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The Primary Source

Newsletter of the Society of Mississippi Archivists.

Volume Four

May, 1982

Number Two

SOCIETY HOLDS FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Biloxi Beach Motor Inn on the Gulf Coast was the site of the fourth annual meeting of the Society of Mississippi Archivists. During the course of the two day meeting, the approximately forty registered participants were delivered information on the current state of archival affairs in Mississippi and of possibilities and potentials for improved archival services.

NHPRC Grant: Historical Records in Mississippi

Chaired by State Historical Records Coordinator Elbert R. Hilliard, this session brought the participants up to date on the State Historical Records Preservation Needs Assessment and Reporting Project. This project, funded jointly by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, is a year-long study of the archival needs in Mississippi. Project Coordinator H. T. Holmes gave a report on the completed Local Government Records Phase and reported on other phases in progress. William Parrish, State Historical Records Advisory Board, responded with the potential impact the Board sees the project report having on Mississippi archival work.

Archival Education?

Martha McBee, Mississippi Department of Archives and History Special Collections Curator, moderated a session on archival education opportunities. Trudy Peterson, Chief, Machine-Readable Records Branch, NARS, eloquently presented the problems archival education entails, and reported on ways in which the Society of American Archivists might deal with such problems. Antonio Rodriguez-Buckingham, University of Southern Mississippi School of Library Service, responded to Peterson's presentation, commenting on the role academic programs play in archival education.

State and Local Records Preservation

This session, led by Terry Latour, University of Southern Mississippi McCain Graduate Library Archivist, provided evidence that Mississippi is not alone with her archival problems. Howard Lowell, State Archivist of Oklahoma, described the state of archival affairs in Oklahoma, and H. T. Holmes responded by pointing out parallels in Mississippi.

Genealogical Sources in Archives

Concurrent with the first day's sessions was a workshop on the use of archival source material for genealogical research and on how researchers in family history

Continued on Page 10

-2-

FROM THE DIRECTOR -

The Primary Source is a quarterly publication of news and ideas produced by the Society of Mississippi Archivists, a non-profit organization of professional archivists and interested persons. Subscription to *The Primary Source* is included in the Society membership dues. Membership information is printed on the last page of each newsletter.

Your contributions are welcome. Write *The Primary Source*, P. O. Box 1151, Jackson, MS 39205.

Deadlines for inclusion are:

- #1 (February) -- January 31
- #2 (May) -- April 30
- #3 (August) -- July 31
- #4 (November) -- October 31

h t holmes.....Editor
Martha Sparrow...Assistant Editor

As was indicated in our last report, much of the recent efforts of your executive director on behalf of the Society have been focused on increasing our membership. I am happy to report that our efforts have borne fruit. As of this writing, membership stands at 256, an increase of eighty since my last report. This total also represents the first time in the life of the Society that we have realized an increase over the previous year (final count 253). A total of 193 renewals from last year represents a 23.7% non-renewal rate. However, thirty-five new members; twenty-two re-joins from our first year, 1978-1979; and six from our second year, 1979-1980 bring the total to our current figure.

I shall be stepping down as your executive director after the annual meeting in Biloxi. Increased involvements in the field of records management are demanding more and more of my

time and I don't think I can devote the proper time to Society business. I also feel that, having served the Society in this capacity since its inception in 1978, it is time to give someone else a chance to become involved in the activities of the group.

My work with the Society has been extremely rewarding over the years and I hope that in some small way I have contributed to the growth and development of the organization. This resignation from the post of executive director by no means indicates my intention to leave the Society. I intend to remain active and serve in whatever capacities the Council or membership should desire.

Your Society has a very capable leadership. I urge you to communicate with them your ideas and comments on how we might have a meaningful impact on the state's growing archival profession.--RET

UPDATE ON NHPRC

A recent call to determine the status of NHPRC provided the following information. Fiscal year '82 funds (additional) were included in the first two supplemental appropriation measures vetoed by the President, but none are included in the latest version of that measure. This means no additional funds will be available for NHPRC this fiscal year. There is next to no action in the budget process for fiscal year '83, and the prospects are good for entering the new fiscal year with another round of continuing resolutions. This would leave NHPRC at its current funding level of 1.5 million dollars. These recent reductions have decreased NHPRC staff from twenty-two to nine, and there are gloomy prospects of even more reductions. Society members interested in writing their Congressman in support of NHPRC should concentrate, at this point, on S.B. 2501, the NHPRC reauthorization bill for FY '83. Introduced by Senator Eagleton, S.B. 2501 is now in the Civil Service, Post Office and General Services Subcommittee of the Senate Government Affairs Committee.

ACCESSIONS

BUCKLEY ROOM, LOWNDES COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Cook (Joseph A.) Collection. 1911-1939. 5 folders.

Family correspondence and correspondence to Joe Cook from his constituents during his eight years as senator in the Mississippi legislature from Lowndes County; bulk of the material is from 1930-1939.

Presented by Mrs. Kirby Spurlock.

EVANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI

McKnight Glass Negative Collection. 1894-1929.

Over 15,500 numbered glass negatives plus photographer's registers covering those negatives, one register covering September 1, 1916 - November 5, 1918 is missing.

Presented by John Velhart.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Henley (Beth) Papers. 1978-1981. 3 items.

Three typescript drafts with handwritten corrections of Beth Henley's Pulitzer Prize winning play, "Crimes of the Heart."

Stennis (John C.), accretion. 1972-1980. 39 linear feet.

Office files, public papers.

Presented by Senator John C. Stennis.

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Ellison (Lucile Watkins) Collection. 1946-1979. 1 cubic foot.

Original manuscripts for two published children's books, *Butter on Both Sides* and *The Tie that Binds*; pamphlets, government documents, photographs, film-strip relating to Ellison's career with the National Education Association; brief biography.

Presented by the family of Lucile Watkins Ellison.

Tennessee Tombigbee Collection. 1972-1981. 5 inches.

Two master videotapes entitled, *The History of the Tenn-Tom Waterway* showing early construction; one color print, film clips, "Tenn-Tom."

Presented by Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority.

ACCESSIONS

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI JOHN DAVIS WILLIAMS LIBRARY

Land Conveyance. 1798. 1 item.

Land conveyance in Spanish transferring a plantation on the Homochitto River to one Peter Walker and to Andrew Ellicott, signed in Natchez on March 19, 1798.

Lumber Archives. 1829-1956. 3,087 linear feet.

The Lumber Archives consists of the business and financial records of Mississippi lumber companies which document the growth of the lumber industry in Mississippi. The four major lumber companies included are the Andrew Brown & Son Lumber Company (1836-1879); Brown's successor company, R. F. Learned & Son, Inc. (1829-1956); the H. Weston Lumber Company (1874-1956); and the L. N. Dantzler Lumber Company (1900-1944). Also included are records of the Hardwood Manufacturers Institute and the Southern Hardwood Producers, Inc. A ninety-four page guide to the Lumber Archives has been prepared which provides a brief narrative of the company history and serves as an inventory to the collection: *Guide to the Lumber Archives at the University of Mississippi* (University, Mississippi 1981 [94] p.).

Brickell (Herschell) Collection. 1910-1957. 150 linear feet.

Papers and personal library of Herschell Brickell. A native Mississippian, Brickell was active in the 1920s and 1930s as book columnist and literary editor for the *New York Evening Post* and served for a time as general editor of the publishing house of Henry Holt and Company. In 1940, Brickell assumed the editorship of the *O. Henry Memorial Prize Short Stories* and continued to edit the series until his death in 1952. The collection consists of over 3,500 volumes with substantial strengths in advance review copies in dust jackets of American fiction between 1920 and 1940, especially Southern fiction, fiction by black authors of the Harlem Renaissance, and socio-literary and historical stories of the South. Subject emphases in the collection embrace travel literature of the 1920s and 1930s and Latin American and Spanish literature, travel and history. The collection is rich in correspondence from leading Southern women writers of the period and include runs of substantive letters from Margaret Mitchell, Eudora Welty, Julia Peterkin, and Ellen Glasgow. The twenty letters from Margaret Mitchell to Brickell are among the most revealing she wrote on her life in the aftermath of *Gone With the Wind*. Notable highlights in the collection include the presentation copy to Brickell from Eudora Welty of her *Music in Spain*, which is dedicated to Herschell Brickell, along with correspondence from Welty concerning the publication of *Music in Spain* by the Levee Press in Greenville, Mississippi, advance review copies of Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* and *Doctor Martino and Other Stories*, and presentations to Brickell from Federico Garcia Lorca of Lorca's *Romancero Gitano*.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Greer (Alexander and Thomas) Papers. 1862-1865, 1873-1877.

ACCESSIONS

Photocopies of letters and service records of Alexander Greer and his son, Thomas, during the Civil War. Alexander was a member of the 140th Pennsylvania Volunteers and Thomas was a member of the 155th Pennsylvania Volunteers. The letters of these Hookstown, Pennsylvania, residents were written to their wife and mother, respectively.

Hardy (William H.) Papers. 1885-1930. .75 c.f.

Correspondence between William H. Hardy, founder of Hattiesburg and Gulfport, and his wife, Hattie. The collection also includes family photographs and a scrapbook relating to the William H. Hardy bust dedication in Gulfport in 1929.

Long (James S.) Papers. ca. 1930-1975. 28 c.f.

Correspondence, lecture notes, research notes, speakers, and published material. Long was a Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering at USM and a noted chemist in private industry. He is particularly noted for his work with resins and plastics in the early polymer science industry and was an important influence to the tung oil industry.

NOTES ON THE PRESERVATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS SECTION

(Research and Technical Services Division, American Library Association)

The purpose of the Preservation of Library Materials Section (PLMS) is to recommend and encourage educational and research programs and advise in the conduct of such programs in all aspects of the preservation of library materials, including preventive measures, restoration measures, preservation by duplication, and emergency preservation procedures; to advise and assist the library profession in the solution of preservation problems and to disseminate information concerning preservation techniques, supplies, and programs; to cooperate with paper manufacturers, publishers, binders, and other organizations interested in preservation in achieving solutions to problems of mutual interest and concern.

Among the committees of this section is the Education Committee, whose purpose is: to disseminate to the membership information on education opportunities in the preservation field through periodic updates of the *Preservation Education Flyer*; to plan annual programs and other education activities for the section. The Library/Binders Relations Committee serves to provide a formal channel for the exchange of information between librarians and binders and to work towards the solution of problems of mutual interest and concern. The Physical Quality of Library Materials Committee has as its purposes: to explore problems involved in the quality of book production as related to both materials and techniques and to cooperate with publishers and paper manufacturers in the solution of those problems; to keep informed as to research and new developments in the area of its responsibilities. The duties of the Policy and Research Committee are: to consider and recommend to the PLMS Executive Committee policies or plans for research and action in preservation of library materials; to keep informed as to research in progress in the area of its responsibilities; to coordinate the work of the Policy and Research Committee with planning for the Research and Technical Services Division as a whole. The Section also sponsors a discussion group on the preservation of library materials, which is open to persons interested in the purposes of the group.

A prerequisite of membership in the Preservation of Library Materials Section is membership in the American Library Association and the Research and Technical Services Division. For membership information write Public Information Office, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611, (312) 944-6780.

NEWS NOTES

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Jackson State University has received a \$100,000 grant for a two-year project to study the historic and aesthetic values of a southern black neighborhood. In addition to Jackson State, co-sponsors of the project are the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the Jackson Y.W.C.A. For additional information, contact Alferdteen Harrison, Project Director, Jackson State University.

ARCHIVE OF FOLK CULTURE UPDATES DIRECTORY

The Archive of Folk Culture is currently updating their directory of folklife and ethno musicology archives in North America. Plans are to publish such a listing as a part of a comprehensive directory of folklife resources sometime in the next year. For more information contact Joseph C. Hickerson, Head, Archive of Folk Culture, The American Folklife Center, The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540. The Archive currently has available *An Inventory of the Bibliographies and Other Reference and Finding Aids Prepared by the Archive of Folk Culture*.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

On October 19, 1981, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library and Archives in Atlanta, Georgia opened. The largest collection of primary resource materials on the American Civil Rights Movement is available for scholarly research in the newly-completed Freedom Hall Complex. The Center houses the papers of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the records of some of the major civil rights organizations. Other materials include private manuscript collections, one-of-a-kind newspapers published during the 1960s, tape recordings, and other related materials. For additional information write D. Louise Cook, Director, King Library and Archives, 449 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30312.

PAPERS FROM THE 1981 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL ARCHIVAL NETWORKS PUBLISHED

The Midwest Archives Conference has published papers prepared for the July 1981 National Conference on Regional Archival Networks held in Madison, Wisconsin. Specific topics addressed at the Conference were information sharing, analysis and assessment on current networking and related cooperative activities, problem solving for specific networking issues, and planning for the future. In addition to the papers presented at the meeting, the Midwest Archives Conference has included summary information on eleven existing networks, a bibliography, and conclusions and recommendations drawn up by participants. The resulting publication appears as an expanded issue of the *Midwestern Archivist*, MAC's semi-annual journal. Copies of this issue are available to all interested persons for \$4.75 plus 50¢ for postage and handling. Orders should be addressed to MAC, Room 19, Library, University of Illinois, 1408 W. Gregory, Urbana, Illinois 61801.

INFORMATION ON ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS REQUESTED

The Institute on the Federal Theatre Project and New Deal Culture at George Mason University has proposed an oral history program consisting of interviews with former participants in WPA arts projects. To avoid duplication, the institute welcomes information on similar interviews and oral history projects which have already been completed. Program planners would also appreciate hearing of suggested subjects for interviews. Please contact Roy Rosenzweig,

NEWS NOTES

Director of Oral History Program, Institute on the Federal Theatre Project and New Deal Culture, 5th Floor Fenwick Library, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia 22030.

NEW PUBLICATION FROM AASLH

Using Local History in the Classroom is the title of a new book available from the American Association for State and Local History. Written by Fay D. Metcalf and Matthew T. Downey, this volume is the first comprehensive manual published for using local history and community resources in high school and college history and social studies programs. This book is an excellent guide to local history possibilities for teachers and is also an important resource for local history societies and museums with community outreach programs involving local schools. The clothbound book costs \$17.50 for non-members and \$13.50 for AASLH members. It can be ordered from the American Association for State and Local History, 708 Berry Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37204.

DEADLINE FOR NEH CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATIONS

September 1, 1982, is the next deadline for challenge grant applications to the National Endowment for the Humanities. NEH has modified certain provisions in the Challenge Grant Program because of changes in its legislative authority. Challenge grants encourage humanities organizations to seek funding from non-federal sources. NEH requires institutions receiving the program's matching grants to raise \$3.00 in new or increased donations for each federal dollar awarded.

Institutions eligible for grants include museums, historical organizations, public and private universities, junior and community colleges, non-profit groups, research and public libraries, research institutions, broadcast stations and other media. Copies of the new guidelines may be obtained by writing to Challenge Grant Guidelines, Mail Stop 351, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C. 20506.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES EXHIBIT ON FAMILY RECORDS

A major exhibit at the National Archives focuses on family records. "A Matter of Identity: Chronicles of the Family in the National Archives" contains twenty hand-written and hand-painted family records. Highlights of the exhibit are records of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths. The records are written in an embellished style and are decorated with hearts, tulips, and birds. They were drawn from the Archives Revolutionary War files of pension and bounty land applications. The exhibit will run indefinitely. For more information, interested persons may contact Sylvia Danovitch, Public Affairs, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20408.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

A Program for Disaster Response in Michigan is a recent publication of the Michigan Archival Association. The manual provides guidance to institutions which have suffered disasters. Copies are available from Fred Honhart, Archives and Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.

SAA MANUAL: ARCHIVES AND COMPUTERS

In his book, *Archives and Manuscripts: An Introduction to Automated Access*,

NEWS NOTES

H. Thomas Hickerson provides information to archivists interested in computerized access to collections. This manual which is a part of SAA's Basic Manual Series contains chapters on computer operation and specific uses of computers in archival settings. Hickerson discusses ten automated systems and their applications. The manual may be ordered from the Society of American Archivists, 330 S. Wells, Suite 810, Chicago, Illinois 60606. Cost of this volume is \$5.00 for SAA members and \$7.00 for non-members. Non pre-paid orders will incur a postage and handling charge.

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

"W" alumnae attending April homecoming activities were the first to view a new exhibit at the University's Archives and Museum, a room furnished as a dormitory room of long ago. Mrs. Gloria Atkinson, university archivist, decorated the room in honor of Miss Louise Terry and Miss Sarah Woodward, retired "W" staff members. These two ladies combined have given over 2,500 volunteer hours to the archives. Working under the supervision of Mrs. Atkinson, they are currently processing the papers of former "W" presidents.....In February 1982, Martha Sparrow began work as assistant archivist and cataloger of the papers of the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority housed at the Archives and Museum.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY: DIVISION OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The second Records Disposition Workshop to train state agency personnel in proper records disposition and scheduling techniques and procedures took place at the Archives and History Building in Jackson on February 19, 1982. A total of fifteen agencies were represented at the seminar; together with the first workshop in the series last November we have now trained personnel from thirty state agencies in records disposition techniques. A. K. Johnson, CRM, from Atlanta, currently Executive Director of the National Association of State Archives and Records Administrators and formerly head of the Federal Records Center in Atlanta, again was our workshop leader. It is anticipated that a third workshop will be offered during the summer to other agencies.

Ron Tomlin, Executive Director of the Society and Director of the Division of Records Management, has completed the exam and all other requirements of the Institute of Certified Records Managers to be designated a Certified Records Manager. As far as we know, this makes Ron the first CRM in Mississippi. Ron also attended a Records Management Seminar offered by Tab Products in Jackson on April 28, 1982.

New regulations and procedures for the operation of the State Records Center will be implemented May 1. Records Management Handbook #1: State Records Center is presently available and will be mailed to all state agencies shortly after the first of May. Anyone else interested in obtaining a copy of the handbook may obtain one by writing the State Records Center at 929 High Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39202.

EVANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ABERDEEN

Work is progressing on the McKnight Glass Negative Collection. The identity of over 15,000 negatives is 2/3 complete. The registers in the collection are being card indexed.

Several researchers have visited the library in recent months. In January,

NEWS NOTES

Shirley Wilson from Hendersonville, Tennessee, used genealogical materials for her forthcoming book on Harold Jenkins, better known as Conway Twitty. Gail Camerson, author of *Rose* and also a researcher for Time-Life visited the library in April. Photographs of original items and artifacts of the Civil War period will be used in the Time-Life twenty-nine volume history of the Civil War. Volume I is to appear in January 1983.

A number of people also visit the library in search of information or collector's items. Mrs. Betty Jo White brought in a small calling card dish with a picture of the 1890 Aberdeen Public School. Although the Evans Library has several of these items, the card dish brought by Mrs. Wilson is in much better condition.

Channel 4 reporter Kelly Gilmer and camera man Sid Imes taped a TV segment in the Genealogical Division. The showing of this segment resulted in the addition of new researchers and letters of inquiry concerning library materials.

The library was included in the "Discover Aberdeen" brochure. The Corps of Engineers copied old pictures from the library's large collection for display during the event.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

In January, Betty Drake joined the staff of the McCain Graduate Library. She assists with the general reference duties in the Library's reading room and has assumed responsibility for the genealogy collection. Her work has improved the visibility and reference of the collection.

On April 1, Frank Walker finished work on the NHPRC-funded railroad project and began working half-time on the Hattiesburg Municipal Records Program (reported in the February *Primary Source*) and half-time on the staff of the McCain Graduate Library. His employment is permitting USM to accelerate the development of its university archives program.

SAA MANUAL: ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS: MAPS AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS

The Society of American Archivists has recently added a new title to its Basic Manual Series -- *Archives & Manuscripts: Maps and Architectural Drawings* by Ralph E. Ehrenberg. This manual is designed primarily as a general reference work for archivists who lack specialized training but who require some knowledge of maps and architectural drawings in their daily work. In addition, the author hopes that the manual will encourage archivists and archival institutions that have not previously acquired maps and architectural drawings to consider initiating appropriate accession programs in order to contribute to the preservation of our cartographic and architectural heritage.

Chapters are devoted to accession and appraisal, arrangement, description, conservation, storage and reference and access as they apply to these special types of records. The manual includes many illustrations, plus a glossary, a list of selected conservation and storage suppliers and supplies, and a lengthy bibliography. The sixty-four page manual can be ordered from The Society of American Archivists, 330 S. Wells, Suite 810, Chicago, Illinois 60606. The price is \$5.00 for SAA members and \$7.00 for others.

Annual Meeting, cont.

can use archives. The workshop was conducted by Roger Walker, historian at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Presidential Address

For the first time, the SMA president delivered a formal address at the annual meeting. Introduced by Claude Fike, University of Southern Mississippi Archivist, Robert J. Bailey presented his state of the society message at the luncheon. His remarks are reprinted elsewhere in this publication.

A Model Conservation Plan

The experiences of the nation's only self-supporting regional conservation center was the focus of this session, chaired by Anne Wells, Mississippi State University Mitchell Memorial Library. Andrew Raymond, Assistant Director for Photoduplication Services, Northeast Document Conservation Center, presented the history of this Andover, Massachusetts, center. Linda Overman, Mississippi Department of Archives and History Document Conservator, responded with comments on the possibility for such a center in Mississippi.

Southern Hospitality

Rounding out the first day's events was a round or two of hospitality provided by the University of Southern Mississippi School of Library Service and the dean of the school, Onva K. Boshears, Jr.

Repository Cooperation: A State-Wide Collecting Policy?

The second day's session was a spirited one on the problems and possibilities involved in the development of a state-wide collecting policy. Panel members George Lewis, Mississippi State University Archivist, Elbert Hilliard and Claude Fike presented their institutional views on the subject, and a general discussion ensued. The one consensus obtained was that greater knowledge of individual holdings was necessary to adequately discuss collection policy development.

Business Meeting

President Bailey presided over the closing session which saw approval given to raising SMA dues and election of new officers. President-Elect Anne Wells assumed the presidency. William Hanna, Mississippi Department of Archives and History Manuscript Curator, was elected vice-president/president-elect, Joseph J. Mika, University of Southern Mississippi School of Library Service was re-elected treasurer, and Terry Latour and Gloria Atkinson, Mississippi University for Women Archivist, were elected to the Executive Council. President Wells announced that Executive Director/Secretary Ronald Tomlin, who had submitted his resignation, had agreed to serve until his successor was chosen.

The 1982 Program Committee was chaired by William Hanna. Because space limitations have prevented detailed reports on the individual sessions, Society members desiring such information should contact the chairs of the sessions.

DRAFT: PRINCIPLES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS

Proposed for Adoption by the
National Association of State Archives and Records Administrators

(Ed. Note: This draft statement will be taken up for discussion at NASARA's annual business meeting, Thursday, July 23, 1982, in Nashville, Tennessee. The statement was drafted and approved in April, 1982, by the following committee: Samuel S. Silby, Chair, Maine State Archives; John Burns, California State Archives; Bruce W. Dearstyne, New York State Archives; Louis Manarin, Archives and Records Division, Virginia State Library. SMA members may comment in writing on the statement to Elbert R. Hilliard, Director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Post Office Box 571, Jackson, Mississippi 39205.)

The National Association of State Archives and Records Administrators recognizes local government records as one of its major concerns. The importance of local governments and their records deserves renewed emphasis. During much of the nation's early history, before the expansion of state and federal services so prominent today, local governments were the most important political entities in terms of impact on people's lives. Even today, many local governments have extensive home rule powers and they also function as the administrative arms of state and federal agencies, delivering services and enforcing mandates from these higher authorities.

The records of local government document the origin, evolution, and current operations of local government programs. These records provide evidence on policy formulation of processes and on administration of those policies. The records include information on taxation and on the management and expenditure of public funds. Information is also present on the legal rights and obligations of the government itself and on the births, deaths, marriages and property holding and other legal rights of its citizens. Finally, selected local government records have enduring value for historical and other research.

The information contained in local government records is now more in demand than ever--by administrators concerned with the origin and continuity of public policies; by citizens advocating open government and accountability of public servants; by genealogists and family history researchers tracing their "roots;" by historians studying community or regional history themes; and by other researchers studying social groups or trends in demography, land use, transportation, or other economic developments.

However, a number of factors have combined to limit application of sound records management and archival techniques in the creation, maintenance, disposition, and preservation of records. Local governing boards and councils often do not recognize the essential role of records in the efficient administration of modern government operations or the need for systematic records management. Local records custodians frequently take office without previous training or experience in records management or archival techniques and the everyday pressures and duties of their offices leave them little time to give records issues adequate attention. There are few publications and training courses on local government records management and exchange of information on workable records keeping practices is limited. As a result, records are often not as well managed as their administrative, fiscal, legal and historical importance would warrant. Important records may be difficult to locate when they are needed or they may be inadvertently discarded. On the other hand, obsolete records may be retained longer than necessary, creating an unnecessary and expensive storage burden and competing for space with newer or more important records.

This statement of principles is designed to provide guidance to local government officials and state archival and records management officers interested in improving records management and archival practices. It is intended to encourage a working partnership between state and local officials to ensure sound records management. The principles are general and must be interpreted and applied in light of state and local laws and traditions.

- I. Legislation. State legal authority should extend to the records of all local governments. State law should recognize the responsibility of state archival or records management agencies to ensure uniform procedures in the management of non-current local government records and should cover the following areas:
 1. Definition of records. The legal definition of what constitutes a "record" of local government should be precise but broad enough to encompass microfilm and modern information carrying or storage devices such as electronic data processing tapes and discs.
 2. Legal custody. The local government authority responsible for the custody of records should be designated. This may vary, depending on the type of government, state and local laws, and municipal charter provisions. Possibilities include the chief executive officer, clerk, department heads, or the local governing body.
 3. Disposition, including destruction or transfer. Disposition procedures, including supervisory authority of the state archival or records management agency, should be spelled out.
 4. Preservation and protection.
 5. Microfilmed records. The law should permit microfilmed copies of records to be substituted for originals provided the standards established by the state archival or records management agency for identification targeting, archival quality, and storage are met. Such microfilm should be legally admissible in court in lieu of the original records.
 6. Tampering with, defacing, or stealing records. Specific penalties should be provided for these crimes.
 7. Access to researchers and the public. The law should state that records are open to the public with certain exceptions, e.g., situations when disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, impair collective bargaining negotiations, provide trade secrets, or interfere with ongoing police or judicial proceedings.
 8. The law should provide that state and local governments may seek the return of official records that have been alienated from government custody.
- II. Principles of good management. Local government administrators and records custodians should recognize the importance of the records created by local government operations and the information these records contain. Records should be managed systematically, effectively and economically.
 1. Responsibility for management, preservation, and legal disposition of records should be clearly assigned.
 2. Records should be easily accessible to government officials and to the public through the use of indexes, systematic filing systems, and other techniques.

3. Inactive or noncurrent records should be segregated from active records and stored away from busy office areas.
4. A vital records program should be developed to ensure the survival of records and information necessary to resume and continue government operations after a serious fire or other catastrophe.
5. Selected records with long minimum legal retention periods, where the original record is no longer needed and a microfilmed copy will suffice, should be considered for microfilming in accordance with guidelines, provided by the state archival or records management agency. Microfilm may be substituted for the original records once state standards have been met.
6. Electronic data processing should be employed where warranted.
7. Records personnel should be trained in techniques of records and information management.
8. Obsolete records should be disposed of periodically following legal procedures.
9. Historically valuable records should be preserved in a local government archives, a designated local or regional repository, or the State Archives.

III. Role of state archival and records management agencies. The combined state archival and records management agency should work in partnership with local officials in establishing strong records management and archival programs. Where they are not combined, the actual division of supervisory, regulatory, and advisory authority between the state archives and the state records management agency should be clearly defined in each state to ensure a minimum of overlap and a common approach to local government records problems. State agencies should assume the following responsibilities:

1. Records disposition. State authorities should establish minimum legal retention periods and regulate the disposition of local government records. This responsibility can be carried out by having state authorities: (A) review and approve or veto requests from local governments for approval to dispose of specific records; (B) review and approve or modify records retention and disposition schedules submitted by local governments; (C) promulgate and distribute records retention and disposition schedules with statewide applicability. In regulating records disposition, state authorities should consider the administrative, fiscal, legal and historical and other research value of the records.
2. Records management advice and assistance. State authorities should provide technical advice and assistance on various aspects of records management systems such as legal disposition, handling inactive records, security, protection, indexing, filing systems, storage of inactive records, and electronic data processing systems. Such advice and assistance may be provided through a combination of field visits to local government offices, workshops and training institutes, and publications.
3. Preservation of historically valuable records. State authorities should develop programs to ensure the identification and preservation of records with enduring historical or other research value. This may be accomplished through: (A) providing advice and assistance to local governments to establish archival programs; (B) providing for the transfer of records to designated local or state repositories; or (C) accessioning historically

valuable local government records into the state archives. Choice of a method will depend on the state's laws and traditions. Whichever method is selected, the following minimum standards should be met: (A) Records are systematically appraised to identify those with archival value; (B) archival records are properly protected against fire, theft, or other loss; (C) records are arranged and described according to commonly accepted archival standards; (D) records are available for research at reasonable times.

4. Consultation with state and federal agencies. State archival or records management personnel should consult with state agencies whose regulatory, supervisory, licensing, or other activity have an impact on local government recordskeeping. These personnel should also continuously monitor the recordskeeping impact of federal mandates or federal programs administered through local governments.
5. Microfilming. State archival and records management agencies should take the lead in advising local governments on an appropriate role for microfilm. This might include advice on: (A) microfilming records with relatively long legal retention periods and disposition of the original records; (B) microfilming of selected records as part of a vital records program; (C) microfilming historically valuable records to make the information more accessible to researchers; or (D) deterring the microfilming of disposable, non-current records. In each case, the state agencies should promulgate standards for identification targeting, and archival filming, processing, and proper storage, based on the standards of the American National Standards Institute and the National Micrographics Association. In addition, state agencies may consider: (A) actually performing the microfilming of local government records; (B) performing quality checks and tests on microfilm; (C) providing secure storage for the master (camera produced) negative of the film; (D) securing a reference copy of film for research use at the state archives; or (E) securing a copy of the film for use by researchers via interlibrary loan.
6. Conservation and restoration. The state archival and records management agency should develop a statewide strategy to meet records conservation needs and the need to repair or restore deteriorated or damaged records. Such an approach might include: (A) organizing workshops or publishing manuals on conservation administration and techniques; (B) developing or designating a private or public institution somewhere in the state to take the lead in conservation training and in performing the most challenging of conservation procedures; or (C) using the state records management or state archives preservation lab to perform conservation work for local governments.

FROM THE PRESIDENT -

(Ed. Note: The following is the text of the presidential address delivered to the Society on May 17, 1982, at its annual meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi.)

Last month, when program chairman William Hanna showed me the rough draft of the agenda for the 1982 annual meeting, I noted that for the first time in the Society's history that a presidential address was scheduled, and genius that I am, assumed, unlike my secretary who was temporarily intrigued about the opportunity of typing such an address, that it would be me and not Ronald Reagan delivering the message. His rationale and stated purpose (Bill's not Mr. Reagan's) was and still is that the Society needed a presidential address to celebrate or acknowledge, at least, its fifth anniversary, even though the smallest of high school classes do not generally choose to reunite to honor themselves until a minimum of ten years has passed. Then I realized that "presidential address" is such a glamorous term that certainly Mr. Hanna asked me to do this because I am so eloquent. This assumption on my part was short lived, and on Bill's part unspoken at best, because, throughout his justification for the speech, he never once alluded to my powers of articulation.

So, when I set about to put this presidential address on paper, it occurred to me that there were three reasons, at least, for this luncheon speech. Reason number one is that the program committee could not find a "big name" to speak. Charles Lee, who spoke to us in Greenville last year, was indeed a difficult act to follow for the committee. So, like all good program committees, Mr. Hanna and his group darted from one end of the speechgiving spectrum to the other to corner a "little name." For some reason, never fully understood by me, program committees do not like "in between" names. I suspect strongly that it has to do with the fact that "big names" are appreciated even if their speeches are not, and "little names" are an excuse in themselves (i.e. "Hell, he's the only one we could find," or "He's the only one who would do it," or "We're broke and he's not costing us an honorarium"). But, with "in between" names you have neither the reverence or the excuse, and I can see where this could be very intimidating to program committees.

Reason number two involves laziness. Program committees do indeed have a difficult job and tend finally to wear out. This usually occurs when there are one or two more slots to fill on the program. It is then that committees turn to what I call creative programming, and one begins to see on the printed handout such items as "lunch on your own," "free walking tours," "enjoy an afternoon of golf and swimming," or, in our case, a "presidential address" -- certainly the most heartless and abusive form of creative programming. It is also not fair to the speaker if he feels as I do, which is very much like a lame three year old airlifted into Churchill Downs to fill the last gate in the Kentucky Derby or an obscure quote by Voltaire used to fill the last three lines of a back page newspaper column.

Reason number three is a variation of the Golden Rule, fraught in this case with vengeance. I appointed William Hanna to chair the program committee -- truly an awful job -- and so he set about to do unto me what I did unto him. So, in my defense, please be assured that I am not enjoying giving this speech, and I certainly did not seek a place on the program. It is not because I do not enjoy your company; it is because I do not enjoy speeches, particularly the after lunch variety where the bill of fare is hard enough to digest, without having to listen to a boring speech. Still, I have one salvation which you do not have. Like the "Purple Cow" we all had to learn about in school -- the one we'd rather see than be -- I'd damn sure rather give a speech than to hear one, and I must apologize that there is not room enough up here for all of you.

The organizational meeting of the Society of Mississippi Archivists was held

in 1977, in Jackson, and shortly thereafter the society was chartered under the laws of the state of Mississippi. While I was fortunate enough to be among the approximately 30 people gathered there (and perhaps less fortunate to be chosen the interim chairman), there were many doubts in my mind, quite frankly, as to whether the society would ever get off the ground, let alone fly. After all, a couple of earlier attempts to organize the society had come to naught. Certain questions ran through my mind, as I am sure they did others. Were we a bit too esoteric to claim rightfully a niche in our little world? Should we become a committee of a larger, established organization, i.e. the Mississippi Historical Society or the Mississippi Library Association, and learn to crawl before we walked. Did too much of an adversary relationship exist between the Department of Archives and History and the state's universities and colleges, which, after all, were and still are in competition for archival material? Were we really sure what we wanted our hoped-for organization to do as we finally set about on our solitary course?

In our constitution, ably drafted by Claude Fike, our stated objectives were "to provide a more effective means of communication among persons and institutions concerned with the documentation of human experience; to promote the preservation and appreciation of archival and manuscript resources in the state; to promote the adoption of sound principles and standards by all agencies public and private, which have responsibility for the preservation and administration of records; to foster publication and research; and to cooperate with citizens, professional organizations, cultural and educational institutions having mutual interest in the preservation and use of man's recorded heritage." Indeed, this was a bold and ambitious statement for a society so young and still young. To state that we have accomplished these objectives would be ludicrous. That we have accomplished some of the objectives in part is more realistic. That we have charted a true and proper course for our society is, in my opinion, a statement of fact. That we will succeed is up to us.

One thing that used to concern me far more than it does now about meetings such as this one is the fact that the people who show up to listen to the speeches and papers are almost universally our friends. While we may not always agree on method and approach, we usually agree on purpose -- in this case the preservation of our documentary heritage. Those who have an ephemeral interest in what we do, those whose disciplines are peripheral to ours, those who give out the grants, those in the state legislature or the national congress -- in short, those who can help us -- just do not usually show up. As a public servant involved in cultural resource preservation for a decade now, I have become less concerned of late about meeting with friends. I have become less concerned because I have seen too many cases where method and approach are so intertwined with and dominate purpose to such an extent that even our friends who understand the subtleties of what we are about come out of meetings confused, talking about means and not ends. If we are confused, one must not condemn those who do not show up -- those who do not understand the subtleties of what we are about. By way of illustration, I remember several years ago when teachers and state employees were clamoring for pay raises that various factions within those groups -- obviously after the same purpose -- so confused the state legislature that it was on the verge of granting less money than it had already agreed upon. Despite what some may think, the legislature was legitimately confused and thought it was doing for state employees what they were asking. Congress, itself, has been confused, particularly in the last couple of years. One congressional office called recently about the Historic Preservation Fund lobby effort and asked with polite frustration: "Is your organization asking for this or are you asking for that?" The point is, simply, I am not sure we can say enough to each other. We can disagree at every turn within our profession or our area of interest, but let us at least speak in a unified voice when we seek support for what we do.

Along these lines, I think that we should operate initially from the standpoint

of guarded strength. By this statement I mean two things. First, we who choose to preserve the tangible remnants of our history have (believe it or not) been quite successful -- far more so than any of us would have imagined ten years ago. In 1972, a state like Mississippi literally drooled over the possibility of receiving fifteen or twenty thousand dollars to record and preserve its historic buildings. Several years later Mississippi -- appreciably, of course, but rather matter-of-factly -- accepted over 600,000 dollars for the same purpose and immediately began to think of how to spend the one million dollars some felt it would receive within a couple of years. Ten years ago the National Historical Publications and Records Commission subgranted no money at all to the states. When the grants did come, Mississippi, as many of you know, had an extremely difficult time having its state records advisory board established, though Governor Winter moved in haste to see that it was done after his election. Still, some Mississippi institutions did receive NHPRC grant funds and accomplished worthwhile projects. For example, that seed money given by NHPRC to the state enabled Mississippi to conduct an official records survey, which led in great part to the establishment of the long-hoped-for records management program so badly needed. Had the grants program lasted for only one day, it could have provided no greater service -- not just to the state archives, or to other state agencies, or to the institutions of higher learning, or to the bureaucrats, or to the scholars, but to all Mississippians -- even those who have never heard the term records management. It saves them money, and it protects their civil rights.

Our society, itself, has been successful, and we should be positive about our achievements. In our charter year, we attained a membership of over four hundred, making us one of the largest state archival societies in the country -- a point noted by the Society of American Archivists. Even after the attraction of charter membership, we have maintained a continued membership in excess of 250. I understand that this year we have for the first time showed an increase in membership over any previous one year.

Further, despite our lean coffer, we have held successful annual meetings which have gone a long way in opening the lines of communication among those working in archives preservation in this state and in bringing fresh information from outside our borders. *The Primary Source*, our official publication, has contributed significantly to this same end. H. T. Holmes, its able editor, the Department of Archives and History, Jackson State University, and other institutions and individuals are to be congratulated for their work on *The Primary Source*. In fact, the facility of communication within the Society has proven me wrong about the adversary relationship between the state archives and other institutions involved in archives and manuscript preservation. I am happy to be wrong. While there is some disagreement and friendly competition among all of us, I think that our proven ability to communicate with each other is reason enough for our existence. At this point in time, I do not think that there is a single institution in this state, which, after having lost a collection of documents it had hoped to acquire, would not say: Better in Mississippi than in Chapel Hill or Baton Rouge.

Still, our successes go beyond that. We have sponsored or co-sponsored symposia and workshops aimed at both the professional and non-professional. Others are planned for the future. To beef up our treasury we have solicited and received some money from foundations and concrete promises for more. It is my opinion that future executive councils for this Society should be relentless in this same pursuit, because, while people in our profession are not particularly fond of scratching about for money, it will be necessary if we are ever able to provide the advisory services which will bring more people into our organization.

I think our Society is also better organized now, with both ad hoc and standing committees in place, most of which have dynamic plans for the future.

The Conservation Committee, for example, is in line to provide a much-needed and very basic service to the public and hopefully bring some money to our Society in the process. The Archival Education Committee, which grew out of a grant from NHPRC to undertake a historical records assessment project in Mississippi, plans to continue beyond the life of that particular project. Hopefully, that committee will enable our Society to someday serve as a quality control organization for any future archival education programs in the state. So, again, it is imperative that we recognize that we have been successful in our first five years, despite the long, now broken road yet to travel. And this leads to the second matter.

With all publicly-funded cultural programs not facing bare-bones survival or outright extinction, we must continue to fight on, but we should do so in the right way. We must fight for things as fundamental as the separation of the National Archives from the General Services Administration, simply because it makes good sense. But, we must also fight for financial support against great competition, or we might be looking at only fundamentals. It is my opinion that those of us involved in cultural resource preservation, myself included, have gone astray. We fight. But do we fight properly equipped?

Everyone's ox is currently being gored, and, while we may claim legitimately that our cause is just and our interest not proprietary in nature, the state legislature and the national congress still grow weary of the same song and dance. We go to them with our tails between our legs and drone on about how you never funded us properly (which they already know), that we are sociologically important (which we are), and that we can be cost-effective (which we can be), though I hate that bureaucratic term. But there are innumerable entitlement programs which can make the same claim and whose constituency is far larger and far louder than ours. Thrown in the midst of the great bureaucracy, what chance do we really have to succeed when we choose to compete for funds with school lunch programs and defense buildup on only the terms previously mentioned. In a recent communication I received from the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, there was a questionnaire attached -- twelve pages in length and containing 132 questions. The term historic preservation was used five times; the word history not at all. The results of the questionnaire were to be compiled to form the one great lobby tool for the continuation of the national historic preservation program. There were five stated objectives, all as obnoxious as they were ambiguous. I will read one, not out of context: "The most cost-effective means of delivering services." One must imagine that more than a few congressmen wondered whether they were being asked to lend a hand in preserving a part of our history or whether they were being asked to legalize prostitution. Even we have learned to speak in acronymic bureaucratese, which begs the question: What can we hope to accomplish by mimicking those bureaucrats, who may not hold the purse strings but who open the purse? They are the real competition -- the real constituency. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the school lunch program, has more employees than there are farmers in the United States. To me that is a rather revealing statistic. So to try to fight this real constituency on its own terms is tantamount to suicide. If we continue on our present course, we will be forced to view ourselves in the terms of that familiar quote: "We have met the enemy and he is us."

How, then, can we be successful when we seek the support we need? It is here that we must again look back on our successes and the framework already in place -- both the institutional framework and the "cultural ethic" which I believe is alive and well. We must then seek a battlefield on which we can win. President Reagan has stated that Americans are a philanthropic people in matters relating to cultural affairs and therefore will pick up the slack as public funds are stripped away. I think that this is true to some extent, particularly in the performing and visual arts, though the current state of the economy has strapped the private sector as well. Unfortunately, I do not think this is true or ever has been true in

the case of archives preservation and, furthermore, am not sure that it should be. Archives preservation is a public concern, because the documents of historical value not only form the bedrock for preserving our history, but, in the case of official government records, for preserving our rights and privileges as citizens of this country. Government at all levels simply does not have a choice. They are stewards of the past as much as we; they are keepers of the flame as well as we. The minute a government is formed, an archivist is or should be born.

But, before we remind government of its civic duty, we should get our own house in order. Archivists tend to be a disparate group, and this disparity is good, because it enables us to be all things to all people, and people for all situations -- a necessity when bringing order and sense out of the records of the past. So, while there is nothing wrong with us discussing the this and that of archival work, we should lay to rest the "archival identity crisis" and the ensuing arguments as to who or what an archivist is, when two or more of our number get together. An eminent Harvard professor said several years ago that "scholars in the United States long occupied themselves in self-justification. The lachrymose call for appreciation expressed the insecurity and self-pity of people without confidence in their own values, who needed reassurance by the approval of others. And in a society which calibrated all measures by a single standard, the proof of worth was usefulness." Well, it is time for us to give up the self-pity and go about our business of being useful -- even if our usefulness is of the type not generally understood by many people, including some of those peripheral disciplines which use our labors the most.

I think that government has already accepted its civic duty to some extent. It would never knowingly preside over the destruction of the papers of an Andrew Jackson or a Franklin Delano Roosevelt or the official records of our nation. And, in fact, with the inception of the NHPRC grants program to the states, local governments and the private sector, the federal government officially committed itself to broadening its base and to establishing the framework for preserving the documentary heritage of "Mr. Everyman." While it was initiated in more economically-prosperous times, it still marked an acceptance by the federal government of the stewardship previously mentioned, and lower units of government and the private sector quickly joined in this national concern. But, times are anything but flush now, and one must suspect that the acceptance of that stewardship is shrinking as rapidly as the dollar bill. Some are already thinking that the benefits of documents preservation accrue to a small constituency made up of a few scholars who like to write and antiquarians interested in things simply because they are old.

Therefore, it is up to us who labor in archives preservation to carry the leading banner. We should still remind those who hold the purse strings that it is their duty to preserve the documents of the past and that the question is not whether they can afford to do it but whether they can afford not to do it. However, this brings us back to the same song and dance -- the claim of all whose ox is being gored -- and so we are in need of a contingency plan. In my humble opinion, the plan should focus on this state's and this nation's sense of pride. As strange as it may sound, pride, as a lobby tool, is a legitimate idea whose time has strangely come in the mad dash for public support in a sick economy. I think it will work if enough of us try it. Americans, by and large, are patriotic -- not in the love it or leave it sense, but true patriotism -- the right blend of national pride and thoughtfulness, patriotism that transcends our professed political ideology. As the turmoil of the 1960s and the existentialism of the 1970s pass into the ever-moving cycle of American history, we seem a little less embarrassed about being prideful again. By way of example, I think one of America's great success stories has been the nation's fairly recent campaign to clean up litter. The highways and landscape of today are far cleaner than they were yesterday. And I think the single most important factor in this success story, as hokey as it may sound to some, is

the thirty second public service announcement aired frequently on commercial television for sixty million people to watch -- the one where one noble Indian, upon seeing a bag of garbage tossed on the highway, looks into the camera and sheds one tear. That one tear has done more than all the state patrolmen citations and "Clean Up America" bumper stickers put together. It touched a nerve; it touched the country's sense of pride. And, because of the particular statement, I think it touched the country's sense of past as well.

We live in a technocratic century. It marches on ineluctably. For all its progress, it has bred a mobility, a transiency, and a rootlessness, all of which do not necessarily make good citizens. For all the brevity of our formal existence as a nation, it is therefore imperative that we remember that we still have a history. Pride in that history -- local, state, and national -- is the one common link that makes us Americans, and together it forms our national patrimony. The documents of our past must survive, if the historians of this and future generations are to write the history books from which our children and their children learn. There will be a day when this country will have to stand up and account for itself. Many may say that the time is soon at hand, with economic recession at home and the unsettling news from other parts of the world. Who is there to say that Americans will stand up at all, if the knowledge of their past is obscured or stripped away from them. Would it not have been tragic had those medieval monks not labored in their cells transcribing and preserving documents to insure the preservation of the historical gap between the classical and modern worlds? To our public leaders and to our fellow citizens, we should put the question: Should we not do at least as

BOOK REVIEW--

Roe, Kathleen. *Teaching With Historical Records*.

Albany: The New York State Education Department, 1981.

History students rarely get the opportunity to use primary sources. Junior high and high school teachers often expect college instructors to introduce undergraduates to historical research, and, in turn, many survey-level history teachers pass the responsibility to graduate professors. The result is that most history students encounter plenty of lecture notes, along with a few monographs, and do not receive the briefest introduction as to how the past is reconstructed by the historian.

Realizing the importance of an early exposure to historical documents, Kathleen Roe, an archivist with the New York State Archives, has produced a brief manual entitled, *Teaching With Historical Records*. Although primarily geared towards junior high and high school teachers, this work should receive attention from "historical records custodians interested in promoting wider use of their holdings." In addition to summarizing some objectives of classroom use of historical records and offering suggestions on how to locate documents, Roe's most important section--Sample Uses of Historical Records--is an explanation of how to garner relevant historical information from such sources as personal papers, business records, local government records, maps, photographs, broadsides, and census records. Facsimiles for each type of record are provided, along with discussion questions and classroom activities based on each record.

Although Roe limits the manual strictly to New York-related materials (a more appropriate title might have been *Teaching With Historical Records: "Some New York State Sources"*), the author's ideas are long overdue in history education. The challenge now exists for someone to compile a similar how-to book for Mississippi records. -- Charles A. Pearce, Mississippi Department of Archives and History

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS LICENSED TO MAKE DEACIDIFICATION SOLUTIONS

The Library of Congress has taken a nonexclusive, royalty bearing license (effective October 1, 1981) to make and use nonaqueous deacidification solutions for materials in the Library's custody and in facilities under its control and direction. The solutions being used were invented by Richard D. Smith, Wei T'o Associates, Inc., Matteson, Illinois.

The relationship between U.S. Patent 3,676,182 granted to Dr. Smith and U.S. Patent 3,937,091 granted to George Kelly, Preservation Research and Testing Office, and assigned to the Library of Congress has not been clearly understood until recently. As a result of discussions between the Library and Dr. Smith, the Library has been licensed to use Patent 3,676,182.

Dr. Smith pioneered the development of nonaqueous deacidification solutions during the 1960s at the Graduate Library School, The University of Chicago. His preferred deacidification agent, magnesium methoxide, was utilized by Mr. Kelly through addition of carbon dioxide to form methoxy magnesium methyl carbonate (MMMC), a chemical by definition, made up of more than 50 percent magnesium methoxide.

The LC Information Bulletin, March 12, 1976, when announcing Mr. Kelly's patent described the use of MMC, then called methylmagnesium carbonate, as follows:

"Many earlier deacidification techniques were based on aqueous deacidification solutions. Such solutions, although effective in some instances, have drawbacks related principally to the fact that water can be very damaging to some types of paper and to certain inks used for color work or for writing.

Although several non-aqueous or solvent-based methods have also been developed in recent years, each has been subject to some problems, ranging from the toxic nature of the materials involved to the tendency of some solutions to precipitate in the presence of moisture and leave a deposit on the paper.

Methylmagnesium carbonate eliminates nearly all of the objections encountered with other solvent-based systems. It effectively deacidifies papers too delicate to be treated by aqueous solution. The solution imparts a level of alkaline reserve high enough to protect the paper against future acid attack, whether these acids are internally generated by decomposing lignins or other compounds or externally deposited from atmospheric pollution.

Solutions of methylmagnesium carbonate are much more stable than previously available solutions, most of which tend quickly to become inactive. The effectiveness, the longer storage life, the greater convenience, and the significantly lower cost of the new product provide a superior deacidification agent for the use of conservators.

The Preservation Office of the Library of Congress has been using the new process to treat certain books and

documents for the past 12 months. The results have been excellent and no adverse effects or difficulties of any kind have been encountered."

With the exception of the Library of Congress, Wei T'o Associates, Inc., Box 40, Matteson, IL 60443, is the exclusive licensee under Dr. Smith's patent. The objective of Wei T'o is to encourage persons and institutions who have been manufacturing their own solutions to become customers.

It is the Library's understanding that Wei T'o has no desire to penalize any person or institution who has acted in good faith thinking that they were licensed under Mr. Kelly's patent. On the other hand, Wei T'o has informed the Library that it believes development costs should be evenly spread amongst all who benefit. For these reasons, Wei T'o will merely seek reasonable compensation from those persons and institutions who promptly undertake negotiations.

It is the plan of Wei T'o to improve the quality, variety, and scope of Wei T'o products and to support research in preservation for the benefit of collectors and institutions such as archives, libraries, and museums. Dr. Smith who is President of Wei T'o, has indicated that this plan follows his conviction that inventions should produce income and this income should be used to produce further benefits for society.

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"..no other profession calls for more various talents."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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Annual dues are \$5.00 Please make checks payable to The Society of Mississippi Archivists and send this form and dues to Joseph J. Mika, Treasurer, Society of Mississippi Archivists, Southern Station, Box 5146, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401. The membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Current members will receive a membership renewal notice in September.