New National Archives Exhibit Explores Alcohol’s Evolving Role in U.S. History

Last month the National Archives opened a new exhibition titled “Spirited Republic: Alcohol in American History” at our headquarters building in Washington, DC. The exhibit runs through January 10, 2016.

Since early European settlement, many Americans have enjoyed a drink. In contrast with their straight-laced reputation, colonists in the 1700s consumed on average 5.8 gallons of alcohol a year compared to two gallons today! (In 1830, that number was 7.1 gallons.)

But other Americans, fearing the harm alcohol would do to society and to individuals, have tried to stop our drinking or limit who, when, and where we could consume alcohol.

These two, sometimes conflicting attitudes towards alcoholic beverages run throughout American history. “Spirited Republic: Alcohol in American History” uses National Archives documents and artifacts to reveal the evolution of the government’s alcohol policy over time, and to illustrate the wide variety of views about alcohol held by Americans. The stories they tell echo today’s debates over regulating drinking and the legalization of other drugs.

The exhibit describes the Federal government’s efforts, successes, and failures to change our drinking habits, from whiskey rations to the Continental

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New Records Management Occupational Series announced by OPM

On March 10, the Office of Personnel Management released a memorandum for Chief Human Capital Officers announcing the final version of the Records Management Occupation Flysheet (O308) and the Qualification Standard. This action formally created a new occupational series of records and information management. We believe this will elevate the roles, responsibilities, and skill sets for agency records officers and other records and information professionals.

The task of establishing the occupational series is an important target in the Managing Government Records Directive. OPM conducted multiple rounds of review, focus groups, and received numerous comments from us, the federal records management community, and other interested groups as they created this series.

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FREE TRAINING! -- RECORDS TRANSFER AND REFERENCE SERVICE

This free half-day Federal Records Center training includes
- How to transfer records to your Federal Records Center
- How to make an online request for reference services

April 29, 2015, Sacramento, CA

To register by email: sanbruno.transfer@nara.gov or call Michael Frush (650) 238-3472

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Records Management Training, April-Sept., 2015

By Course Name (for training by location, see next page)

To register go to archives.gov/records-mgmt/training/or email our training registrar at laguna.workshops@nara.gov

For more information on our workshops, go to our training page by clicking here.

Records Transfer and Reference Service  FRC Free Half-Day Workshop
April 29, 2015, Sacramento, California
(For California FRC classes, see boxed notice at the bottom of page 1.)
June 8, 2015, Seattle, Washington
(For Seattle FRC classes, register online as shown above.)

Basic Records Operations
April 30, 2015, Sacramento, California
June 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015 - Online
September 4, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015 – Online

Knowledge Area Classes:

Records Management Overview  
(Knowledge Area 1)
August 16, 2015, San Diego, California

Records Scheduling  
(Knowledge Area 3)
April 30-May 1, Seoul, Korea
June 11-12, 2015, Seattle, Washington
August 19-20, 2015, San Diego, California

Asset and Risk Management  
(Knowledge Area 5)
May 6-7, Seoul, Korea
May 20-21, 2015, Broomfield (Denver), Colorado
June 17-18, 2015, Seattle, Washington
September 16-17, 2015, San Diego, California

Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information  
(Knowledge Area 2)
April 28-29, Seoul, Korea
June 9-10, 2015, Seattle, Washington
August 17-18, 2015, San Diego, California

Records Schedule Implementation  
(Knowledge Area 4)
May 4-5, Seoul, Korea
May 18-19, 2015, Broomfield (Denver), Colorado
June 15-16, 2015, Seattle, Washington
September 14-15, 2015, San Diego, California

Records Management Program Development  
(Knowledge Area 6)
May 8, Seoul, Korea
May 22, 2015, Broomfield (Denver), Colorado
June 19, 2015, Seattle, Washington
September 18, 2015, San Diego, California

Other training:

Vital Business Information  
August 10, 17, 24, 31, 2015 – Online
Records Management Training, April-Sept., 2015

By Location (for listing by course name, see previous page)

To register go to archives.gov/records-mgmt/training/or email our training registrar at laguna.workshops@nara.gov

For more information on our workshops, go to our training page by clicking here.

Broomfield (Denver), Colorado

Records Scheduling (KA3), April 9-10, 2015; Records Schedule Implementation (KA4), May 18-19, 2015; Asset and Risk Management (KA5), May 20-21, 2015; Records Management Program Development (KA6), May 22, 2015

Sacramento, California

Records Transfer and Reference Service – FRC Free Half-Day Workshop, April 29, 2015 (To sign up for this class, see boxed notice at the bottom of page1)
Basic Records Operations, April 30, 2015

Seattle, Washington


Online Webinars

Basic Records Operations: June 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015; September 4, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015
Vital Business Information
August 10, 17, 24, 31, 2015

San Diego, California

Records Management Overview (KA1), August 3, 2015; Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information (KA2), August 4-5, 2015; Records Scheduling (KA3), August 6-7, 2015; Records Schedule Implementation (KA4), September 14-15, 2015; Asset and Risk Management (KA5), September 16-17, 2015; Records Management Program Development (KA6), September 18, 2015

Seoul, Korea

Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information (KA2), April 28-29, 2015; Records Scheduling (KA3), April 30-May 1, 2015; Records Schedule Implementation (KA4), May 4-5, 2015; Asset and Risk Management (KA5), May 6-7, 2015; Records Management Program Development (KA6), May 8, 2015

From our readers

Jan 27, 2015

Dear Pacific Currents,

Thank you for your newsletter, just reading about the Constitution and all related docs was so neat, we as records managers do get to touch history even today in our agency, it’s the records of yesterday that still inspire, it’s the records of today that we hope will be held for their historical value and will inspire in the future.

Sandra in Spokane, WA

Dear Sandra,

Thanks for the positive feedback!

The Editors

Answers to “Spirited Republic questions on page 4.

2. 30 gallons of wine and 6 kegs of beer.
3. San Francisco’s own Daisy Simpson, see page 1.
4. Franklin Roosevelt.
Army to the Whiskey Rebellion to Prohibition and beyond. It also reveals the Founding Fathers’ many alcohol connections! And it shares nearly 100 original items drawn from the billions of government records at the National Archives.

Highlights include:
• An 1848 list of punishments on board a U.S. Navy frigate, including flogging for alcohol related misconduct;
• A large graphic model showing how much Americans drank during US history.
• Landmark documents will include the 18th Amendment, the Volstead Act, and the 21st Amendment;
• An 1843 petition against the Navy’s “spirit ration” that measures nearly 11 feet by 8 inches.

“Spirited Republic” is divided into four sections:
• “Good Creature of God” covers positive American attitudes about drink; drink and the American Revolution; alcohol and the Early Republic; alcohol taxation, regulation, and commerce; and includes early alcohol-related patent drawings.
• Demonizing Drink shows the rise of temperance reform and the shift toward prohibition; early treatment for alcoholism; the fight to end the “spirit ration;” and the fight for and against the 18th Amendment.
• Sober Nation details the efforts to enforce the 18th Amendment, showing the many ways people circumvented the Volstead Act; and Prohibition enforcement.
• Concerned Acceptance covers the repeal of Prohibition; alcohol and World War II; alcohol advertising and trademarks; alcohol as a public health issue; Alcoholics Anonymous; diplomatic toasting, and alcohol in the White House; and examples of documents from organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD).

“Spirited Republic” relates the fascinating history behind the government’s involvement with alcohol, providing answers to the following questions:
1. Which President advocated providing troops with alcohol, stating “the benefits arising from the moderate use of strong Liquor have been experienced by all armies, and are not to be disputed”?
2. How many bottles of wine and kegs of beer did Meriwether Lewis bring on his Expedition to the West in 1803?
3. Which Prohibition Bureau agent, who worked previously for the San Francisco Police morals squad, was known as “lady hooch hunter”?
4. Whose Presidential candidate’s campaign posters urged voters to “Do Your Bit for Repeal . . .”?

Answers at the bottom of page 3.
Magna Carta will be 800 this year

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original 1297 Magna Carta, on loan from philanthropist David Rubenstein. NARA will also make a first-ever loan of the Delaware Ratification of the Bill of Rights to the British Library for its landmark exhibition, Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy. The British exhibit, which runs from March 13 - September 1, 2015, follows the evolution of Magna Carta from its medieval roots as a peace treaty among warring nobles to global rallying cry against arbitrary use of power. Learn more on the British Library’s website.

The 1297 Magna Carta is on view at the National Archives in downtown Washington, DC. This document, signed in 1297 by King John’s grandson Edward I, is one of four surviving 1297 versions of Magna Carta in the world today. It is the centerpiece of the Records of Rights permanent exhibition. Go online and see the videos Magna Carta Conservation Treatment, and The Encasement of Magna Carta, for behind-the-scenes views of how NARA’s expert conservators protect rare documents for the ages.

New Records Management Job Series

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OPM Deputy Associate Director, Recruitment & Hiring, Kimberly A. Holden said “Establishment of this new series brings into focus the records and information management workforce using one occupational series to provide consistency in describing, classifying, and recruiting for records and information management specialists across the Federal Government.”

For specific questions regarding how this series will be applied at your agency please contact your Human Capital Office for details. General questions or feedback to NARA can be sent to: Preston Huff at preston.huff@nara.gov or Lisa Haralampus at lisa.haralampus@nara.gov. We look forward to hearing from you about this new series.

For the full text of the OPM issues flysheet for Records and Information Management, 0308, go to