

SAA Newsletter

Society of American Archivists, The Library, Post Office Box 8198
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November 1976

SAA '76; SOCIETY'S LARGEST ANNUAL MEETING

Approximately 900 SAA participants joined almost 600 ICA delegates in Washington September 27-October 1 for the largest gathering of professional archivists, manuscript curators and records managers in history. The occasion marked the 40th anniversary meeting of the Society and the 8th International Congress on Archives.

Major support for international aspects of the meeting was granted to the SAA by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Tinker Foundation.

The festive gathering opened Monday evening with a reception in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress. On Tuesday evening, following a full day of committee meetings and program sessions, delegates were entertained at a lavish buffet at the Pan American Union Building.

SAA's program themes, planned by a committee directed by Elsie F. Freivogel, reflected the enormous changes in archives practice since 1936: changes in the media of records, changes in technological applications and changes in the archivist's perception of his or her role. Major sessions were devoted specifically to these topics. Over 60 additional panels, workshops and special events offered to the beginner information about latest techniques and insights, and to the experienced professional reflection and stimulation.

A special feature of the Society's meeting was the recognition accorded its founding members at the annual presidential banquet. Joining President Elizabeth Hamer Kegan, herself a founder, for the observance were SAA's first secretary, Philip C. Brooks; the first treasurer, Julian P. Boyd; and Herbert E. Angel,

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OFFICERS, COUNCIL AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTED BY MEMBERS

Walter Rundell, Jr., was elected vice president of the Society in the 1976 election. Rundell, a member of the Department of History at the University of Maryland, will assist President Robert M. Warner during the coming year and succeed to the presidency at the 1977 meeting in Salt Lake City. Mary Lynn McCree, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, was elected SAA treasurer. Her term begins in January. Council terms of four years went to Frank G. Burke, National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and David B. Gracy II, Georgia State University.

The membership elected Ann Pederson, Georgia Department of Archives and History; Richard Strassberg, Cornell University; and Jean Preston, Huntington Library to the 1977 Nominating Committee. In addition to the three elected members, Council members whose terms expire in 1977, Ruth Helmut, Case Western Reserve University, and Hugh A. Taylor, Public Archives of Canada, will serve on the committee. Pederson was named to chair the group.

FIVE NEW FELLOWS OF THE SOCIETY NAMED

Five new fellows of the Society were named at the Washington annual meeting. Selected by the Professional Standards Committee were Edmund Berkeley, Jr., Ann Morgan Campbell, C.F.W. Coker, Richard A. Jacobs, and Hugh A. Taylor.

Berkeley's archival career began at the Virginia State Library. He is curator of Manuscripts and Archivist at the University of Virginia. He formerly chaired the Society's Committee on Collecting Personal Papers, and now serves as chairperson of the SAA Security Program's advisory committee. Campbell, former member of

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VIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ARCHIVES APPROVES INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
ARCHIVAL ASSOCIATIONS; ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES JAMES B. RHOADS ASSUMES
ICA PRESIDENCY

During its Washington meeting, the International Congress on Archives approved the formation of an International Federation of Archival Associations as an ICA section. The new section will represent over sixty archival associations which now exist in some twenty-five countries. Helmut Dahm, president of the Association of German Archivists, led a meeting of association representatives which voted to ask for ICA recognition. SAA was represented by President Warner and Executive Director Campbell. Jackie Haring, Ronald Becker and Charles Rehkopf attended representing U.S. regional archival associations. A seven-nation steering committee was named to coordinate the organizational efforts of the new federation. Represented will be Poland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Brazil, Israel, Great Britain, the United States and the Netherlands, where the world's oldest archival association was founded in 1891. SAA, the largest of all archival associations, was asked to assume a responsible role in the early stages of the federation's development. In an action taken on October 1, SAA Council authorized the Society's participation.

At the closing general assembly, James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States, was elected to serve as ICA president for the next four years. The site of the group's 1980 meeting will be London.

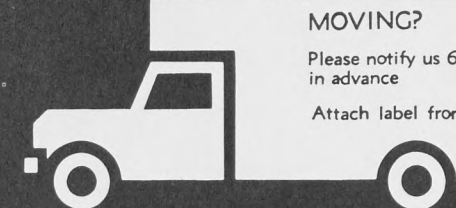
SAA '76 (continued)

Robert Bahmer, Nelson M. Blake, Lester J. Cappon, W. Neil Franklin, Curtis W. Garrison, Oliver W. Holmes, Morris L. Radoff, and Karl L. Trever. The bicentennial theme of the evening was highlighted by an appearance of the United States Marine Corps Band.

The mammoth task of local arrangements for the SAA meeting was coordinated by a Washington area Committee led by Donald F. Harrison. John E. Byrne and R. Michael McReynolds directed the organizing committee of the Congress. Susan Benson planned and led a special two-week seminar for Latin American archivists made possible by funding from the Tinker Foundation. Sr. Mary Felicitas Powers, RSM, organized a workshop at the Sisters of Mercy Generalate, Bethesda, Maryland, for archivists of religious communities. College and university archivists journeyed to Georgetown University for a discussion of administering university archives. Facilities of the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution were also used for program and workshop sessions.

FELLOWS (continued)

the staff of the Kennedy Library and Chief of the National Archives' San Francisco archives branch, was elected to SAA Council in 1973. She has served as SAA executive director since 1974. Coker, former Archives and Records Administrator for North Carolina, is now chief of the Printed Archives Division of the National Archives and editor of the *American Archivist*. Currently Deputy Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries, Jacobs' career began in the National Archives training program. He served as acting director of the Hoover Library and is known for his singular efforts to facilitate access by researchers to NARS holdings and for his important role in the protracted negotiations over Nixon presidential materials. Taylor, a member of the Society's Committee on Education and Professional Development, was elected to the SAA Council in 1973. A native of England, he established the archival programs in the provinces of Alberta and New Brunswick. He currently serves as Director of the Historical Branch of the Public Archives of Canada.

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DOCUMENTS COMMISSION SCHEDULES PUBLIC HEARINGS

The National Study Commission on the Records and Documents of Federal Officials has announced plans to hold public hearings on November 15-16 in San Francisco, November 18-19 in Chicago, December 6-7 in New York City and January 12-13 in Washington, D.C.

Participants in SAA's recent 40th annual meeting had an opportunity to meet with Robert Brookhart, executive director of the commission; Walter Rundell and F. Gerald Ham, consultants to the commission; Elizabeth Hamer Kegan, who represents the Librarian of Congress on the commission; James B. Rhoads, designee for the Administrator of General Services on the commission; and Ann Morgan Campbell, commission member, to discuss the issues facing the group (see *SAA Newsletter*, March 1975, p. 3 for the Commission's mandate). It is expected that the four hearings will provide opportunities to a number of interested persons to present their views prior to the time a final report is due in March 1977.

For further information contact Robert Brookhart, National Study Commission on Records and Documents of Federal Officials, 1000 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.



*"We've got all the 'Know-How'
We just don't know where it is."*

Drawing by Saxon for Oxford Pendaflex
Corporation c 1976.

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT PHILIP BUCHEN IS SAA/AHA LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Philip Buchen, who has served as chief legal advisor at the White House since 1974, a former law partner of Gerald R. Ford, will speak at the Society of American Archivists' luncheon, December 29, at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Washington. Buchen, who served as executive director of the White House Domestic Council Committee on the Right of Privacy, is presently a member of the National Study Commission on the Records and Documents of Public Officials. He has chosen as his topic, "Secrets of History and the Law of Secrets." In addition to many years in the practice of law, Buchen served as vice-president of Grand Valley State College, 1961-67.

SAA President Robert M. Warner will preside at the luncheon. Tickets may be obtained from David Brandenburg, Department of History, American University, Washington, D.C. 20016. Checks for \$9.25 should be made payable to the American Historical Association and should specify that they are for the SAA luncheon. AHA registrants may also purchase tickets at the time of registration. Trudy H. Peterson, SAA's local arrangements chairman, has announced that a limited number of tickets will be available at the door prior to the luncheon which is scheduled at 12:15 in the Blue Room of the Shoreham Hotel, December 29.

THE NARS INDEPENDENCE ISSUE

The concept of an autonomous National Archives has been endorsed by a significant number of leading professional organizations. These include the American Historical Association, the American Library Association, the Organization of American Historians and the Society of American Archivists.

The issue of NARS' independence is on the agenda of the Public Documents Commission (see p.3, col. 1). The topic was also addressed by Walter Robertson, Jr., recently retired NARS Executive Director, in a paper delivered at the Society's 40th annual meeting. In a special preprint from the *American Archivist*, Robertson's paper is reproduced on pages 9-12 of this *Newsletter*.

THE ST. LOUIS FIRE: PANEL REPORTS FINDINGS

In mid-July 1973, 17 million service records were destroyed when a fire struck the Military Personnel Records Center, a National Archives & Records Service facility near St. Louis, Missouri. (See "The National Personnel Records Center Fire: A Study in Disaster," *American Archivist*, October 1974.)

Following the disaster, the GSA Administrator appointed an Advisory Committee on the Protection of Archives and Records Centers. The committee met during 1975, received testimony and prepared a report which will be available in the spring of 1977. A summary of the report was issued in September. C. Herbert Finch, Cornell University, served as SAA's representative on the committee which was chaired by former SAA president Wilfred I. Smith, Dominion Archivist of Canada.

The report notes that the fire, which eventually covered four acres and took twenty-two hours after its discovery to get under control, could, "had there been an automatic sprinkler system installed in the MPRC...in all probability, have been controlled within the aisle of origin." The experts found that, "A complete automatic sprinkler system is the most effective fire disaster prevention system. Fire detectors are of limited value as an element of the fire protection system in a high-piled situation such as the storage of records on open shelving." The committee found it highly important that, "all of the records which survived the fire, regardless of the degree of wetness, were salvaged. Sprinklers discharge far less water on a smaller fire than does a fire department hose stream attack."

Three goals of records center fire protection were identified by the group: 1) to minimize the possibility of fire occurring within a records center, 2) to limit the extent of the fire and 3) to minimize the destruction of records should fire occur. In a minority report, committee member Arthur Spiegelman, vice president of the American Insurance Association, argued that a fourth goal should be added, "To preserve life as well as property." While stressing the importance of preventing fire ignition as the single most important factor in safeguarding records, the report noted that arson "may have been the cause of ignition in the MPRC fire."

The Committee concluded that although GSA should be criticized for the poor conditions that existed in some records centers at the time of the fire, the agency should be given credit for the actions taken since the disaster and urged to proceed expeditiously with the overall program of cor-

rection and improvement now underway. GSA reported that the relocation of records from unprotected records centers that are not to be provided with physical improvements has been completed, and that sprinkler installations had been made in remaining records centers.

NARS was urged to study the possibility of reorienting the contents of records storage boxes so that they are perpendicular to the shelf edge. Tests demonstrated that when records are stored parallel to the aisles and the ends of boxes collapse, the contents spill into the aisles. This dramatically increases the rate of fire development as well as seriously compounds the task of reordering records not destroyed.

The Committee argued that archives require a higher degree of protection than other records and that this need is not now recognized in existing GSA standards. In this regard, it was noted that the Washington National Records Center at Suitland, Maryland, which presently houses about 30 percent of the National Archives, does not provide a high enough degree of fire protection. Consideration was also urged to housing regional archives in new separate structures on the grounds of established records centers.

While the group did not recommend abandoning existing multistory records centers, it did recommend that the single story records center concept be used in the future. Noting that the net volume of records in NARS centers is increasing currently at a rate of approximately 500,000 cubic feet annually, about the size of one medium records center, the group recommended that NARS develop detailed projections as to the future mix of records media that may be assigned to centers. The Committee also recommended that investigations be conducted to determine the fire development rate and toxicity of non-paper records and their containers.

The economics of increasing fire protection at records centers was considered. NARS' figures indicate that it costs \$8.98 to keep one cubic foot of records in an office for a year but that it costs only \$.72 to do so in a records center. With 12 million cubic feet of records being stored, this amounts to an annual cost avoidance of \$99,120,000. The committee argued, however, that such figures may be misleading and may even indicate poor judgement when both the actual cost and the social loss of the fire is considered.

A copy of the summary report may be obtained now from Office of Federal Records Centers (NC), GSA, Washington, D.C. 20408. (The full report, with appendices, will be available next year.)

ARCHIVAL SECURITY NEWSLETTER

MANUSCRIPT THIEF SENTENCED IN CALIFORNIA

Ronald E. Wade, La Quinta, California, was sentenced to one year in the Los Angeles County jail for the theft of forty five historical documents from the Special Collections Department of the University of California at Los Angeles. Wade was arrested in May after he attempted to sell the documents to Charles Hamilton, the noted manuscript dealer (see *SAA Newsletter*, July 1976, p.5). Further charges against Wade are pending in Texas.

In sentencing Wade, Judge Pierce Young cited the serious nature of the crime and noted that only the destruction of historical documents was more heinous than their theft. Reading from a letter by James V. Mink, University Archivist at UCLA, Judge Young noted that the archival profession is very concerned about the theft of historical documents. As evidence, he displayed a copy of the *American Archivist* devoted to the problem of archival security.

In addition to a year in jail without parole, Wade was put on probation for a period of four years during which time he is not to handle manuscripts or historical documents. Wade is also obliged to assist in the recovery of items that are still missing.

CIVIL WAR DOCUMENTS THEFT SUSPECT INDICTED IN GEORGIA

Cecil W. Anderson of Conley, Georgia, was indicted September 3 in connection with the disappearance of about two hundred Civil War documents from the Georgia State Department of Archives and History last December (see *SAA Newsletter*, March 1976, p.5). Since that time a number of the items have been recovered. Civil War journals and hobby magazines throughout the country printed descriptions of the missing items and published editorials asking for their return (see *SAA Newsletter*, May 1976, p.6).

Anderson is charged with the theft of only a few of the two hundred items, but no other arrests are anticipated in the case. Anderson, who was identified by Georgia officials as a dealer in historical documents, was a frequent visitor to the State Archives. The thefts were discovered when an out-of-state collector wrote the archives about the authenticity of a document in his possession. A search indicated that the item was state property and that a number of items were missing. The out-of-state collector identified a Kennesaw, Georgia dealer as his source and the dealer, in turn, identified Anderson.

SAA ATTORNEY ALEX LADENSON ON ARCHIVAL SECURITY AND THE LAW

The following is an excerpt from "Archival Security and the Law," a paper presented by Alex Ladenson at the SAA annual meeting in Washington. Ladenson serves as the legal advisor for the SAA Archival Security Program. His paper will be published in full in the near future.

"I believe that the gravity of the problem of archival and library theft calls for new legislation. While I am not prepared at this time to offer the precise wording of a model law, I would like to present the essential provisions that should be included in a model law that is based on the principles of the shoplifting detention statute. The first provision that is essential is to make archival and library theft a separate and distinct crime to be defined as the willful concealment of archival or library materials by an individual with the intention of converting them to his own private use. The next provision is ancillary to the first one by declaring that proof of willful concealment of archival or library materials while still on the premises is prima facie evidence of the intent to commit theft. Another very essential provision is the authorization permitting the archivist, the librarian and their employees to detain persons suspected of theft if there is probable cause to believe that the suspect has committed the crime. A final essential provision is a grant of immunity to the archival agency, the library, and their employees from civil liability in actions brought against them by the detained person for false imprisonment, false arrest, unlawful detention, assault, battery, slander, libel or malicious prosecution."

ARCHIVAL SECURITY NEWSLETTER

APPRAISAL AND THE LAW: A DIFFICULT PROBLEM

A recent court hearing in the U.S. District Court in Chicago addressed the difficult problem faced by archivists and curators in setting a monetary value on unique materials. The expertise necessary for setting monetary value often requires the combined skills of the curator, the scholar and the dealer. It is likely that any hearing called to determine the monetary value of archival materials will require that attorneys produce all three types of experts.

U.S. v. McMahon involved the indictment of Michael C. McMahon for violation of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Properties Act. McMahon was in possession of a number of rare volumes stolen from the Honnald Library at Claremont College and was apprehended while attempting to sell a copy of Shelley's *Adonais* to Chicago book dealer Frances Hamill. The monetary value determined by the court had to be more than \$5,000 if the defendant was to be tried under federal statutes.

In presenting his case, the U.S. attorney called five experts: James Wells, Newberry Library; Michael Papentonio, Seven Gables Book Store in New York; Mihai Handrea, Pforzheimer Library; Richard Fogel, University of North Carolina; and Ms. Hamill. Fogel testified that the copy of *Adonais* in question, with its annotations by Shelley's friend John Taaffee, shed light on the meaning behind many of the passages in the poem. Hamill testified as to the market value of associational and presentation copies in original covers.

Defense counsel raised a number of questions about the inexact nature of appraisal of manuscripts and rare books, about the market value of the specific copy of *Adonais* and about the credibility of Taaffee's relationship with Shelley. Many of the questions proved somewhat difficult, even for expert witnesses. However, aided by the collective testimony of all five experts, the prosecution won the case. The McMahon case emphasizes the value of cooperation among scholars, dealers and archivists in the prosecution of manuscript thieves.

MISSISSIPPI ARCHIVES RECOVERS MANUSCRIPTS

Valuable 19th century manuscripts, discovered to be missing from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in August, have been recovered due to quick action by staff members and local law enforcement agencies. Over a period of months, an archives patron slipped manuscripts and "stampless covers" of the early 1800's from the search room between the pages of a notebook and beneath clothing. As a result of the incident, tighter security will be enforced at the Archives and History Building in Jackson, Mississippi.



REPLEVIN EFFORT IN VIRGINIA

An 1814 Alexandria, Virginia tax ledger, which possibly was stolen when the city was occupied by Union forces during the Civil War, was confiscated September 29 by the city from a rare book auctioneer. A Virginia law passed last year permits the city to seize custody of a public record in private hands. "By law it's a public record and we're lawfully charged with the duty of keeping it," said Burton B. Hanbury, Assistant City Attorney. "We can't stand by and let someone have it. It has tremendous historical and research value." No charges will be placed against the rare book auctioneer or the owner; nor will any compensation be provided.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Although the SAA Archival Security Program is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the opinions expressed in the *Archival Security Newsletter* are those of the program staff and not of NEH.

OLSBERG NAMED MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVIST

Massachusetts Secretary of State Paul Guzzi has announced the appointment of R. Nicholas Olsberg as Archivist of the Commonwealth. Olsberg, who served for eight years in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, will begin his duties on November 8.

He was chosen from 30 applicants after a six-month search by the 14-member Archives Advisory Commission, Deputy Secretary John McGlynn, and Secretary Guzzi. Olsberg succeeds Richard W. Hale, Jr., Archivist from 1961 to 1976, who died in February.

Olsberg's duties will include expansion of staff and services of the Archives Division, including Guzzi's proposal to construct a new archives building for Massachusetts.

KENTUCKY, IOWA ARCHIVISTS ORGANIZE REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The month of September saw the formation of two new archival organizations. Archivists from Kentucky met in Frankfort during the second week in September to discuss possible structures for a new organization. A steering committee was appointed with Lewis J. Bellardo of the Kentucky State Archives as chairman.

The Iowa Historical Materials Preservation Society was formed on September 18 at an organizational meeting in Ames. The society comprises archivists, curators, historians, genealogists, records managers, librarians and members of county and local historical societies. Toby Fishbein, Iowa State University, was elected President of the new group.

SAA AWARDS ANNOUNCED IN WASHINGTON

The Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes archival institutions whose outstanding work has brought credit to the profession, was awarded to the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University during SAA's recent 40th annual meeting. The Waldo Gifford Leland Prize, awarded to an outstanding published work, was presented to Kenneth W. Duckett for his book, *Modern Manuscripts: A Practical Manual for their Management, Care and Use*. Charles F. Hobson, of the Papers of James Madison, received the Philip M. Hamer Award, given annually to a junior editor who has done distinguished work on a documentary publication sponsored by NHPRC. The Sister M. Claude Lane Award, funded by the Society of Southwest Archivists, was given to August Suelflow, Director of the Concordia Historical Institute. The Lane Award recognizes accomplishment in the area of religious archives. Ghislaine Pleasonton of Louisiana State Museum and Edward L. Galvin, Winchester, Massachusetts town historian, were named as the 1976 recipients of the Colonial Dames of America scholarships.

NEH, NHPRC FUNDING GUIDELINES

Numerous archivists and curators have asked for clarification of the differences between the Records Grants Program of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the Collections Program of the Centers of Research Programs of the National Endowment for the Humanities. In response to these requests, Larry J. Hackman of NHPRC and Margaret Child of NEH have produced a paper describing some of the differences between the two programs. The guidelines were first distributed at a session on grants held at the SAA annual meeting in Washington. A copy may be obtained from Larry J. Hackman, NHPRC, National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. 20408.

THE WIZARD OF ID

by Brant parker and Johnny hart



The WIZARD OF ID by permission of John Hart and Field Enterprises, Inc.

Washington Watch

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Federal Records Management Amendments, passed by both houses of Congress and awaiting the President's signature at presstime, define the objectives of records management for the first time in federal legislation. The following goals were enumerated:

- 1) Accurate and complete documentation of the policies and transactions of the Federal Government.
- 2) Control of the quantity and quality of records produced by the Federal Government.
- 3) Establishment and maintenance of mechanisms of control with respect to records creation in order to prevent the creation of unnecessary records and with respect to the effective and economical operations of an agency.
- 4) Simplification of the activities, systems, and processes of records creation and of records maintenance and use.
- 5) Judicious preservation and disposal of records.
- 6) Direction of continuing attention to records from their initial creation to their final disposition, with particular emphasis on the prevention of unnecessary Federal paperwork.
- 7) Establishment and maintenance of such other systems or techniques as the Administrator considers necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, and chapters 21, 31, and 33 of this title.

The legislation defined records management as, "the planning, controlling, directing, organizing, training, promoting, and other managerial activities involved with respect to records creation, records maintenance and use, and records disposition."

WISCONSIN SCHOLAR WINS THOMSON PRIZE

The first annual Charles Thomson Prize, named for the secretary of the Continental Congress and the man who was thus in a sense the nation's first archivist, has been awarded to scholar Kenneth Bowling of Madison, Wisconsin. Bowling received \$250 for his article describing the efforts to remove the nation's capital from Philadelphia in 1783. The article was published in the fall issue of *Prologue*, the National Archives quarterly.

COPYRIGHT REVISION

The bill for the general revision of the copyright law was approved by Congress late in its 1976 session. The provisions of the act affecting the administration of archives and manuscripts remained essentially the same as those discussed by Barbara Ringer, Register of Copyrights, in the July *Newsletter* (p.4). Extensive educational materials for use by the archival profession will be developed by the Library of Congress before the major part of the law becomes effective in January, 1978.

TAX LAW

A provision in the 1976 tax law, approved by the Senate, which would have allowed tax deductions for donations to libraries and archives of some self-created materials, was deleted from the measure in conference. Indications are that reconsideration of similar legislation will be scheduled early in the next session.

CENSUS

Legislation supported by archivists and historians which would have written into law the present practice of releasing population census schedules after 75 years failed to be approved in the Senate after passage in the House.

ARMA/SAA JOINT COMMITTEE PLANNED; JOHNSON NAMED ARMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The governing councils of the Society of American Archivists and the Association of Records Managers and Administrators approved a proposal in October to establish an ARMA/SAA Joint Committee. The plan grew out of a meeting during SAA's Washington conference between ARMA President Artel Ricks, ICRM President William Rofes, SAA President Robert M. Warner, SAA Vice President Walter Rundell, Jr. and SAA Executive Director Ann Morgan Campbell. It is anticipated that appointments to the group will be announced soon by Ricks and Warner.

Edward N. Johnson, Chief of the Florida Bureau of Archives and Records Management, will assume the new post of ARMA executive director in January 1977. Johnson, an SAA fellow, will be assisted by Thomas Doyle, ARMA administrative manager.

Editor's Note: Walter Robertson, Jr., recently retired Executive Director of the National Archives and Records Service, presented an extraordinary paper at the 40th annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists. SAA Council authorized its publication in the *American Archivist* and ordered that the following preprint be published in this *Newsletter* in order that it might be available to members and other interested persons on a more timely basis.

NARS: THE POLITICS OF PLACEMENT

WALTER ROBERTSON, JR.

OCTOBER 1, 1976
WASHINGTON, D.C.

This morning I would like to share some thoughts with you about the placement of the national archival function within the Federal Government. As many of you know, I was with the National Archives from 1941 until my retirement 9 months ago, with the exception of my World War II military duty. During most of those years, I served as the administrative link between archivists and the staff and management offices of the parent agency, the General Services Administration. I came to know as well as anyone the successes and failures of the relationship between NARS and GSA. Since my retirement, I have had time to reflect on that relationship and to gather my thoughts together. I trust that you will forgive my lapses into the pronoun we; although retired, I still feel the associational pull of NARS.

Basically, I think that the National Archives and Records Service has been in trouble since GSA was set up in 1949, is in trouble now, and will continue that way as long as it is a part of GSA. We are not in trouble because we do not do our job—we are endangered because we are a stepchild in a conglomerate business-oriented agency that has never really understood our professional role or our program requirements.

I am convinced that the administrative placing of the National Archives within GSA was a misguided concept. The relationship as it has existed for 27 years has not worked, is not working now, and will not work in the future. A fundamental change is required, a change which will consist of these four elements at least:

1. The statutory authorities relating to substantive archival and records management programs now vested in the Administrator of General Services should be restored to the Archivist of the United States.
2. The method of appointment of the Archivist of the United States should be specified in law, providing for nomination by the President based upon a set of professional criteria and requiring confirmation by the Senate.
3. A governing body, such as a board of regents, should be created by statute to oversee NARS programs.
4. An annual report to be submitted by the Archivist of the United States should be a statutory requirement. That report should serve as a medium for the discussion of policies, principles and techniques of archival and records administration and as an accounting of the manner in which the nation's public records are managed.

I would like to review briefly the history of the National Archives, and its placement within GSA, and to show you why I think the current relationship cannot work.

The organizational placement of the National Archives and Records Service and the line of administrative authority over the Archivist of the United States have been matters of persistent debate since the early 1930's. When bills were first introduced to establish a National Archives, one of the first questions that arose was whether the proposed activity belonged in the legislative branch, either as a separate agency or in conjunction with the Library of Congress, or whether it should be established within the

executive branch, there again as an independent agency or as part of some larger department. It was recognized that either arrangement would create difficulties for a new archival institution in dealing independently and effectively with all units of the three branches of government, for they all created records.

The legislation finally enacted by the Congress in 1934 established the National Archives as an independent agency within the executive branch. The National Archives Act provided for both an independent Archivist of the United States, to be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and a National Archives Council, to be composed of representatives of both the executive and legislative branches. The council was to have the authority to establish regulations governing the transfer of records to the National Archives and to advise the Archivist on the disposition and use of records in his custody. Not a bad beginning! The National Archives Act certainly made clear its intent when it stated: All archives or records belonging to the government of the United States (legislative, executive, judicial, and other) shall be under the charge and superintendence of the Archivist. Thus in the beginning the need for an independent establishment straddling the conventional structure of government and having a degree of insulation from partisan influence was acknowledged by the Congress.

However, continuing efforts to improve government organization and administrative efficiency repeatedly threatened archival independence. In 1937, just three years later, an administrative review recommended that the National Archives be merged into a larger executive department. Again, in the early 1940's, examiners in the Bureau of the Budget (now called the Office of Management and Budget) questioned whether the National Archives should be absorbed elsewhere. Finally, in 1949 the highly effective Hoover Commission succeeded in subordinating the National Archives to the new and promising General Services Administration. For a number of reasons, not enumerated here, this loss of independence was inevitable.

In 1965, on the occasion of his retirement after 17 years as Archivist of the United States, Wayne Grover wrote to President Lyndon Johnson urging that the President and his staff consider reestablishing the independent status of the National Archives within the scheme of government. Grover wrote his letter during a period of relative tranquility for archival administration, but he predicted that partisan political affairs would arise to damage the integrity of the archival program, and he accurately spotted the program area likely to suffer. It may be of interest to this Society to know that Grover's main purpose in retiring was to devote his efforts to separating NARS from GSA. The letter to President Johnson was his opening salvo.

Following the impetus of Grover's letter, which was circulated to a select group but not published until recently, a joint committee on historians and archivists reviewed the status of the National Archives and published a report urging independence. The move for independence failed for two main reasons. First, analysts in the Bureau of the Budget were convinced that governmental administrative efficiency was best served by such vehicles as GSA: the

Budget Bureau gave a complete negative to the idea of independence. That bureau promised to study the proposal, and then had to be reminded by the White House 15 months later to perform that study. Second, NARS leadership could not accept independence at the price of breaking up the organizational components which reflected the "life cycle of records" concept. Still, the debate over the independence of NARS has continued, fired in recent years by some rather extraordinary examples of partisan abuse, and that debate has remained strung out between the two poles of administrative efficiency and the sanctity of the nation's documentary heritage.

From its beginnings in 1949, the principal organizational concept of GSA has been one of centralizing both program authority and the support services for all of its activities. Instead of permitting the several operating services (National Archives and Records Service, Public Buildings Service, Federal Supply Service, etc.) to function with some degree of autonomy, the centralized organizational concept placed extra layers of bureaucratic program control and support over the operating services. These operating services--including NARS--were not allowed to provide their own administrative support or to develop their own management to implement their programs. I contend that this organizational concept has subordinated NARS to a position within a business-oriented agency where the development of staff professionalism and the growth and stature of the National Archives as a cultural institution have been stunted and suppressed.

It is true that the early Administrators of General Services were supportive of Archivist Wayne Grover and even indulgent of their "little schoolteacher doctor" (a reference first made by Congressman Albert Thomas, chairman of the House Appropriations Sub-Committee, in relation to workshops in plain letters). But in spite of that indulgence the business management overlay of GSA was oppressive. To advance our programs, the NARS leadership had to thrash through a bureaucracy populated by management analysts, budget analysts, personnel specialists, and other administrative types who came to regard us as distant cousins at best. Their backgrounds and competencies in such areas as the construction and maintenance of public buildings, and the management of government supply systems, motor pools, and strategic stockpiles were simply not transferable to the institutional needs of the cultural and educational programs of NARS.

If the records management and records centers programs thrived during that early period--and they did--it was partly because these programs were the most readily understandable ones, and were more acceptable to the business service atmosphere of GSA. They were the programs which GSA could best appreciate and promote. But of the ability of the National Archives and Records Service generally to chart its own course, set its own priorities on professional bases, use its resources without unnecessary constraints, and build an institution of public identity and service, I must conclude that our institution has been seriously hampered by GSA's organizational concept.

It is instructive to note that, as early as 1953, GSA's operating officials recognized the adverse effect that the centralized management concept was having on the agency's programs. A committee was formed, with the blessing of the acting administrator of GSA and with Archivist Wayne Grover as its chairman. That committee made a valiant effort to decentralize to the operating services the central management and facilitative functions of GSA. Those functions were legal services, management analysis, budgeting, personnel management, public information, and printing and duplicating. But the committee's efforts were eventually defeated by GSA's strong central staff organization. Except for the decentralization of the budget function in very recent years, the GSA concept of central control and support has remained unchanged for 27 years.

Let me enumerate some results of the GSA concept.

1. GSA's central budget office was an extra layer of control

which encumbered and complicated the use of congressionally approved resources. Under the staff control system; the initial fund allotment and every change of allotment--in amounts even as small as \$500--required repeated reviews and approvals, and it took weeks to accomplish what could have been done in only a matter of hours. It became clear early in GSA's history that each operating service simply had to have its own staff competence to develop and control its own budget, and that the budget staff offices in GSA were duplicative and wasteful. Yet it took nearly 20 years to have a decentralized system accepted.

2. The accounting services in GSA have long been inept and always delinquent, in spite of the fact that we must rely upon them to keep our accounts. Their ineptness over the years has led our operating offices to develop their own "bootleg" accounting controls to assure a timely assessment of available resources.

3. The personnel services of GSA have been, during all the years of my career, a dismal failure. The personnel function has been poorly organized and staffed, unresponsive to the needs expressed by the operating services, and in recent years has become even counterproductive. Instead of functioning as a facilitative service, providing fast and effective recruitment and development of people, the personnel office has become an adversary. Whether or not its heavy-handedness is overcompensating from an era marked by its own dabbling in patronage is immaterial. I am compelled to say that GSA's personnel office now stands as an immovable obstacle to good program development.

4. During our years in GSA, NARS leadership has patiently tolerated the imposition of management systems and policies that are designed for a large, housekeeping, economy-type agency. We have been subjected to stopwatch work measurement programs, detailed management improvement reporting, repeated drives to attain unrealistic statistical goals in such areas as training activities or even savings bonds drives, and unwieldy constraints upon acquisition and use of equipment, data processing services, printing services, and so on. While activities of this sort are probably minimally necessary in any organization, they are a pre-occupation of GSA. They consume a great amount of attention and resources, but provide little benefit for our programs.

5. During most of our years in GSA, the quality of legal services has been atrocious. In the early years, Wayne Grover relied upon staff lawyers in the Federal Register because GSA's services were so bad. For several years we had virtually no legal services. I must add in fairness that the present legal staff in GSA is competent and responsive. But it has taken years to accomplish what we needed at the beginning. And we always know that, in any clash between the Archives and its parent agency, the lawyers are on their side.

6. In the area of public information services, GSA's tendency to control but not manage well has affected our contacts with the public and the Congress. Official policy required that all speeches, press releases, presentations, publications, and contacts with members of Congress be approved by GSA's staff information and Congressional liaison offices before promulgation. Luckily, the people at GSA have never fully understood certain archival programs, and they permit us to publish preliminary inventories and perform reference service without prior clearance. But the attempt to manage press relations has suffered its disasters. The prohibition against the development of contacts in the legislative branch has brought us, in my opinion, to a present state of sorry isolation and to a point of real hazard in which legislative action may impinge on our program without the exchange so necessary for good law, of information between legislators and professionals. For instance, GSA's legislative liaison staff failed to coordinate with NARS a review of the Privacy Act when it was being considered by Congress. Had we not discovered the lapse and taken quick action to amend the draft legislation, the act would probably have prevented the National Archives from making most of its rec-

ords available for research. We would have suffered an operational shutdown, thanks to GSA. And our own proposal for creation of a public documents commission was lost in the files at GSA. That commission would not exist today had not an extra copy of the proposal found its way to a member of Congress.

It is in part this long pattern of inept control and unresponsive service that led Wayne Grover in 1965 to recommend separating the National Archives and Records Service from GSA. I did not agree with Grover about separation at that time, but I certainly recognized the need for radical reform of our parent agency. Since 1965 things have not gotten better; they have gone from bad to worse.

During the administrations of Robert Kunzig and Arthur Sampson as Administrators of General Services, there was an insidious growth of political intrusion in archival matters. Bob Kunzig was appointed Administrator by Richard Nixon in 1969 and served until 1972 when he was appointed by the then President to the Court of Claims, where he remains a member. One has to have observed Bob Kunzig's style to believe it. His approach to management was a peculiar form of the conventional management by exception, but his style was closer to that of a tornado. He was indeed powerful and intimidating, and he moved GSA in a more partisan political direction than ever before in matters of both patronage and federal contracting expenditures. Although the archival program is not conducive to political intrusion in matters of either patronage or contracting, the Archivist found himself in an intensifying political crucible. In fairness to Kunzig and also to show Rhoads's great tolerance and versatility, I must add that the working relationship between the two men was satisfactory, but the political intrusion was always there.

When Arthur Sampson was named Administrator of General Services, the political intimidation of the Archivist of the United States came into full bloom, and the threat to the sanctity of our mission to preserve the nation's heritage became real. The members of our Society--and the entire American people--know the broad outlines of the abuses that occurred. I do not propose to describe them in detail; I shall only recall them to your minds and perhaps add some footnotes of interest.

1. The case of President Nixon's tax deduction and the fraudulent deed of gift for papers given to the National Archives has been aired and tried. At least one man has served time in jail, and the former President is under obligation to pay the related back taxes. My footnote is this: the deed of gift of questionable integrity was held by GSA lawyers for over a year and then returned to the White House legal staff. That deed was not delivered to NARS and therefore was never reviewed for acceptance or rejection by our professional program officials.

2. Later, after Richard Nixon's resignation, a formal agreement was signed concerning custody and partial destruction of Richard Nixon's tapes and other historical materials. You know the history--the agreement was unacceptable to the public and to the Congress, and a law was passed to preserve and protect the Nixon materials in permanent custody. My footnote is this: NARS staff had drafted the first version of that so-called agreement, and it was sound. Had Administrator Sampson consulted the Archivist before signing the agreement, we might have been able to correct the deficiencies in the final version and might have avoided a constitutional court battle whose solution no one can yet predict. But Sampson chose not to seek the advice and consultation of his program officers when he signed the infamous agreement. He was not forced to sign it; a deposition states that he was given the chance to consult, and that he declined.

3. Later, when the court suit began, Sampson again displayed a monumental distrust for his own program officials when he interposed a special personal representative to take custody and control of the Nixon presidential materials away from qualified archivists. Furthermore, he proposed at one time to disenfranchise the National Archives permanently from

managing the Nixon papers by creating a position entitled, "Special Archivist of the United States" answerable only to the Administrator of GSA. That arrangement was modified in the final proposal that went to Congress, but I can tell you this--Art Sampson left GSA last October with a public statement making perfectly clear that his departure was not voluntary. Yet it has taken GSA an additional nine months to remove Sampson's special representative from his peculiar function and restore to NARS its proper archival custody of the Nixon materials.

4. When Congress acted to seize the Nixon papers and GSA was obliged by law to draft implementing regulations, Sampson responded by creating a task force from among young management types in his staff offices; at first he ignored the need for representation on that task force by knowledgeable archivists. That lapse was corrected, and eventually regulations were produced that reflected the operational needs of archivists who would ultimately process the papers. A note of interest here is that the GSA staff continues to wrangle with congressional committees over disputed elements of those regulations, and they do so without the benefit of participation by archivists.

I have tried here to illustrate by examples, the negative results of the long association of NARS with GSA. In response to the argument for administrative efficiency, I say that the association has not worked and will not work. In answer to the question, "Does the Archives really need independence?" I say that the events of recent years have demonstrated beyond any doubt the real threat of political interference in the work of archivists whose mission is to preserve the nation's heritage. The National Archives and Records Service must get out of GSA, and the sooner the better.

I reach this conclusion with some reluctance, after a long career filled with personal associations over at GSA that I regard as friendly and pleasant. I would also add that the present regime in GSA under Administrator Jack Eckerd is a welcome return to sanity and stability. But that doesn't change the history and the demonstrated need for institutional independence. The political intimidation of the Archivist that I have described in this paper is a fault of the system. Grover felt it, Bahmer felt it, and so would any other man who held the job!

I come now to the most difficult part of this discussion about the politics of placement of the National Archives: to examine the alternatives and to present a recommendation. As a retired public servant who is still interested in NARS and in sound management, I should be able to reflect on my experience and come up with a solution. I am painfully aware that there is no easy solution--but a solution must be found, for we must change what had been a disappointing and damaging relationship. Keeping in mind that NARS had a close working relationship with all of the federal government in the managing and disposition of records, that we serve the academic and lay research communities, and that we are a growing educational and cultural service for the general public, it seems to me that we have several alternatives.

First of all, there is the prospect of becoming an independent agency within the executive branch. From the NARS point of view this probably is the most desirable solution. Surely with budget resources approaching 70 million dollars and staffing by over 3,000 persons, NARS would not be among the smallest of federal agencies. And it has the maturity and the experience to carry the administrative burden and maintain an effective regional network of archives branches and records centers, not to mention presidential libraries.

A second prospect is to locate the National Archives within the legislative branch. Both the Library of Congress and the General Accounting Office have demonstrated the possibilities of effective service and operational relationships with agencies in the executive branch. It is well to note that until only recently Congress retained unto itself the authority to dispose of federal records, an authority emanating from a provision of the Constitution

concerning control over government property.

A third prospect is an affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution. One of the alternatives in the Bureau of the Budget study of 1967 was to split NARS and transfer its cultural and educational activities to the Smithsonian. Some archivists have also advocated affiliation with that institution as more conducive to the development of archival programs. Certainly the commonality of historical and cultural elements between the two institutions makes this alternative worth considering seriously. But we should not agree to the functional split contained in the Bureau of the Budget study of 1967.

During this election year there has been a good deal of discussion of reorganization of the executive branch. Should this occur, perhaps a larger department could be created, a department representing the consolidation of smaller agencies whose functions are related primarily to culture and education. Some organizations that could be merged, for example, are the National Science Foundation, the Smithsonian, the Office of Education in HEW, the National Park Service, the National Academy of Sciences, and the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities. If such a merger were to take place, the National Archives and Records Service might very well find a home there.

I would say again that any of these prospects would work so long as the National Archives continued to deal with the full "life cycle of records." NARS may not need to serve as consultant to federal agencies in areas of general management, such as office landscaping and secretarial standards; others can do that. But we should continue to advise in files management, to act in records scheduling, to operate records centers, and to appraise and preserve the permanently valuable records of the United States.

I would say also that any of these prospects could work if the four essential elements for a sound National Archives are present. To recapitulate, they are:

1. Return of statutory authority relating to archival programs to the Archivist of the United States.
2. Appointment of the Archivist, as a matter of law, by the President and with Senate confirmation, and based upon a set of professional criteria.
3. Creation by statute of a governing body to oversee National Archives programs.
4. Submission by the Archivist of an annual report, to be required by law.

The Public Documents Commission is now midway through its term and has indicated that it will examine the question of the proper organizational location of the National Archives within the framework of government. I trust that the Public Documents Commission in its review will take note of the growing consensus among professional organizations that the National Archives ought to be established as an independent and nonpolitical authority within the national government. Resolutions have been passed by the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the American Library Association, the Council of the Society of American Archivists, and the American Assembly. Now is the time for Congress and the Executive to take the steps that will rectify the organizational mistake made in 1949 and restore to the National Archives the pride of its profession and a high standing among the cultural institutions of the world.

RESOLUTION

Approved by the Council of the Society of American Archivists, October 1, 1976, Washington, D.C.

Whereas, actions of a recent Administrator of General Services presented a real threat to the integrity of the nation's archival heritage and demonstrated the need for the national archival system to be protected from political intrusion, and

Whereas, the National Archives establishment was subordinated to the General Services Administration by the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 as one means of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the executive branch of government, and

Whereas, the passage of 27 years under this administrative arrangement has not proven efficient and effective, but rather inefficient and burdensome,

Therefore be it resolved, that the Council of the Society of American Archivists strongly recommends that the National Archives should be re-established as an independent authority to guide the administration of records throughout the United States Government and to preserve and make accessible the permanently valuable archives of the United States of America. Independence should insure the following four conditions, as enunciated by Walter Robertson, the recently retired Executive Director of NARS whose service in that agency dated from 1941 (in his paper on "NARS: The Politics of Placement):

- "1. Return to the Archivist of the United States statutory authority relating to archival programs.
2. Appointment of the Archivist, as a matter of law, by the President and with Senate confirmation, and based upon a set of professional criteria.
3. Creation by statute of a governing body to oversee National Archives programs.
4. Submission of an annual report by the Archivist to be required by law."

If the agencies of governmental re-organization should preclude independence for NARS, the Council insists that it is vital that the four foregoing conditions prevail for NARS, whatever the administrative arrangement.

Be it further resolved that the Council of the Society of American Archivists communicate this resolution to the National Study Commission on Records and Documents of Federal Officials.

Editor's Note: It was learned at presstime that this resolution had also been approved by the Western History Association and by the New Harmony Conference (see page 13).

NEW HARMONY CONFERENCE ON ACCESS TO PAPERS OF RECENT AMERICAN PUBLIC FIGURES

An invitational conference sponsored by the AHA/OAH/SAA Joint Committee on Historians and Archives on access to papers of recent American public figures was held in New Harmony, Indiana, October 20-21. Support for the conference was furnished by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Conferees directed their attention to three major themes: What are the rules governing access to the papers of public figures? How are they administered? What changes are needed?

Issues discussed emphasized the serious problems faced in the administration of historical materials: Does the public possess a "right to know" all significant details of the careers of public leaders, especially if they are elected politicians or government officials? Do contemporary historical figures possess a "right of privacy" that goes beyond the intimate details of their personal lives and extends to areas of their careers? In what cases, if at all, should documents be withheld because of the possibility of embarrassment to living persons? Is it possible to write authoritative contemporary history without relatively complete access to the papers of the individuals involved in the historian's research? What are the implications of complete access for the continued gathering of a documentary record? Would it cause manuscript sources to "dry up"? Should archivists therefore solicit restrictions and assume a cautious posture in administering them? To what extent do the interests of the historian and the archivist diverge? Do they serve different constituencies? Do they have different objectives?

The conference had been taking shape for nearly two years. It originated in the complaints of some scholars about donor restrictions and the ways in which they were administered by archivists. The Joint Committee decided that it should sponsor an event at which archivists, researchers, journalists and other interested parties discussed the broad issues raised in the original complaints voiced by the historians.

Panel participants and the topics addressed at New Harmony included: The Problems in Overview-Richard W. Leopold, Northwestern University; Alonzo L. Hamby, Ohio University; Philip P. Mason, Wayne State University. Access and the Law-Ann Morgan Campbell, Society of American Archivists; James E. O'Neill, National Archives and Records Service; Edward Weldon, State Archives of New

York; Allen Weinstein, Smith College; Richard G. Hewlett, Energy Research and Development Administration. Donor Restrictions and Access-Rodman Paul, California Institute of Technology; Daniel J. Reed, National Archives and Records Service; John C. Broderick, Library of Congress; Ellis W. Hawley, University of Iowa; Barton J. Bernstein, Stanford University; Richard S. Kirkendall, Organization of American Historians; Edmund Berkeley Jr., University of Virginia; Regina McGranery, Washington, D.C.; and Blanche Wiesen Cook, City University of New York.

Although conference participation was restricted to about fifty people, due to the limited capacity of the site, the results will be widely disseminated. Resolutions approved will be distributed immediately. The papers presented and some of the discussion that they provoked will be published with Alonzo Hamby and Edward Weldon serving as co-editors.

NHPRC GRANTS \$41,395 FOR RECORDS PROJECTS

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission met in Washington on September 13 to review grant proposals and to clarify Commission policies relating to its programs. Records grants approved in September were:

\$8,800 to the Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation to survey and prepare recommendations for the preservation and use of the historical records of the seven railroads which were absorbed into the ConRail system last April.

\$12,580 to the Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas, for the preservation and processing of deteriorating archival and manuscript collections relating to the economic and social development of Galveston and the Southwest.

\$17,120 to the Nevada Historical Society for a survey of records relating to Nevada during its territorial period, 1850-1864. A guide to the records identified will be published as a special issue of the *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*.

\$2,895 to the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan for the reproduction on tape of deteriorating glass disc recordings. The glass discs record two important public policy discussion programs, "In Our Opinion," and "World Neighbors," which were broadcast on station WJR in Detroit from 1942 to 1955.

SENATORS TELL PLANS FOR DEPOSIT OF THEIR PAPERS

The Historical Office of the United States Senate recently surveyed current senators to determine what plans, if any, they had made for the preservation of their papers. Of the 93 senators who responded to Historian Richard A. Baker, 49 had already made definite arrangements or were in the process of considering alternatives.

Alabama Allen-no plans; Sparkman-Univ. of Alabama Library.
Alaska Gravel-Univ. of Alaska, probably; Stevens-Univ. of Alaska.
Arizona Fannin-Arizona State Univ.; Goldwater-Goldwater Library, to be built.
Arkansas Bumpers-no plans; McClellan-Ouachita Baptist Univ.
California Cranston-either Stanford or Univ. of California; Tunney-no plans.
Colorado Hart-no plans; Haskell-no response.
Connecticut Ribicoff-John F. Kennedy Library; Weicker-Connecticut State Library, probably.
Delaware Biden-no plans; Roth-no plans.
Florida Chiles-Univ. of Florida Law School; Stone-no plans.
Georgia Nunn-Emory Univ., Atlanta, probably; Talmadge-Univ. of Georgia.
Hawaii Fong-his own library, to be built; Inouye-no plans.
Idaho Church-either Univ. of Idaho or Stanford; McClure-no plans.
Illinois Percy-no plans; Stevenson-no plans.
Indiana Bayh-no plans; Hartke-no response.
Iowa Clark-no plans; Culver-no plans.
Kansas Dole-no plans; Pearson-either Univ. of Kansas or Kansas State Historical Society.
Kentucky Ford-no plans; Huddleston-no plans.
Louisiana Johnston-no plans; Long-Louisiana State Univ., probably.
Maine Hathaway-no response; Muskie-Bates College.
Maryland Beall-no plans; Mathias-no plans.
Massachusetts Brooke-no response; Kennedy-John F. Kennedy Library.
Michigan Griffin-no plans; Hart-Univ. of Michigan.
Minnesota Humphrey-Minnesota Historical Society; Mondale-no plans.
Mississippi Eastland-Univ. of Mississippi; Stennis-John C. Stennis Library at the Univ. of Mississippi.
Missouri Eagleton-no plans; Symington-Univ. of Missouri
Montana Mansfield-Univ. of Montana; Metcalf-Montana Historical Society.
Nebraska Curtis-Nebraska State Historical Society; Hruska-Nebraska State Historical Society.

Nevada Cannon-Univ. of Nevada, Reno, probably; Laxalt-no plans.
New Hampshire Durkin-no response; McIntyre-no plans.
New Jersey Case-Rutgers Univ.; Williams-no plans.
New Mexico Domenici-Univ. of New Mexico; Montoya-Univ. of New Mexico, probably.
New York Buckley-no plans; Javits-a univ. library to be announced.
North Carolina Helms-Univ. of East Carolina; Morgan-no response.
North Dakota Burdick-Univ. of North Dakota; Young-Univ. of North Dakota.
Ohio Glenn-Library of Congress; Taft-no plans.
Oklahoma Bartlett-no plans; Bellmon-Oklahoma State Univ.
Oregon Hatfield-no plans; Packwood-no plans.
Pennsylvania Schweiker-no plans; Scott-unannounced univ.
Rhode Island Pastore-Providence College; Pell-Univ. of Rhode Island.
South Carolina Hollings-no plans; Thurmond-no plans.
South Dakota Abourezk-no plans; McGovern-unannounced university library.
Tennessee Baker-no plans; Brock-no plans.
Texas Bentsen-no plans; Tower-Southwestern Univ.
Utah Garn-no plans; Moss-Univ. of Utah.
Vermont Leahy-Vermont State Historical Society; Stafford, Univ. of Vermont.
Virginia Byrd-no plans; Scott-no plans.
Washington Jackson-no plans; Magnuson-a state univ., probably.
West Virginia Byrd-no plans; Randolph-Davis & Elkins College.
Wisconsin Nelson-Wisconsin State Historical Society; Proxmire-Wisconsin State Historical Society.
Wyoming Hansen-Univ. of Wyoming, Laramie, probably; McGee-no plans.

COMMENT ON THE SAA CONSTITUTION!

The SAA national office solicits letters from members who wish to propose changes in the SAA Constitution. Selected letters will be published in a COMMENTARY section in the January *SAA Newsletter*. Because space is limited and a diversity of opinion is desired, contributors are encouraged to be concise. The right to condense or omit letters is reserved. The deadline for submissions is December 13. (The current constitution was printed in the March 1976 *SAA Newsletter*. A committee is studying proposals for its revision.)

SAA CONVENES IN SALT LAKE CITY OCTOBER 4-7, 1977

The 1977 SAA annual meeting logo recalls a milestone in Mormon history when Salt Lake Valley pioneers were saved from starvation by seagulls who appeared and devoured the hordes of crickets that were destroying vital crops in 1848. The seagull is the state bird of Utah and still very much a part of life on the Great Salt Lake.

Headquarters for the 41st annual meeting will be the Hotel Utah, located on Temple Square near many monuments of Mormon history. The elegant building is on the National Register of Historic Sites and has recently been completely refurbished. The exterior of the new construction was done in the same material and in the same style as the older sections of the hotel. A recent feature in the *New York Times* noted, "the resplendent Hotel Utah remains a classic Western hostelry and a recent influx of good restaurants has injected a more worldly flavor."

Next year's meeting will offer more than an opportunity to become acquainted with facets of Western history. From virtually any spot in the Salt Lake basin, one can look in every direction at the Rocky Mountains, the other theme of the logo. Registrants will have opportunities to enjoy and explore the city's incomparable natural surroundings.

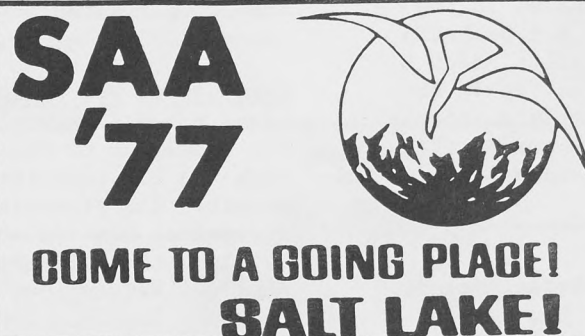
Meeting participants will be able to hear the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir. The local arrangements committee is also considering the possibility of staging a buffalo barbeque for visiting archivists, as well as planning an event at Snowbird, one of America's finest ski resorts whose exciting aerial tramway runs yearlong up to Hidden Peak's unsurpassed view from 11,000 feet.

Jay M. Haymond, Utah State Historical Society, chairs the 1977 local arrangements committee. He will be assisted by: Judith Austin, Idaho State Historical Society; Ted Powell, LDS Genealogical Society; Sharon Pugsley, University of Utah; Donald Schmidt, LDS Church Historical Department; Hollis Scott, Brigham Young University; and A. Jeff Simmonds, Utah State University.

SAA's 1977 Program Committee is meeting in Salt Lake City December 9-10 to draft preliminary plans for next year's annual meeting. The committee invites the suggestions of members for program sessions surrounding the general theme of the archivist as a professional--in areas such as education, accreditation, standards, ethics, and professional obligations and priorities. Suggestions must be received by December 1 in order to be considered. The suggestions should be addressed to the chairperson of the committee C. Herbert Finch, Cornell University Libraries, Ithaca, New York 14850. Andrea Hinding, University of Minnesota is vice-chairperson. Committee members are Judith Austin, Idaho Historical Society; Richard C. Berner, University of Washington; Anne Caiger, University of California at Los Angeles; George C. Chalou, National Archives and Records Service; Charles C. Colley, Arizona State University; Margaret S. Henson, Southwest Center for Urban Research;

William L. Joyce, American Antiquarian Society; Julian L. Mims, South Carolina Department of Archives and History; and Trudy H. Peterson, National Archives and Records Service. Ex officio members of the committee are SAA President Robert Warner, Executive Director Ann Morgan Campbell, Editor C.F.W. Coker, 1976 Program Chairperson Elsie

F. Freivogel, 1977 Local Arrangements Chairman Jay M. Haymond, and 1978 Program Chairman Edward C. Papenfuse.



FALL MEETINGS

November 19-20 Society of Georgia Archivists/ Georgia State University Archives and Records Workshop. Contact Yvonne Chrimes, Division of Public Service, GSU, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

November 22-23 Tennessee Archivists meeting, emphasis on archival security. Contact Linda Bauch, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee 37219. (615) 741-3376.

December 29 SAA/AHA luncheon, Washington, D.C. See page 3, column 2.



New York, New York The American Bankers Association took pains to announce that in testimony before the Commission on Federal Paperwork it had held its statement to a single sheet of paper. The press release summarizing the presentation required two pages. And in relation to this...not everyone applauds the mission of the Commission. James H. Boren of the International Society of Professional Bureaucrats, noted that his group was concerned that the commission might "attack the paper we love and in which we nestle, but we are no longer concerned since we realize that we can produce more paper faster than they are able to implement their nondirective projection of paper residuation." Boren is the author of "When in Doubt, Mumble."

Denver, Colorado The Bill M. Woods first annual award for the outstanding paper in the Special Libraries Geography and Map Bulletin for 1975 was presented to SAA member Ralph E. Ehrenberg for his article, "Cartographic Archives: A Perspective." The article appears in Bulletin 99, March 1975. The award was presented during the Special Library Association's 1976 conference.

Key Biscayne, Florida The amenities included in a real estate ad in a recent *Law Journal* included "presidential library for conferences, magnificent site, 265' waterfront." If you've got a taste for what the current owner calls "unique historical value" and \$685,000, Richard Nixon's former home, complete with "presidential library," has been put on the market.

Prague, Czechoslovakia A London newspaper reported that Milan Hlavsa, the founder of two rock music groups, will go on trial with the eighteen members of both groups for creating a public disturbance. The lyrics of one of their songs chides the rulers of Czechoslovakia, noting that they are afraid of many things including tennis players, girl gymnasts, Santa Claus and--you guessed it--archives.

Waltham, Massachusetts The John F. Kennedy Library and the Combined Life Insurance Companies of Massachusetts co-sponsored a five week series of exhibitions, films, and discussions designed to give the public an insider's view of campaigns and a historical perspective on the candidates and issues of

recent presidential elections. "The Race for the White House" was presented as a free public service in a number of Massachusetts cities during the fall.

Prudhoe Bay, Alaska There is nothing wrong with the Alaska pipeline that a little paperwork won't patch up. Indeed, some of the welders on the project are complaining that paperwork--not pipe--is their biggest headache. Each weld required eleven pieces of paperwork and unless the paperwork is completed, the weld is considered defective.

Washington, D.C. Because of Congress' election year freeze on pay raises for top government officials, 275 federal executives, including the Archivist of the United States, now earn less than some 20,000 of their subordinates.

Farmington, New Mexico Eighty New Mexico citizens recently traveled to Mexico City to ask the President of Mexico to help in their dispute with the U.S. Government over old Spanish land grants. The protesters claim that the U.S. government has violated the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the agreement which ended the Mexican American War in 1848. The petitioners allege that the legality of Spanish land grants have not been respected. Mexican President Echeverria indicated that he might ask the United Nations to consider the claim.

Washington, D.C. In his 14th or 15th year, a future President compiled a list of "Rules of Civility & Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation" which included the sage advice, "Shake not the head, Feet or Legs, rowl not the Eys, lift not one eyebrow higher than the other...and bedew no man's face with your Spittle...." George Washington is one of many notables whose manuscripts are shown in an exhibit, "The Child: Manuscripts To, From, and About Children," in the Reading Room of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress from October through December.

Manuscripts of other future Presidents include a sheet from 15-year-old Abraham Lincoln's self-made arithmetic book on the corner of which he rhymed: "Abraham Lincoln, his hand and pen, he will be good but god knows When."

RAILROAD PROJECT SEEKS ARCHIVAL ASSISTANCE

NHPRC is funding a survey of the endangered records of the seven eastern railroads which were absorbed into ConRail in April. The immediate goal is to develop a working inventory of present storage areas which stretch from Cleveland to New Haven.

Project director Richmond D. Williams; Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, Greenville, Delaware 19807, seeks two types of help. The first is personnel to work with his staff on the survey; the second is storage space for railroad records. Williams is hopeful that interested institutions will want to have a first hand look at the records and thus will supply staff members. The grant provides expense money for staff.

The project, while seeking an overall view of the location and nature of extant railroad records, will be testing and perfecting appraisal techniques developed by the Minnesota Historical Society.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA -- SAA COUNCIL DECEMBER 28-29, 1976, WASHINGTON, D.C.

- I. President's Report
 - A. SAA '78-Salt Lake City
 - B. Other
- II. Vice President's Report
- III. Treasurer's Report
- IV. Executive Director's Report
 - A. Proposed 1977-78 Budget
 - B. Public Documents Commission
 - C. Other
- V. Editor's Report
 - A. NHPRC Manual Series
 - B. Religious Archives Reader
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Site Selection-SAA '81 and '82
 - B. SAA Archives/History Project
 - C. Constitutional Revision
 - D. Selection of Fellows-Report of Professional Standards Committee
- VII. New Business
 - A. Guidelines toward a Curriculum for Graduate Archival Training
 - B. Proposed Committee on Ethics of Collecting



"Harrison isn't giving his papers to anybody."

Drawing by Richter; c 1976
The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

CORPORATE ARCHIVIST-HISTORIAN, Monarch Machine Tool Company. M.A. or Ph.D. in Amer. history, archival exper., and research and writing exper. in business history necessary. Responsibilities include preparing a corporate history, establishing a corporate archives, and some related public relations activity. Send resume to Joy Showalter, Monarch Machine Tool Company, Sidney, Ohio 45365 by December 1, 1976.

BUSINESS ARCHIVIST to supervise corporate archives, museum and records center. Protect, collect and exhibit objects and documents of historical significance for public and employee informational needs. Contact George H. Southworth, Corning Glass Works, Corning, New York 14830.

ARCHIVIST III for major appointment in Walter P. Reuther Archives, Wayne State University. Duties include collecting and donor relations, special projects, publications and special events. 5 yrs. relevant exper. required, Ph.D. preferred. Salary negotiable. For information contact Philip P. Mason, Director, Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, 5401 Cass Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48202.

DIRECTOR, WILLIAM L. CLEMENTS LIBRARY, University of Michigan. Director sought to manage major library of rare Americana. Applicant must have strong background in Amer. history, especially pre-1865. Ph.D. in Amer. history, exper. with rare books and mss., administrative exper. desired. Send applications/nominations to Frederick H. Wagman, Chairman of the Search Committee, 816 Hatcher Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109.

ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST, NYU ARCHIVES OFFICE. Primary resp. will involve teaching archival management and supervising student interns in a graduate-level training program. Substantial graduate work in history, archival exper. required. The position which is funded for one year by an NEH grant, will begin February 1, 1977 as a half-time eleven month appointment. Grant period may be extended. Salary approximately \$7,000. Send resume to Professor Thomas Bender, Department of History, 19 University Place, New York University, New York, New York 10003.

LIBRARIAN, professional entry level position immediately avail. with the Archives, History and Genealogy Unit of the Connecticut State Library. M.L.S. degree required. M.A. in history preferred. Starting annual salary \$9,419. Extensive fringe benefit package included. Submit resume to David Peck, Personnel Officer, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06115.

LIBRARIAN-ARCHIVIST for one year project beginning January 1. Project consists of preparing annotated checklist of materials dealing with Nevada as a territory, 1850-1864. Qualifications: MLS, exper. in archival management, familiarity with Nevada history, publication credit of booklength indexes or guides to ms. collections. Requires moderate travel outside Nevada. Salary \$12,000. Contact Nevada Historical Society, 1650 North Virginia, Reno, Nevada 89503.

INSTITUTE ARCHIVIST, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY to be resp., under Director of Libraries, for administration of archives, mss., personal papers, oral history and rare books. Duties include physical and bibliographical organization of collections, reference service, preparation of guides, inventories and exhibitions. Resp. for identification and acquisition of new collections, implementation of Institute policy on collection and preservation, development of policy manual on access. Requirements: 5 yrs. archival exper. with emphasis on history of recent science and technology, preferably late 19th/early 20th century U.S.; MLS or equivalent exper. Ph.D. in history of technology or science desirable. Avail. January 1; salary \$16,000. Send resume and the names of three references to Jay K. Lucker, Director of Libraries, Room 14S-216, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. (617) 253-5651.

COORDINATOR OF COLLECTIONS, COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION RESEARCH CENTER. Duties include selection of new books and periodicals for Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and Research Library, general coordination of Research Center which includes specialized reference library in support of large histl. archives. Applicant must be trained historian with MLS and archival experience. Competitive salary and benefits. Apply immediately to Cary Carson, Director of Research, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Drawer C, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185. (804) 229-1000 x.2278.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

DIRECTOR, STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN. Resp. to Board of Curators for total operation comprising Amer. history library; state archives and mss. collection; traditional histl. museum, six historic sites, and outdoor museum; research and publication programs. Will serve as State Historic Preservation Officer. Staff--150 permanent, 140 seasonal, 35 students. Significant academic achievement in Amer. history. Ph.D. desirable. Demonstrated management exper.; histl. agency administration preferred. Salary \$27,456 to \$38,448 plus fringe benefits. Apply to William Huffman, President, State Histl. Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

ARCHIVIST, to plan, organize and develop a comprehensive archival collection for The University of Texas Medical Branch. Duties will include cataloging the collection, as well as administering the department and collaborating with other University divisions. Background and exper. with histl. materials required. MLS degree preferred. Salary negotiable. Apply to Director, Moody Medical Library, The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas 77550.

It is assumed that all employers listing positions in this section are in compliance with Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Regulations.

CANDIDATES

Request resumes from the executive director.

B.A. in HISTORY; M.A. in WESTERN AMERICAN STUDIES: six month internship at Federal Archives and Records Center. Archival exper. includes assisting in the establishment of a municipal archives; also teaching and research exper. Seeks entry level position in govt., univ. or private industry in archives/ms. management. Avail. immediately. Willing to relocate. A-322.

M.A. in AMERICAN HISTORY seeks position in archives/ms. collection or histl. society. Exper. in establishing archives dealing with scientific/technical materials. Course in archival administration, exper. in univ. archives with ms. collections. Archival internship at regional records center; exper. in preparation of finding aids, reference and research. 11 yrs. teaching exper. through college level. Willing to relocate. Avail. April 1, 1977. A-341.

POSITION as ARCHIVIST desired. 2 yrs. federal archival exper. Ph.D. in Russian/Soviet and European history, M.A. in American history. Numerous publications and papers in archival/histl. fields. Reading knowledge of Russian, German, French, and other East European languages. 8 yrs. teaching exper. Avail. immediately. A-338.

PH.D. in MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY with certificate in archival administration seeks position in archives management, or in histl. editing and research. Presently employed at research institute in Israel. 3 yrs. exper. in archives management, with specialization in arrangement and description of public and private archives. U.S. citizen. Willing to relocate to any location in U.S. A-342.

COUNCIL SETS POLICY FOR PLACEMENT SERVICE

In an action taken October 1, the SAA Council determined that the Society's placement service will be made available only to individual members of the Society and to employers. Prior to the council's action, non-members were allowed to submit their resumes for the files of the placement service, and to advertise as candidates in the *Newsletter* for a fee of \$5.00 per issue.

As in the past, SAA members may participate in the placement service by submitting their resumes to the office of the executive director. Resumes will be kept on file for one year unless otherwise requested. Members may advertise their availability in the "Candidates" section of the *SAA Newsletter* by submitting their listing to the office of the executive director prior to the copy deadline of the issue in which the announcement is to appear. Candidates who wish their announcement to appear in more than one issue of the *Newsletter* should re-submit the copy each time the announcement is to be included. Copy will be edited to conform to the style of the *Newsletter*.

Employers are encouraged to advise the office of the executive director of professional vacancies. Upon receipt of a vacancy announcement, the placement service will forward resumes of qualified candidates. Employers are welcome to advertise openings in the "Professional Opportunities" section of the *Newsletter*. There is no charge for this service.

The *SAA Newsletter* is published in January, March, May, July, September and November. Deadline for the next issue is December 13.

SAA Newsletter

Ann Morgan Campbell, Executive Director (312) 996-3370
Society of American Archivists, The Library, Post Office Box 8198
University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, Chicago, Illinois 60680

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... AND MORE

TIME VALUE MAIL

ARCHIVAL TOUR TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA PLANNED

Preliminary negotiations are being conducted between the People's Republic of China and the Society of American Archivists for a proposed study tour to China. An invitation may be extended for twenty SAA members to visit Chinese institutions and repositories. It is hoped that a 21-day trip will be arranged in spring 1977. The estimated cost is approximately \$2800. The People's Republic has requested that vitas of those members proposed for the trip be submitted to Peking in the near future. The SAA's list of possible participants will be compiled on the basis of the order in which the vitas are received by the executive director's office.

Since the first announcement of the opportunity was made at the September 30 annual business meeting in Washington, a number of vitas have been received by the International Archival Affairs Committee and the executive director's office.

Additional members who wish to make the trip should provide their vita as soon as possible to the executive director's office.

SAA PUBLISHES NEW EDUCATION DIRECTORY

An updated edition of the Society's popular *Education Directory* was published in August 1976. The current volume contains 17 listings of institutions offering multi-course offerings, 23 listings of single course offerings and 9 listings for institutes and internships. Joyce E. Gianatasio, assistant to the SAA executive director, compiled the listings. The publication includes an introductory essay on archival careers.

Financial contributions to defray the cost of printing the *Directory* were made by the University of Alberta, the George C. Marshall Research Foundation, the Georgia Department of Archives and History/Emory University, Palmer Graduate Library School of Long Island University, Public Archives of Canada/University of Ottawa, Dolores C. Renze, and Wright State University.

One copy of the new publication is available free of charge to individuals and institutions requesting it. A charge of 25¢ each will be made for quantity orders which must be paid in advance. Address requests to the executive director's office.