz Musicians (AFC 1939/008)
- John Henry Faulk Recordings of Negro Religious Services. Part 1 (AFC 1941/014)
- John Henry Faulk Recordings of Negro Religious Services. Part 2 (AFC 1941/015)
- John Henry Faulk Texas Recordings Collection (AFC 1941/016)
- John Lomax Southern States Collection, 1934-1935 (AFC 1935/002)
- John Work Recordings of Southern Black Music (AFC 1943/003)
- Karen Cardullo Collection on Ruth Crawford Seeger (AFC 1988/008)
- Katharine Beardmore Recordings of Cuban Folk Music (AFC 1948/025)
- L. G. Van Loon Collection of Old Folk Tales in Albany Dutch (AFC 1944/012)
- Laika Karabey playing Turkish Classical Music on the Tanbur (AFC 1959/001)
- László Szabó Recordings (AFC 1972/010)
- Leo H. Berman Collection of Songs and Stories of Western Australia (AFC 1982/008)
- Lewis Jones Recordings from Coahoma County, Mississippi (AFC 1943/007)
- Liam O'Flynn, Uilleann Pipes and Tin Whistle (AFC 1975/045)
- Lyle D. Campbell Collection of Campbell Family Song Texts (AFC 1989/017)
- "Man-on-the-Street" Interviews Collection (AFC 1941/004)
- Marcus Bach and Addison Alspach Collection of Iowa Recordings (AFC 1944/011)
- Margaret Anderson Collection of Norwegian American Songs from Wisconsin (AFC 1973/004)
- Marius Barbeau Collection of French Canadian songs (AFC 1945/002)
- Martha L. Smith Autobiography Recordings (AFC 1944/014)
- Melville Herskovits Collection of Haitian Recordings (AFC 1945/003)
- Michael Ashenfelder Collection on Irish Family History (AFC 2007/017)
- "The Mouse Who Lived on the Hill" sung by Gloria Greene (AFC 1965/019)
- Nancy Dols Collection of Clark Kessinger Family Recordings (AFC 1975/038)
- Nancy-Jean Seigel Collection on Helen Hartness Flanders (AFC 1999/007)
- National Folk Festival, 1952 (AFC 1975/021)

- National Folk Festival, 1954 (AFC 1975/022)
- New England Balladry Lecture by Mrs. Helen Hartness Flanders (AFC 1948/001)
- Pete and Toshi Seeger Interview (AFC 2006/009)
- Pete Seeger 1972 Oberlin College Commencement Collection (AFC 1996/032)
- Pete Seeger Oberlin College Concert, 1955 (AFC 1975/019)
- Priority Ramblers Song Recordings (AFC 1944/004)
- Radio Research Project Recordings (AFC 1941/011)
- Richard K. Spottswood Collection of Fred McDowell Recordings (AFC 1975/034)
- Robert F. Draves and Helene Stratman Thomas Collection of Wisconsin Recordings (AFC 1941/012)
- Sara L. M. Davis Collection on Tai Lüe Culture (AFC 2006/004)
- Songs Sung by Daniel B. Botkin (AFC 1944/009)
- South African Broadcasting Corporation Collection of Bantu Music (AFC 1948/024)
- Sterling Brown and Lewis Jones Recordings (AFC 1945//009)
- Stetson Kennedy and Robert Cook WPA Florida Recordings (AFC 1939/013)
- The W.P.A. California Folk Music Project Collection (AFC 1940/001)
- Wayland Hand Collection of Irish Songs Recorded in Butte, Montana (AFC 1948/009)
- William Barnes Interview Collection (AFC 1978/006)

REFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Direct Reference Service to Researchers:

All members of the AFC's staff with training in folklore, ethnomusicology, or audiovisual archiving took shifts on the Folklife Reading Room reference desk, assisting Library patrons in person and by telephone. The four members of the reference staff handled the bulk of the Folklife Center's mail and email reference correspondence, and referred questions, as needed, to other AFC staff as well as to Library of Congress and professional colleagues around the world. All AFC staff, however – particularly those with known subject expertise – received and handled inquiries that came to them directly. (It should be noted that, unlike the other LC reading rooms, which receive email reference queries primarily through the QuestionPoint service, the AFC reading room also answers a good deal of correspondence that comes in via direct email.)

The reference staff had primary responsibility for maintaining AFC's in-house collections database, preparing inventories of the Archive's various categories of vertical files, and maintaining access tools. The AFC Reading Room is also responsible for serving researchers who use VHP collections. The online finding aids homepage receives substantial traffic: 359,157 hits in FY 2008. AFC also receives reference inquiries via its webpage. A substantial number of these inquiries come from family members of those whose photos and recordings are in the AFC Archive; contact with these individuals

provides opportunities for staff to enhance collections by requesting additional information about the performers. AFC has also continued to put historic bibliographies online.

In FY 2008, AFC reference staff also performed many other duties. For example, they served as curators of AFC collection materials included in Library exhibitions and as components of other Library websites, coordinated the AFC intern and volunteer program (which provided over 2,300 hours of service to the Library), and oversaw the video and audio workstations in the AFC reading room that provide researchers with greater access to multiformat collections.

Reference Team Acquisitions and Preservation Work:

AFC's reference staff handled serial publications and many small collections that came directly to AFC. During FY 2008, AFC added more than 1,806 items of ephemera to the subject files and over 2,937 serial issues, as well as numerous unpublished monographs, posters, videos, CDs, and photos. Smaller serials, in particular, frequently require preservation photocopying, since they are adversely affected by mail-handling systems. The staff also recommended the acquisition of hundreds of published items, and handled their routing to other parts of the Library.

MEETINGS & VISITORS

Overview:

In FY 2008, AFC and VHP hosted visitors and assisted organizations and researchers from the following foreign countries and regions: Albania*, Argentina*, Australia*, Belarus*, Cambodia*, Canada*, China*, Czech Republic*, Ecuador*, Egypt*, England (UK)*, Estonia*, Finland*, Haiti*, Hong Kong*, India*, Iran*, Iraq*, Isle of Man, Jordan*, Kenya*, Latvia*, Liberia, Libya*, Lithuania*, Malaysia*, Maldives*, Montenegro*, Namibia, New Zealand*, Nigeria*, Northern Ireland (UK)*, Oman*, Palestine Territories, Republic of Ireland, Romania*, Russia*, Scotland (UK)*, South Africa*, South Korea*, Spain, Switzerland*, Syria*, Taiwan*, United Arab Emirates*, Wales (UK)*, Yemen, Zimbabwe. (An Asterisk indicates that the meetings were with librarians, archivists, or cultural preservationists.)

In FY 2008, AFC and VHP staff met with, visited, or provided services to the following domestic educational institutions: Aurora High School (IL), Babson College (VA), Bowling Green State University (OH), Brigham Young University (NV), California State University, San Marcos, Catholic University of America (DC), Drexel University (PA), Duke University (NC), Florida State University, Gallaudet University (DC), Gateway School (PA), George Mason University (VA), Georgetown University (DC), Grand Valley State University (MI), Harvard University (MA), Howard University (DC), Jacksonville University (FL), Messiah College (PA), Ohio State University, Pine School (FL), Tufts University (MA), United

States Military Academy at West Point (NY), University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, University of California at Long Beach, University of California at Los Angeles, University of California at Santa Barbara, University of Maryland, University of Minnesota, University of Mississippi, University of Montana, University of North Carolina, University of Pennsylvania, University of South Carolina, University of Texas at Austin, University of Wyoming, Vanderbilt University (TN), Western Michigan University.

In FY 2008, AFC and VHP staff aided or worked with the following government agencies, museums, and non-profit organizations: Alliance for American Quilts, American Association of Retired People, American Association of School Librarians, American Battle Monuments Commission, American Chinese Librarians Association, American Folklore Society, American Library Association, Annapolis Maritime Museum, Asian Community Service Center, Asian Pacific Legal Institute, Association for Chinese Music Research, Association for Cultural Equity, British Academy, Caffè Lena, Center for Digital Storytelling, Center For Home Movies, Center for Traditional Music and Dance, Chicago Blues Festival, Colorado Arts Council, Community Centered Family Health History Project, Congressional Military Service Members and Veterans Association, Dance Heritage Coalition, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Daughters of the American Revolution, Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Denver Archives, Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, Department of Veterans Affairs, Documentary Arts, Inc., English Folk Dance and Song Society, Fairfax County (VA) Parks Authority, Folklore Studies Association of Canada, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, Frederick Douglass Museum, Freer-Sackler Galleries, General Federation of Women's Clubs, Genetic Alliance, Greeley Museum, Indigenous Language Institute, International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives, Japanese American Veterans Association, Jemez Pueblo, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Lead Belly Foundation, Maritime Museum of San Diego, Maryland Arts Council, City of Chicago Mayor's Office, Meridian International Center, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Mid-Atlantic African-American Genealogical Society, Military Officers Association of America, Minnesota State Veterans Home, Minority Student Achievement Conference, Modern Archives Institute, Museum of History and Industry, Music Library Association, National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, National Archives and Records Administration, National Association of State Veterans Homes, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, National Court Reporters Association, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Museum for the American Indian, National Museum of African American History and Culture, National New Deal Preservation Association, National Park Service, National Storytelling Festival, National Visionary Leadership Project, Nevada Arts Council, New York State Council on the Arts, North Carolina Library Association, Northern Ireland Bureau, Oral History Association, Organization of American States, Preserving America's Cultural Traditions, Public Broadcasting Service, Radio Diaries, Rolling Thunder, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Smithsonian Folkways, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Society for Ethnomusicology, StoryCorps, Strathmore Music Center, Tennessee Arts Council, U. S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Army, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Embassy in Australia, U.S. Embassy in the Republic of the Phillipines, U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Navy, U.S.-China Education Trust, UNESCO, Upper

Potomac Dulcimer Society, Utah Arts Council, Vermont Folklife Center, Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park (NM), Voice of America, Voices of September 11th, Ward Irish Music Archives, Washington Area Music Association, Washington Revels, Western Folklife Center, White House Commission on Remembrance, Wisconsin Arts Board, Women in Film and Video, Women's Research Education Institute, World Intellectual Property Organization.

Selected Meetings and Visitors.

October 11: AFC staff hosted a visit from Alvin Singh, grand-nephew of the American folk and blues singer Huddie Ledbetter, known as "Lead Belly," who recorded many songs for the Library in the 1930s and 1940s. Singh is the family historian and keeper of archival material for the Ledbetters. The staff showed him various items from the AFC collection related to Lead Belly, and discussed a possible donation of materials to the AFC from the Ledbetter family.

October 15: AFC staff held a meeting with a team from WETA TV. The meeting included WETA officials, Eaton Creative, Nut Hill Productions, the LC Music Division, and the LC Public Education Division. They discussed plans for including AFC and LC in a six-hour production on music and American history called *The Music of America*. They discussed the scope of the project, the general outlines of how AFC might be involved, and other matters.

October 30: AFC Staff hosted a delegation of nine Iraqi scholars and representatives of cultural and arts organizations who were visiting the US under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. The visitors were given an overview of AFC and LC programs and the work of government agencies in presenting promoting and preserving cultural traditions in the US and around the world.

November 15: VHP staff met with Washington, DC representatives of the American GI Forum to share ideas that would increase their membership's participation in VHP. The AGIF is the largest Hispanic-American veterans organization in the U.S. The ideas they discussed included a jointly signed letter with their commander requesting participation in VHP, participation by AGIF youth, and additional promotion of VHP at the chapter level.

November 21: AFC staff members hosted Eupheme Cooper Weeks, who was recorded in Liberia, in 1949, by Arthur Alberts. They gave her a tour of the Center and LC's Great Hall, and presented her with copies of her recordings. Weeks was accompanied by her daughter, Angelique Weeks.

November 27: AFC staff met with JIA Lei Lei, Assistant President of the Chinese Academy of Arts, and by WANG Nan, cultural attaché of the embassy of the People's Republic of China. JIA delivered two letters of invitation for AFC staff to visit the Chinese Academy of Arts, signed by the Academy's president, WANG Wenzhang.

December 18: AFC staff met with Dwight Swanson, one of the co-founders of the Center For Home Movies, the organization that created and administers Home Movie Day. Discussions focused on CHM's mandate and mission to encourage the preservation of home (or amateur) films, and AFC's interest in fostering an appreciation of self-documentation techniques and the field of family folklore.

January 16: AFC hosted visitors from Belarus: Neli Auchynnikava, Grodno State University; Arkadi Bourkov, Minsk State Linguistic University; Volha Kazakova, Polotsk State University; and Igor Markhasyov, Belarus State University. AFC staff explained the history and scope of the AFC.

February 14 and 15: VHP staff joined the staff of the DC Veterans Administration Medical Center Voluntary Service Office to help celebrate "Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week." Among other activities, they escorted the staff of Senator Daniel Akaka's (HI) office to deliver hand-made Valentine cards to veterans in the hospital wards, hospice care unit, and the long-term care nursing home.

February 19: AFC hosted Andrew Green, Librarian of the National Library of Wales, explaining the scope and history of the Center and giving him a tour of the reading room and the staff area.

February 22: AFC met with Joe Lambert, Founder and Director, and Stefani Sese (DC office) of the Center for Digital Storytelling, Berkeley, CA, to discuss mutual cooperation.

February 27: AFC staff hosted Solayman Muhammed Ebrahim, public relations officer for the South African Heritage Resources Agency, and David Graham Hart, manager of the National Inventory of Heritage Resources of South Africa, and explained the history and scope of the AFC.

March 13: VHP staff participated in a video teleconference sponsored by the US Department of State. The conference was with members of the U.S. Embassy in the Philippine Islands and members of the Philippine Chapter of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, a WWII veterans' organization. The purpose was to pursue what might be needed and rules followed to create an oral history project for the veterans' organization.

March 21: AFC hosted a group of twelve Russian English professors, who are visiting the Library under the *American Studies And English Teaching Curricula: Best Practices: A Project for Russia* initiative, sponsored by the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

March 31: AFC staff met with Catherine Evans Davies (Professor of Linguistics and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of English, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama), to discuss AFC oral history collections as resources for sociolinguistic research; of specific interest in her work were the StoryCorps, American Dialect Society, and George Korson collections.

March 31: AFC hosted seven Iranian filmmakers, whose visit was sponsored by the International Visitor Leadership Program of the Meridian International Center under an initiative called "Film and Video Production: A Project for Iran."

April 21: AFC and MBRS staff met with Michael Creamer, who represents the owners of the Stinson Records collection. With the aim of possible acquisition by AFC, they discussed the range and nature of this collection, consisting of masters and tapes, as well as papers and artwork, from the 1940s Stinson label.

April 17: VHP staff met with Laura Longley of the Weider History Group, a Virginia-based publisher of ten military-themed magazines and a Web site, regarding possible collaborations.

May 8: AFC staff met with Robin Neysmith, Scottish Government Representative to the British Embassy, to discuss the possibility of joint programming related to the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Scottish national poet, Robert Burns, in March 2009.

May 24: VHP staff greeted the Rolling Thunder North Carolina 9 Chapter on the steps of the Library's Jefferson Building. Betty Schiefelbein of the chapter is coordinating VHP interviews in her area; she presented several of the first interviews her members collected. The event was held to encourage other chapters of Rolling Thunder to participate in the VHP.

June 17: VHP staff met with LaShemma Simmons, from the U. S. Department of Commerce's National Technical Information Service (NTIS), to discuss ways VHP and NTIS might work together to enhance VHP's programming.

June 20: VHP staff led a group of twenty U.S. Army active-duty members assigned to the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) at Fort Myer, on a tour of the Library of Congress's Thomas Jefferson Building, Manuscripts Division, Prints & Photographs Division, and Veterans History Project.

June 23: AFC staff met with 26 international librarians about the work of the AFC, and intellectual property rights issues.

July 16: VHP staff met with Kate German, Director of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park in New Mexico, and Mr. Ward Nickisch, veterans' advocate, to discuss initiation of VHP activities at the state park.

July 22: AFC staff met with the staff of Women in Film and Video to discuss AFC's holdings by women filmmakers, specifically Toshi Seeger.

August 6: VHP staff, along with staff from MBRS, participated in a conference call with Mike Stiller of History (formerly known as The History Channel), and Scot Reda of Reda

Productions, to discuss potential support for a WWII documentary being planned by History for September 2009. The documentary will focus on color, high-definition moving images of the war.

September 11: AFC staff met with Jean Bergey of Gallaudet University to explore the possibility of future programming on Helen Keller and the anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

September 22: AFC staff hosted a visit by Philip and Patty Aaberg of Montana. Philip Aaberg is a noted jazz pianist, Grammy award-winner, and producer of recordings of traditional Montana music. Staff members explained the history and scope of the AFC stressing Montana and jazz collections from the archive.

September 22: AFC staff hosted a visit from Anna M. L. Gibbs, senior culture and outreach officer at the Canadian Embassy. They discussed possible collaborations between AFC and the embassy, such as programs on cross-border culture or Newfoundland culture, or lectures by Canadian folklorists.

September 29: AFC staff hosted an international group studying “Cultural Heritage Preservation” under the auspices of the International Visitor Leadership Program of the U.S. Department of State. The countries and regions represented were: Argentina, Cambodia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Haiti, Hong Kong, India, Jordan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Syria, and Yemen.

September 23: VHP staff met with Terry Shima, outgoing executive director of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), which has made significant contributions to VHP collections. He introduced the group’s new executive director, Warren Minami. He also delivered several recently completed JAVA collections.

SERVICE TO CONGRESS

Highlights

National VHP Week Resolutions: National Veterans History Project Week Resolutions were passed by the House (HR-770) and the Senate (SR-374), encouraging all citizens during the time of awareness of veterans around Veterans Day to take the opportunity to interview a family member or member of their community and submit it to the Veterans History Project.

Rep. Cooper attends Homegrown concert: On October 17, Rep. Jim Cooper of Tennessee attended AFC’s Homegrown concert, featuring his constituent, Aubrey Ghent.

Rep. Herseth Sandlin attends Homegrown concert: on November 15, Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin of South Dakota attended the Homegrown concert featuring her

constituents, Dallas Chief Eagle and Jasmine Pickner, who are members of the Rosebud and Crow Creek Sioux tribes of South Dakota. The congresswoman addressed the audience briefly, and participated in the dances with other audience members.

Rep. Hoyer participates in VHP: Congressman Steny Hoyer of Maryland, House Majority Leader, worked with the College Park Aviation Museum of College Park, MD, to collect interviews for VHP. Rep. Hoyer himself conducted an interview with a Tuskegee Airman. On November 16, VHP director Robert Patrick accompanied Dr. James Billington, Librarian of Congress, for a meeting with Rep. Hoyer. The Library received forty VHP interviews from the Museum.

Senator Byrd sings with Homegrown artists: On December 12, several AFC staff members met with Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia. The senator had requested a meeting with the members of the West Virginia string band Gandy Dancer, who performed earlier that day at AFC's Homegrown concert in the Coolidge Auditorium. At the meeting, which occurred in the Senate Appropriations Committee room of the US Capitol, the senator sang several Appalachian ballads, accompanied by the band.

House Members visit VHP: Several times during FY 2008, members of Congress came to the Library to meet with VHP staff and with the Librarian of Congress, and to deliver interviews recorded in their districts. These visits included: December 13, Rep. Allyson Schwartz of Pennsylvania; December 19, Rep. Lamar Smith of Texas; February 26, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida; and July 23, Rep. Robert Latta of Ohio.

Senator Akaka Contributes his own story to VHP: On April 14-15, VHP and AFC staff recorded an interview with Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii. The interviewer was Terry Shima of the Japanese American Veterans Association.

Civil Rights History Project Act: On June 26, AFC staff met with staffers of the House Appropriations committee, the LC Congressional Relations Office, and Smithsonian Government Affairs, to discuss the proposed Civil Rights History Project Act (H.R. 998), introduced by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy of New York.

Voices of September 11th Briefing: On September 9, AFC Archive head Michael Taft attended a briefing hosted by the Connecticut delegation at the US Congress, about the Voices of September 11th Project. Present were the directors of the project, Frank and Mary Fetchet, staff from the offices of Rep. Christopher Shays, Rep. Rosa De Lauro, Rep. Christopher Murphy, and Sen. Christopher Dodd, as well as Sen. Joseph Lieberman (who gave the opening address). Taft spoke on the history of the American Folklife Center, its past involvement in collecting the oral histories concerning American events and tragedies (e.g., ex-slaves, Civil War, Lincoln assassination, Little Big Horn, Pearl Harbor, Katrina and Rita, and 9/11), and its present involvement as an advisor to the Fetchets' project. He spoke with Katie Brown, legislative assistant to Congressman Christopher Shays, and Jacqueline Primeau, legislative assistant to Sen. Christopher Dodd, about AFC's role with VHP, and the Civil Rights Oral History Initiative, and offered to advise

them further in any way that he could.

AFC Homegrown Artists Visit Rep. Moore: On September 17, AFC staff and staff from the Library's Congressional Relations Office accompanied the musical group The Bajich Brothers to the office of their representative in Congress, Dennis Moore of Kansas. The congressman welcomed the group, spoke with them about their district near Kansas City, and joined them on the guitar for several songs.

Briefings for Members of Congress: On June 21, VHP director Bob Patrick, AFC director Peggy Bulger, and Steve Kelley of LC's Congressional Relations Office, met with Congressman Ron Kind (WI) to give him an update on the Veterans History Project. Congressman Kind was told of the continuing progress the project is making, the recent efforts to refine the project's mission and organization, and the ongoing support the project is receiving from members of Congress and various government agencies.

VHP Briefings for Congressional Staff: on June 16 VHP staff briefed Erik Olson and Anne Lupardis, aides to Rep. Ron Kind (WI), on VHP's new initiatives. On June 18, VHP staff briefed Erica Fein, aide to Rep. John Dingell of Michigan, to discuss a July 4th event in Dearborn and how to build an ongoing VHP program in Michigan. On June 26, VHP staff briefed Beth Campbell, aide to Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (NH), and discussed VHP programming in New Hampshire, particularly with museums. On July 30, VHP staff briefed Lauren Layton, a legislative correspondent from Senator Dianne Feinstein's (CA) office. Senator Feinstein is the chair of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress. On July 31, VHP staff briefed Mark Flitton, a legislative assistant in Rep. Robert Brady's (PA) office. Rep. Brady is vice chair of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress. On August 6, VHP staff briefed Alysha Chadderdon of Rep. Vernon Ehlers's (MI) office. On August 8, VHP staff briefed Tyler White from Rep. Jerry Lewis's (CA) office on VHP. On August 26, VHP staff briefed Pete Peterson of Rep. Nancy Boyda's (KS) office on VHP, and offered a tutorial on VHP's Web site. On August 29, VHP staff briefed Karen Gurmankin of Rep. Allyson Schwartz's (PA) office on VHP initiatives and coming opportunities. On September 9, VHP staff briefed Carrie Chess of Rep. Nick Lampson's (TX) office. On September 12, VHP staff briefed Julian Chacon from Rep. Sam Farr's (CA) office. On September 16, VHP staff briefed several staff members from Rep. Barbara Lee's (CA) office. On September 22, VHP staff briefed Dominic Storelli of Rep. Daniel Lungren's (CA) office. On September 24, VHP staff briefed Stanley Welch of Rep. Rosa DeLauro's (CT) office.

Other Congressional Contacts:

November 7: Staff members for Rep. Sander Levin of Michigan contacted the reference desk, seeking permission to use photos from the Local Legacies collection.

November 7: Bob Patrick taped an interview for a TV show hosted by Congressman Randy Forbes (VA), to be broadcast to his southern Virginia district, District 4.

November 8: VHP staff met with staff members for Senator Mary Landrieu (LA). They discussed opportunities for the Senator to become involved in and promote VHP throughout Louisiana. They discussed promotion in schools, during Veterans Day, at libraries and through the Senator's Web site. Sen. Landrieu helped to draft the Senate resolution supporting National Veterans History Project Week.

January 29: AFC staff spoke by telephone with Carlye Morgan, staffer for Rep. Kathy Castor (FL), who is trying to get letters of support for an extension of a student visa for a Ghanaian ethnomusicology graduate student at Florida State University. It was confirmed that LC staff cannot write such letters.

January 31: Staff members for Rep. Gregory Meeks (NY) attended AFC's Homegrown Concert, featuring the group Major League Tassa, whose members are his constituents.

February 14 and 15: VHP staff escorted staff members of Senator Daniel Akaka's (HI) office to deliver hand-made Valentine cards to veterans in the hospital wards, hospice care unit, and the long-term care nursing home.

February 22: AFC provided fifty copies of *Folklife Center News* to the office of U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (SD). The newsletter cover featured the Congresswoman posing with two constituents.

March 3: VHP staff met with representatives from the US Senate Rules Committee to discuss several items about the Veterans History Project, specifically past concerns regarding the truthfulness of interviews done for the project.

March 12: Senator Byrd's (WV) office contacted the Reading Room concerning George Korson's collections of photographs of West Virginia coal miners.

Throughout March: VHP Staff answered reference requests from Rep. Whitfield's (KY) office.

Throughout March: VHP Staff assisted with the efforts of Rep. Kanjorsky's (PA) office in celebrating constituent participation in VHP as a result of the Ken Burns film *The War*.

April 17: AFC and VHP staff met with Ron Armistead and others of the Veterans First program, sponsored by the National Black Congressional Caucus (NBCC). The meeting took place in the office of Congressman Charles Rangel (NY). The discussion involved how VHP could continue to be incorporated in the NBCC activities and efforts to encourage the collection of oral histories from African American veterans.

May 14: The Veterans History Project 2008 Toolkit, a printed Project update with suggested activities for members of Congress, was sent to all chiefs of staff of House and Senate members.

May 21: Bob Patrick, Peggy Bulger and Steve Kelley (of CRO) met with Representative Ron Kind (WI) about the progress and future of the VHP.

May 28: Staff members for Rep. Diana DeGette (CO) attended AFC's Homegrown concert, featuring Opalanga Pugh, who is DeGette's constituent.

July 1: VHP staff met with Jackie Garrick, who is a staff member both of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Subcommittee on Disability Assistance & Memorial Affairs), and of the Congressional Military Service Members and Veterans Association.

July 14: VHP staff met with two interns from the office of Congressman Wayne Gilchrest (MD), to provide them with an overview of VHP, and to answer any questions they had about collecting interviews for VHP.

July 23: VHP director Bob Patrick attended a ceremony in the Rotunda of the US Capitol to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Integration of the US Armed Forces. The invitation to this event came from the Speaker of the US House of Representatives.

August 20: Staff members for Senator Daniel K. Inouye (HI) attended AFC's Homegrown Concert featuring Hawaiian singer and guitarist Gary Haleamau.

September 26: VHP director Bob Patrick attended the Congressional Black Caucus's 20th Annual Veterans Braintrust at the invitation of Rep. Charles Rangel.

September 27: VHP director Bob Patrick attended an event sponsored by Congressman John Mica (FL) for over 100 WWII veterans in Washington on an Honor Flight, which is a visit to the National WWII memorial made possible by donations from the public. The event took place in the Madison Building's Madison Memorial Hall. VHP materials were distributed to each of the veterans and Mr. Patrick made a short presentation encouraging their participation in the Project.

PROGRAMS, PROJECTS & PUBLIC EVENTS

HIGHLIGHTS

Alexander Street Press Initiative. Alexander Street Press (formerly Classical International) is an online subscription service that provides music and other digitized material, mostly to educational institutions. In FY 2008, it continued its program to support digitization of AFC collections in order to provide greater access to African American music and oral history recordings. In FY 2008, the press concluded digitizing several collections by John Henry Faulk. Other AFC collections online or scheduled to go online include: the Alan Lomax Haiti Collection; the Alan Lomax, Zora Neale Hurston, Mary Elizabeth Barnacle Bahamas Collection; the Herbert Halpert New York City Collection;

and the Richard Dorson Collection of African American Recordings from Michigan.

Benjamin Botkin Folklife Lecture Series provided scholarly lectures, which were free and open to the public. The lectures provided opportunities for folklorists and cultural specialists to present findings from original research. Recordings of the lectures were added to the AFC Archive. Botkin lectures in FY 2008 included:

- **March 19:** "Force and Violins: What the FBI had on Folksingers," presented by David King Dunaway, Professor of English, University of New Mexico, and Professor of Broadcasting, San Francisco State University
- **April 23:** "From Oral Tradition to Critical Edition: The James Madison Carpenter Collection of Folk Music and Drama," presented by the James Madison Carpenter Project team: Julia C. Bishop, David Atkinson, Elaine Bradtke, Eddie Cass, Thomas A. McKean, Robert Young Walser, all of The Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, UK
- **May 21:** "Empires, Multiculturalisms, and Borrowed Heartsongs: What Does It Mean to Sing Russian/Mennonite Songs?" presented by Jonathan Dueck, Ethnomusicologist, Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Maryland School of Music
- **June 3:** "Seeing Mary: Belief, Politics, and Practice at Marian Apparition Sites," presented by Anne Pryor, Wisconsin Arts Board
- **June 20:** "Old Cultures/New Contexts: Presenting the Traditional Music and Dance of Urban Immigrant Communities," presented by Ethel Raim, Center for Traditional Music and Dance, New York City.
- **August 5:** "'Do All Indians Live in Tipis?' and Other Compelling Questions for Education," presented by Edwin Schupman, National Museum of the American Indian
- **September 4:** "Kunqū: China's First Great Multi-art Theatrical Tradition," presented by Marjory Bong-Ray Liu, Arizona State University

Buffalo Soldiers Ceremony: On October 5, VHP sponsored a ceremony in its information center and in the Library's Montpelier Room, to recognize the WWII veterans of the 92nd Infantry Division, commonly known as "Buffalo Soldiers." This segregated unit was the only African American infantry division to see combat in Europe during WWII. The 92nd Infantry has been active in donating materials to the Library's Manuscript Division. Eight members of the division's reunion association were on hand for the ceremony. Librarian of Congress Dr. James Billington made remarks at the event. Also in attendance was Brigadier General Donald Scott, USA (ret), former Deputy Librarian of Congress.

Carpenter Critical Edition Project: The James Madison Carpenter Critical Edition Project Team visited AFC from April 21-25. The delegation of scholars, who are affiliated with the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, included: Julia Bishop (leader), David Atkinson, Elaine Bradtke, Eddie Cass, Thomas McKean, and Robert Walser. Their visit was part of an ongoing project to publish a multi-volume scholarly edition of this important

AFC collection in 2011, through the University of Mississippi Press. They came to AFC in order to research original manuscript materials in the Collection, and to meet with members of the Library of Congress's Carpenter Collection team, consisting of staff members from AFC and the Network Development and Marc Standards Office. While here, the UK team presented the lecture "From Oral Tradition to Critical Edition: The James Madison Carpenter Collection of Folk Music and Drama" in AFC's Benjamin Botkin Folklife Lecture Series. The research trip was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the British Academy.

Department of Veterans Affairs Outreach: During FY 2008, VHP staff worked closely with several divisions within the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), including the Office of Public Affairs, Voluntary Service (VAVS), the Center for Women Veterans, and the Center for Minority Veterans. They made presentations to attendees of the VAVS National Advisory Committee Meeting, the Center for Women Veterans Summit, the Welcome Home Celebration, Salute to Veterans Week, and Veterans Day programming at Arlington National Cemetery. In addition, the VHP staff continues to work closely with the Veterans Health Administration Historian and the Maryland VA Health Administration to plan VHP training within VA Medical Centers across the nation.

Field School for Cultural Documentation. The AFC's Field School for Cultural Documentation was held at the University of Mississippi, in Oxford, MS, May 11-15. AFC staff participated as organizers and instructors. The school was hosted by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, which supplied the fourth instructor, David Wharton. The participants were graduate and undergraduate students at the university. The focus of the field school was religious music in and around Oxford, Mississippi. This was the tenth field school that AFC has sponsored with universities and colleges around the country since 1994.

Genetic Health Family History Project. AFC continued to work with the Institute for Cultural Partnerships, the American Society of Human Genetics and the Genetic Alliance on the "Healthy Choices Through Family History Awareness Project." The project used ethnographic fieldwork to develop a tool to elicit health-related narratives, assisting health professionals and families in the identification of risk factors to help determine best medical care. Funding, in the amount of \$400,000, comes from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Homegrown Concert Series is an ongoing AFC project to document the best folk and traditional performing artists in the United States for its archive's collections. The performers are selected in consultation with state folk arts coordinators in the US. This program serves the state folklife offices across the nation by offering a venue for their artists in DC, and provides opportunities for congressional outreach to constituents. Artists participated in oral history interviews that were recorded and deposited in the AFC Archive. Concerts were also placed online in webcast presentations. The concerts during FY 2008 were:

- **October 17:** Aubrey Ghent and Friends, Tennessee “sacred steel” gospel music
- **November 15:** Dallas Chief Eagle and Jasmine Pickner, hoop dances of the Rosebud and Crow Creek Sioux tribes of South Dakota
- **December 12:** Gandydancer, traditional string band music from West Virginia
- **January 31:** Major League Tassa, Indo-Caribbean drumming and dance from New York
- **April 24:** The Beehive Band, traditional Mormon string band music from Utah
- **May 28:** Opalanga Pugh, African American storytelling from Colorado (with Askia Touré on voice and drum)
- **June 19:** Merita Halili and the Raif Hyseni Orchestra, Albanian music from New York
- **July 24:** The Zionaires, gospel music from Maryland and Delaware
- **August 20:** Gary Haleamau, traditional Hawaiian music from Las Vegas, Nevada
- **September 17:** The Bajich Brothers, tamburitza music from Kansas.

International discussions on Traditional Knowledge and Intangible Cultural Heritage.

AFC continued to participate in international discussions concerning intellectual property, folklore, traditional knowledge, intangible cultural heritage, and genetic resources. The AFC Director served on the US delegation to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and participated in meetings of US government officials on cultural policy matters involving intellectual property. AFC staff also attended meetings convened by UNESCO, and served on the Committee on Culture for the Organization of American States.

Ken Burns Partnership: VHP, together with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), conducted a joint community-engagement initiative designed to gather first-person recollections of men and women who served our nation during wartime, using Ken Burns’s 2007 film, *The War*, as a springboard. The public outreach campaign continued beyond the conclusion of *The War’s* premiere in October 2007. VHP staff members attended events across the country, including ones in the four communities featured in *The War*, promoted VHP’s mission, and solicited participation in the project. For this initiative, VHP distributed a field guide with a brief manual on conducting oral history interviews, including pointers from Ken Burns on lighting and shooting video recordings, and instructions on how to send recorded interviews to VHP. *The War’s* premiere ran from September 23 to October 2, 2007. It was rebroadcast as a weekly series throughout FY 2008, beginning on October 3, 2007. Each episode included a publicity message for VHP and the Library of Congress.

Indigenous Communities Pilot Field School: From September 15-30, AFC launched a pilot program developed in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva, Switzerland, and the Center for Documentary Studies (CDS) at Duke University. The program was developed to provide training for members of indigenous communities in documenting and preserving their own cultural heritage, and managing their intellectual property rights. As part of the pilot program, AFC hosted three participants from Kenya, two of them members of the Laikipia Maasai community

and the third a staff member of the National Museums of Kenya. Over the course of the week-long program at the Library, AFC staff provided instruction on topics ranging from project planning to interviewing techniques and research ethics to collections management and preservation. The following week, the participants traveled to Duke University, where they received skills-based training in using a variety of audio-visual media for documentation. Staff from AFC, CDS, and WIPO participated in the training at both sites. The project will continue through FY 2009, and an evaluation will be conducted to provide guidance to other communities.

National Visionary Leadership Project Partnership: The American Folklife Center and the National Visionary Leadership Project (NVLP) co-hosted the Fourth Annual Intergenerational Summit on the State of Black America, which was held at the Library, in October 2007. The day included a reception, a luncheon, and the summit itself. The primary goals of the summit were to honor six elders, one of whom was Rep. John Conyers (MI), and to provide a forum for a cross-generational dialogue between high school and college students and their elders. Throughout the year, NVLP generates many history interviews with African-American elders; these interviews are donated to the AFC Archive.

Native American and Indigenous Language Colloquium: AFC hosted a colloquium that addressed the creation, preservation, and accessibility of field recordings that document Native American languages. The colloquium was organized in partnership with the Indigenous Language Institute (ILI) of Santa Fe, NM. In addition to staff members of AFC and ILI, attendees included tribal linguists, cultural specialists, and representatives from the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Anthropological Archives, the National Park Service, the Tamastslikt Cultural Institute, agencies that give grants for cultural preservation, and several tribal library and archival organizations.

New Deal Symposium: On March 13-14, AFC presented a major symposium, entitled "Art, Culture, and Government: The New Deal at 75." It focused attention on the New Deal, the multi-faceted social, cultural, and fiscal recovery programs launched by the Roosevelt administration in 1933, to reform and reinvigorate national life in the wake of the Great Depression. The symposium's presentations examined contemporary scholarship and recent discoveries inspired by the Library's unparalleled collections of documentary materials from that era. In addition, they highlighted the lasting impact this federal initiative has had on culture, documentation, and conservation. Invited scholars presented recent research based on New Deal materials, primarily case studies that demonstrate how innovative interpretation of the Library's archival holdings continues to inspire new revelations and reassessments of twentieth-century American culture. Both days of the symposium were attended by a capacity audience. An exhibit of New-Deal-related treasures from various Library divisions was held in conjunction with the March 13 session. On March 14, the Associate Librarian for Library Services, Deanna Marcum, officially launched the "New Deal Web Guide," the Library's new online resource, developed by members of the symposium's planning team. AFC also assisted the National New Deal Preservation Association (NNDPA) with a panel discussion on

March 13, and arranged for an NNDPA-sponsored reception following the close of the symposium on March 14.

New Library Experience Grand Opening: VHP presented a day of programming in conjunction with the grand opening of the New Library Experience. In a tent on the south lawn of the Thomas Jefferson Building, a VHP historian conducted interviews with three veterans: Darlene Iskra, Grant Hirabayashi, and Terry Shima. Staff was on hand all day to talk to visitors about how to get involved in the work of VHP. The interviews were recorded and will be featured on the VHP Web site.

Retirement Community Outreach Initiative (RCOI): This VHP program continued to be implemented in retirement communities across the nation, enlisting retirement community staff, administrators, and volunteers to collect personal recollections from wartime veterans and those who served in support of U.S. armed forces. Nationwide VHP initiatives exist at several prominent retirement communities, including those of the Holiday, Atria, Brookdale, Erickson, and Sunrise groups.

Treasures from the American Folklife Center on XM Radio: Since January 2007, AFC staff members have participated in monthly on-air interviews with Bob Edwards of the Bob Edwards Show on XM Satellite Radio, for a segment entitled "Treasures from the American Folklife Center." Each interview focuses on a specific aspect of AFC's archival collections. 2007-2008 program topics included "Bad Weather," "The New Deal," "Modes of Transportation," "Cover Versions," "Political Songs," "Food and Foodways," and "Animals."

VHP Lectures: VHP sponsored two lectures in FY 2008. In February, in collaboration with the Prints and Photographs Division, VHP hosted a talk by WWII veteran Tracy Sugarman, a freelance artist specializing in reportorial work. Sugarman's memoir, *Drawing Conclusions*, discusses his rich life reporting on some of the most important events of the last 50 years. Some of Sugarman's art work was donated to P&P; a recorded interview with him and many of the letters he wrote from the European Theater of WWII to his first wife reside in VHP's collections. In March, VHP sponsored a lecture by Larry Minear, whose Tufts University research study on the National Guard's role in the Global War on Terror is the basis for a VHP Web site feature. Minear examined 40 VHP collections as part of his research for the study. In the lecture, he presented some of the findings from his study and used many of the interviews on the VHP Web site to illustrate his points.

2009 Symposium: AFC initiated planning for a symposium to be held in 2009. *Robert Burns, Scottish Traditions, and American Culture*, will be held in conjunction with Library's poetry office, on February 24 and 25, 2009. It will mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Scotland's National Poet.

Selected List of Other Programs and Public Events:

October 9 & 11: AFC staff led four one-hour interactive workshops via video conference on “Gathering Community Stories.” Participants were education students at the California State University San Marcos.

October 29: VHP staff represented the Library of Congress at a ceremony sponsored by the White House Commission on Remembrance in the Russell Senate Office Building. The purpose of the event was to honor family members of service people killed in the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. Members of Congress, the Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs, members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other dignitaries attended the event.

December 6-7: AFC staff took part in an experts’ meeting of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section of UNESCO at its headquarters in Paris.

December 7: VHP staff represented the Library of Congress at an event held by the White House Commission on Remembrance that commemorated Pearl Harbor Day. The event, conducted in the US Capitol Building, was attended by Pearl Harbor Survivors, members of Congress, veterans service organization executives, and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

February 3-16: AFC staff, with Anna Lomax Woods of the Association for Cultural Equity, took part in the Department of State’s “Speaker and Specialist” program. They made presentations on AFC’s Alan Lomax Collection at fifteen locations in Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. They also visited eight libraries and archives in those nations.

March 10-11: VHP participated in two panels at the University of Wyoming America Heritage Center’s symposium, *The Future of Public History*. Mr. Patrick discussed the history of VHP, its place in public history, and its future challenges.

March 13: The VHP director attended an event at the Pentagon to unveil a photographic exhibit of WWI veterans, and to honor Army veteran Frank Buckles, the last surviving American WWI veteran. At the event, he spoke with Brian Alexander, the president and CEO of the National WWI Museum, about opportunities to work together.

March 21: VHP staff attended a ceremony at the Department of Veterans Affairs to honor Bob Feller, Major League Baseball Hall of Famer, for his work on behalf of veterans. Feller served in the Navy during WWII.

March 24: The AFC director was filmed discussing items from AFC collections for the New Library Experience Orientation Film, which is shown to visitors to the Library of Congress. The film was produced by the History Channel and is shown in the Thomas Jefferson Building’s Orientation Theater.

April 9: AFC staff attended the Preserving America’s Cultural Traditions (PACT) meeting, at which they discussed archiving issues and gave a report on the Ethnographic

Thesaurus. They also met with Andy Kolovos of the Vermont Folklife Center, and Steve Green of the Western Folklife Center, to discuss a coordinated database for PACT archival information, and interface software to present this information.

April 8-13: VHP staff attended the Annual Meeting of the US Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee, in Orlando, Florida. While there, they spoke to attendees about VHP during a general session, recognized the VA Medical Center that devoted the most hours to recording stories for VHP (over 4,200 hours between Oct. 2006 and Sept. 2007), co-introduced a viewing of Ken Burns' *The War*, manned an information table, and had one-on-one conversations with VAVS chiefs and specialists from across the nation.

April 19: Staff from VHP and the Library's Office of Strategic Initiatives participated in the Mid-Atlantic African-American Genealogical Conference, in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. They conducted a workshop on VHP as a part of the conference's program. They interacted with, and provided VHP information to, more than 500 attendees.

April 24: AFC participated in "America's Image Abroad: The UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity and US Motion Picture Exports," a forum sponsored by Vanderbilt University's Curb Center for Art, Entertainment and Public Policy.

April 25: VHP staff attended and spoke at a community event in Chico, California, that recognized local participation in VHP. Students from three local high schools, wartime veterans, veterans service organization representatives, government officials, and local citizens attended the event. The 450 attendees witnessed the presentation to VHP of over 300 interviews with wartime veterans, as well as personal testimonies from the students and veterans on the importance of VHP. VHP director Bob Patrick was the keynote speaker.

May 19: AFC staff attended the UNESCO Commissioners' meeting on museums and intangible cultural heritage, held at Georgetown University.

May 22: AFC staff met with Carrie Russell of The American Library Association (ALA) to discuss plans for an ALA workshop on Traditional Cultural Expressions and Intellectual Property Rights. The workshop will be held in DC on November 10-12, and will feature a panel convened by the AFC.

May 29: Peggy Bulger met with other members of the US Delegation to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), in Arlington, Virginia.

July 1: AFC staff met with members of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Library's Congressional Relations Office, and staff members for several Members of Congress, to discuss the proposed Civil Rights Oral

History project.

September 17: AFC assisted the Library with the National Endowment for the Arts Fellows Banquet in the Great Hall. Several staff members attended the event as well as the earlier award ceremony in the Cannon Office Building.

September 18: Kiprof Lagat, from the National Museums of Kenya, presented a lecture on "The National Museum of Kenya in the Documentation of Kenya's Intangible Cultural Heritage."

PUBLICATIONS

Folklife Center News: Three issues (one a special double issue) of *Folklife Center News* were produced. The editor completed the redesign of the newsletter, which began in 2005. As in the past, the content emphasized AFC's collections and activities, and guest articles by distinguished writers in the field of folklife.

AFC Brochure: AFC created a full-color glossy brochure, *Highlights of Fiscal Year 2007*, containing a summary of its activities in FY 2007. Copies were sent to members of Congress and members of the AFC Board of Trustees. Copies were also employed for constituent education and outreach.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Interns and Volunteers: During FY 2008, AFC benefited from the work of eleven interns and volunteers, who contributed a total of approximately 2,323 hours of service. Interns and volunteers assisted in processing many collections, conducted general reference assistance by creating recording logs for a variety of collections that previously had little or no documentation, retrieved collections from stacks for patrons, conducted daily reading room file maintenance, and assisted staff with researching patron questions. They also conducted research for several topical finding aids and assisted with public programs and special events.

AFC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The American Folklife Center was created by the US Congress in 1976 through Public Law 94-201, the "American Folklife Preservation Act." According to the law, the Center receives policy direction from a Board of Trustees that is made up of representatives from departments and agencies of the federal government concerned with some aspect of American folklife traditions and the arts; the heads of four of the major federal institutions concerned with culture and the arts (see below); persons from private life who are able to provide regional balance; and the director of the Center. Included in the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1999, are provisions for the board to be expanded to include four new members appointed by the Librarian of Congress, and, ex officio, the president of the American Folklore Society and the president of the Society for Ethnomusicology. The board meets several times a year, in Washington, DC, or in other locations around the country, to review the operations of the Center, engage in long-range planning and policy formulation, and share information on matters of cultural programming. In FY 2008, the Board visited the Library twice, meeting in November 2007 and April 2008. The following new members joined the Board of Trustees: **General Donald Scott, U.S.A. (Ret.)**, a Librarian appointee, and former Deputy Librarian of Congress; **Carl Artman**, a Presidential appointee, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the US Department of the Interior, and an enrolled member of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin; **Elaine Lawless**, professor of English at the University of Missouri, and president of the American Folklore Society; **Deborah Wong**, ethnomusicologist at the University of California, Riverside, and president of the Society for Ethnomusicology; and **G. Wayne Clough**, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

ENRICHING SCHOLARSHIP

Gerald E. and Corinne L. Parsons Fund for Ethnography Fellowships. The purpose of the Gerald E. and Corinne L. Parsons Fund for Ethnography is to make the collections of primary ethnographic materials housed anywhere at the Library of Congress available to those in the private sector. In FY 2008, there were three awards. Jocelyn Arem was awarded \$250 for her research on Caffè Lena, an important venue in the American folk revival; Barbara Fertig was awarded \$400 for her research on African American residents of coastal Georgia communities; Cecilia Conway was awarded \$850 for research on the Beech Mountain, NC collections at the American Folklife Center.

Henry Reed Fellowship. The Henry Reed Fund was established in 1990 in honor of West Virginia old-time fiddler Henry Reed (1884-1968). The purpose of the fund is to provide support to activities directly involving folk artists, especially when the activities reflect, draw upon, or strengthen the collections of the American Folklife Center. In FY 2008, the committee awarded \$1,000 to Maine Acadian fiddler Don Roy, to assist him in the publication of a book of fiddle tunes from his family and his region.

Kluge Chair for AFC Board Member. In FY 2008, the Chair of Modern Culture in the

John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress was Kay Kaufman Shelemay, a member of the AFC Board of Trustees. Shelemay is the G. Gordon Watts Professor of Music, the former chair of the Department of Music, and a professor in the African and African American Studies Department at Harvard University, where she specializes in the music of Africa, the Middle East and the urban United States. While in residence at the Kluge Center, Shelemay pursued research for a book on Ethiopian music and musicians in the United States.

KEY PERSONNEL CHANGES

Doris Craig, AFC's Administrative Assistant, retired after over 30 years of service.

Megan Halsband, AFC processing technician, was hired.

AWARDS

AFC Awarded on-the-spot awards to: Debra Murphy, Mary Bucknum, John Barton, Nancy Groce, Jennifer Cutting, Ann Hoog, Guha Shankar, Stephen Winick, Thea Austen, Doris Craig, Valda Morris, Marcia Segal, and Jonathan Gold.

STATISTICS

REFERENCE STATISTICS

For the dates: October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008

Direct Reference Service (Combined Reference and Directional inquiries.)

In-person	3527
Phone	2331
Letter/Fax	128
Email/Web-Based	5461
Total	11,447

Number of items (containers) served within the Library: 1,979

Note: While VHP collections are served in AFC's reading room, VHP also receives direct inquiries to a public email address, vohp@loc.gov. Reference and directional inquiries to this account are included in the "email/Web-based" figure above.

WEB SITE STATISTICS

The AFC and VHP Websites received over 2.5 million hits to top-level Web pages, including the following: 193,196 visits to AFC home page, 523,503 to the Community Roots site, 260,238 to the VHP home page, 35,014 to AFC Events, 56,806 to the Robert W. Gordon online collection, 50,314 to the Educational Resources area, 36,358 to Collections and Research Services, 359,157 to Finding Aids, 95,692 to online issues of Folklife Center News, 37,945 to Online Collections navigation page, 19,225 to AFC's Annual Report, 55,984 to Folklife Sourcebook, 49,183 to last year's symposium sites, 119,585 to Services to the States, 36,451 to the Homegrown and Botkin archives, 18,546 to the educational poster, 106,342 to AFC fieldwork guides, 66,813 (combined) to the popular "Halloween" and "Yellow Ribbon" essays, and 366,087 to AFC's teacher's guide.

In addition, AFC received almost three million hits to its American Memory presentations.

ACQUISITIONS STATISTICS

Since some new acquisitions require a period of time before they are counted and cataloged, AFC does not have precise numbers on many FY 2008 acquisitions. AFC's numbers below represent only those items that have been counted by AFC staff, and are likely to be low. In addition to the physical items in various formats listed below, 4,480 digital items have been added to MAVIS.

American Folklife Center

Manuscripts: 146,706

Sound Recordings: 3,529

Graphic Images (including Photographs): 1020

Moving Images: 357

Electronic Media: 1,040

Digital Files: 79,076

Total Items acquired: 231,728

Veterans History Project

VHP's figures below are estimates, based on the number of collections acquired and the average number of items contained in VHP collections.

Manuscripts: 8,472

Sound Recordings: 1,848

Graphic Images (including photographs): 9,034

Moving Images: 2,726

Electronic Media: 456

Total Items acquired: 22,536

Total Items acquired by AFC & VHP: 254,264

PROCESSING STATISTICS

Processing statistics for both AFC and VHP are estimates.

American Folklife Center

AFC's estimate is a count of the materials known to have been arranged, accessioned, described and made available to researchers in FY 2008. Like most libraries, AFC's acquisitions and processing are moving from analog to digital. In the following list, materials that come as digital files are listed under "Digital Files," regardless of whether the content is text, audio, video, or still image. This produces a different kind of count from counts of analog items, such as manuscript pages, since a single digital file may contain (for example) one or more manuscript pages, one photograph, an hour of audio, or a half-hour video.

Manuscripts: 92,745
Sound Recordings: 1,544
Graphic Images (including Photographs): 520
Moving Images: 143
Electronic Media: 1,015
Digital Files: 79,076

Total Items processed: 175,043

Veterans History Project

VHP's estimate is based on the number of collections acquired and the average number of items contained in the collections that they have processed in FY2008. Since VHP deals heavily with World War II-era materials, such as journals, letters, and audio recordings made with private citizens' home equipment, it still receives primarily analog collections. These collections are technically part of the American Folklife Center, but are generally counted separately. During FY 2008, 10,606 collections were accessioned and 63,475 items were processed:

Manuscripts: 18,900
Sound Recordings: 3,446
Graphic Images (including photographs): 34,668
Moving Images: 5,551
Electronic Media: 910

Total Items processed: 63,475

Total Items processed by AFC & VHP: 238,518