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The Primary Source

Newsletter of the Society of Mississippi Archivists.

Volume Four

August 1982

Number Three

NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROJECT ENTERS FINAL STAGES

Much of the data-gathering activity of the State Historical Records Preservation Needs Assessment and Reporting Project has been completed, according to Madel Morgan, Project Director. Public hearings have been held in all four areas of investigation, Local Government Records, Historical Records Repositories, Statewide Concerns (conservation, archival education, publication of archival materials), and State Government Records. The information gathered in these hearings and related survey activities is now being evaluated by project staff. Members of the staff of the Department of Archives and History's Records Management Division and Official Records Section are in the process of providing responses to in-house evaluations of their programs, and a machine-readable records consultant will visit the state in September to analyze the needs in the preservation of computer-generated state government records. Morgan expects all data-gathering activities to be completed by mid-September, with the first draft of the project report to be completed by early October.

The Needs Assessment Project is a year-long study of the problems of preserving Mississippi's archival heritage. The final project report will identify these problems and propose short and long term solutions to them. Funded by a \$25,000 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History on behalf of the State Historical Records Advisory Board, the project has provided the opportunity for Mississippi archivists to look at the archival programs in operation in the state and to receive constructive comments from the constituents of those programs. Project funds have been used to bring a number of archival consultants to Mississippi to observe and report on preservation problems. Among these consultants have been Karen Day, managing editor of *Conservation Administration News*; Andrew Raymond, Director of Photoduplication Services, Northeast Document Conservation Center; and in cooperation with the Society of Mississippi Archivists, Howard Lowell, Director, Oklahoma Archives Division; and Trudy Peterson, former director of NARS' Modern Archives Institute. Two additional consultants will be brought in before the end of the project, both to look at state government records: A. K. Johnson, retired director of the National Association of State Archivists and Records Administrators; and Tom Brown, NARS Machine-Readable Records Division.

Final public hearings on the draft report will be held in November. Copies of the draft will be made available to the public toward the end of October. Appropriate news releases will alert citizens interested in reviewing the draft as to availability of draft copies and public hearing locations. For additional information about the Needs Assessment Project, write Madel Morgan, Project Director, P. O. Box 571, Jackson, Mississippi 39205, or call her at (601) 354-6218.

The Primary Source is a quarterly publication of new 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

FROM THE DIRECTOR -

I indicated in the last issue of this newsletter that I was resigning from the post of executive director after the Society's annual meeting in Biloxi. Anne Wells, our new president, asked me to stay on board until a replacement can be named, and I gladly agreed to do so. As of this date, I remain in the position, and, while I look forward to training a new executive director, I am happy to be able to continue to serve your Society.

Society matters seem to be moving in a positive direction in recent months. We have an active Conservation Committee which is responsible for eleven new members. This brings our total to 267, which is 5.5% above last year's final tally. The total is made up of 193 renewals, forty-six new members, and twenty-eight former members who have re-joined the Society.

The Society's Ways and Means Committee met recently and plans to take a hard look at Society expenditures and income. Discussion at the meeting centered around gaining bet-

ter financial control of Society funds and coming up with the financial means to strengthen and broaden the Society's focus. Responsible budgeting and innovative financing is a measure of a certain maturity which should point the Society in the right direction for future growth. -- RET

COMMITTEES OF THE SOCIETY

The following list represents appointments made by President Wells as of August, 1982.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Terry Latour (USM), Chair

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Rod Blackledge (MDAH); Eugene Cain (Millsaps); Linda Overman (MDAH), Chair;
Terry Latour (USM); Lois Upham (USM); Irmi Wolfe (USM)

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Robert J. Bailey (MDAH); Bernice Bell (JSU); Onva K. Boshears (USM); H. T. Holmes (MDAH), Chair; Josephine Megehee (Picayune Public Library); Joseph J. Mika (USM); Susan H. Russell (Board of Health); Anne Wells (MSU)

ACCESSIONS

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

McAllister (Jane Ellen) Papers. Unprocessed.

McAllister was the first black candidate to receive the doctor's degree from Teacher's College, Columbia University. A native of Vicksburg, she joined the faculty at Jackson State University in 1941, where she was instrumental in structuring that institution's teacher education program. In 1951, she accepted the position of professor of education at JSU. The collection includes letters, reports, tests, students' records, conference papers, programs and publications.

Presented by the School of Education, Jackson State University.

Alexander (Florence Octavia) Papers. Unprocessed.

Alexander graduated from Jackson College in 1912, received the A.B. degree from Hunter College in 1918, was awarded the B.S. degree from Hampton Institute, and, in 1931, earned the M.A. degree from Columbia University. In 1934, she became the first female to serve as president of the Mississippi Teachers' Association, and later became the first black woman appointed to the Mississippi State Department of Education as an Itinerant Teacher Trainer. She also served as supervisor of Jeanes teachers at Jackson College. The collection includes letters, reports, books and memorabilia.

Presented by the Florence Octavia Alexander Family.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Curtis (Joseph W.) Campaign Materials. 1980. 51 items.

Correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, records, posters and cards. Presented by Joseph W. Curtis, Greenwood, Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

WLBT Archives. 1971-1980. ca. 150 cubic feet.

Correspondence, memoranda, board minutes, programming logs, newscast scripts, videotapes, and news film documenting the policies and operation of television station WLBT in Jackson, Mississippi, during the period in which Communications Improvement, Incorporated, a non-profit organization, held the interim license for the station.

Presented by Communications Improvement, Incorporated, Kenneth Dean, President.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

B. B. King Record Collection. 1930s-1970s. 7,300 albums and records; 147 linear ft.

The record collection of B. B. King, a most important and influential modern blues performer, spans over forty years, covering every idiom that influenced blues style and was tangential to it. A large portion of the collection is blues, largely post World War II blues. The rest of the collection represents many other types and styles of music--jazz, gospel, and country.

Presented by B. B. King.

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The State Records Center has been concentrating on disposing of boxes in the Center which have surpassed their assigned destruction dates. The task is essential in view of the increased transferral rate during 1982. During fiscal year 1982 (July 1, 1981 - June 30, 1982), a total of 6,886 boxes of records were transferred to the State Records Center, while only 1,520 boxes were destroyed. The ratio of transfers to destructions must be much closer for the Records Center operation to run efficiently. As records control schedules are approved by the State Records Committee during the next several years, there should be a narrowing of the gap between transfers and destructions.

The last quarter of the fiscal year saw a significant increase in the number of requests from state agencies for assistance with the formulation of records disposition plans or with the creation of records control schedules. Stan Patrick, records analyst, is spending more and more time in the field helping agencies, and this is seen as a very positive sign. During fiscal year 1983, intentions are to speed the process up even more by initiating the contacts and not waiting for agencies to call the State Records Center.

Work is progressing on a second records management handbook, this one dealing with records scheduling and disposition. It is hoped that the publication will be ready for submission to the Secretary of State's office in accordance with the procedures of the Administrative Procedures Law during November or December.

The State Records Committee, made up of the Governor, the Auditor of Public Accounts, the State Registrar of Vital Statistics, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Department of Archives and History as chairman, considers for approval records control schedules submitted by state agencies through the Division of Records Management. This committee has not yet met, but will probably have its initial meeting during the next quarter.

Plans are being made to offer a third records disposition workshop to interested state agencies during the next several months. Additionally, agency heads will shortly be asked to appoint a records management liaison officer to coordinate records disposition activities in their agency, especially as they relate to the State Records Center. This contact person should prove very valuable as the Division distributes procedures and policies and information about the state's records management program.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE SPONSORS BEGINNING GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS

The James Herbet White Library will sponsor two Genealogy Workshops for Beginners, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., on September 17 and November 19. Participants will be introduced to tools necessary to begin a genealogical search. Sources discussed will be county population census documents, pedigree charts, how-to-books and completed genealogies. For further information, contact Mrs. Mary Ruth Prince, Workshop Coordinator, James Herbet White Library, Mississippi Valley State University, Itta Bena, Mississippi 38941.

EVANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ABERDEEN

During National Library Week, April 17-23, the Board of Trustees of Evans Memorial Library approved the establishment of a tourist information center at the

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library. A calendar of city and area events and maps with walking tour information, brochures and publicity for tourists is available. The information center is coordinated with the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce. The Historical Division has been featured in a new full-color brochure put out by the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce.

On Sunday, July 11, 1982, Miss Lucille Peacock, former librarian of Evans Memorial Library and current director of the library's Historical Division, was honored on the occasion of her 82nd birthday. "Evans Memorial is known throughout the U.S. as one of the finest for genealogical and historical research and Miss Peacock was honored because she has made Evans Memorial Library what it is," commented a spokesman for the Woman's Club. In lieu of gifts, donations to the Historical Division were given. This money will be used in the Division in honor of Miss Peacock.

A memorial service for historian John Ed Rodabough, who died in St. Louis on July 4, was held in the Genealogical Room on July 8 at the same time his funeral service was being conducted in St. Louis. Dr. Charles G. Hamilton officiated.

The Preservation Workshop held at Columbus Public Library on July 14 was attended by Evans Memorial Historical Division Assistant Mrs. Helen M. Crawford. Newspaper coverage of some of the researchers in the Historical Division included Ms. Margaret Long's visit from Rusk, Texas, to search for information on her ancestor, William Redd Cunningham, who built the Reuben Davis house, "Sunset Hill," in Aberdeen.

MCCAIN GRADUATE LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

This year the Loughborough International Seminar on Children's Literature is to be held, for only the third time in the United States, on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville on August 16-21. John Kelly will present a slide presentation of the de Grummond Children's Collection during the seminar. The United States will also be represented by one of the traveling exhibits from the de Grummond Collection, which will be displayed there.

DIRECTORY OF LIBRARY REPROGRAPHIC SERVICES PUBLISHED

Compiled by Joseph Z. Nitecki, the *Directory of Library Reprographic Services* (540 pages, 8th edition, 1982) has been published by Meckler Publishing. Sponsored by the Reproduction of Library Materials Section of ALA's Resources and Technical Services Division, the guide reprints survey forms returned by over 500 photoduplication departments in both the United States and some foreign countries. Copies are available from Meckler Publishing, 520 Riverside Avenue, Westport, CT 06880.

LOUISIANA AND LA SALLE

This Country of Louisiana, compiled by Florence M. Jumonville (12 pages, 1982), is a tricentennial bibliography of selected material about Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle (1643-1687) in The Historic New Orleans Collection. This source listing is the first in a series of bibliographies describing this special collection. The pamphlet is available free from The Historic New Orleans Collection, Research Library, 533 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130.

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INFORMATION ACCESS

Scholars' Access to Information: Public Responsibility/Private Initiative is an edited transcription of the proceedings of the 99th Membership Meeting of the Association of Research Libraries, held October 30, 1981, in Washington, D.C. Copies are available (prepaid only) for \$12.50 (or \$7.50 to ARL library members) from the Association of Research Libraries, 1527 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

BOOKS SAVED BY FREEZE-DRYING

Freeze-drying, a drying process that is just starting to gain worldwide acceptance in libraries and archives, was used recently at the University of Calgary library to save a collection of rare Russian books. The texts, mostly indexes to pre-Communist Russian literature, were soaked by thousands of gallons of hot water when a water pipe in the ceiling of the main stacks burst on December 2, 1981. Luckily, only about 400 books required treatment, and swift action taken by library staff and patrons saved the books from destruction by mold and water damage. Within four hours after the mishap occurred, the books had been removed to a growth chamber in the Department of Biology where the less seriously damaged books could be processed. About 80 of the volumes were either rare or too waterlogged for normal drying, and these were frozen in a standard home freezer. After freezing, the books were placed inside a vacuum-sealed drying unit where they remained (six volumes at a time) for five days at 58 degrees Celsius. The freeze-dryer converts the ice directly into water-vapor without passing through the damaging liquid state. Margaret Sinkey, assistant director of the library, said that they were very pleased with the results, and were working on preventive measures to ensure that the accident does not occur on a larger scale.

Library staff at Concordia University in Montreal will also try the method to dry out 1,500 boxes of water-damaged archival materials which were soaked during efforts to extinguish a fire last January. They are being stored in standard freezers until freeze-dryers can be located. The Canadian Conservation Institute, Ottawa, a federal agency dedicated to preserving and restoring museum and library materials, has been able to provide Concordia with a list of about thirty food processing companies which have freeze-drying equipment in the area.

BERKELEY'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM

The Library Security Council at the University of California, Berkeley, recently inaugurated a series of seven courses designed to train library staff to respond quickly and appropriately in different kinds of emergencies. Created by library and budget planning officer Jeff Pudewell, the program offers the following courses:

1. Fire Prevention and Response. A thorough study of the nature and causes of fire in the library. It includes a lecture, discussion, a film and hands-on training in the use of fire fighting equipment (extinguishers, hoses, alarm systems, and sprinklers).
2. Security of Persons, Property, and Collections. Inside information on how to stop crime in libraries; incident reporting, treatment of evidence, building security, protection of rare materials, and a tour of the police department.

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3. Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation. Medical certification in a vital, life-saving skill.
4. Emergency First Aid. Red Cross certification in emergency first aid skills, including how to care for injuries until the doctor arrives.
5. Wet and Damaged Library Materials. First aid for library materials caught in a flood or fire and how to care for worn and brittle books. The course includes lecture, discussion, and demonstration.
6. Health and Safety on the Job. Everything you want to know about employment safety, including films, discussion of chronic health concerns, safety hazards, and accident prevention and reporting.
7. Earthquake Response Management. A comprehensive analysis of earthquake scenarios.

The courses are taught by patrolmen of the campus Police Department, the deputy campus fire marshall, instructors from the American Red Cross, and representatives from the Facilities Management Department and the Environment and Safety Health Unit. The Wet and Damaged Library Materials course is taught by library conservation officer Barclay Ogden. Each course lasts eight hours and is taught in two half-day segments, except for Ogden's which is a four-hour course.

Pudewell said that the program has been strictly voluntary and there have been waiting lists for nearly all the courses. Everyone who successfully completes a course will automatically become a member of the Library Emergency Response Team. Their names and areas of training will eventually be published in the library directory so that untrained staff members can contact them in emergency situations. Each team member will be required to take refresher courses at least once a year in order to remain in the active file. Luckily no disasters have occurred since the inception of the program early this year, but Pudewell feels confident that library staff will be much better prepared to handle future problems.

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS SCHEDULES WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

Conservation Workshops.

September 22-24 -- Frankfort, Kentucky, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

October 16-18 -- Boston, Massachusetts, prior to SAA's annual meeting

Each 2½-day workshop will address means of integrating conservation philosophy and practice into archival administration. Lecture/discussion sessions will focus on causes of materials deterioration, environmental and storage conditions, care of non-textual records, preservation planning, disaster preparedness, and related topics. Workshop participants will learn basic hands-on procedures. Conservation supply kits will be provided; limited enrollment.

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Microforms Workshop.

October 17-18 -- Boston, Massachusetts, prior to SAA's annual meeting

This 1½-day workshop will provide an intensive introduction to the technology and use of microforms in archival settings. Instruction will be directed toward persons either administering in-house filming operations or contracting with outside service bureaus. Topics to be discussed include preservation filming, production standards, finding aids, costs, funding sources, and specialized uses of microforms. Limited enrollment.

For more information regarding these workshops, contact Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, Program Director, Society of American Archivists, 330 S. Wells Street, Suite 810, Chicago, IL 60606.

Management Seminar.

SAA will sponsor a seminar entitled "Management for Archivists" in cooperation with the North Carolina Division of Archives and History in Raleigh, North Carolina, November 15-16, 1982. The seminar will offer archival administrators the opportunity to discuss basic management principles and their application in an archival setting. In addition to the traditional lecture format, case studies will be used to explore the complexity of archival management. Major theme areas to be addressed include planning, budgeting and financial management, human resources management, and strategy and tactics for archival administrators. The seminar will be led by Mary Lynn McCree, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, and Ann Morgan Campbell, Society of American Archivists. In addition to their experience as archivists, both women hold MBA degrees. Enrollment for the seminar will be limited. To receive an application form contact Toni Pedroza, SAA, 330 S. Wells, Suite 810, Chicago, IL 60606.

Photographic Workshop.

A three day workshop on the administration of still photographic collections has been scheduled for December 1-3, 1982, in Norman, Oklahoma. The workshop is being offered with support from the University Libraries, University of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Chapter of the Western Conservation Congress. Topics to be covered in the workshop include: identification, appraisal, collecting policies, arrangement and description, access and user policies, conservation, and copyright and related legal issues. Limited enrollment; open to individuals currently responsible for photographic collections. Tuition: \$50. Contact SAA headquarters for an application or further information.

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS SPONSOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS WORKSHOP FOR MANAGERS OF ARCHIVES

The information systems that archivists establish to identify, control and retrieve historically significant records are important tools, yet the profession has paid scant heed to the resources we generate or to their management. This workshop will provide managers of archives with the tools they need to assess present information systems in their repositories and to design more effective systems, both manual and automated. Participants will learn to

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conduct a hierarchical systems analysis and to produce functional specifications for their information systems. The knowledgeable and active participation of the attendees will ensure a successful workshop.

Prior to the workshop, participants will receive archival data element definitions and information systems functional requirements developed by the SAA-National Information Systems Task Force. Participants should collect all formal control tools used in their repositories and identify all the data elements found in those resources using the definitions; this material will be used during the session. Following the workshop, participants will compare their analysis of the requirements for their information systems to the generalized information systems specifications, and explain discrepancies between them in terms of constituencies, program objectives, and management priorities.

Workshop director will be David Bearman, Project Director of the SAA-National Information Systems Task Force, and the workshop will be held at Endicott House, Dedham, Maine, on September 23, 1982. For additional information contact Zephorene L. Stickney, Wheaton College Archives, Norton, ME 02766, telephone (617) 285-7722, ext. 513.

FEATURE FILMS DONATED TO WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Washington State University received a noteworthy addition to its rapidly growing film archive this spring. A collection of vintage motion pictures was donated to the school by the family of the late J. Elroy McCaw. The 450 feature-length movies were produced by the R.K.O. Studios between 1930 and 1953 and are currently valued at approximately \$500,000. The only other collegiate film archive with a comparable R.K.O. collection is located at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. WSU has maintained a film archive for some time and has received a number of rare acquisitions during the past few years. It includes movies relating to local and regional history as well as "motivational, informational and documentary films" from the World War II era. With such films as "Suspicion," by Alfred Hitchcock, and "Citizen Kane," by Orson Welles, the McCaw Collection will add even greater variety to the archive's holdings. McCaw was an alumnus of WSU, an executive in the broadcasting industry, and the owner of radio and television stations across the country. The collection donated in his behalf had been housed by the McCaw family in Centralia, Washington. Bruce McCaw, a son of J. Elroy and operator of the Centralia cable station, learned of the University's interest in archival films and arranged for the donation through the WSU Foundation. The films are designated a historical collection, and certain restrictions apply to their use. Videotapes will be made for public viewing on KWSU-TV and in cinema courses at the University. From *Easy Access*.

THREE CATALOGING MANUALS COMPLETED

The Council of National Library and Information Associations' Joint Committee on Specialized Cataloging has completed work on three cataloging manuals: graphic materials, manuscripts, and archival film. The two-year project was supported by an NEH grant with the assistance of personnel from the Library of Congress. The manuals underwent final revision last March and will be published later this year by LC.

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MASS PAPER DEACIDIFICATION TESTS SCHEDULED

The Library of Congress will conduct the first large-scale test of its mass paper deacidification process this month. Using a large vacuum chamber originally designed to test satellites destined for outer space, the library will attempt to neutralize the acid found in most modern paper. The program aims to extend the life of books and valuable papers for at least four times their anticipated current life span of 25-100 years. The chamber, located at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, will be loaded with 5,000 books to be subjected to a week-long treatment with a special chemical vapor according to a patented process. The treatment is expected not only to neutralize the harmful acids that would otherwise destroy the paper, but will also leave an alkaline reserve to combat future acidic intrusion.

The process to be used is known as vapor-phased deacidification, used at LC since 1976. NASA's experience with vacuum technology provided the library with an ideal test site to demonstrate the feasibility of large-scale applications. After the volumes are placed in the chamber, the air is removed and the books are dried for two days at low pressure. Diethyl zinc (DEZ) gas is then introduced and allowed to permeate the volumes for four days. After a purging with nitrogen, carbon dioxide and water are introduced for one day. Backfilling with air completes the process and the books are removed.

Following the test, LC's Preservation Research and Testing Office will conduct exhaustive tests to ascertain that each of the 5,000 volumes has been completely deacidified. Results are expected before the end of 1982 and will be announced by the National Preservation Program Office at the Library of Congress.

CONSERVATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

Experts in conservation of print and nonprint library materials treat continuing concerns in this field in the fall 1981 *Library Trends* (vol. 30, no. 2), edited by Gerald Lundeen. Articles deal with prevention program administration, paper quality and binding, and nonprint materials and equipment. Pamela Darling observes the critical issues in timing, strategies, leadership, and scope of preservation administration programs in libraries. Paul Banks summarizes conservation training programs offered in museums, libraries, universities, and institutes. Disaster prevention and program planning needs are detailed by Sally Buchanan. John Williams reviews paper production methods past and present, standards for modern papers, benchmarks of paper quality, treatments of acid paper, and the effects of library storage conditions on papers. Werner Rebasmen follows with a discussion of fine and trade binding and features in library binding. Microform standards, characteristics, storage, and advantages of the medium are listed by Don Avedon. Alice Swan relates differing photographic development techniques in history and their implications in photographic conservation work. Walter Welch touches on the history of early sound recordings and describes techniques used in preservation and restoration of these. William Storm discusses standards for speakers purchased for recorded sound archives. Taken together, these papers represent the state of the art in preservation of library materials.

Library Trends is published quarterly by the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Subscriptions are \$16.00 per volume year (plus \$1 for postage for foreign subscribers). Single copies are

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CITY OF VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, ADOPTS ACCESS TO INFORMATION BYLAW

The City of Victoria (British Columbia) seems to be taking a stand against the free flow of information with adoption within two months of two bylaws, the first being the Access to Information Bylaw (passed in May, 1982), the second being the "Antipornography Bylaw" (passed in July, 1982) and aimed exclusively at one dealer whose store, Red Hot Video, offended a minority of people. In the latter instance, the store has chosen to remain in business in order to challenge the City's right to enact a bylaw dealing with a criminal offense.

The Access to Information Bylaw has so far gone unchallenged except by a few individuals and by the Association of British Columbia Archivists. In separate letters to the Mayor of Victoria and the *Times-Colonist*, the ABCA Newsletter editor protested the unjust and discriminatory nature of this bylaw. The bylaw quite clearly demonstrated that the City has a total disregard for its textual and visual heritage. Section 7 reads, "Nothing in this bylaw shall be construed so as to require the City to preserve any document beyond the time when it is normally destroyed." Not only does this section provide evidence of a lack of a records management program, but it also implies that the City management has no concept of the potential value to itself and its citizens of some of its records. This one section alone can do incalculable damage to future researchers and even hinder legal and administrative matters. The City can always claim, if this section is not repealed or altered, that no record need ever be retained on a permanent basis. Another adverse aspect of this bylaw is the exorbitant search fee of \$25.00 per hour or part of an hour in excess of five minutes. The photocopying charge of twenty-five cents is also out of line with photocopying costs at other institutions, such as the University of Victoria, the Greater Victoria Public Library, Camosun College, the Provincial Archives of British Columbia, and the City of Victoria Archives itself.

While the City has now made it a legal right of every citizen to consult City records (the records are specified), the City has also added bureaucratic obstacles to keep the number of search requests to a minimum level. If you would like, for instance, to read the bylaw itself, you would first have to apply in person or by letter to the Municipal Manager and pay a fee in advance (which fee may be waived at the discretion of the Manager). You would then be sent to the department which actually held the bylaws. And once there you would present your receipt for the search fee (which you paid) to the department. The department would then procure a copy of the bylaw and you would be able to read it under the supervision of a City employee. A copy of the bylaw would cost you one dollar (four pages at twenty-five cents).--From ABCA Newsletter (Association of British Columbia Archivists)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES RETURNS FOR GUBERNATORIAL RECORDS TO NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES

The National Archives and Records Service is returning the records of Franklin Roosevelt's governorship to the New York State Archives. The records, totaling approximately 200,000 pages, have been on loan since the mid-1950s from the state of New York to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, a part of the National Archives Presidential Libraries System. The records were formally recognized at a ceremony held on June 22 in the New York State Archives. Robert Warner, Archivist of the United States, said the records were being returned primarily because the rapid development of the New York

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State Archives, opened in 1978, assures that the records will be properly preserved and administered in Albany. New York did not have a state archives when the records were loaned to the FDR Library. Warner stated that the return of the records exemplifies the cooperation between state and federal archival agencies that is so important to insure that users of records have convenient access to them and are assured of their careful protection. He also noted that the Presidential Library System was begun by Franklin Roosevelt in 1939. Recalling FDR's great personal interest in history, especially New York history, Warner said it was appropriate that the records would be transferred to the state's archives during the centennial of Roosevelt's birth.

The records to be transferred from Hyde Park to the State Archives in Albany cover the years 1929-1932 when Roosevelt served two consecutive terms as governor before his election to the presidency. The records consist of incoming and outgoing correspondence, memoranda, speeches, appointment books, statements, reports, press releases and other documents from the period. These are official records relating to the administration of New York's government. Roosevelt's personal papers for the same period are arranged in a separate collection and will remain at the Library at Hyde Park. Official office records of Herbert Lehman, who served as FDR's lieutenant governor during these two terms, will also be returned to the state archives after loan to the Roosevelt Library.

TAXATION - MANUSCRIPT DONATIONS

Supporters of the effort to restore a fair market value tax deduction for donations of literary, musical or artistic compositions by their creators to libraries and museums received a major, though temporary, setback early this month when the pending bill, S. 2225, was not attached to a larger tax bill being developed in the Senate Finance Committee. Although a majority of Finance Committee members strongly supported the bill, its main sponsor, Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), felt that because no revenue-losing provisions were passing as amendments to the main revenue-raising measure, it was best not to offer S. 2225 rather than risk a negative vote. Instead, Senator Baucus will attempt to solidify support and look for another vehicle to which to attach his bill.

Supporters of the bill include ALA, the Association of Research Libraries, the Librarian of Congress, the Independent Research Libraries Association, the Association of American Publishers, the Council of Creative Artists, Libraries, and Museums, the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, the American Association of Museums, numerous art organizations, and the Reagan-appointed Presidential Task Force on the Arts and Humanities. The effort to restore the tax deduction will continue.--From *Washington Newsletter* (ALA)

1982 WOMEN'S ROSTER

Once again it is time to fill out a Women's Roster. A roster must be filled out every year to be of any value. Each fall they are submitted to the program chairs for SAA and regional meetings and to the book review editors for AA and other archival journals. The success of the Women's Roster depends a great deal on the willingness of women to send them in. The number of women completing them has increased each year and program committees have contacted

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DEACCESSION DECLAIMED -

In the frantic rush of the archival world's pursuit to acquire rare and unique documentary materials, many of us have only just begun to appreciate the fact that our repositories are reaching (if not have reached) maximum storage capacity. In the acquisition process, it is inevitable that duplicate and useless material is accessioned, contributing to the storage problems. David H. Stam, Andrew W. Mellon Director of the Research Libraries of the New York Public Library, discusses the potentials and pitfalls of deaccessioning in "Prove all Things: Hold Fast That Which Is Good: Deaccessioning and Research Libraries," in *College and Research Libraries* 43 (January 1982) p. 5-13. In the course of that article, he identifies nine types of deaccessioning:

THE DEACCESSION NUGATORY - throwing away the useless. An absolute necessity in all libraries, no matter how difficult the judgments involved.

THE DEACCESSION RAPACIOUS - loss by plunder and looting (cf. Napoleon and Hitler).

THE DEACCESSION INADVERTENT - loss by mistake. Probably the best known example is the Bodleian First Folio.

THE DEACCESSION CENSORIOUS - e.g., the great deprivations first of the English Reformation and the subsequent loss of many reformed works in the Marian reign.

THE DEACCESSION INCENDIARY - method recommended by Caliph Omar, David Hume, and a number of School Boards in the USA.

THE DEACCESSION EXTRANEIOUS - weeding. Not recommended for large research libraries.

THE DEACCESSION DUPLICATIVE - weeding of second copies, often by sale.

THE DEACCESSION RENUMERATIVE - the sale of assets for money or exchange.

A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITY WITH THE SOCIETY OF MISSISSIPPI ARCHIVISTS

The Society of Mississippi Archivists is accepting applications for the position of Executive Director/Secretary. A Constitutional office, the Executive Director/Secretary serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Council and as the coordinator for an increasing program of Society-sponsored activities. Also serving as the continuing spokesperson for the Society, the Executive Director/Secretary plays an influential role in the constantly changing archival world in Mississippi.

Requirements: Demonstrated archival experience and awareness and a desire to work hard for philosophical rewards.

Compensation: The thanks of peers and the occasion to contribute significantly to the archival profession.

Persons interested in this rare opportunity should contact Anne Wells, President, The Society of Mississippi Archivists, P. O. Box 1151, Jackson, Mississippi 39205, by September 17.

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women to give papers because of them. For more information in participating in this year's roster, contact Anne R. Kenney, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, Thomas Jefferson Library, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63121.

NEW PUBLICATION FROM THE HISTORICAL CHATTAHOOCHEE COMMISSION

In the Land of the Living, by Ray Mathis. "Dear Mother Brother and Sisters... I am yet in the land of the living and enjoying good health." Thus begins a typical letter from a homesick Confederate soldier to his family in the Chattahoochee Valley area anxiously awaiting word of his situation. *In the Land of the Living* is a collection of letters written by Confederate officers and soldiers to their families living in southeast Alabama and southwest Georgia. These letters, covering the period 1861-1865, were sent from numerous camps and fields throughout the South. The pervading theme of the letters is the camp life of the Confederate soldier. Unifying threads of homesickness, concern for families, expressions of love, long discussions of food and clothing, and the soldier's view of the fighting weave the tapestry which gives a picture of the loyal Confederates as they try to make life bearable between skirmishes and battles.--From *Access* (Society of Alabama Archivists)

ADVANCED STUDIES IN VISUAL RESOURCES: PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS

The University of Texas at Austin in sponsoring a three day conference entitled, Preservation of Historical Black and White Photographic Materials, October 28-30, 1982. The program is designed for photographers, archivists, slide and photograph curators, conservators, picture librarians, and others who work with black and white photographic materials. It will provide both theoretical and practical information relevant to every aspect of the black and white photograph, including basic information relative to the preservation of the photographic image, the history and chemistry of nineteenth-century photographic processes, collection and preservation, approaches to organization and access of materials, identification of processes, deterioration and stabilization, and the storage and display of black and white photographs. For more information, write Division of Continuing Education, Thompson Conference Center, Box 7879, Austin, Texas 78712.

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

An implementing directive or final rule for the President's Executive Order 12356 of April 2 on National Security Information was published in the June 25 *Federal Register* (pp. 27836-42) by the Information Security Oversight Office of the General Services Administration. Approved by the National Security Council, the implementing directive takes effect August 1, and sets forth guidance to agencies on classification and related matters regarding national security information.--From *Washington Newsletter* (ALA)

NEW GUIDE PUBLISHED FROM THE ARCHIVE OF MINORITY CULTURES

The University of Alabama's Archive of American Minority Cultures has just released its first preliminary guide to collections. The AAMC exists to "centralize, catalog, preserve and increase the accessibility of dispersed

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multimedia (non-print) source materials relating to regional ethnic, minority, and women's cultures." The guide is divided into several parts which give the history of AAMC, describe collection areas, list research projects completed through the AAMC, and include a detailed finding aid for black women. For information pertaining to this guide of the work of the AAMC, contact Brenda McCallum, P. O. Box 1391, University, Alabama 35486.--From *Access* (Society of Alabama Archivists)

AUBURN PUBLISHES DESCRIPTIVE BROCHURE

The Auburn University Archives is pleased to announce the publication of a new descriptive brochure. The brochure is an update of the Archives' first brochure, printed in 1977, and describes the Archives' history, purpose, and holdings. It also furnishes data on hours, location, duplication facilities, and finding aids. Free copies are available on request.--From *Access* (Society of Alabama Archivists)

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS, FY 1982 SUPPLEMENTAL:

The House on July 29 and the Senate on August 11 passed a supplemental appropriations bill (HR 6863) for FY 1982 which includes increased pay costs for a number of agencies, plus additional funding for postal subsidies, the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) and the National Historical Publications and Record Commission (NHPRC). The Senate-passed bill includes \$6.5 million in additional funding for the National Archives, of which \$1.5 million is to be earmarked for NHPRC grant programs and \$300,000 for preservation of historic Senate documents. The Senate Appropriations Committee report (S. Rept. 97-516) indicates the funds for NARS will "allow the Archives to begin installation of 24-hour climate control in all records storage areas where it is currently needed; to procure supplies for preservation of deteriorating documents; and reinstate the interlibrary loan program that has recently been terminated." HR 6863 must go through a House-Senate conference process and be signed by the President before it takes effect.--From *Washington Newsletter* (ALA)

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS, FY 1983

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury-Postal Service-General Government recommended a total of \$87.6 million for the National Archives and Records Service in FY 1983, with \$3 million earmarked for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The subcommittee accepted the proposal of Representative Silvio Conte (R-ME) to increase the NHPRC amount from \$1 million to \$3 million, thus bringing the NARS total to \$87.6 million.--From *Washington Newsletter* (ALA)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES -- INDEPENDENT AGENCY

On July 29, a bill (HR 6894) to establish an independent National Archives and Records Administration was introduced by Representative Jack Brooks (D-TX), Chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, Representative Frank Horton (R-NY), ranking minority member of the committee, and Representative Glenn English (D-OK), Chair of the Government Information and Individual Rights Subcommittee. The National Archives and Records Service, established in 1934, was incorporated into the General Services Administration in 1949.

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In a press release on the bill, Representative Brooks said that GSA administrators "have either ignored the Archives or meddled in its affairs without full understanding of its needs or purposes." Representative English, whose subcommittee held hearings earlier this year to examine the impact of budget cuts and other problems, said, "I have become increasingly frustrated with the lack of responsiveness of GSA officials to the needs of the Archives."

Brooks and English noted that since the subcommittee's hearings, GSA Administrator Gerald Carmen "had made at least one senior level personnel change at the Archives without first consulting the Archivist; had apparently reneged on an agreement that the Public Buildings Service would pay for some \$2.7 million in long-needed repairs at the Archives building; was again considering organizational changes that might strip the Archives of certain basic functions; and that GSA-imposed employment ceilings had led to termination of interlibrary loans of census microfilm." No action has been taken on a similar bill, S. 1421, pending in the Senate. -- From *Washington Newsletter* (ALA)

GEORGIA COURTHOUSE BURNS -- MICROFILMING OF RECORDS JUST COMPLETED

The importance of the Georgia Department of Archives and History's mobile microfilming operations was underscored at the beginning of this year, as Georgia suffered another courthouse tragedy. The Worth County courthouse in Sylvester was transformed into a charred husk after flames swept through the interior on the morning of January 27. Most records of enduring value survived in office vaults. The bulk of administrative records in the offices of county sheriff and tax commissioner were lost, but the latter office had placed most of its important information on off-site computer.

A small amount of current paperwork was destroyed in the offices of probate judge and clerk of superior court, and a current superior court docket book also burned. In addition, an undetermined amount of older records was consumed when flames engulfed the third floor of the courthouse. This was the third county courthouse in the state to burn within the last two years. Fortunately, one of the Archives' mobile microfilming laboratories had just completed three months of filming at Worth County the week before the fire. Thus, property and estate records in the probate judge's office and civil and criminal case files of the superior court were safeguarded.

The Georgia Department of Archives and History sent Harmon Smith, head of the Governmental Records Office, to assist at the scene on the night of the fire. The next day Smith was joined by Tommy Holmes of the Archives' Restoration Laboratory. County personnel were instructed in how to treat water-soaked records, and it's believed that anti-fungus agents then applied will prevent the growth of mold and mildew. Some Worth County offices will be housed on the second floor of the Sylvester city hall until the courthouse can be replaced. The tax assessor's office has been moved to a former residence several blocks from the courthouse, while the probate judge has set up operations in a mobile home on the courthouse grounds.

REPORT ON CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Conservation Committee has met monthly, except May, since its inception in February. In April, Karen Day, conservation consultant with the Needs Assessment Project, met with the Committee. At her suggestion, the Committee has petitioned the Western Conservation Congress to become a state chapter of that organization. As a state chapter, the Committee will be entitled to borrow conservation literature from the thirty-three institutions listed in the WCC Conservation Catalog. WCC's newsletter, *Conservation Administration News*, will give us a link to conservation information and activities across the nation.

At the Society's annual meeting in May, the Committee exhibited a collection of archival products, and provided handouts to those in attendance. In June, the Committee met to determine the topic for the first conservation leaflet, which is an insert in this issue. Four leaflets a year will be produced and will be carried as inserts to *The Primary Source*. If any SMA member has suggestions for topics of interest, please contact a member of the Committee. The July meeting saw final approval given to the first conservation leaflet, and a discussion of expenses for the Committee's work. Plans of the Committee include a series of disaster preparedness and recovery workshops throughout the state, which should lead to a state-wide disaster plan. Development of a slide show for use in these workshops is now underway.

Membership of the Committee is composed of persons either professionally involved or interested in archival conservation. Committee members participate in a variety of conservation oriented activities. Such activities by three members have been:

Gene Cain gave a paper on foxing at the annual meeting of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Milwaukee in May. His paper was a result of the research he has been conducting at Millsaps College and the Winterthur Museum. He has divided foxing into four types, noting that both iron particles and fungi commonly occur together in two of the types.

Linda Overman conducted two workshops on the preservation of library materials at the Columbus Public Library on July 14. The morning session, which was mainly for patrons, included a discussion of environmental concerns for collections. A demonstration of the treatment of bound volumes was made. Instructions were given for the proper storage and handling of documents, photographs and sound recordings. The afternoon session was directed to librarians. This session began with information on planning for preservation, including doing collection surveys and writing disaster plans. The instructions and demonstrations included surface cleaning, removal of foreign objects, deacidification and polyester encapsulation. Seventy-five persons attended the two workshops.

Lois Upham chaired a program session at the annual conference of the American Library Association, held in July in Philadelphia. Entitled "Education for Preservation," the session was sponsored by the Preservation of Library Materials Section and examined various opportunities at the academic and continuing education levels for education in the preservation of research materials.

J. B. CAIN ARCHIVES ESTABLISHED AT MILLSAPS COLLEGE

Millsaps College, in cooperation with the Mississippi and North Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church, has established the J. B. Cain Archives of Millsaps College and Mississippi Methodism. The Archives will be a function of the Millsaps-Wilson Library.

The initial project, funded for one year by the Methodist Conferences and receiving staff and facilities support from the College, is intended to be a trial effort to combine the archival material of all three sponsors under one service. It is hoped a successful first year will result in continued support. Funding for the project will provide for a part-time archivist who will begin organizing the collections which are in various stages of development. While the materials will be kept as separate collections, their contents and service will be coordinated. The agreement which established the J. B. Cain Archives provides for service to be a combination of the part-time College Archivist, the Millsaps library staff and Dr. J. B. Cain, Historical Research Director for the Mississippi Conference, and his daughter and assistant, Mrs. Loyce McKenzie.

The collection is named for and dedicated to Dr. J. B. Cain, who has supervised the collection, preservation and service of Methodist archives in the state for many years. It is widely felt that, but for Dr. Cain's efforts and leadership during this period, the Methodist Archives would not be nearly as complete as they are. During that time, which, as an institution of the United Methodist Church, shares much of its history with the two sponsoring Conferences.

Mrs. Marie Gallup, formerly employed by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and who has rich experience as a trained archivist in other collections, has accepted the challenge of organizing the materials.

Mrs. Mary Sue Mitchell, chair of the Millsaps Archives Committee and alumna of the institution, represented her committee in developing plans for the project. Representatives from the previously established archives committees of each sponsor will form an advisory committee for the College Librarian, Jim Parks, in establishing policy and procedure for the most effective service of the collections. While no provisions have been made for the assertive collection of additional materials for the archives, modest contributions are received regularly at the library.

The contents of the various collections might be best characterized as miscellaneous materials dealing with all aspects of the Methodist Church in Mississippi and the College. The Methodist archives include printed materials of both Conferences as well as papers relating to many of the churches and ministers of the state. Among the largest sets of papers are the William Winans papers and the Lambuth papers. The College archives includes printed materials about the College and many boxes of unprocessed papers of College presidents, as well as other officers of the College. The library acquired this material when the former administration building, Murrah Hall, underwent complete renovation recently. At this writing, much of the contents and how the three collections relate to each other is unknown since the organization effort has not begun. It is believed that once the initial efforts have begun, the materials will be seen to be very complementary and that the J. B. Cain Archives will be an extremely useful source of information to persons researching College and Church related subjects, with additional information on the history of the city of Jackson and the state.

THE USE OF ARCHIVAL MATERIALS IN MISSISSIPPI POLITICAL STUDIES

By John Ray Skates
Professor of History
University of Southern Mississippi

(Ed. Note: The following speech was presented to the Third Annual Meeting of The Society of Mississippi Archivists, held in Greenville, April 6-7, 1981.)

As I began to write this paper, I was almost overcome by my own ignorance. Certainties that I had learned in graduate school became suddenly uncertain. I found it difficult satisfactorily to define the most elementary terms that historians fling about with the greatest abandon. My assignment was to talk about "The Use of Archival Materials in Studies of the Last One Hundred Years of Mississippi Politics." But I could not define "Archival," and the dictionary was little help. Perhaps like Fascism it is impossible to define. One must "feel" it to understand.

You are as much aware as I that historians traditionally divide research materials into primary and secondary sources. Primary sources are those materials which were written at the time of the event by an eyewitness. Secondary materials are written later by a person who was not an eyewitness. We are principally concerned with the former.

I need not recite the difficulties of classifying materials according to this formula. It is neither convenient nor particularly useful. According to the above definition the same document might be both primary and secondary, or conceivably it could be neither. Nor for most authors does it particularly matter. It is an artificial classification with the clear implication that primary sources are most trustworthy and valuable than secondary sources.

Perhaps better classifications would be published and unpublished materials, or documents and books, or archival materials and library materials. But any system leaves important questions. Are newspapers primary sources? Are they archival materials? Aside from the fact that things in archives are rolled out to the users on carts, while in a library one generally fetches his own books, how is an archive different from a library? How do archives differ from manuscript collections? Short of actually calling up an archivist and displaying my bottomless ignorance to the enemy, I could get no satisfaction. The only answer, I concluded, was to be imprecise and arbitrary. All of which brings us to my definition of archival materials.

Upon looking in the *Harvard Guide*, I found that "In general, an archive is organic and a collection is inorganic and fortuitous." I was forced to read further. I found that archival materials include two types of records:

- The records of government agencies and other institutions which have lasting value because of the information contained in them. These are called archives.
- Manuscript collections (private papers).

By this definition we exclude newspapers and regularly published documents like the *Congressional Record*, *Mississippi Reports*, *Laws of Mississippi*, codes, house and senate journals, and other such materials.

By this standard there are few "archival materials" to aid researchers in their studies of Mississippi politics in the last one hundred years. But there are some.

At my own university is perhaps the most voluminous collection of any Mississippi politician, the Theodore G. Bilbo Collection. Another is the William Colmer Collection. The Pat Harrison Papers are at Ole Miss. The Walter Sillers Papers are at Delta State. Collections too numerous to mention are at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Perhaps more useful than collections within Mississippi are collections outside the state which contain correspondence with Mississippians. Obvious examples are the Library of Congress and the National Archives, the various Presidential libraries, and the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina.

We have begun on a positive note. Let us now turn to two negative themes. First, while there are some manuscript collections in Mississippi, archives (records of agencies, institutions, families, etc.) hardly exist at all. The absence of an archival law leaves the records of government agencies neglected, water and insect-damaged, or, worst of all, indiscriminately destroyed. In short, archival records in Mississippi are either non-existent or in such disarray that they are all but useless to researchers.

Ironically, however, the further back into Mississippi history the researcher travels the more abundant and readily accessible are archival materials. Perhaps for that reason historical literature is much more voluminous for antebellum Mississippi than for the post-Civil-War period.

That traditionally-trained historians work whenever possible from "primary" sources is axiomatic. A corollary is that records determine subjects. Some subjects for which archival materials are available get done no matter how unimportant. The first question asked of a student who proposes a thesis topic is likely to be "Will the sources support it?"

Let us look at some subjects from the last one hundred years of Mississippi political history which have not been done either wholly or in part because of a paucity of archival materials. Perhaps the most powerful and influential political figure in the last quarter of the nineteenth century was James Zachariah George. There are no George papers and, therefore, he has found no biographer. Yet Senator Theodore Bilbo is drawing large numbers of researchers, and there is likely to be some competition among them to become his definitive biographer. That he has not already found one is partly because of the imposing size of the Bilbo Collection. In the history of his time, George was at least as important as Bilbo. In fact, the biographies of Mississippi political figures of the last century can be counted on the fingers of one hand. A natural sequel to Kirwan's *Revolt of the Rednecks* would be the *Counterrevolt of the Conservatives, Mississippi Politics, 1925-1970*.

Yet one searches in vain for the papers of a single governor from the last hundred years, and the researcher can trace the doings of the legislature only by struggling through newspapers and the house and senate journals. The latter, he will find immediately, contain no debates, and he will be utterly unable to find records of committee hearings. Newspaper coverage may be inadequate, inaccurate, or partisan. Similarly, when the researcher looks for material on state agencies, he must depend on official documents such as the biennial reports of departments. The researcher who tackles any subject dealing with the Great Depression and the New Deal will spend more time in Washington and Hyde Park than he will in Mississippi.

Yet despite the lack of archival materials, a few brave souls have plunged ahead to write studies. Apparently convinced that the situation would be no

better if they waited, they determined to use what was available. Let us now examine the most significant of these studies.

Without doubt the most well-known and widely-used study of Mississippi political history in the last century is Albert D. Kirwan's *Revolt of the Rednecks, Mississippi Politics, 1876-1925*. Kirwan makes one wonder if historians really need archival materials, for the book is a classic study--a model of state political history. The overwhelming majority of Kirwan's citations are to Mississippi newspapers. Next most prevalent are citations of various secondary books and articles. Other citations which frequently appear are to state documents like the house and senate journals and the *Laws of Mississippi*. Kirwan has only infrequent citations to archival sources, and these few are limited to Lamar letters and the Letters of Governors Series in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Kirwan made little use of archival materials as we have defined them, and even these, Kirwan notes in his bibliography, are of "slight value to the student of the period."

Literally for decades Mississippi historians heard rumors of the impending publication of a biography of Governor James K. Vardaman. At meetings in Jackson or Atlanta, historians annually whispered, "So-and-so is doing a biography of Vardaman." "But I thought What's-his-name already had a manuscript?" would come the likely reply. Or "What's he using? There are no papers." Apparently intimidated neither by the fact that every other Mississippi historian was also doing a biography of Vardaman nor by the impossibility of writing a biography without papers, in 1970 William F. Holmes published *The White Chief: James Kimble Vardaman*.

Holmes admitted, "The major obstacle encountered in writing this book was the scarcity of Vardaman papers." Holmes obliquely previews the major shortcoming of the book when in the next sentence he writes that the existence of a "thorough collection of his correspondence might have afforded greater insight into Vardaman's thought and personality." In fact, the Vardaman who emerges from Holmes' book is one-dimensional. *The White Chief* is political history, not biography. The facts are there, but Vardaman fails to breathe. Holmes offers the reader no clues to the two most interesting human questions of Vardaman's career. Why did an otherwise liberal man drum away at the race question at a time when Mississippi blacks were at their most defenseless? Why in his mid-forties did Vardaman abandon his traditional Bourbon conservatism and transform himself into a radical progressive within the span of a few years? These are the kinds of questions that personal papers allow historians to investigate. Holmes comes close to acknowledging that the lack of personal papers flattened his portrait of Vardaman.

Like Kirwan before him, Holmes relied almost exclusively on newspapers, secondary books and articles, and published public documents--house and senate journals, department reports and special reports of legislative committees. Holmes' use of personal correspondence was necessarily limited. He used the governor's correspondence at the Department of Archives and History and collections located outside Mississippi that include material on Vardaman. Among these were the Woodrow Wilson, William Jennings Bryan, Theodore Roosevelt, and John Sharp Williams papers.

If it seemed for years that Vardaman would fail to find a biographer, his contemporary and sometimes nemesis, Senator John Sharp Williams, had one within a decade of his death. In 1943, George C. Osborn published *John Sharp Williams: Planter Statesman of the Deep South*. That Williams' biography was published so soon after his death in 1932 while Vardaman's came forty years after his 1930 death was more the result of the availability of papers than of the relative importance of the subjects. Williams left 25,000 items to the manuscripts division of the

Library of Congress. This collection provided the major source for Osborn's biography of Williams.

In 1978 Martha Swain published *Pat Harrison: The New Deal Years*, a study of one of Mississippi's most influential national figures of this century. The opening line in her bibliographical notes reads, "The Harrison Papers are terribly disappointing, for most of Harrison's personal papers were disposed of after his death." She goes on to note that "by far the most useful sources" are outside Mississippi, especially at the Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park and in the scattered collections of Harrison's Washington contemporaries. Martha Swain relies heavily on newspapers, the *Congressional Record*, memoirs, articles and essays. Despite the lack of "papers" she produces a very good book.

The only other biography of a major twentieth-century Mississippi political figure is A. Wigfall Green's *The Man Bilbo*. It is done almost entirely from secondary sources. Green makes heavy use of magazine articles, newspapers, and public documents. He did his study before the Bilbo papers became available to researchers, and his thin book hardly does justice to the color and controversy of its subject.

In sum, what have we said? Traditionally-defined archives--organized records of government and institutions--hardly exist in Mississippi in a useable form. There are some collections of private papers, but the authors we have examined all remark on their inadequacy. Authors found useful collections outside Mississippi--in the Library of Congress, at the presidential libraries, and at the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina. Because of the lack of archival sources historians have left some important subjects unexamined. Those books which have been written on Mississippi politics rely heavily on newspapers and published government documents.

Finally, the works that I have mentioned represent all the major books which have been done on twentieth-century Mississippi political history. Whether that is an indictment of the conservatism of the methods of Mississippi historians or a monument to the need for collections and preservation, I leave for you to judge.

Post Script: There seem to be two lessons here--one for the historian and one for the archivist. Holmes, Swain, and Kirwan have proved that excellent studies can be done without "papers." Since the scarcity of archival and manuscript materials for the last century will not likely be remedied soon, historians must do studies with what is available. Archivists should work not to keep their descendants from listening to a similar paper to this in the year 2081.

We are what we accession and process. -- Han

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

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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 39406-5146. The membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Current members will receive a membership renewal notice in September.