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Archive Notes

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The Fourth Annual Workshop on Archives and Records of the Society of Georgia Archivists and Georgia State University will occur on November 19-20. The Workshop Committee of Robert E. White and Brenda Banks, co-chairpersons, Ann Pederson, Darlene Roth-White, Ken Thomas, and David Gracy is developing a day-and-a-half program that will present both basic and advanced techniques in the handling of archives and manuscripts. Some of the topics to be included on the program are security for records, publicity, starting an archives/manuscripts program, records for genealogy, funding, and inventorying and collecting the records of organizations. In addition, the annual business meeting of the Society, including announcement of officers for 1977, will be held following the luncheon on Friday. For further information, contact White or Banks, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta 30334, telephone 404-656-2384.

The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board, appointed by the Governor in the Spring, has met twice since its organization and has published the following statement of purpose and goals:

The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board encourages the preservation, more efficient handling, and use of historical records in Georgia, so as to further the understanding and appreciation of both Georgia and American History. The Board solicits, reviews, and recommends for funding by the National Historical Records and Publications Commission projects designed to preserve single bodies of records and/or to provide training in the care of records.

Specifically, the Board will consider: 1) projects conceived to locate, identify and evaluate bodies
of records worthy of preservation. Fields in which these records might fall include, but are not restricted to: the arts, business, education, ethnic and minority groups, immigration, labor, politics, the professions, religion, science, urban affairs, women, and agriculture; 2) projects focused on improving the physical condition of records of significant value and in danger of loss through neglect; 3) programs promoting the development and dissemination of methods for the preservation and use of records; and 4) feasibility studies intended to develop significant projects in any of the above categories.

The Board will accept projects generated by single institutions or by several organizations combining resources in a cooperative proposal.

In pursuit of these goals, the Board is sponsoring a one-day program at the Georgia Department of Archives and History on November 18, the day preceding the SGA Workshop. This program, for which there will be no charge, will introduce the purposes and possibilities of the Board and its parent organization, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Directors and members of historical societies starting an archives, considering starting one, or with one in operation; directors and staff members of regional, city, private, and educational libraries likely to handle original documents of any kind; directors and staff of established archival and manuscripts collecting programs; civic, cultural, and other organizations that maintain records in quantity—persons from all these groups are urged to attend the meeting to discover this vital new records program in the state.

For further information on this meeting and/or the work of the Board, write: Miss Carroll Hart, Coordinator, Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta 30334, telephone 404-656-2362.

Members of the Board, in addition to Miss Hart, are: Lilla Hawes, Phinizy Spalding, David B. Gracy II, Minnie Clayton, C.A. Bacote, Gayle Peters, William Mobley Howell, David Sherman, and A. K. Johnson.

** The SAA Archival Security Program has prepared forms on which stolen documents can be registered. Write Timothy Walch, Associate Director, SAA, Library Box 8198, University of Illinois Chicago Circle, Chicago, Illinois 60680.

** Judy Schiff, President of the New England Archivists, is carrying attention to the security problem the next logical step—to the researchers. She wrote one History Department chairman: "... by explaining the seriousness of the problem to users, i.e., that we are losing our history, not just money, I hope to convince scholars that security is their problem too. ... In addition to enlisting the good will of historians in complying with the new security systems ..., it is the aim of the New England Archivists to encourage faculty members to promote the adoption of similar policies in their own institutions." Copies of the letter are available from Ms. Schiff, Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut 06520.

** In the continuing technological effort to prevent alteration of documents, the 3M Company has recently produced a tape with pinked edges and fluorescent dyes that, upon tampering, will leave telltale pink lines on the paper and will glow under ultraviolet light.

** The trend with commercial photographic material suppliers is to abandon traditional paper for black and white prints in favor of waterproof paper. Waterproof, as Kodak admits readily, is far less satisfactory for archival preservation. We must write the major manufacturers, such as Kodak, expressing our grave concern.

** A recent colloquium on color photography, the medium which accounts for 85 percent of the photographs taken today, emphasized that color dyes are impermanent and revealed that for truly lasting preservation of color prints, the archivist must resort to expensive black and white separation negatives and other alternatives. Tests have shown too that color fading is directly related to the speed of the film. The faster the film, the more likely is fading.

** Under the sponsorship of Unesco, whose 18th General Assembly had passed a resolution focusing on the problems of inadequate preservation of moving images, a group of experts from fourteen countries met in Berlin last September. From the meeting flowed a proposal that an international instrument be drawn for the protection and preservation of moving images. Among recommendations listed in Bulletin No. 5 (December, 1975) of the International Council on Archives was one calling for improvement in the collection and exchange of information on the preservation of moving images.

The Smithsonian Institution is offering a Workshop on the Administration of Museum Libraries and Archives during the week of January 10-14, 1977. Enrollment is limited to 18. Write Office of Museum Programs, A&I 2235, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.

In preparation for the 1980 census, the Census Bureau is accepting suggestions for information it should, and within the limits of the law it can, collect. Write Director, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.
The Newsletter of the Georgia Department of Archives and History for March, 1976, reports that the four-year-old records management program has saved taxpayers eight million dollars. The message for archivists is clear. To build our programs, we must account to others in addition to Clio.

To bring archives closer to the public, the archivists of Brazil have proposed that the International Council on Archives organize an International Archives Week to occur in 1978. The matter will be debated during the ICA's 8th Congress in Washington this month.

On February 26, 1976, the National Archives and Records Service transferred to Atlanta University material long ago removed from the Slaughter Collection, now held by the University. Cooperation graces archival institutions.

** The Bulloch County Historical Society boasts a manuscript collection. In an old armory, the Society houses Statesboro police records dating in the 1910s. "They were in the old city office," said President Denver Hollingsworth, "thrown back in the closet. They called and asked me if I wanted them and I said sure. This [ledger] creates more interest I guess than anything else. People come in and look up their ancestors, what they got into." In addition, the Society has received old newspapers, photographs and the papers of one family, which are said to chronicle the county's past 200 years.

** The newest manuscript collecting program we have found is that of Princeton University. A professor of politics, annoyed with the "inaccuracies, silliness and irrelevance" in his personal FBI file, talked the university library into establishing a repository for every inaccurate, silly and irrelevant file he can get others obtaining their own FBI files to donate. He hopes, reports the SAA Newsletter (July, 1976), that a sufficient number will be received "to
allow scholars to analyze them as to accuracy, relevance, and source of such information."

Surely the most startling news in the inaugural issue of the *Intermountain Archivist*, which we hesitate to publicize in times of pinched budgets, is Merle M. Wells’s revelation of the financing of the Idaho State Archives. The agency was established within the state historical society in 1947, but aside from the cost of space . . . the state of Idaho spent an average of less than $40 a year for the initial 12 years of operation of the State Archives. By 1964, the state had a total of around $400 (or possibly as much as $600) invested in the enterprise—almost entirely for document boxes. Even the shelving had been donated by a local lumber company . . . . This nominal funding continued until 1970, when professional staff to the extent of one archivist one day a week was funded in cooperation with the Idaho State Library. More professional and support staff finally became available in 1974, but the entire operation continues on a very modest level.

Editorializing on the "pretty-up syndrome," which causes preparers of displays to select only the prettiest items, Jim Knight complains in the *Archives Bulletin* (February, 1976) of the Association of Canadian Archivists that archivists are presenting an inaccurate image of the state of their holdings. "I am not suggesting that we select only our most miserable pieces for exhibition. I am suggesting that our preoccupation with attractiveness misleads the public about the physical condition of our collections and consequently jeopardizes the possibility that our competence and capacity in the broad area of conservation will increase."
Precious few can be found who are not in some way disgusted with the base, short-sighted, self-centered commercialism of the Bicentennial. The latest example is the degradation of the Declaration of Independence by B. Altman and Co., who have reproduced it on a bone vinyl shower curtain and claim that "1776 showers later, you'll still get a kick reading the Declaration of Independence complete with signatures in a flowing brown script."

Our country would have collapsed long ago, however, had not optimists looked to the bright side. We therefore eagerly follow Altman's indiscretion with a paragraph from "Bicentennial Reverberations," an editorial from Historic Preservation, 28 (April-June, 1976), 3.

We have also gained by observing commercial exploitation of the Bicentennial theme. George Washington and the Stars and Stripes are everywhere this year. This has forced us to take a stand. It has helped us to decide what we think is a right and appropriate way to regard our history--and what is not. It has helped us to enjoy a lively and fun approach to history--and to pinpoint the soulless and offhanded Bicentennial Commercialism we do not like. It has perhaps made us defensive of our history--and thus aided the cause of preservation.

The SAA Newsletter (March, 1976) reports that a memorandum released by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence was plainly marked "Do Not File." When committee Chairman Frank Church was asked how the document could still exist, he responded, "I can only assume that a 'Do Not File' document is filed in a 'Do Not File' file."
The Southern Labor Archives of Georgia State University has produced a slide/tape presentation titled "Where Would You Go? Documenting American Labor," which is available for loan. The sixteen-minute program describes archival enterprise in general, the Southern Labor Archives in particular. It is designed for showing to prospective donors of material and to classes of students unfamiliar with archival repositories. The show may be borrowed at no cost.

With the assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Southern Labor Archives also is preparing for distribution a number of videotapes of selected presentations given at the Southern Labor History Conference last April. Upon completion this fall, these tapes too are available for loan.

For further information, or to schedule a loan, write: Southern Labor Archives, Urban Life Center #1028, Georgia State University, Atlanta 30303.