January 1989

Provenance VII, Issue 3, Special Issue on SGA 20 Years

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SGA

GEORGIA ARCHIVE
volume X, number
fall, 1982

PROVENANCE
volume VII, number 1

Setting the Record Straight Since 1969

GEORGIA ARCHIVE

SGA NEWSLETTER
Society of Georgia Archivists

The Society of Georgia Archivists

NEWSLETTER
November 1971

sga society of georgia archivists
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20 years in celebration
1969-1989

Setting the Record Straight since 1969
This souvenir issue of the Society of Georgia Archivists is respectfully dedicated to the founding and charter members. We continue to benefit from the association you helped form in 1969.
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Foreword

SGA, 1969-1989

Twenty years of active service is a long time for an archival organization. Those of us active in 1989 appreciate SGA as a way to maintain professional friendships, learn about the archival profession, and help train and retrain fellow archivists. Certainly SGA is convenient—meetings are never more than six hours from home (and usually no more than one to two hours), are reasonably priced, and seldom last for more than two days. More importantly, the meetings, journal, and newsletter have substantive information which is important to all of us. The fact that SGA has been doing this for twenty years makes its contributions to archival development in Georgia and the South all the more impressive.

As incoming president in 1989, I knew immediately that the focus of my tenure would be the twentieth anniversary. With the assistance of Tony Dees, chair of the Twentieth Anniversary Committee, and Sheryl Vogt, editor of Provenance, the basic structure of this special issue began to come together. This journal should provide an avenue to reflect on the past as the society enters its third decade.
We tried to include as much as possible about the society in this issue. More information and a complete set of the publications can be found in the archives of the society at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. Any omissions are my own—either caused by oversight or by not digging far enough into the society’s records.

Kaye Lanning Minchew
President

********

Twentieth Anniversary Committee

Anthony R. Dees, chair
Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.
Brenda S. Banks
Virginia J. H. Cain
Linda M. Matthews
Jane Powers Weldon
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Present at Creation: The Founding of the Society of Georgia Archivists

Lee Alexander, James Morton, Edward Weldon, and Carroll Hart
Moderator: Sheryl Vogt

Spring Meeting, Savannah, May 19, 1989 (EDITED)

As we envisioned this session, our panel would discuss what brought them together, why they felt the need to organize; what they envisioned for SGA as a professional organization; how did they view its development; how they have viewed its development over the last few years; and what they would like to see for its future. Then, we thought that following some discussion about our beginning, it would be a very valuable exercise for those of us here to have a forum to explore development for SGA and what we, as a group, would like to have come from our organization.

I am going to begin by introducing our panel, all of whom are charter members of SGA. Then, I will spend a couple of minutes talking about creation, presenting our creation according to the official record as it has been recorded and put in our SGA archives.
Lee Alexander began her archival work as an assistant in the Manuscripts Department, 1941-46, at Duke University and continued in Atlanta with the historical society in 1954. She was curator of manuscripts there from 1965 to 1969, and then she became archivist at Atlanta University from 1969 until her retirement in 1983. She was a member of the advisory board for the Library Documentation Center at Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for 1974-75 and was a consultant for their archives project for 1976-1983. She was also project director for an NHPRC grant for processing the archives of the Southern Regional Council from 1978 to 1979, and she served on the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board from 1981 to 1983. Supposedly retired, Lee is now working as a volunteer archivist for three Savannah organizations.

Jim Morton began his archival work in 1965 at the state archives working with educational services. He was a liaison for the public in their introduction to archival services. In 1970-71 he was museum curator for the Atlanta Historical Society, and after that, he began doing freelance museum design all over the state, doing design for Madison/Morgan Cultural Center, exhibits for the Massey School, designs for the Thomasville Cultural Center, St. Simons Maritime Museum at the Lighthouse, and working with Historic Savannah Foundation. While he was doing this freelance design, he said he was earning his money from the Arthur Smith Antiques here in Savannah. Jim is also a resident of Savannah.

Ed Weldon was our first president of SGA in 1969, and he was also president for the term 1970-71. At that time, he was working with National Archives Regional Branch in Atlanta, and in 1971, he moved to National Archives in Washington, D.C., where he worked until 1975. During that time, he was editor
of *The American Archivist*. He left National Archives to go to New York State Archives for the next five years, and then he returned to Washington to become deputy archivist of the United States. We are very fortunate that in 1982 he came back to Georgia and became director of the Georgia Department of Archives and History at a time when he was also president of the Society of American Archivists. Ed was one of two former presidents of SGA to become president of the Society of American Archivists. We are very proud of that.

There has been a lot of mention made of a paper I did three years ago for the Society of American Archivists meeting about our relationship as a regional with the national society. One good thing, I think, that came out of that paper was a reflective look at where we have been as a society, and this has given us cause to think about what we are doing and where we want to go.

(See *The Society of Georgia Archivists: Twenty Years of Meeting Archival Needs in Georgia.*)

We had also hoped that Carroll Hart, a founding member, would be able to join us, but she was not. She did want to share some thoughts with you, and she brought to me a few pages of notes. Carroll Hart was director of the Georgia Department of Archives and History from 1964 to 1982. Carroll wrote:

I regret that I cannot be with you at this meeting. It would be such fun to reminisce about the early years of the Society of Georgia Archivists.

I would like to thank you again for the certificate of merit you gave me in May 1982. It hangs now in my study and reminds me of all the work the society is
continuing to do and the fine record you have made nationwide. When the final story is written and you look back, it's the documentary legacy of our history which you have helped to save which lifts your heart. I remember when I became director in 1964, there was so much I felt I needed to know to move the archives into the new building and to serve the profession well in Georgia. I had only attended the Archives Institute in Washington sponsored by National Archives and American University and the workshops sponsored by the regional office of the National Archives and Records Service in Atlanta. I attended a national meeting of SAA in Texas carrying with me a list of questions I needed answered. I was overcome by the wonderful response I received from members. We held several small gatherings just to discuss my problems. It was amazing how much I learned in so short a time. I remarked that I had never dreamed the profession could be so sharing. One of the members said that we had to help each other, that most of our institutions were understaffed and our profession was still unknown, and there were few places where we could get down-to-earth professional training. I remember the first meeting we held at Georgia Archives to discuss organizing the Society of Georgia Archivists. I don't remember the date, but we met in the auditorium and talked about what the society could mean to us and to the profession statewide. There were three main reasons I felt we needed the society: (1) better communication and sharing of ideas; (2) more training to meet our individual archival needs;
and (3) greater emphasis on selling ourselves and our profession. I felt the latter was crucial at Georgia Archives. Our funding came through the legislature and the majority of the members had no idea what archivists really did. To build up the profession we had to sell ourselves and what we did.

I am proud of the Society of Georgia Archivists. I feel the society has certainly achieved its goals and moved far beyond the ones set in 1969. I wish you continued success as you move toward the twenty-first century.

Having come from the official record and Carroll’s remarks, we would like to now move to the panel to have them discuss what their feelings were at the time they began our society.

LEE ALEXANDER: Twenty years and a few months ago, Ruth Corry called me at Trevor-Arnett Library at Atlanta University and said that several people at the archives and some of the archival agencies around were thinking of organizing a professional group. It just seemed that it was time that Georgia should have one and that we could perhaps be mutually helpful. My first impulse was to say thank you very much, but no thank you. I had an archival plateful at that point because I had just made a shift of work from a situation in which I was working wholly with manuscript collections—personal and family papers, usually small collections—into a situation in which I was working with archival collections—impersonal and coming in by the ton of paper it seemed to me. This took some adjusting and some learning. I thought, well, why not take this opportunity to be involved in something interesting and perhaps do some learning on the side as well. So, I became a part of the group, and it was a very interesting and very rewarding
experience; and sometimes it was a very grueling one because I was always typing up minutes at five-thirty on the afternoon of a meeting that was supposed to begin at seven. But, there were more rewards than chores.

When people my age begin to look back at things like that, their perspective gets a little weird, and it's always a good idea to wonder if one is seeing what was really there or if one is seeing what one wants to see. I may be seeing what I want to see in this instance. If I am, Jim and Ed will have a good opportunity to say that this is so. What I think I am seeing is that at the time we were a brand new organization, the archival profession was at a sort of watershed point in its history.

There had been up until that time many of us in the sort of situation that Carroll Hart just described for us. Many of us had no formal classroom training in archival work. I learned mine by apprenticeship—a very pleasant experience. I wasn't labeled an apprentice but, in fact, that's what it was; it was very effective, but it left some things to be desired. At the time the SGA was organized, we were beginning to move into the twentieth century, archivally speaking. Formal training in archival work was no longer unusual; it could be had in a lot of places. We were beginning to take cognizance of the existence not only of personal papers but of business archives, institutional archives, organizational archives, and how these geometrically increasing masses of paper could be dealt with. What was needed to help deal with them arrived on the scene as it usually does. Everybody who went to SAA meetings came home talking about SPINDEX I and, in a year or so, SPINDEX II. I got awfully tired of hearing about SPINDEX because in the first place I didn't speak computer and in the second place there was no possible way the agency that I worked for and
those that most of us, in fact, worked for were ever going to own a computer. We did well if we could buy folders and boxes. But, nevertheless, this was a straw in the wind, a great big straw in the wind, and, of course, it blew.

I remember with a lot of pleasure an event that now illustrates the combined direction that archival work was taking—that is, computerized operations—with the new excitement about corporate business archives. Mr. Wilbur Kurtz of the Coca-Cola Company invited the society to meet at Coca-Cola offices in Atlanta and see the museum collection of Coca-Cola artifacts that he presided over, and he also presided over a lot of the firm’s historical records and those possibly of the Candler family—he never invited us to see so much as a scrap of one of those. He kept them safely behind the door of a safe and behind his rather capacious figure; he was always between us and where the papers were. But he had a lot of very interesting museum items which we enjoyed seeing, and then as a climax to the evening, he took us into the room where the computer operation functioned. It was about two-thirds the size of this room I would guess, and the computers were about the size of this bar over here. They were roaring away like concrete mixers, and the room was specially air-conditioned to take care of the extra heat that these monsters generated. It is hard to believe that it is now possible to hold a computer in one’s lap! But, this was the direction in which things were going. It was exciting, it was scary, and there were a lot of things that a lot of us didn’t know anything about.

SGA helped, too, I think, to move all of this growth and progress along. It also helped us to come along a little more rapidly than we would have if we had to go it on our own. For the friendships and good company that the society offered,
I am still grateful, but I am also, for reasons of learning and professional advancement, awfully glad I decided not to say no when Ruth Corry called me.

JIM MORTON: Twenty years is a long time, and I have some very good memories and some vague memories of the archival days. I wrote them down in a letter to Jane Weldon about a month ago, and with her permission—just a few minutes ago, she said certainly I could read from the letter. I will read from the letter because it expresses what I felt was going on at the time and how that affected my professional life later:

Dear Jane, I was pleasantly surprised by your letter to the old-timers and your kind invitation to attend the twentieth anniversary. Twenty years is a generation and who remembers vice-presidents? I am old enough to forget what happened yesterday and not yet old enough to recall in minute detail what took place twenty years ago; however, I do generally recall that it was a time in the archives business of great exploration and discovery, of youthful expectations, and the reward of influence on a rapidly expanding archival system.

I remember how fortunate I was to be where literally the world was coming to Atlanta seeking answers to preservation, restoration, and retrieval programs. No one should forget the expressions on faces of young and old when seeing for the first time the most historical documents of the state brought to light and displayed for viewing in a new world class facility.

It was a time when being objective was difficult, if not impossible. In a decade, 1960-1970, of great subjectivity and polarization such as the death of the Kennedys, the
civil rights movement, the death of Martin Luther King, the Vietnam war, hippies, the Cold War, the dissolving traditional family. Within that arena, try holding fast to the idea that "What is past is prologue" and the accurate documentation of events, be they large or small, unencumbered by lack of funds on the campus. Lord knows, when the funds and the mechanics were no where to be found, there seemed to be great dare and inventiveness lurking in the wings. Call it frontier mentality, if you will. We met the enemy and it was us: big brother, bureaucracy, the white tide. Does that sound familiar today?

I treasure the great comradery and forget the sometimes less than healthy divisions in the ranks, and there were those occasionally. All of this was in an era in which the Society of Georgia Archivists was envisioned. It was to become a mission attempting with fluctuating degrees of success to formulate guidelines for the individual archivist whether in Atlanta or St. Simons Island; a diverse forum brought together in the hope of standardization of techniques; a brain trust of trial and error, keeping in mind the needs of even the smallest of units—the individual archivist.

After leaving archives I regret not having maintained an association with the Society of Georgia Archivists; however, I did carry on in the related field of museum work. As I said, in 1974, I moved from Atlanta to Savannah where afterall preservation seems to be a way of life.
That was the letter I wrote to Jane. In thinking back on from 1965 to 1970 when I left archives, the last year I was at archives was when we started developing the Society of Georgia Archivists. I do treasure those memories and that training because we were all learning, and learning from each other. And those (lessons) have helped me in the museum work, just going from records to objects. There’s a difference, but in a way they are the same: they have to be documented, they have to be preserved, and they have to be presented.

ED WELDON: It seems to be testimonial time. I’m glad that we did start with a personal note, because each of us is probably reflecting on how we happen to be in the job situation and place where we are now. There was not much individual career planning, I’m sure.

In the spring of 1968, I was at Georgia State in my sixth year of college teaching and working on my Ph.D. Jane and I had gone to Spartanburg, South Carolina, where I taught at Converse College for a couple of years, and then came back to Emory. I had some sleepy students there—one of whom was Ken Thomas (one of my first really good students, who forgot everything I taught him, so he went on to become a very significant person in the historical profession). Then, I went to teach at Georgia State, intending to remain in the classroom.

Jim mentioned the events of the sixties. The assassination of Dr. King was a traumatic one for our whole society. It certainly was for me and my career—being right downtown Atlanta and being involved in the community. The funeral in Atlanta was a real small town "coming together"—emotion, feeling, family, and church. We all took part in that tragedy, and, as we always do in an event of this magnitude, we see ourselves as part of the firmament. I walked in the procession
from Ebenezer Baptist Church over to Morehouse, a very moving experience, a reaffirmation of community. I went back to class at Georgia State and found a different perspective on the part of some of my students. They were not sorry, and they had some disparaging things to say about the whole situation and Dr. King. It was a traumatic time for me. I said, "I don't know if I really want to teach history any more."

So, I walked into Carroll Hart's office in that brand new building across the tracks from Georgia State, and I said, "What's an archives?" "What's a state archives?" I was about to be a new Ph.D., but I hadn't been in an archives. I had just used microfilm and other sources in special libraries. So, she gave me about an hour of her time. You all know how generous and enthusiastic Carroll is. And sitting across the desk from where I sit now, she talked to this estray and said, "I've got this institute. It started last year. We're having another one this summer. Why don't you come take it?" So, I did, that summer of 1968, and we came down to Savannah on a field trip and met some fine folks, including Mrs. Lilla Hawes, who was Georgia Historical Society director then. It was my entry into a new set of archival associations.

I met A. K. Johnson. At that time he was starting a regional archives program in East Point; his boss, the new Archivist of the United States Bert Rhoads, was trying to reach out to new constituencies. A. K. wanted to hire the first Ph.D. to direct a branch. I took the job in the spring of 1969. About a month later, A. K. said, "There's something going on down at the state archives. Go down." That was July, and that was our SGA organizational meeting. You know, that's how you often find yourself. No design, no plan. Most of us happen into this profession by chance. I personally was having an identity crisis
as a former academic who had lost caste by becoming a "custodial historian." I was feeling pretty isolated.

Our SGA gatherings provided support and frequent fellowship. I remember that we ate a lot of steak. We went to restaurants to talk, have a few drinks, and eat. Other months we went to visit one another's shops. We sequestered for communion, communication, and comradery. I pulled the 1970 sign-up list when we went to Coca-Cola so you can see some familiar names. Somebody called Sally Weaver, I think, was there. She signed up.

SALLY W. MOSELEY: We ate, didn't we?

WELDON: We did—or drank Coke. Jane was there. So was a fellow named (Dick) Eltzroth, the father of a practicing archivist herself in our audience today (Lee). You know, those are important ties, very personal bonds that continue and give us support.

Forces were at work, as Jim said, in society. You mentioned SPINDEX. That system emerged from the fertile brain of Frank Burke, first described in a speech he delivered in Atlanta at the 1966 SAA meeting. Simply inputting information from the box labels from the Library of Congress holdings.... It's funny to go back and read now about some of the quirks that they got with the computer mixing names and what it couldn't sort. That, too, was a beginning, and it happened in Georgia.

A lot of other things archival were happening here in the late sixties: the new archives building has to be a major event in our history; the Georgia Historical Society became a branch in 1966 through an arrangement between the folks down here (Savannah) and Mr. Ben (Fortson, secretary of state). There was the Georgia League of Historical Societies that Carroll had helped organize. It was like the confederation that they now
have in South Carolina and the federation in North Carolina, but a little premature for Georgia. Individuals and their organizations were beginning to cluster, to look for common interests and ways they could share. The Georgia Genealogical Society (GGS) started about that time—again, Carroll Hart taking a leadership role in that as she did with the Archives Institute. Governor (Jimmy) Carter’s reorganization of state government broke up the old history commission and moved the historical preservation function to the new Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Carter added records management to the state archives with the advice of federal neighbors. Our regional tri-state organization begun in the mid-sixties evolved into SARC (first South Atlantic Archives and Records Conference and now Southeastern), as Florida and other states came in. These were some of the events and forces surrounding the birth and early years of SGA.

In all this activity, you saw missionaries like Carroll Hart and A. K. Johnson constantly working the territory. They were significant to the origins of our organization. They gave their personal participation, outreach in a broad sense, and a sense of sharing. One of the first assignments A. K. gave me was to organize a training institute for new college and university archivists. Ruth Helmuth came down from Case Western to teach, and Dick Lytle, who was then in St. Louis at Washington University, assisted. A. K. had no business doing that; he was running a federal regional records program, but typically, he was reaching out to help an allied community. The regional cooperation and training you see in SARC today began in the sixties with Carroll, A. K., H. G. Jones in North Carolina, and Charles Lee in South Carolina.
When we left Atlanta and went to Washington in 1971, SAA was being radicalized. ACT—I never could remember—Archivists Concerned for something or other—was a caucus of some archivists in the Midwest and the East looking to create a more active, open, participatory SAA. Many were college and university archivists, influenced by campus activism and opposed to the National Archives and state archives leadership then dominating SAA politics. Interestingly, many of those same old radicals today are now advocating certification to close those professional opportunities they were once seeking. The Committee on the Status of Women in the archival profession, the Committee on the 70s, these were the liberalizing efforts and influences. Go back and read their reports and that of the 1972 SAA Columbus (Ohio) meeting. People elsewhere were starting to organize as we had in Georgia. I was also a founding member of MARAC (Mid Atlantic Archives and Records Conference). They were protesting SAA and its leadership, but we didn’t have that purpose here in Georgia. We built on that partnership between state and federal archivists, and broadened our base.

Those events have been replicated themselves, and we now find fifty-one archival organizations listed in SAA’s latest directory of regional and state groups. There are over eight thousand individual members listed. We in Georgia were among the first. Our early quest was for local, community participation, professional support, simple friendship in our isolation, and social and political involvement. Our profession is comprised of people who are not always powerful in their larger institutional structures. We therefore seek political expression and opportunities within our professional organizations. At least, that seems an important purpose for
many. In SGA we are still an organization of individuals. Many of us are also members of other state groups: the GGS, the Georgia Association of Historians, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the Georgia Historical Society, the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries, the Georgia Library Association, Georgia chapter of Government Management Information Sciences (GMIS), and the Atlanta ARMA chapter. These other groups also serve varied and special aspects of archival life and they themselves have members with archival responsibilities and needs.

SGA has not formally pursued relationships with these organizations and allied interests. We have not had the entangling alliances that I have hoped to see formed. We have not sought many cooperative ventures with other Georgia organizations. We've tried to be regional. We have a national journal. But where is our focus? What did we find in the 1981-82 state needs assessment about the possible mission for the Society of Georgia Archivists? That's something we really ought to review. Are we too comfortable now? Are we socializing new, isolated individuals? At our twice-a-year meetings, we are providing education and training opportunities. And there are also alternative networks available, electronic ones and those involving governmental organizations. But what is SGA doing formally in projects to share our particular corner of experience with needy neighbors in our own state? Genealogists are doing many of our finding aids and using electronic information systems. Our museum colleagues hold lots of documentary materials, but they're often in isolation and need assistance in proper technique. We should seek to fashion new alliances and continue to build on what has been a very strengthening and nurturing organization for ourselves for twenty years. We are
still a Georgia-based organization, and we need to look at Georgia's needs and be sure we serve them.

SGA is a wonderful organization. SGA is where we have our roots and our ties, and where we come back to friendships that support us. But, there are others who are also in need, and we have talent to share. That's part of the existential nature of our professional lives and our organizing efforts. The memories of supportive friends made it easy for Jane and me to come back to Georgia, knowing all those good people who were there at the beginning, at the birthing of this fine organization. Let's open up to discussion now and have some suggestions about where SGA is to go in its next twenty years.

VOGT: I think this—what Ed has mentioned—is one of the things that came out of my looking at our files. We have had a lot of good ideas over the years, and we have done some things moving in the direction that Ed is suggesting. We have, on two occasions that I know of, worked with Georgia Library Association to give some archival training to librarians, merely an introduction. We've had lots of ideas. We haven't always brought them to fruition, and I think part of what we've been discussing in recent years is how do we get off neutral, how do we move ahead? Does the society really want to do this? I think this is one of the things that Kaye (Minchew) mentioned this morning when she was saying, "Have we really asked you as a group: Do you want to meet with another organization (Georgia Association of Historians)?" So, it was very good to see this morning that that was an option that you chose to do. Does anyone have any remark about things that we might do?

(The panel and members of the audience then discussed what the Society of Georgia Archivists ought to be doing. A brief summary of comments follows.)
KEN THOMAS: We could organize an archival "swat" team to help with emergencies and with new archives just getting started. The museum association does this.

AUDIENCE: We could work more closely with groups like GAMG (Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries) and with other groups and institutions that happen to have archival collections—such as, local libraries, preservation groups, historical societies—and the Georgia Humanities Council, etc. The problem is letting others know that SGA offers this service. We could work with the leadership of other groups; we could put information packets in local historical societies and public libraries. We could also offer workshops on various aspects of archival work in different areas of the state.

TONY DEES: We should pull out the Archives and Society Committee file from 1984 and see how people responded to the questionnaire sent at that time.

VOGT: We should also look at the needs assessment report from 1982. The goal is to give the executive board a clear sense of direction about where we should be headed for the future.

JANE WELDON: The actual planning would be better done at the board level. It would have to be a small action group to work effectively.

VOGT: I appreciate Lee and Jim coming to talk with us today—and, of course, Ed. We pulled two people from archival retirement here; we are keeping them involved. I think that's a good thing because I was noticing on this list that Ed has of our first members that there are a lot of these people still around. We have a lot of experience to draw from in this group.

I thank you for your attention.
Known Charter and Pioneer Members, 1969

Lee G. Alexander
Virginia Bailey
Ruth Corry
Richard T. Eltzroth
David Estes
Sarah Gillespie
James O. Hall
Mary H. Hall
Willie L. Harriford, Jr.
Carroll Hart
Theresa Jenkins
A. K. Johnson, Jr.
Wilbur G. Kurtz, Jr.
Edna S. Lackey
James W. Morton, III

Marvin W. NeSmith, Jr.
Sara Owens
Merita R. Rozier
Arthur Ryden (deceased)
Harmon Smith
Connie Laws Stephenson
Edward Weldon
D. Lee Woelk
Carroll Hart and A. K. Johnson join Edward Weldon for the opening luncheon at the SAA Annual Meeting, September 1988, in Atlanta. The two were presented SGA T-shirts for the occasion. Photograph by George Whiteley.
Where Are They Now?

Jane Powers Weldon

Wherever they are now, they're busy!

Several months ago, SGA appealed by newsletter and by letter to founding and pioneer members of the society, in hopes of getting reminiscences and anecdotes on SGA's early days, reporting on their present activities, and obtaining their evaluations of SGA's contributions to their professional lives.

Most early members are simply too busy, it seems, to respond at length, and that's good news. Four—Carroll Hart, Lee Alexander, Jim Morton, and Ed Weldon—have already shared their memories and assessments at the "Present at Creation" panel at Spring Meeting (a transcript is included elsewhere in this issue). Here are a few more responses.

Dick Eltzroth, who was membership chairman of the fledging organization, became its second president. He remembers the difficulties he and editor David Gracy had in obtaining funding for Georgia Archive (now Provenance). They finally published the first issue, fall 1972, with no outside funding. Dick left State Archives in 1969 to become archivist of the Atlanta Historical Society. He retired in late 1986. (Dick also has the distinction of having another family member active in SGA. Daughter Lee is a director for the society.)
Sarah C. Gillespie recalls the value of SGA's programs and the chance to meet and talk with archivists from other institutions. Sherrie has since left the profession but has stayed busy with work on a South Carolina local history project and genealogical research.

Lee Woelk says the SGA meeting that gave him the most gray hairs was the program he had to organize on plagiarism. The first speaker scheduled backed out shortly before the meeting. Then the replacement Lee found left her job before the meeting. Lee doesn't say what he finally did, but he does say he retired a month later! Since retirement, he has used his archival skills as a records management consultant and as the author of a book.

SGA is grateful to all its early members for the energy and vision they invested in the organization. Those who responded to our survey have expressed in turn their own gratitude to the organization for professional fellowship and raising their awareness of the scope of archives.

Jane Powers Weldon is an editor and publications consultant in Atlanta, Georgia.
Officers
of the Society of Georgia Archivists
1969-1989

1969, 1970
President Edward Weldon - Federal Records Center
Vice-President James Morton - Georgia Department of Archives and History (GDAH)
Secretary Lee Alexander - Atlanta University
Treasurer Theresa Jenkins
Archivist Sarah Gillespie - Emory University
Board Member A. K. Johnson
Board Member Wilbur Kurtz, Jr. - Atlanta Historical Society

1971
President Richard Eltzroth - Atlanta Historical Society
Vice-President Virginia Bailey - First National Bank
Secretary Mary Hall - GDAH
Treasurer Lee Woelk - Federal Records Center
Archivist Ruth Corry - GDAH
Director Merl Reed - Georgia State University
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Vice-President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
<th>Archivist</th>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>David B. Gracy, II - Georgia State University</td>
<td>J. Harmon Smith - GDAH</td>
<td>Rose Marie Beischer - Emory University</td>
<td>Beatrice Cochran - First National Bank</td>
<td>Ruth Corry - GDAH</td>
<td>David Estes - Emory University</td>
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<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>David B. Gracy, II - Georgia State University</td>
<td>Gayle Peters - Federal Records Center</td>
<td>Linda Matthews - Emory University</td>
<td>Paul Gray</td>
<td>Gail Miller - GDAH</td>
<td>Richard Eltzroth - Atlanta Historical Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Gayle Peters - Federal Records Center</td>
<td>Bob White - GDAH</td>
<td>Brenda Banks - GDAH</td>
<td>Paul D. Gray</td>
<td>Gail Miller - GDAH</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>Gayle Peters - Federal Records Center</td>
<td>Joyce Gallagher</td>
<td>Bob White - GDAH</td>
<td>Linda Matthews - Emory University</td>
<td>Peter Schinkel - GDAH</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<td>(Marilyn Adams also served as newsletter editor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Linda Matthews - Emory University</td>
<td>Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. - Georgia Historic Preservation Section, DNR</td>
<td>D. Louise Cook - Atlanta Historical Society</td>
<td>Robert Dinwiddie - Georgia State University</td>
<td>Jane B. Hersch - West Georgia College</td>
<td>Max M. Gilstrap - University of Georgia</td>
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<td>Year</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>Peter Schinkel - GDAH</td>
<td>Sheryl B. Vogt - University of Georgia</td>
<td>Leslie Hough - Georgia State University</td>
<td>David Levine - Georgia State University</td>
<td>Ellen Neal - Georgia State University</td>
<td>Anthony R. Dees - Georgia Historical Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Leslie Hough - Georgia State University</td>
<td>Linda Aaron - Elbert County Historical Society</td>
<td>Maggie Johnson - GDAH</td>
<td>Ellen Garrison - Georgia State University</td>
<td>Janet Pecha - Coca-Cola Archives</td>
<td>Barbara Reitt - Editorial and Indexing Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Leslie Hough - Georgia State University</td>
<td>Minnie Clayton - Atlanta University</td>
<td>Ellen Garrison - Georgia State University</td>
<td>Sheryl B. Vogt - University of Georgia</td>
<td>Janet Pecha - Coca-Cola Archives</td>
<td>John Lupold - Columbus College</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Glen McAninch - University of Georgia</td>
<td>Alice Knierim - GDAH</td>
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Society of Georgia Archivists

1983
President: Sheryl B. Vogt - University of Georgia
Vice-President: Peter Schinkel - GDAH
Sec/Treasurer: Brenda Banks - GDAH
Director: Edward Weldon - GDAH
Director: Minnie Clayton - Atlanta University
Newsletter Ed: Kaye Lanning - Troup County Archives
Archivist: Virginia J. H. Cain - Emory University

1984
President: Peter Schinkel - GDAH
Vice-President: Nancy Bryant - Atlanta Historical Society
Sec/Treasurer: Brenda Banks - GDAH
Director: Vesta Gordon - University of Georgia
Director: Edward Weldon - GDAH
Newsletter Ed: Kaye Lanning - Troup County Archives
Archivist: Anne Shelander - Coastal Georgia Historical Society

1985
President: Nancy Bryant - MSL International
Vice-President: Anthony R. Dees - GDAH
Sec/Treasurer: Brenda Banks - GDAH
Director: D. Louise Cook - Martin L. King Jr. Center
20 Years in Celebration

Director
Newsletter Ed
Archivist

1986
President
Vice-President
Sec/Treasurer
Director
Director
Newsletter Ed
Archivist

1987
President
Vice-President
Sec/Treasurer
Director
Director
Newsletter Ed
Archivist
Nominating Comm

1988
President
Vice-President
Sec/Treasurer
Director

Virginia J. H. Cain - Emory University
Kaye Lanning - Troup County Archives
Anita Delaries - Emory-Pitts Theology Library
Anthony R. Dees - GDAH
Linda Matthews - Emory University
Brenda Banks - GDAH
Robert Bohanan - Jimmy Carter Library
Virginia J. H. Cain - Emory University
Jane Powers Weldon - Atlanta Historical Society
Gayle Peters - Federal Records Center

Linda Matthews - Emory University
Brenda Banks - GDAH
Martin Elzy - Jimmy Carter Library
Lewis Bellardo - Georgia Historical Society
Robert Bohanan - Jimmy Carter Library
Jane Powers Weldon - Atlanta Historical Society
William Richards - Atlanta Historical Society
Steve Engerrand - GDAH
Myron House - West Georgia College

Brenda Banks - GDAH
Kaye Lanning - Troup County Archives
Martin Elzy - Jimmy Carter Library
Lee Eltzroth - Visual Scene South
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Lewis Bellardo</td>
<td>Georgia Historical Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter Ed</td>
<td>Jane Powers Weldon</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archivist</td>
<td>William Richards</td>
<td>Atlanta Historical Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominating Comm</td>
<td>Elaine Kirkland</td>
<td>Atlanta Historical Society</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gail Miller</td>
<td>GDAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Kaye Lanning Minchew</td>
<td>Troup County Archives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Martin Elzy</td>
<td>Jimmy Carter Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sec/Treasurer</td>
<td>Linda Aaron</td>
<td>University of Georgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.</td>
<td>Georgia Historic Preservation Section, DNR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Lee Eltzroth</td>
<td>Visual Scene South</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter Ed</td>
<td>Beverly Bishop</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archivist</td>
<td>Diane Ware</td>
<td>Martin L. King Jr. Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominating Comm</td>
<td>Myron House</td>
<td>West Georgia College</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alice James</td>
<td>GDAH</td>
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Journal Editors

In Fall 1972, David B. Gracy, II edited the first issue of *Georgia Archive*, the first journal to be produced by a state or regional archival organization. SGA is now into its seventeenth volume and has produced thirty-three issues of *Georgia Archive* and later *Provenance*. Fine editors, assistant editors, book review and features editors, editorial board members, printers, and staff assistants have made this possible.

The editors were:
Fall 1972 - November 1976: David B. Gracy, II  
Georgia State University

December 1976 - 1979: Ann Pederson  
Georgia Department of Archives and History

Emory University

1982 - 1984: Ellen Garrison  
Georgia State University and Archives of Appalachia (East Tennessee State University)
Many thanks to all the staff and board members and to those who contributed articles, book reviews, short features, and photographs.
## Twenty Years of SGA Meetings
### Sites and Dates, 1969-1989

#### 1969
- **July 25**: Organizational Meeting, Georgia Department of Archives and History (GDAH)
- **August 26**: GDAH
- **October 13**: GDAH
- **November 12**: Georgia State University, Student Activities Building
- **December 9**: Georgia State University, Student Activities Building

#### 1970
- **January 15**: First National Bank, 2 Peachtree St.
- **March 9**: Emory University, Special Collections
- **April 24-25**: GDAH (with SAARC)
- **May 13**: Sirloin Junction Restaurant, 1765 Stewart Ave. (Annual Meeting)
- **September 10**: Coca-Cola
- **November 5**: Atlanta Historical Society
32 Society of Georgia Archivists

1971
January 28 Federal Records Center
May 20 Sirloin Junction Restaurant, 1355 Clairmont
September 29 Atlanta Historical Society
November 17 First National Bank

1972
January First National Bank
April Georgia State University
September 27 Atlanta Historical Society

1973
January 31 Emory University, Special Collections
March 22 First National Bank
May 16 Top of Mart Restaurant, Peachtree Center
August 20 Federal Records Center
October 18 Atlanta Historical Society—talk given by Dr. James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States
November 16-17 Georgia State University

1974
Spring
November 23-24 Georgia State University

1975
May 20 Atlanta University, ITC Library
August 26 Atlanta Historical Society
November 20-21 Georgia State University
1976
May 19 National Medical Audiovisual Center
Plaster Bridge Road, Atlanta
November 19-20 Georgia State University

1977
May 21 University of Georgia, Richard B.
Russell Memorial Library, Athens
November 17-18 Atlanta Historical Society

1978
March 10-11 Georgia Historical Society, Savannah
November 16-17 Tower Place Hotel, Atlanta

1979
March 23-24 Augusta College, Augusta
November 15-16 GDAH

1980
March 27-28 Iron Works, Columbus
November 20-21 Emory University

1981
April 30-May 1 Georgia College, Milledgeville
November 19-20 Atlanta Public Library

1982
May 13-14 Georgia Agrirama, Tifton
November 18-19 Atlanta University Center
1983
May 26-27 Epworth By The Sea, St. Simons Island
November 17-18 Ladha Hotel and Georgia State University

1984
May 3-4 Troup County Archives, LaGrange
November 15-16 Atlanta Historical Society

1985
April 11-12 Unicoi State Park, Helen
November 21-22 Georgia State University

1986
April 24-25 Hilton Hotel, Jekyll Island
November 20-21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Center

1987
April 26-28 Columbiana, AL with Alabama and Mississippi archivists
November 19-20 Jimmy Carter Library

1988
April 7-8 University of Georgia Libraries, Athens
Sept. 29-Oct. 2 Westin Peachtree Plaza with the Society of American Archivists

1989
May 15-16 Georgia Historical Society, Savannah
Sept. 21-22 Roswell Branch Library, Roswell
Constitution of the Society of Georgia Archivists

NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Society of Georgia Archivists.

The Society of Georgia Archivists is established to provide an effective means of communication and cooperation among all individuals employed in the archives and manuscripts repositories in the state; to promote the preservation and use of the manuscripts and archival resources of the state; to increase the knowledge of archival theories and practices; to encourage the publication of finding aids; and to cooperate with professionals in related disciplines.

MEMBERSHIP

Individual memberships shall be open to any person interested in the field of archives, manuscripts, special libraries, or a related discipline.

Dues shall be determined by a majority vote of the membership on the recommendation of the Executive Board.
OFFICERS

The officers of the Society shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and archivist. President, vice-president, and archivist shall serve terms of one year, with the vice-president and archivist being elected annually. The secretary and treasurer shall serve terms of two years except that the secretary will initially serve a one year term. The vice-president shall serve as president-elect of the Society and shall automatically become president on January 1 of the second year following his or her election. New officers shall assume their duties and receive their files on January 1 of the year following their election.

GOVERNMENT

The government of the Society shall be vested in an Executive Board composed of five elected officers and two directors. These two directors shall be elected as provided in the bylaws for terms of two years except that one director elected initially shall serve for only one year. The retiring president and the editors of the journal and newsletter shall be ex-officio members of the Board but shall not be permitted to vote.

If a vacancy should occur in any of the offices except president, the office may be filled by a majority vote of the Executive Board and the person designated shall hold the position for the unexpired term. In the case of a vacancy in the presidency, the vice-president shall assume that office and hold it for the remainder of the term and for his or her own complete term as president.
The Executive Board shall be responsible for the funds of the Society, establishing procedures for accounting and auditing of such funds.

**MEETINGS**

The Society shall hold at least two meetings a year: the Fall Workshop which shall constitute the annual meeting and the Spring Meeting. Notices of such meetings shall be mailed by the secretary at least thirty days before the date of the meeting. Members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

The Executive Board shall meet at least four times yearly and notice shall be given by the secretary at least five days before the meeting. The Executive Board may be convened at the call of the president or of two members of the Executive Board. Four members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**RECORDS**

The records of officers or chairmen of committee shall be transferred to the archivist for custody as their terms expire. Each officer must submit an annual report which shall be incorporated into the archives of the Society. The Georgia Department of Archives and History will serve as official repository for the archives of the Society.

**PUBLICATIONS**

When sufficient funds are available, the Society shall publish a semi-annual journal, a quarterly newsletter, and other publications as determined by the Executive Board. Members of
the Society shall be entitled to receive the serial publications, and other subscription rates shall be set by the Executive Board. The editors of the journal and newsletter shall be appointed by the Executive Board as provided in the Bylaws.

BYLAWS

The Executive Board is authorized to adopt such bylaws as needed to regularize the administrative practices of the Society. An up-to-date copy of the bylaws shall be available to any member upon request to the president or secretary. All or part of the bylaws shall be subject to change by a majority of those attending the annual meeting.

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution shall be proposed in writing by five members and filed with the president. Such amendments will be reviewed by the Executive Board and put before the membership by mail referendum. If the amendment carries the Executive Board's endorsement, a majority of the votes cast in the referendum shall constitute passage; otherwise, a two-thirds vote shall be required.

DISSOLUTION

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in item 2 of this constitution. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda or
otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the constitution, this organization shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in the furtherance of the purpose of this organization. Upon the dissolution of this organization, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the organization, donate the official records and any assets to the Georgia Department of Archives and History.

Adopted April 1989

Bylaws of the Society of Georgia Archivists

DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

1. The president shall direct and coordinate the affairs of the Society. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Society and the Executive Board and shall perform such duties as may be directed by the Executive Board.

2. The vice-president shall perform the duties of the president in case of the president's resignation, absence, or incapacitation. The vice-president shall serve as president-elect and as its membership chairman.

3. The secretary shall keep active records of the Society including the minutes of the Society's membership and
Executive Board meetings and shall send notices to members concerning meetings.

4. The treasurer shall send dues notices by December 31 and shall remove from the membership rolls those persons whose dues for that calendar year have not been paid by March 15. The treasurer shall have custody of all funds belonging to the Society and shall disburse them in accordance with the annual budget or upon the expressed authority of the Executive Board. The treasurer shall keep accurate records of all financial transactions.

5. The archivist shall be custodian of all official records of the Society. It is the duty of the archivist to request records annually from other officers, and to see that they are accepted into the archives. The archivist will provide a "guideline for the acceptance of records" to all officers and will coordinate the transfer of said records to the Society's official repository. The archivist will maintain and update an inventory of the holdings of the Society's archives and will make that inventory available to the board when directed. The archivist will also serve as parliamentarian for general meetings and board meetings.

6. Each director shall serve as liaison with SAA, ALA, NARS, and other national, state, and regional institutions and organizations and shall undertake special projects as assigned by the Executive Board.

7. Chairpersons for the Spring and Fall meetings of the Society shall be appointed by the Executive Board one year prior to the meeting, or as close to that time frame as possible. Chairpersons shall serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Board and on planning committees as assigned.
8. The Executive Board or officers shall prepare an annual budget within one month after the annual meeting. The budget shall be published in the next newsletter after the preparation of the budget. The annual budget can only be changed with the approval of the Executive Board.

9. The fiscal year for the Society's budget and for the payment of dues to the Society shall be January 1 to December 31 each year.

EDITORIAL STAFF

10. The Executive Board shall appoint the editor of the Society's semi-annual journal and the quarterly newsletter. Such appointments are to last a minimum of two years. These editors shall serve as non-voting, ex-officio members of the Executive Board. The editors will appoint editorial staff as needed to assist with editorial and production responsibilities in order to ensure timely distribution of the Society's publications to the membership and other subscribers.

The Executive Board shall appoint members of the Editorial Board of the journal on the recommendation of its editor. This editorial board shall advise the editor on editorial policy and shall assist the editor in evaluating and editing manuscripts submitted to the journal. The number of Editorial Board members shall be determined by the Executive Board in consultation with the editor. Editorial board members shall serve a term of three years, such terms to be staggered.
11. The Nominating Committee shall consider candidates for the offices of vice-president, secretary, treasurer, archivist, and director. (One director shall be elected each year following the first year for which Society officers are elected.) The chair of the Nominating Committee shall be given a copy of the Nominating Guidelines for that committee by the secretary of the Society. These guidelines shall be followed in conducting the election. All candidates must be members of the Society. The recommendations of the Nominating Committee shall be formally reported as a ballot offering a choice of candidates for each office.

12. Ballots shall be mailed to the membership at least thirty days before the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee shall establish a deadline for the return of ballots and this deadline shall be clearly noted on the ballot. Ballots shall be counted by members of the Nominating Committee after this deadline, and any ballots received after this deadline shall be considered invalid.

13. Candidates shall be notified by the Nominating Committee of the newly elected officers prior to the annual meeting. The chair or a member of the Nominating Committee shall make a report of the election at the annual business meeting. Any election difficulties or ties shall be resolved at that time by a majority vote of the members present at the annual business meeting session.

COMMITTEES AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

14. Standing committees shall be created or abolished as required by vote of the Executive Board. The president shall
appoint members of standing committees, the appointments to be confirmed by a majority vote of the Executive Board. Written yearly reports are required of any standing committee created by the Executive Board. If the committee is in existence for less than a year, a report is required upon its dissolution or abolishment. Each report should include names of chair(s) and members, purpose, goals, accomplishments, and/or problems in reaching said goals/accomplishments.

15. The Nominating committee shall consist of three members of the society, two of whom shall be elected by the membership during the regular election to serve a term of one year beginning January 1 of the year following the year in which they were elected. The Executive Board, serving in the same year as the election for which the Nominating Committee members are responsible, shall appoint the third member at the first Executive Board meeting of the year in which these Nominating Committee members are responsible for elections. No member of the Nominating Committee shall be appointed from among the members of the Executive Board.

16. Other appointments as needed may be made by the Executive Board.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

17. Roberts Rules of Order, Revised shall govern the proceedings of the Society, except as otherwise provided for in the Constitution or Bylaws of the Society.

Adopted November 1981
Amended November 1985
Amended April 1989
An SGA Timeline
1969-1989

July 25, 1969 - The Society of Georgia Archivists founded at a meeting at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. From the August 1970 Newsletter:
The Society of Georgia Archivists was organized last fall to provide an effective means of communication and cooperation among individuals employed in archives and manuscript repositories, to promote the preservation and use of manuscripts and archival resources, to increase the knowledge of archival theories and practices, and to cooperate with professionals in related disciplines. Our first year [was] a good beginning in fulfilling these purposes. . . .

1970 - Annual dues, $5 for individuals (and still a bargain today).

1971 - Society considered a directory of archival and manuscript records and records personnel in Georgia to facilitate communication among local archivists.
1971 - David B. Gracy, II appointed chair of publications committee.

From the November 1971 Newsletter:
Although new in the Atlanta area as Archivist of the Georgia State University Library, Dave has taken on the job of coordinating our project of publishing a Guide to the Archives of Georgia and to assist in the production of our monthly Newsletter. He has several years experience in editorial and publication work and as you can tell...we are on our way.

September 1972 - "The now traditional gala September meeting to open the Society of Georgia Archivists' year will be hosted by the Atlanta Historical Society."

January 1973 - Announced effort to attract new membership:
"We welcome anyone concerned to promote the preservation and utilization of Georgia's documentary heritage."

February 1973 - "The response to our Society journal, Georgia Archive, the first scholarly publication attempted by any of the regional archival associations, has been gratifyingly warm."

May 16, 1973 - "Archives Day in Georgia" proclaimed by Governor Jimmy Carter. A special banquet was held at the Top of the Mart Restaurant in Atlanta.

Fall 1975 - Georgia Archive received the Society of American Archivists Award of Merit.

July 1976 - The Georgia Archives Institute celebrated its tenth year of service to the archival profession.
December 1976 - SGA announced receipt of a NHPRC grant to produce a slide/tape show entitled "A Very Fragile Resource: Our Documentary Heritage". Dues raised to $7.50 for individuals and $15 for contributing members. Published a membership brochure.

1982 - SGA administered NHPRC grant received by State Historical Records Advisory Board to do a needs assessment of Georgia's historical records.

Spring 1983 - First issue of Provenance published. The new name reflected a new direction as the journal sought to appeal to archivists throughout the South and the nation.

Summer 1983 - State Historical Records Advisory Board published "Inventory of Georgia Archives and Manuscripts Repositories." Prepared by Glen McAninch and distributed by SGA.

April 14-20, 1985 - International Archives Week in Georgia proclaimed by Governor Joe Frank Harris.

June 1986 - Twentieth annual session of Georgia Archives Institute held.

Summer 1987 - GDAH published a directory of Georgia's Historical Organizations and Resources.

Summer 1988 - SGA established the Carroll Hart Scholarship Award to fund training and attendance at professional meetings, institutes, and graduate courses.
Dues for individuals $15 annually.

Winter 1989 - SGA President appointed Tony Dees to chair Twentieth Anniversary Committee.

May and September 1989 - Meetings held in celebration of twenty years of "setting the record straight."

August 1989 - Executive Board of SGA voted officially to establish an "Archives and Society Award" to be given to non-archivists who have done exceptional jobs promoting the use of archives in Georgia and the South.
The Georgia Archives Institute
and the Training of Archivists, 1967-1989

Linda M. Matthews

When Carroll Hart, director of the Georgia Department of Archives and History, began to formulate the idea of an archives training program at her institution in 1965, she was confronting a recurring and fundamental problem. There were few training programs for archivists in the United States, and only one course, a semester course in an undergraduate college, in the entire South.¹ The oldest short-term training program at the National Archives in Washington, which in 1965 had just reduced its schedule from four weeks to two, could not provide a feasible training program for institutions whose personnel at all levels required basic introductory instruction.² State archives in the Southeast were among the nation’s oldest and most venerable institutions housing public and private records, but


their rank and file staff lacked adequate preparation for archival work.3

The implications of this situation were clearly understood by Carroll Hart. The complexities of twentieth-century records and the documentation for the study of modern society demanded well trained personnel for their proper administration. Hart knew that few state or private institutions at that time held the resources for adequate staff development programs. She believed that state archives were better positioned than any other agencies to provide training and instruction in archives administration to individuals in libraries, historical societies, and smaller private and public archives who were charged with the development and maintenance of an archives program. There existed a need and an opportunity.

The Georgia Archives in the mid-sixties was in a particularly prominent and propitious position to begin a major initiative in staff training. Indeed, the initiative seemed imperative. A new state archives building, recently dedicated on Capitol Avenue in Atlanta just two blocks from the state capitol, had won acclaim as one of the finest state archives structures in the nation. As Carron Hart noted on opening the first institute in 1967, the archives's staff had begun "the struggle to make our Department in organization and function equal to our splendid building." 4

Thus the archives institute envisioned by Carroll Hart filled two main purposes. The first and primary purpose was to

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4 Records of the Georgia Archives Institute, Georgia Department of Archives and History. Information in this paper is drawn from these files unless otherwise indicated.
provide opportunities for training and continuing education for the staff of the Georgia Department of Archives and History, which had increased by seventeen employees in the year after the new building opened in the summer of 1965. The second goal, growing from the first, was to provide a training venue for beginning staff members at other institutions in the area, whose opportunities for such training were almost nonexistent.

The institute plan began to take a definite form in 1966 when Dr. Martha Jane Zachert, a member of the faculty at the school of librarianship at Florida State University, directed a query to Carroll Hart concerning training for archives administration. At that time, the state of Florida had no state archives. Where did one gain such training, Dr. Zachert asked, and could such training be incorporated into a library school curriculum? The result of Dr. Zachert’s query and Carroll Hart’s interest in education and training was an intensive directed course of study at the Georgia Department of Archives and History in the summer of 1966, with Dr. Zachert as student and members of the staff as instructors and seminar participants. Their work and research led to the development of a plan and a curriculum for a program of training in modern archives administration, put into practice in the summer of 1967 when a class of seven students was accepted for a four-week archives institute. Graduate credit was offered through the Emory University library school, and Venable Lawson, director of the

5 "News Notes," American Archivist 29 (April 1966): 317. The Georgia institute was based on the format of the original four-week program offered at the National Archives, which Carroll Hart had attended.

6 The Georgia Archives Institute 10th Year Commemoratory (Atlanta: Georgia Department of Archives and History, 1976).
Division of Library and Information Management, became co-director of the institute. Thus began an association that lasted for twenty-two years, until the graduate program in librarianship at Emory was discontinued in August 1988.

For the first thirteen years, from 1967 to 1979, the institute followed the four-week format. Carroll Hart served as its driving force and, although various other members of her administrative staff coordinated and planned daily schedules and programs over those years, the institute clearly bore the stamp of her personality and vision. Hart’s strong belief in the "mission" role of the archivist, her contagious enthusiasm for the preservation of local history at the source through records of all types and formats—artifacts and oral history as well as paper documents—and her faith in the "one world" of archives was translated in the institute program into a moveable feast of archives and history across the state of Georgia. As much as a quarter of each year's program, and perhaps more in some years, was devoted to travel and tours of archives and historic sites throughout the state. Every hot Georgia summer, the band of ten to twenty institute students, with Georgia archives staff as guides and tour leaders, left the sweltering streets of Atlanta for treks into the hinterlands. There were weekend trips to Savannah to visit the Georgia Historical Society, view historic preservation efforts firsthand, and sample local coastal culture; visits to local county courthouses to see court records in their natural habitat; or excursions to north Georgia’s mountains to stop in on the Foxfire project engaged in preserving mountain culture. During the week, visits to other Atlanta archives, as well as tours of microfilm laboratories, computing centers, photographic processing facilities, and record centers were interspersed with lectures and laboratory assignments.

Over the course of the four-week institute, the core curriculum and program divided into two main themes—presentation of basic archival principles and instruction
on the organization, functions, and activities of the Georgia Department of Archives and History, the latter a reflection of the institute's primary goal, at its inception, as a training ground for staff of the state archives. For the first five years, some 40 percent of the schedule involved sessions that can generally be categorized as "archival methodology" and of that 40 percent nearly 30 percent was devoted to arrangement and description (including the practicum component) with the remaining 10 percent covering all other topics, such as appraisal, records management, outreach, and technical aspects of records administration. The remaining 60 percent of the schedule divided fairly evenly into sessions that focused on the history and operations of the state archives programs, and special tours and presentations on other archives and historical organizations in the region. For example, in the first institute in 1967, two days were spent in the Civil War records section of the State Archives, one day in state records, and one day with county and local records. The practicum sessions, devoted to arrangement and description of a series of government records, occupied three afternoons a week for four weeks.

The practicum, which accounted altogether for over a week of the total schedule, made the Georgia institute distinct from the short-term institute offered by the National Archives, which had dropped the internship from its schedule in 1965, and attracted students who sought a more individualized "hands-on" approach. Another special feature of the Georgia program, begun in 1967 and continued for almost fifteen years, reflected Carroll Hart's interest in outreach and exploration of new uses of archives. This special topic, a day-long seminar that was eventually styled the "Twentieth Century Documentation Seminar," invited registrants from outside the institute program to become involved in exploring a particular topic in archives. The first seminar in 1967 brought the archivist of the Eli Lilly corporation to Atlanta to offer a program on business archives,
attracting participants from major banks, corporations, and businesses in the Atlanta area.

The institute curriculum remained fairly close to the original concept during its first thirteen years. Adjustments in emphasis or approach and the introduction of timely topics brought some changes each year. The practicum remained intact, and the tours continued, although they varied each year. The long trip to Savannah was eventually dropped, with other shorter trips substituted. The amount of time devoted to the organization and history of the Georgia Archives was gradually lessened and sessions on college and university archives and manuscript collections were added as a result of student requests and evaluations.

After the 1979 institute, the staff of the program conducted a thorough assessment of the goals, the successes, and the benefits of the institute and of its impact on the State Archives. The institute had trained an impressive number of individuals who had assumed responsible positions in archives throughout the nation and in other countries. On the tenth anniversary in 1976, a survey conducted of graduates showed that of the 104 (80 percent of those completing the institute up to that time) respondents, 15 held positions in state or other public archives, 21 in manuscripts repositories or college archives, 5 in records management divisions, and 7 in church archives.7 Of these, 5 headed special collections or manuscript departments in university libraries, 3 headed church archives or special subject archives, and 1 served as director of the newly established state

7 Other respondents worked as librarians (20), teachers or educational administrators (9), and researchers or consultants (4). Eleven were enrolled in graduate library education programs.
archives of New York. However, for four weeks out of the summer the archives building and much of its staff resources had been turned over to the institute, while only a small number of the participants came from the staff of the Georgia Archives or from other public archives in the Southeast.

By 1980, the environment for archival training had changed. The archives institute in Georgia was experiencing more competition from the increasing number of similar training courses and workshops being offered by university library schools and history departments and by archival organizations. In the three years prior to 1980, according to a report of the State Archives committee reviewing the institute, the program had seen a 25 percent decrease in applicants. More and more, individuals were unable to be away from jobs and responsibilities for four weeks in the summer. Moreover, the drain on archives staff and operations had to be weighed against the archives's responsibility as keeper of the state's records and its outreach mission to assure the proper care of archival materials outside its purview. The review committee recommended a reduction in the length of the institute, and in 1980 the schedule was reduced from four weeks to three.

From 1980 to 1982 the institute ran as a three-week course, continuing the basic curriculum elements but reducing the practicum time and eliminating most of the site visits outside Atlanta. In 1983, the new director of the Department of Archives and History, Edward Weldon, again reviewed with his staff the impact, goals, and benefits of the institute against the increasingly complex responsibilities of the archives in providing leadership for the state records program. While supporting the basic purpose for the institute in offering beginning instruction for new archives personnel and an introduction to the

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8 The Georgia Archives Institute 10th Year Commemoratory.
profession, the director and his staff reluctantly reached the
decision that the department of archives could no longer
provide complete resources for staffing, space, and program
planning for the institute. Severe budget cuts throughout state
government, a change in political leadership after the 1982
election, and recommendations from the NHPRC needs
assessment for government records were major contributing
factors. A new partnership was formed between the State
Archives and Emory University in 1983 in which the university
assumed the primary planning and coordinating role. At the
same time, the schedule was reduced to two weeks. In 1984 the
Jimmy Carter Library, newly opened in Atlanta, became a third
partner in sponsoring the Georgia Archives Institute.

Under the new partnership, in 1983, planning for the
institute curriculum and schedule, as well as full responsibility
for coordination, fell upon Emory University, with the head of
Special Collections and the director of the Division of Library
and Information Management dividing the responsibilities. The
State Archives continued to provide the space for lectures and
discussion sessions and some staff support. Instead of a variety
of lecturers invited from the State Archives and other
repositories, national and local, the institute brought in primary
guest lecturers who would be responsible for coverage of all
core curriculum topics. Ann Pederson, lecturer in archives
administration in the school of librarianship of the University of
New South Wales (Sydney, Australia), and David B. Gracy, II,
professor in archival enterprise in the library school of the
University of Texas, became the "faculty" of the archives
institute. With the shift to a two-week program, tours to
archives within Atlanta were eliminated, and the twentieth
century documentation seminar was dropped. The practicum
segment of the program was reduced to three days, with
participants assigned to local archives for a directed study in a
particular area of interest that they had previously designated.
Lectures and discussions on archival fundamentals occupied approximately seven days of the program. The institute continued its focus on introducing new staff members of archival repositories to the concepts, literature, and development of the profession. The focus shifted away from the centrality of public records to a more general approach to archival principles and issues applied in a broad range of archival environments.

From 1984 to 1988 the institute continued under the sponsorship of Emory University, the Georgia Department of Archives and History, and the Jimmy Carter Library. In 1989, Clark Atlanta University replaced Emory as the academic sponsor and offered graduate credit through its library school. A year earlier, Martin Elzy of the Carter Library assumed the position of institute coordinator.9

Changes in goals and curriculum over the course of the institute’s twenty-three years mirror changes in the profession nationally and echo the ongoing debate over training and education for the profession. Increasing demands upon resources of the State Archives, the growing number of archives courses and graduate programs, and the developing plethora of short-term workshops and offerings available through a variety of venues all contributed to the gradual reduction in the institute’s length. Changes in the curriculum reflect changes in society and research trends, as well as the search for a distinct professional identity. The early institute curriculum bore the clear markings of the historical roots of the profession, with sessions such as "Chronology, the Key to Biography," historical editing, the historian’s use of archives, and the uses of oral history. More time in the first two or three years was devoted to the history of the archival profession, and to the "archival

9 Ann Pederson, Jeraldine Cloud, and Lorraine Lee of the Georgia Department of Archives and History served consecutively as institute coordinators prior to 1983.
movement" in Europe and America, giving way eventually to additional sessions devoted to records management, computer applications (making its first appearance in 1968), microfilming and other technical operations. The interrelationship of archives and records management blossomed as a theme in the 1970s. In 1973 a developing schism within the profession was reflected in a session devoted to "Professional Relationships: Records manager, computer specialist, scholar, manuscripts curator, special librarian, and genealogist."

A training program can be measured both by its curriculum and by its staff, but perhaps most clearly by its students. Who has attended the Georgia Archives Institute? What are the characteristics of the student population? Although the 1976 survey of graduates has not been repeated, the demographics of the participants at the time they enrolled provide insight into the major audience for the program. Of the some 300 participants between 1967 and 1987, 130 either worked in libraries (in areas other than manuscripts or archives) or were library school students. Library staff participants worked primarily in smaller academic and public libraries which had no full-time professional archivist but had designated a staff member to assume the duty of caring for historical materials or college records. One hundred and twenty-eight participants were employed in an archives or manuscript repository at the time of their enrollment. These were most often new employees or paraprofessional staff enrolled for continuing education, staff development, and basic training. Of the remaining number, four listed employment in records management, twenty as either history students or teachers (in history, library science, or English) interested in expanding career opportunities, and twenty as concerned with historic preservation, family history,
genealogy or a variety of other "personal" interests. Probably no more than a fourth were affiliated with state archives or public records agencies. Over half of those attending worked in small colleges or historical societies, church archives, or manuscript departments. Geographically, Georgia residents (including students in library school in Georgia) have made up approximately 60 percent of the enrollment, but the remaining 40 percent divides between students from southern states and those from all other places (including some foreign countries). Institute participants have come from thirty-three states and the District of Columbia, and from New Guinea, Italy, Indonesia, Canada, Thailand, and the Virgin Islands.

Carroll Hart's plan in 1965, as she searched for a way to build an organization to match the "splendid new building," focused on the essential foundation of training and professional development as the key to the future of her program. That vision has been a part of the evolution for the archives profession since the early 1900s and assumed a major importance with the founding of the National Archives in 1934 and the Society of American Archivists in 1936. Georgia's State Archives had been blessed with energetic and progressive leadership, but trained personnel to manage the state's records had to come from within. Undoubtedly, at least for the first decade, the institute provided opportunities for archives staff to participate in discussions and seminars that expanded their perspectives on professional issues and developments. But the explosion of workshops, conferences, and other training opportunities sponsored by the Society of American Archivists, the Society of Georgia Archivists (organized in 1969 just two years after the institute began), the South Atlantic Archives and Records Conference, the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, and many others, has over the past decade decreased the urgency of ambitious internal training programs. Staff members now have access to numerous
conferences, workshops, and continuing education offerings that were available only to a few in the mid 1960s. The institute’s role as a vehicle for socialization into the profession, as basic training for beginning staff, and as a framework and network of support for small institutions and organizations whose archives staff will continue to be part-time or voluntary remains a major contribution. Its future will depend, as in the past, on the available resources for support of its programs and a continuing assessment of its place in the changing professional environment.

Linda M. Matthews is head of Special Collections, R. W. Woodruff Library, Emory University. From 1983 to 1987, she was co-director of the Georgia Archives Institute.
The ABCs of SGA:
Or 'Committee Work at Its Best'

Virginia J. H. Cain

{First presented in a longer form at the 1988 spring SGA meeting in Athens, Georgia, 8 April 1988. Special thanks to Jane Powers Weldon for editing the text.}

A

Every committee is Appointed by the board; it needs Active members so it can Act as an Advocate.

B

A committee may be provided for in an organization's Bylaws. In SGA, Both chair and members serve By appointment; they all have a Big job.

C

Every committee needs a Charge and Commitment and Communication among members and the whole organization.

D

A committee makes Decisions and needs a Dedicated chairman who can Delegate.
Serving on a committee requires Energy; the Experience is Educational. Most committee work does finally reach a definite End.

Though members don’t get paid, committee work isn’t Free. Members sometimes have Fun and love the word "Final" when paired with "report".

Going to other people or other sources during the information-Gathering phase is a Great way to Get to know other SGA members and repositories.

Knowing How to do their work Helps prevent committee Horror stories so that committee service is an Honor.

Committees should not be Inactive: Involvement and Interaction produce good committee Information.

A committee and its members must Jump right in and believe that late-night work is Jolly.

Knowledge of all Kinds of facts and figures helps a committee produce a pleasing Kaleidoscope of a report.
Every committee needs a Leader and welcomes a certain amount of good Luck.

Committees help a group Maintain status, Motivate its Members, and Move to be effective. Completing a committee assignment should not require a Miracle.

Good committees work with Nice people and produce New ideas to report to the Newsletter.

Good committees work by an Order or plan. A committee is a great vehicle for Outreach to other Organizations.

SGA members who Participate in committee work need Purpose, Priorities, and Plans.

A committee answers Questions and needs a Quiet place to meet. It may feel its work is as difficult as the Quest for the Holy Grail!

Members must give and Receive Respect so that the organization gets a Return on their work. All committees must deal with Reality as well as ideals and goals.
A **Strong** committee can contribute to the **Stability** of an organization. The **Size** of the committee is important to its **Success**.

Every committee must **Try** its hardest, even when things are **Toughest**. It will get the most accomplished by working **Together**.

The work of a successful committee might be **Unbelievable**; the experience of working with a committee might be **Unforgettable**; but we hope that the experience won't be totally **Unnerving**.

Committee success thrives on the **Vitality** of the organization and the **Vigor** of individual members, but it keeps chairs and members **Very** busy and the organization **Visible**.

It's important to think seriously about **Who** should serve, **Why** their contributions will be useful, **Where** and **When** the committee will meet, and **What** it will report.

A committee should strive for **eXcellence**, require **eXpertise** of its members, and know when to make its **eXit**.

SGA needs **Your** ideas for projects and **Your** support. We don't want an invitation to appointment to **Yield** the response "**Yuck**"!
So help us Zero in on other groups we might reach and projects we might Zip right into, so our whole organization—committees and all—won’t lack for Zest!

Virginia J. H Cain is processing archivist in Special Collections, R. W. Woodruff Library, Emory University. She has held a number of SGA offices and served on numerous SGA committees.

The Society of Georgia Archivists: Twenty Years of Meeting Archival Needs in Georgia

Sheryl B. Vogt

Three years after the Society of American Archivists (SAA) held their thirtieth annual meeting in Atlanta in 1966 and three years after the establishment of the Georgia Archives Institute, twenty-one archivists gathered in Atlanta. This meeting on 25 July 1969 marked the first meeting of what would become the Society of Georgia Archivists (SGA)—the third state or regional archival group formed in the United States. The forefathers of SGA stated that its purpose was "to bring about a closer communication among people in archives, manuscripts, special libraries, and other historically oriented professions; to increase knowledge in the theories and practices of archival administration and records management; to promote the preservation of archival resources of the state; and to strive for the establishment of sound archival standards in the handling of records from their creation to their disposition." ¹ They felt

¹ Marvin NeSmith, Jr., 25 July 1969, President's Correspondence, 1969-70. Officers' and Business Records, Series II, Society of Georgia Archivists Records, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta, GA (hereafter cited as SGA Records).
the society would aid the individual, advance the profession, and make Georgians more aware of the rich archival resources which document their history. Membership was open to any interested persons residing in Georgia.

In 1969, Georgia had twenty individual members in the Society of American Archivists. Of those twenty, ten were charter members of SGA. They recognized that there were local and state archival issues which could not be addressed by a national organization.

Although the necessity for bringing in members on a statewide basis was stated at the third organizational meeting, membership remained in the Atlanta area for the first four years. At an executive board meeting in May 1971, SGA President Edward Weldon stressed "the society's need to expand its membership and activities beyond the Atlanta area so as to become, in truth, a Georgia-wide organization--to involve itself, in the archival frame of reference, in as many 'entangling alliances' as possible." In actuality, only when services expanded did membership grow.

The first newsletter of the society appeared in January 1970; meetings were originally monthly, then five times per year. The leadership intended "that programs would be aimed at the

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2 Ibid.


4 Diane Dambach to A. K. Johnson, Jr., 15 October 1969, ibid.

stimulation of professional growth, and that, ideally, the society would serve as a clearinghouse for professional information and the solution of problems. Under David Gracy’s presidency, 1972-73, the society "adopted an ambitious program of public service and publication." To get more members and more people involved, the executive board accepted Gracy’s proposal to publish a journal. In 1972, Georgia Archive (now Provenance) became the first journal published by a state or regional archival group. An aggressive membership campaign followed, and the first fall workshop and annual meeting was held in 1973.

The Society of Georgia Archivists rapidly evolved as a strong role model for state and regional groups. Membership continued to grow as a pattern of stability in services developed. The reciprocal support of the society and its constituency provided a secure organization. SGA provided its members with some of the same services already offered by SAA—professional support, publications, and periodic meetings.

In the ensuing years, the journal was published biannually and the newsletter quarterly; meetings and workshops were held each fall in Atlanta and elsewhere in Georgia each spring. Georgia Archive received an award of merit from SAA in 1975. The following year a grant awarded by the National Historical

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8 Notes by David B. Gracy, II, June 1972, Executive Board, Series II, SGA Records.
Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) enabled the society to produce a slide/tape show entitled "A Very Fragile Resource: Our Documentary Heritage." Members could attend meetings which required only a small expenditure of funds and time (unlike SAA meetings often held in distant cities), individuals could see one another on a regular basis, and opportunities for participation and leadership were plentiful.

Almost from the beginning, SGA members expressed concern about the relationship with SAA. Organizational minutes from a 12 November 1969 meeting note that while SAA had declined the acceptance of the Ohio society as a state chapter, SAA wished to be kept informed of the group's progress for future consideration. On 25 October 1972, David Gracy wrote A. K. Johnson that SGA values to SAA were spreading the word and promoting professionalism. Gracy noted that one thing SGA wanted from SAA was a forum in a national publication for exchange of information and ideas. This has evolved without formal affiliation with SAA.

In February 1973, SGA polled its membership on the question of affiliation. This was in preparation for President Gracy's attendance as a delegate at the April 1973 meeting of the SAA Council, where members would discuss the rise, development, and future of regional archival associations.

At the executive board meeting on 13 December 1973, affiliation was again discussed. Gracy's handwritten notes reveal that the board ruled out suggesting a southeastern

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regional organization and querying members about SAA dues. Board members expressed concern over the makeup of SAA's Committee on Regional Archival Activity (CRAA)—the board wanted to appoint their own representative rather than just a liaison person. As Gracy wrote J. Frank Cook, chair of CRAA, "If the SAA expects relevant input from regional organizations, it should provide means for the regionals to have a voice in their representative on your committee, not just a liaison person."

With the exception of SAA's award of merit to Georgia Archive, formal written contact with the national does not appear in SGA files again until 1977. Ann Morgan Campbell wrote urging regional involvement in planning for state conferences on libraries and information science. This form of correspondence—soliciting support for some activity or legislation and requesting assistance with surveys, nominations, or program—was sporadic for the next decade. Cooperation with the national depended on SGA's leadership's energies and inclinations.

In the planning committee minutes for the 1975 fall workshop, a discussion was held on whether the workshop should be basic or technically oriented. Consensus of the committee was "We still must concern ourselves with the SGA membership and their needs," indicating a leaning toward more


12 Ann Morgan Campbell to State Archivists and Regional Association Officers, 27 May 1977, General Correspondence and Business, Series II, SGA Records.
basic, hands-on workshops. Nonetheless, speakers of national prominence and issues of national import have continually appeared on SGA meeting programs. They represent only a small portion of the program—generally a keynote speech or one session, such as a wrap-up on current issues.

Essentially, SGA was evolving somewhat independently in carrying the professional message to those individuals not involved with SAA. Relying on its own members, resources, and local contacts, SGA looked to cooperate with related groups, such as local historical, library, and informational associations, and with other state and regional groups. These activities manifested in cosponsored meetings, an attempt at copublication of the journal, and a series of polls for a southern confederation of archivists. A look at these outreach attempts reveals much about SGA’s history during the 1970s and 1980s.

Copublication of the journal was a predominant issue for four years. Georgia Archive was originally conceived as a small publication serving archivists, curators, librarians, and researchers in Georgia. Under the direction of David Gracy, the journal quickly drew a much wider audience. In succeeding years, editors Ann Pederson, Linda Matthews, Ellen Garrison, and Sheryl Vogt fostered the continued expansion of the publication in both content and format. Articles and features on both archival theory and practice form the basis of the journal. Today the majority of the contributors and over half the subscribers are from outside the state. Yet, as in most success stories, the journal had its period of uncertainty.

By 1978, the journal had begun to drain the financial resources of the society. Increased publishing costs caused a dip into other society revenues. This, added to editorial burnout

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13 Minutes, 13 February 1975, Planning Committee, Fall Workshop Records (Series III), SGA Records.
and the need for ongoing institutional support similar to that enjoyed by *The American Archivist* brought an evaluation of the society's commitment to the journal. A poll of the membership in the spring of 1979 gave a clear mandate to continue publishing and strengthen the journal. The idea of broadening the journal's acceptance by a name change was approved, as was the idea of exploring cooperative publication arrangements with other archival groups.

Initially, several other state organizations in the South were approached. None felt able to undertake the venture at the time. Soon after, Mid Atlantic Archives and Records Conference (MARAC) and New England Archivists (NEA) approached SGA about possible copublication. Despite lengthy negotiations, a copublication agreement among the three groups was never signed. In 1982, SGA's executive board found the society to be in healthier financial condition, and its membership reaffirmed support of the journal. Under the new name of *Provenance*, editorial staff and board members have been selected to bring a broader regional identification.14

From the beginning, the idea for a southern or southeastern regional has been tied closely to the copublication issue. In minutes from a *Georgia Archive* staff meeting, 24 January 1978, consideration was given to SGA's merging "into a new and larger body, a federation of some type" with discussion following on how this would relate to the South Atlantic.

14 Minutes, 19 November 1982, President's file, Series II, SGA Records.
Archives and Records Conference (now Southeastern Archives and Records Conference, SARC).  

In succeeding years, SGA planned programs and services with an eye toward exploring cooperation with other southern state organizations. A southeastern archival organization was an almost continual agenda item for the board from 1978 to 1987. In addition to the makeup of the journal editorial staff and board, there have been cosponsored meetings, discussions on the possibility of such an association, and even a vote of the membership on joining a regional.

In a memorandum from SGA President Les Hough's meeting with the executive committee of the Society of Alabama Archivists, 13 February 1980, possible creation of a southeastern group was one of three suggestions for cooperation. It would encompass Georgia and Alabama initially and later include Mississippi and Tennessee and perhaps other states. It was noted that SARC was not an adequate substitute.

SARC was the first regional, formed in 1966 primarily for the staff members of state archives to get together. It is said of SARC that it exists to meet and meets to exist. There are no officers, no dues or services, only a spring meeting. Could it form the basis for a larger organization in the Southeast? Repeated attempts to interest SARC failed.

At the direction of the SGA board in 1980, President Hough pursued having a session at the 1981 SARC meeting on the concept of a southeastern archival organization. His efforts

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15 Minutes, 24 January 1978, President's files (Georgia Archive), Series II, SGA Records.

16 Memorandum, 13 February 1980, President's files (correspondence), Series II, SGA Records.
were not encouraging. In April 1981, Hough wrote the president of the Society of Alabama Archivists: "I hold out little hope for the creation of a regional organization through a broadening of SAARC... We can begin to explore other avenues to closer cooperation."\(^7\)

The most recent approach to SARC was in the spring of 1986. In the last few years, Tennessee and Alabama were included in its organization to make a total of seven states. Interested parties again made a bid to broaden SARC; the decision was not to take a step at the time. The general consensus is that SARC is already meeting its purpose to serve government archivists and records managers and sees no need to broaden its scope.

Les Hough reported on the 1986 SARC meeting to SGA members at their spring meeting. This marked the first time the regional concept was a topic with the membership at large. A discussion ensued on the benefits of regionalization—publications, training, preservation, clout—both locally and nationally. The sentiment was expressed that there is underrepresentation in the national organization for the amount of archival activity in the Southeast. In SAA's fifty-three years, only a half dozen or less members from southern states have held any given office in the national organization. (Notable exceptions are two former SGA presidents who have served as president of SAA after leaving the Southeast: Ed Weldon and David Gracy; in 1988, Linda Matthews was elected to SAA Council.) In recent years, more have appeared on the program committees and as leaders of sections.

In 1987, the year following SARC's affirmation of its original goals, Alabama and Mississippi archivists invited SGA to join a conference of southern archivists. Following joint meetings in

\(^7\) Leslie Hough to Bill Sumners, 13 April 1981, *ibid.*
the spring at Columbiana, Alabama, and in Atlanta in the fall, SGA's membership narrowly defeated the idea of joining the conference.

For almost ten years, cooperation and copublication had been discussed, but when the idea to join a regional was put to a vote among the members, it was turned down. An SGA colleague has suggested that it is a typically southern trait to rely upon the state individually. This seems to have merit. Another reason may have been opposition to change. SGA had been a strong, active organization for eighteen years, why change what was working well? Yet, another reason may have been that the leadership misjudged the interest among the membership in a formal cooperative agreement.

Despite its outreach attempts, SGA may be characterized as a close-knit group. Unlike its regional colleagues, the services SGA offers tend to be less structured, more personal, more basic in nature. Its constituency has generally been concerned with the how-to. Publications and programs have featured practice over theory.

Nevertheless, SGA has been evolving—evolving even as it makes an effort to meet the needs of a profession which is itself growing and changing. In the last eight years, the society has promoted cooperation with common interest groups by cosponsoring receptions, programs, workshops, and meetings. These groups have included information science organizations, state historical and library associations, SOLINET and SAA. The society was involved in administering the NHPRC needs assessment grant for Georgia. SGA served as the financial agent for the grant which was directed by the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board. In 1988, SGA served as co-host for SAA's annual meeting. SGA members from across the state and elsewhere in the South helped with local arrangements. Members have also been active in expressing opinions about the
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17 Leslie Hough to Bill Sumners, 13 April 1981, *ibid.*
the spring at Columbiana, Alabama, and in Atlanta in the fall, SGA’s membership narrowly defeated the idea of joining the conference.

For almost ten years, cooperation and copublication had been discussed, but when the idea to join a regional was put to a vote among the members, it was turned down. An SGA colleague has suggested that it is a typically southern trait to rely upon the state individually. This seems to have merit. Another reason may have been opposition to change. SGA had been a strong, active organization for eighteen years, why change what was working well? Yet, another reason may have been that the leadership misjudged the interest among the membership in a formal cooperative agreement.

Despite its outreach attempts, SGA may be characterized as a close-knit group. Unlike its regional colleagues, the services SGA offers tend to be less structured, more personal, more basic in nature. Its constituency has generally been concerned with the how-to. Publications and programs have featured practice over theory.

Nevertheless, SGA has been evolving—evolving even as it makes an effort to meet the needs of a profession which is itself growing and changing. In the last eight years, the society has promoted cooperation with common interest groups by cosponsoring receptions, programs, workshops, and meetings. These groups have included information science organizations, state historical and library associations, SOLINET and SAA. The society was involved in administering the NHPRC needs assessment grant for Georgia. SGA served as the financial agent for the grant which was directed by the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board. In 1988, SGA served as co-host for SAA’s annual meeting. SGA members from across the state and elsewhere in the South helped with local arrangements. Members have also been active in expressing opinions about the
appointment of the archivist of the United States, funding for NHPRC, and independence for the National Archives.

The Society of American Archivists has demonstrated change, too, by developing programs and services which recognize the strengths of the regionals. The Committee on Regional Archival Activity has been reorganized; sessions at annual meetings have promoted national themes for the profession; various task forces address grassroots issues; and SAA is actively seeking regional and state cosponsors for beginning and advanced workshops. For the first time, with concerns like education and certification of individual archivists, goals and priorities for the profession, and the archivist’s image in society, SAA is looking for concrete input from the regionals in decision-making.

In recent years, the Society of Georgia Archivists has moved along lines of concern similar to those of the national. As with most organizations, SGA’s successes and failures have depended upon the energies and inclinations of the leadership. Planning and development committees were appointed several times but never took hold. Now, in its twentieth year, the society’s leaders are taking a critical look at the current and future status of the organization.

Following a session on the creation of SGA at the 1989 spring meeting (see edited transcript of session), those attending expressed a desire to put action to ideas—to give direction to the next decade. Executive board members have an obligation to respond. The 1982 needs assessment report and the Archives and Society Committee report may be used to structure programs and services. The board has appointed a standing committee on education to administer the recently established Carroll Hart scholarship and to promote services for professional development. An Archives and Society award will be given on occasion to a nonarchival person for promoting the use of archives, and members may also look forward to even more, though informal, cooperation with SAA and with neighboring
archival and allied associations in pursuing workshops and issue-oriented programs. Building on the strengths of its twenty years, the Society of Georgia Archivists will meet the needs of its membership and welcome the challenges of a rapidly evolving profession.

Sheryl B. Vogt is head of the Richard B. Russell Memorial Library, the University of Georgia Libraries. This article is the revision of a paper titled "Setting the Pace and Meeting the Need: SAA and SGA at Counterpoint," which was presented at the Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, 29 August 1986.
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The Society of Georgia Archivists Executive Board announces the availability of a scholarship.

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