

Mobile Archive - Society of Early Americanists  
8-11 June 2023 - University of Maryland

### Archives Abroad (A Mobile Archive Project)

Given that displacement and co-optation were instrumental in the levering of colonial power, it comes as no surprise that significant early American archives are often found overseas. This panel asks for papers of all kinds (narrative, theoretical, practical how-to) that address the experiences of archival work abroad. What are the experiences of scholars who cross the Atlantic in the course of their research? How is access regulated and who are the institutions that provide access to these archives? How are archives abroad organized, how do they file and categorize?

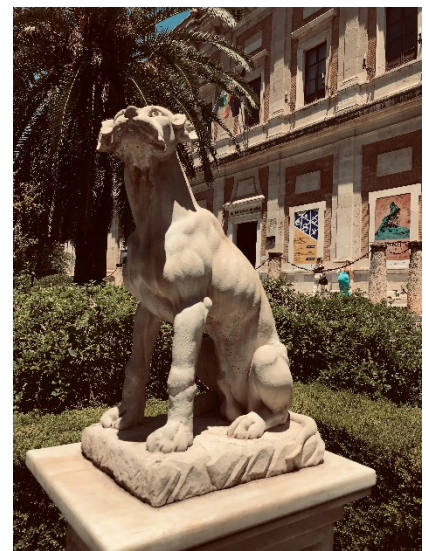
Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Collection, curation, and circulation of the colonial archive;
- Language/linguistic crossings in scholarly research;
- Bureaucratic and logistical headaches, particularly in an endemic world;
- Replication, from microfilm to digital collections;
- Scholarship and culture shock;
- Ex-pat scholarly community;
- International archival aura;
- Archival source and the cult of authenticity;
- Ecologies of knowledge production;
- Ecological footprint of intellectual work;
- Flight shame, tourism and scholarly travel.

Please send one-page proposals, with a cover memo and c.v. (preferably shorter), to Thomas Hallock (thallock@usf.edu) and/or mobilearchiveproject@gmail.com by Wednesday, October 26.

The Mobile Archive is a collective project that scrutinizes the scholarship of both colonial and contemporary America as a nationalistic (or even patriotic) enterprise. Attention to mobilities across time and space asks us to look more critically at one of the anchoring institutions in early American studies, the archive. Digitalization has challenged the locational grounding of early Americanist scholarship and beyond; the continued pandemic has further complicated site-based scholarship. Remote access to our teaching and learning, in short, has been pushed into the realm of necessity.

Given the exigencies of travel, this panel will consider online submissions; we prefer a face-to-face presence, but welcome innovative remote or pre-recorded sessions. The Mobile Archive is an ongoing research collective that explores various aspects of mobility and the archive, pedagogy and research, in international settings. Prior sessions include an opening symposium at the University of Siegen (2021) and the American Studies Association (2022).



*Archivo General de Indias (Spain)*