

GREATER DAYTON CHAPTER
MEETING

October 27, 2009

The Greater Dayton Chapter of ARMA International met on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at the Miami Conservancy District at 5:30 P.M.

There were 14 people in attendance—Chair, Debbie Andrews, President, Cindy Manz; Secretary, Gillian Hill; Treasurer, Elaine Wintrow; Directors, James Zimmerlin and Ray Davis; Program Chair, Tina Ratcliff; members, Steve French, Joan Donovan, Roger Lucas, Carolyn Battle, Bob Smith, and Lori Northern, and guest, Gary Koesters.

The meeting started with a social period, followed by a delicious dinner provided, as usual, by Creatif Catering. Cindy opened the meeting at 6: 45 P.M. and said that she had ARMA International Education Foundation tickets on sale for \$5.00 each. The prizes will be free registrations to next year's International Conference in San Francisco and the winners will be drawn next May.

Program Chair, Tina Ratcliff, then introduced Cindy and her presentation, which was entitled, **A Case Study: From Hard Copy to the Internet**

Cindy had worked for several years, starting in the mid 1990s, but interrupted by other projects, on compiling a database to index the 4,000 glass plate negatives taken during the construction of the five dams and 55 miles of levees which make up the Miami Conservancy District. This early flood protection system was initiated following the Great Dayton Flood of 1913 and has been wonderfully successful. It remains the only regional flood control system existing, in that it cuts across several political boundaries. The photographs have been digitized and can be accessed through the completed database on the MCD website: www.miamiconservancy.org/resources/constructionphotos.asp

Cindy described the massive engineering project undertaken by the Miami Conservancy District, and, headed by Arthur Morgan (who went on to work with the Tennessee Valley Authority). She also talked about the early indexing methods from the 1920s and 1930s, which were used to find and identify the photographs using job numbers, sequential numbers and dates, and she showed us examples of the 27 photo albums put together in 1934, and the typewritten indexes of the 1960s and 1970s. She divided us into groups to work on identifying selected photographs using the pre computerized finding aids and then the new database, which clearly demonstrated the increased speed and efficiency of the latter, as well as the ability for researchers to enlarge the images easily and study them in detail.

This was a particularly interesting evening and kudos to Cindy for her work on such a worthwhile project,

Respectfully submitted,

Gillian Hill
Secretary