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## Editor's Page

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EDITOR'S PAGE

Archivists, too long we have emersed ourselves in the daily routine of trying to combine eight hours of processing with eight hours of research requests in the same eight-hour day, to the exclusion of concern over the course of our profession. Too long have we basked in a professional insulation, confident that by the time the records reached us, any controversy was dead, and we could labor with a single-minded dedication to the permanent preservation of the materials in our care.

In the meantime, the Watergate situation found us unprepared to protest the casual handling by the Executive Department of federal records (privileged or not); the donation of the Vice Presidential Papers to the National Archives under questionable ethical and legal circumstances elicited only silence from archivists as a professional group; a consultant firm recommended the elimination of the state archives of Maine, and our replies were uncoordinated.

How many more such shocks can we afford? To speak up on broad issues such as these, we need a strong Society of American Archivists. Through meetings, through a publications program that includes a bi-monthly newsletter and a quarterly journal of information and comment, and through opportunities to contribute to the formulating and achieving of professional goals by participation in the work of committees and other groups, the SAA provides the mechanism for lone archivists to speak and be heard, to act and be seen. The GEORGIA ARCHIVE urges its readers to join the SAA. If this national professional association does not now represent you in asserting the aims, needs, and services of your profession nationally, who does? Who else can? Join by writing Judith A. Koucky, SAA Acting Secretary, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105.