



**KCA Spring Meeting 2000  
Morehead State University  
Morehead  
Friday, April 28, 2000**

Charles Hay of Eastern Kentucky University, incumbent chair, opened the meeting. He introduced Clara Keyes of Morehead's Special Collections, the host of the spring meeting. She introduced Dr. Yvonne Baldwin of the geography department at Morehead State University. Dr. Baldwin welcomed KCA to Morehead State. Charles relayed an announcement from Sister Vickie Cravens of the Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse that the MSJ Archives had extra copies of publications of the Kentucky Historical Society if anyone was interested.

Charles described an informal survey he conducted through contacts with the archives of the eight public universities in the state to gather information on their hours of operation and current staffing levels. He offered copies to anyone who was interested.

The formal program began with a presentation by Dr. James Gifford, executive director of the Jesse Stuart Foundation. Dr. Gifford said he had known Stuart's works from childhood and has been with the foundation for twenty years. Stuart, a popular and prolific writer, was known as a spokesman for Kentucky, a conservationist, and a famous schoolteacher as well. The Foundation was originally formed to protect Stuart's literary rights. It is now also a successful regional press and bookseller. The Foundation has reedited Stuart's works to more accurately reflect their region. It now represents other regional authors such as Billy C. Clarke, Loyal Jones, and the estate of Harry Caudill. It is particularly a publisher of formerly out of print books. The Foundation has now branched out to publishing some new manuscripts as well. Its focus is Kentucky and southern Appalachia.

Sam McKinney, a sculptor and painter, gave a presentation on his use of archives in his artistic work. Mr. McKinney was commissioned by the family of former Congressman Carl Perkins to sculpt a lifesize statue of the late Congressman, which was erected on the grounds of the courthouse in Hindman, Kentucky, Perkins' hometown. Mr. McKinney's commission was given following Perkins' death, so he totally relied on photographs and similar material to accurately depict the famous political figure. The U.S. House of Representatives later commissioned a lifesize portrait of Perkins for the Perkins Room in the U.S. Capitol, in honor of the Congressman's twenty-four-year tenure as chairman of the Education and Labor Committee. Mr. McKinney described the process he followed and showed slides of the work in progress. He also painted portraits of educator Cora Wilson Stewart (commissioned for Morehead's library) and writer James Still.

Adrian Swain, curator of the Kentucky Folk Art Center at Morehead, talked about the history of the center. Its collection was originally stored in a classroom. The materials initially consisted of old looms and tools and some work by self-taught artists in the area. Mr. Swain previously ran a small gallery and pottery studio before originally joining the center in a temporary position in 1986. With assistance from U.S. Department of Transportation grants, a warehouse no longer suited for commercial use was renovated for the center.

Scott Wymer, director of the Center on Virtual Appalachia, gave the final presentation before lunch. The Center is working on an online *Atlas of Appalachia* and is also contracted to create a Web-based version of the *Kentucky Encyclopedia*. Mr. Wymer said the Center hopes the Appalachian atlas site will become a popular portal on the Internet. The site is planned to be multitiered for different audiences: casual, regional, and academic. Among its content sources are the Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy, Special Collections at Morehead's Camden-Carroll Library, and government agencies. Mr. Wymer showed examples of material scanned from the Kentucky Folk Art Center and quilt blocks from Morehead's Special Collections. Another feature of the site is a photograph tour of Appalachia by state. The planned Web version of the *Kentucky Encyclopedia* will have high searchability and extensive indexing.

Following a buffet lunch, Charles Hay announced that the Administrative Board elected Betsy Morelock of Kentucky State University chair for 2000-2001. The fall meeting is scheduled for the George S. Patton Museum at Fort Knox on Friday, October 20. Plans are also underway for next year's spring meeting, which will mark KCA's twenty-fifth anniversary. The meeting will be held at Western Kentucky University, where the original meeting of KCA was held in 1976. Charles solicited nominations from the floor for the two vacancies on the Administrative Board. No nominations were made, so the Board's slate, Jeff Suchanek of the University of Kentucky and Glen Taul of Georgetown College, were elected by acclamation. B.J. Gooch of Transylvania University completed her term as of the spring meeting. Charles Hay becomes an ex officio member of the board as immediate past chair.

Charles made announcements on behalf of Richard Belding, state archivist, who was away in Atlanta. Richard reported that a feasibility study was approved by the General Assembly to look at storage needs for state and local government records. The state archives is also investigating the DMDX document management system. Richard requested that two members of the Administrative Board work with him in planning a celebration of Archives Week in Kentucky in October, hopefully the same week as the scheduled KCA fall meeting.

Mary Margaret Bell of the University of Louisville gave a brief report on the status of the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual Library project. She noted that finding aids outsourced for EAD markup would begin to be returned in the near future to Eric Weig, project manager. She also mentioned that work was going on in relation to an outsourcing contract for digitization from microfilm and that a best practices guide was in draft form.

Margaret Merrick of the University of Louisville announced that the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) chapters in Louisville and the Bluegrass area were planning a joint meeting to be held Friday, September 22 at the University Club at U of L.

Jonathan Jeffrey of Western Kentucky University thanked all KCA members for all their help during his ten years as editor of the *Kentucky Archivist*, KCA's newsletter. He then introduced Deborah Whalen, new archivist at Eastern Kentucky University, who has been appointed by the board as the new newsletter editor. Charles concluded the presentations with drawings for three door prizes.

In the afternoon the group went to the Kentucky Folk Art Center to tour its exhibits. Clara Keyes then offered a campus tour highlighting historic buildings.