

N E W S L E T T E R

NEW HAMPSHIRE ARCHIVES GROUP

April 1989

Thanks to all of you who attended the workshops on March 2 on encapsulation and photograph subject headings. We accomplished a lot, met new people, and exchanged ideas.

A special thank you to the Peterborough Historical Society for sharing their cataloging system for photographs and slides. They have used the headings found in Nomenclature, a museum cataloging handbook available from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). Most of the audience seemed overwhelmed by the progress Peterborough has made in working with their photographs. I am sure you could obtain samples of their cataloging procedures and headings by writing to Ellen Derby, Director.

Cheshire County Historical Society also has started cataloging their photographs using another AASLH publication, Technical Leaflet #57. I checked the current AASLH book catalog and found that that particular leaflet is out of print. However, Alan Rumrill, Director of the Cheshire County Historical Society, kindly sent me a copy. I also located in the NHHS library an earlier edition of the same leaflet which, interestingly enough, contains a different set of subject headings. Enclosed are both of the lists from the AASLH leaflets, as well as suggested topic headings for "man-made" objects that Cheshire County uses, again taken from the Nomenclature book.

Here at the Historical Society, Ann Lord and I decided, after our session on March 2, to combine the most applicable or workable subject headings for our needs from the two AASLH lists and add some of our own. Ann's list of additional headings is also enclosed.

Although the meeting and our discussions were to help us find one "authority" for subject headings, it seems that each of us needs to tailor the subject headings to meet our own needs and that of our collections. However, since Cheshire County has started with the AASLH leaflet, and NHHS has adapted the same list, my recommendation would be that we use one or both of those leaflets as a starting point in developing our own system. At least that way, we have a common base from which to work. If you find that Peterborough's system more nearly fits your needs, however, by all means use that one. We are not trying to force anyone to use any one approach or system.

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The consensus at the March 2 workshop was that the New Hampshire Archives Group met a real need and that these meetings should continue every six months. We discussed possible meeting sites and topics and decided that our next workshop will be held in Exeter this October and we would have a "how-to" session. Building on what you learned from Julie in theory, we will put that knowledge into practice. How do you actually accession and then arrange and catalog a collection?

It has also been suggested that for those people who did not attend one of the NEA Archives workshops, we provide a mini version and go over some of the theory so we are all working at the same level. Nothing is finalized, but I think the morning session will be the review and the afternoon the "how-to." Unless I hear loud protests or other suggestions, that will be the general design.

As we get closer to October, I will send out another newsletter with the details on our next meeting. Any suggestions and offers of help would be greatly appreciated. In the meantime, happy cataloging!

Sincerely,

Barbara Austen