

Visualizing the Mail-Art Network

Nicole Rosengurt - INFO 664 - Spring 2023

Review



Archives of American Art

Item Information

Title: Robert Ebendorf mail art to Louis Bailey

Date: 2000 or 2001?

Physical Details: 1 mail art : various media ; 10 × 15 cm

Description: Date based on 20 cent stamp (verso with stamp and address has not been scanned); postage rate for postcards increased to 21 cents in July 2001. Correspondence between Ebendorf and Louis ranges from 2000-2003.

Front of card features an illustration of fish upon which Ebendorf has collaged rosaries into the fish's mouths.

Creator: Ebendorf, Robert, 1938-

SAIC

Set Description Item Description

Title J. Tucker, 1983

Accession Number Mailart T20.01

Resource Type Collection

Genre mail art

Primary Creator Creator: Tucker, Jim

Contributors Addressee: Hay, Gary

Date (text) 1983

Description 1 postcard; Postcard with a picture of a penguin, dodo, and ostrich. Verso is of romaneseque ruins in purple ink and a sticker.

U. Buffalo

Title

Mail art no. 64

Subject

Mail art

Description

Front of piece is a white postcard decorated with rubber ink stamps, reproduction decorated with rubber ink stamps, red ball point pen, and

Creator

Baudhuin, Simon

Publisher

Poetry Collection, Special Collections, University Libraries
State University of New York at Buffalo
Poetry Collection, Special Collections, University Libraries

Date

1992

Contributor

Basinski, Michael
Recipient: Fierens, Luce
Fierens, Luce

AUDREY SCHILLINGER
943 N. HUMPHREY AVE.
OAK PARK, IL 60302



Arto Posto
233 E. Wacker Drive
Chicago, Ill. 60601



Audrey Schillinger to Arto Posto

Web Scrapping Code: Challenges

Archives of American Art

```
#splitting titles
mail_info={}
matcher1 = "mail art to"
matcher2 = "Mail art to"

index_a=0
while index_a < len(titles):
    for x in titles:
        if matcher2 in x or matcher1 in x:
            y = x.split("mail art to", 1)
            a=(y[0].strip())
            b=(y[1].strip())
            s=(a.split(", "))
            r=(b.split(", "))
            sender=s[0]
            rec=r[0]
            mail_info[index_a]={'Sender':sender, "Addressees":rec}
            index_a+=1

with open(f'res/{"aaa_mail"}.json', 'w') as write_file:
    json.dump(mail_info, write_file, indent = 2)
```

Title: Robert Ebendorf mail art to Louis Bailey

- No separate metadata for Sender/Recipient
 - Creator data in title
- ↓
- Split on “mail art to”
 - Assign names to correct role



Web Scrapping Code: Challenges

S.A.I.C

```
#ID NUMBER
number_info = soup2.find('div',{'class': 'field field--name-field-local-identifier f
if number_info is not None:
    id_num = number_info.find('div',{'property': 'dcterms:identifier'}).text.strip()
    print(f"pageID: {id_num}")
    print(f"page {index}/397")
else:
    fails.append({'error': 'ID tag', 'page': work_url, 'action': "Skipped"})
    print(f"page {index}/397")
    print(f"FAILED page {page}")
    print('=====')
    continue
```



```
{
  "error": "No Primary Creator",
  "page": "https://digitalcollections.saic.edu/islandora/object/islandora%3Acorrespondence_1002",
  "action": "Noted"
},
{
  "error": "Contributor in Addressee",
  "page": "https://digitalcollections.saic.edu/islandora/object/islandora%3Acorrespondence_1002",
  "action": "Skipped"
},
{
  "error": "No Addressees",
  "page": "https://digitalcollections.saic.edu/islandora/object/islandora%3Acorrespondence_10059",
  "action": "Noted"
},
}
```

Primary Creator

Creator: Sandoval, R. L.

Contributors

Contributor: Davis, Jan

Addressee: Harris, Dorothy



- Not all items have same HTML tags
 - Creator data in other fields
-
- Append problematic items to list with error message
 - Tweak code to get correct data

Web Scrapping Code: Challenges

U. of Buffalo

```
recs = []
con_info = soup2.find('div', {'id': 'dublin-core-contributor'})
cons = con_info.find_all('div', {'class': 'element-text'})
for c in cons:
    recs.append(c.text.strip())
for rc in recs:
    z = re.match("Recipient", rc)
    if z:
        recipient = re.sub("Recipient: ", '', rc)

mail_info[title] = {'Title': title, 'Sender': creator, 'Addressees': recipient}

with open(f'res/{"buff_mail"}.json', 'w') as write_file:
    json.dump(mail_info, write_file, indent = 2)
```

Contributor

Basinski, Michael

Recipient: Fierens, Luce

Fierens, Luce

- Contributor field contains extra names along with Recipient



- Locate “Recipient” and pull the name on that string
- Remove “Recipient” from resulting string



Results

```
},{
  "ID": "Mailart B8.43",
  "Title": "Anna Banana c/o Western Front, February 28, 1983",
  "Sender": "Banana, Anna, 1940-",
  "Addressees": []
},{
  "ID": "Mailart M42.09",
  "Title": "Maillory, April 30, 1992",
  "Sender": "Moad, Mallory",
  "Addressees": [
    "Smith, E. Z.",
    "Gaglione, Bill"
  ]
},{
  "ID": "Mailart D24.01",
  "Title": "Jeffrey Dixon, December 10, 1996",
  "Sender": "Dixon, Jeffrey",
  "Addressees": []
},{
  "ID": "Mailart A1.21",
  "Title": "A.1. Waste Paper Co., November 12, 1982",
  "Sender": "A.1. Waste Paper Co., Ltd.",
  "Addressees": [
    "Leigh, Michael",
    "Gaglione, Bill"
  ]
},{
  "ID": "Mailart M44.01",
  "Title": "K. Moss, June 11, 2001",
  "Sender": "Moss, Kathlyn, 1944-",
  "Addressees": [
    "Gaglione, Bill",
    "Stampland"
  ]
}
```



Multiple recipients are
turned into separate
entities to individualize
the record of sending

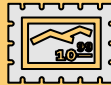
```
},{
  "Sender": "Buster Cleveland",
  "Addressees": "John Evans"
},{
  "Sender": "John Held",
  "Addressees": "John Evans"
},{
  "Sender": "Tod Jorgenssen",
  "Addressees": "John Evans"
},{
  "Sender": "Buster Cleveland",
  "Addressees": "John Evans"
},{
  "Sender": "Robert Ebendorf",
  "Addressees": "Louis Bailey"
},{
  "Sender": "David Geiger",
  "Addressees": "John Evans"
},{
  "Sender": "HICO",
  "Addressees": "John Evans"
},{
  "Sender": "Robert Ebendorf",
  "Addressees": "Louis Bailey"
},{
  "Sender": "HICO",
  "Addressees": "John Evans"
},{
  "Sender": "Ray Johnson",
  "Addressees": "David Bourdon"
},{
  "Sender": "Michael Leigh",
  "Addressees": "John Evans"
}
```

TOAST CARD

7/20

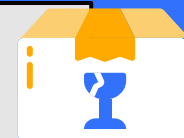
Marilyn A. Ellison
RR#4 Box 288 138th St.
Lockport, IL 60441

Dear Dorothy -
Great run + cats!
Getting so hot, I feel
toasted. This is a



Marilyn Ellison to Dorothy Harris

Data Cleanup



Goal

Change order of
Last Name, First Name
to *First Name Last Name*



Delete IDs of records with
empty addressees or
contributors



Get list of unique names +
merge any typos or shared
names



Assign Labels based on which
source record came from, and
find duplicate instances



Method

```
for a in data:
    # Split the Sender's name into a list of Firstname and Lastname
    name_parts = a['Sender'].split(' ', ' ')
    if len(name_parts) > 1:
        firstname = name_parts[1]
        lastname = name_parts[0]
        # Concatenate the Firstname and Lastname into the desired format
        new_name = f"{firstname} {lastname}"
    else:
        new_name = name_parts[0]
```

```
with open("saic_mail_cleanest.json", "r") as all_json:
    all = json.load(all_json)
    for i in all:
        for d in id_del:
            if i['ID'] == d:
                remaining.append(i['ID'])
                print(i['ID'])
                print(d)
        print(remaining)
```

```
# Get a Series of unique Senders from the DataFrame
unique_ads = data['Addressee'].unique()
# Sort the unique Senders alphabetically
sorted_ads = sorted(unique_ads)
```

```
for a in data_A:
    if a[0] not in A:
        A.append(a[0])
    if a[1] not in A:
        A.append(a[1])
```

```
for ax in A:
    for bx in B:
        if ax == bx:
            dups.writerow([ax, "AB"])
            dup_list.append(ax)
```

Networks

Nodes

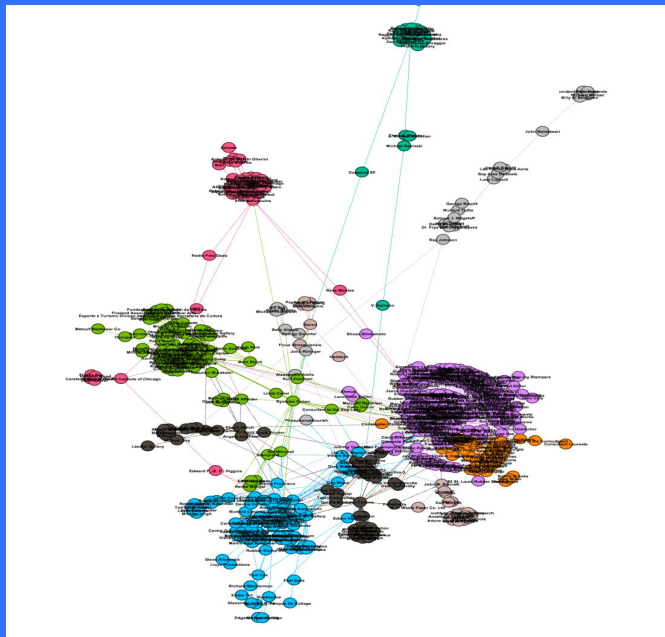
Data Table x			
Nodes	Edges	Configuration	+ Add node + Add edge Search/Replace Import
Id	Label	Modularity Class	
Gerard Barbot	ABC	2	
Hans Ruedi Fricker	ABC	2	
Robin Crozier	ABC	2	
Ryosuke Cohen	ABC	0	
Vittore Baroni	ABC	14	
John Held Jr.	ABC	2	
Anna Banana	AC	14	
Guy Bleus	AC	14	
Pat Larter	AC	14	
Johnny Tostdada	AC	1	
Ray Johnson	AC	10	
Richard Canard	AC	14	
Dorothy Harris	BC	1	
Carlo Pittore	BC	2	
Carol Schneck	AC	1	
Clemente Padin	AC	1	
Geza Perneczky	BC	2	
John M. Bennett	BC	8	
Badhuin Simon	BC	16	
Luce Fierens	BC	2	
Jose Vandenbroucke	BC	2	
A. 1. Waste Paper Co. Ltd.	BC	8	
Joachim Strange	A	2	
Edgardo Vigo	A	2	
Svjetlana Mimica	A	2	
Rea Nikonova	A	2	
Tony Lowes	A	2	
Elizabeth Was	A	2	
Ben Vautier	A	2	
Leonhard Frank Duch	A	2	
Laura MacCarthy	A	2	

Edges

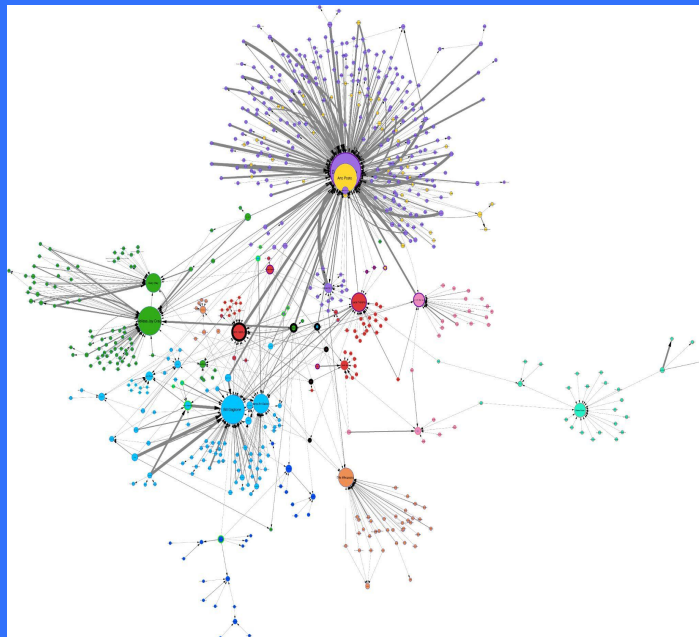
Data Table x			
Nodes	Edges	Configuration	+ Add node + Add edge Search/Replace Import
Source	Target	Type	
Ray Johnson - AC	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Hans Ruedi Fricker - ABC	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Joachim Strange - A	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Carol Schneck - AC	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Robin Crozier - ABC	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Pat Larter - AC	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Edgardo Vigo - A	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Gerard Barbot - ABC	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Vittore Baroni - ABC	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Svjetlana Mimica - A	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Rea Nikonova - A	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Tony Lowes - A	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Clemente Padin - AC	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Elizabeth Was - A	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Ben Vautier - A	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Leonhard Frank Duch - A	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
John Held Jr. - ABC	Laura MacCarthy - A	Directed	
Cesar Espinosa and Colectivo ...	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Graciela G. Marx - A	John Held Jr. - ABC	Directed	
Hans Ruedi Fricker - ABC	Angela and Peter - A	Directed	
Buster Cleveland - A	John Evans - A	Directed	
John Held Jr. - ABC	John Evans - A	Directed	
Tod Jorgenssen - A	John Evans - A	Directed	
Robert Ebendorf - A	Louis Bailey - A	Directed	
David Geiger - A	John Evans - A	Directed	
HICO - A	John Evans - A	Directed	
Ray Johnson - AC	David Bourdon - A	Directed	
Michael Leigh - A	John Evans - A	Directed	
Louis Bailey - A	Robert Ebendorf - A	Directed	
Johnny Tostdada - AC	John Evans - A	Directed	
Richard Canard - AC	John Evans - A	Directed	

Results

1st try: Gephi



2nd try: Cytoscape





Luce Fierens
- MAIL ART-VISUELE POEZIE-
POSTFLUXPOSTBOOKLETS
Grote Nieuwedijkstraat 411
B-2800 Mechelen
BELGIUM



Stamp Art Gallery
c/o Picasso Gaglione / Jon Held jr.

**Let's Explore the
Mail-Art Network!**





Thank you!



Future Steps:

- Geographic Data!
- Researching Artists!
- Adding Images!
- Evolution by Date!