THE ACTIVIST ARCHIVIST: A REEVALUATION

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Gregory A. Stiverson

TODAY'S ACTIVIST ARCHIVISTS
A MODERATE VIEW
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GEORGIA ARCHIVE is published semiannually by the Society of Georgia Archivists. Annual membership categories effective with the 1977 membership year are: Regular, $7.50; Contributing, $15.00; Sustaining, $30.00; Patron, more than $30.00. Institutional subscriptions are $7.00 annually. Single issues, where available, are $3.00 for members and $3.50 for non-members.

Correspondence and manuscripts should be addressed to: The Editors, GEORGIA ARCHIVE, Box 261, Georgia State University. Books for review should be sent to: Ellen Neal, Book Review Editor, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library 024-A, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514.

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Activism among archivists has been a subject of heated debate for over ten years. Sparked by the political turmoil of the 1960s, the controversy surrounding this issue continues today with such basic questions as what constitutes activism and what activities should concern activists still unanswered. Yet in our profession where so much remains to be done, both in exploring the records we already have and in assuring the availability of significant records from and for present and future generations, we must be selective in the deployment of our preciously scant resources and energies. The following trilogy of articles represents our profession's most recent attempt to define activism and to establish clear priorities for ourselves as archivists in a changing world. Originally given as presentations during the 1976 Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, these articles identify a number of concerns ranging from the proper orientation for archival collecting and finding aids policies to the moral dilemma facing archivists within a struggling society.

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