

MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

By Joshua Ranger, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh



Do you, like me, find bits of meeting detritus in your various pockets or bags after returning from a conference? A crunched pocket program, a People Mover token, an unused drink ticket from the reception . . . just kidding, that's not actually a thing. This week, I found a receipt from downtown Detroit's Simmons & Clark Jewelers in a jacket. I had a watch battery replaced there the day before the Annual Meeting. It was a charming store featuring chandeliers with shades made from reproductions of their midcentury newspaper ads, and it was a place where I could imagine generations of auto workers putting engagement rings on layaway or manufacturers buying retirement watches for loyal employees. The visit was just one example of what history means to a city so rich in it.

It is truly one of the best fringe benefits of traveling to professional conferences: the opportunity to experience new places that may not be on your vacation bucket list. Detroit was a wonderful host city, and I look forward to MAC returning there in the future. And the meeting itself—one of MAC's largest ever—was first rate. I want to thank everyone on the Local Arrangements, Program, and Education Committees; AMC Source; our sponsors and vendors; and the over 450 attendees and presenters who both shared their knowledge and experiences and learned and grew as professionals.

With Detroit behind us, we now look forward to our next meetings:

Fall Symposium, October 4–5, 2019 Fargo, North Dakota

Another item I found—this time in my backpack—was a bright pencil with the inscription “MAC in NODAK.” This was a gift from our 2019 MAC Symposium coordinators who are busy putting the final touches on MAC's first visit to the state of North Dakota. On October 4 and

5, we will gather in Fargo for a Symposium designed specifically for those archivists working in small shops. Many of us work in one- or two-archivist operations where we must handle all aspects of administration. This makes for a unique work environment, so MAC has developed a Symposium focused on the professional (and, perhaps, the emotional) needs and issues of those who work in them. If you are a solo or small shop archivist, please join us in Fargo for some unique group learning and support from your peers. Additional details will be found elsewhere in these pages.

Annual Meeting, May 6–9, 2020 Des Moines, Iowa

Pinned to my backpack is a button for the 2020 Des Moines Annual Meeting. Looking very much like a campaign button, it speaks to the attention Des Moines and all of Iowa will get as the state's caucuses for the presidential race approach. It has been a bit more than four years since MAC was last in Des Moines (fall 2004!), so we are looking forward to returning to Iowa's capital and for the first time during the spring! Our Local Arrangements Committee is headed by Hilary Seo, Rosalie Gardner, and Hope Bibens, who have already been busy scouting the area for tours and a reception site. The Program Committee chairs Benn Joseph and Marcella Huggard, along with other committee members, will soon be making their call for proposals.

And Beyond

From the time I write this to the time you read it, we will likely know where we are heading in fall 2020 and spring 2021, so watch this space for updates. And, as always, if you want MAC to come to your state or community, please let me know. I would love to find receipts from your hometown in my coat pockets!