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CHARLES E. LEE
President, Society of American Archivists
1971-1972

Director of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History since 1961, Mr. Lee earned his A.B. and M.A. degrees from the University of South Carolina, did graduate study at the University of Chicago, and taught history at Roosevelt University and the University of South Carolina. From 1939 to 1941 he was an editorial assistant for the *Journal of Modern History*. After World War II service in the Navy, Mr. Lee was editor of the University of South Carolina Press, general editor for Henry Regnery Co. (1956-60), and managing editor of *Modern Age*.

Mr. Lee has published in the field of colonial South Carolina history and records and is on the editorial board of *The Papers of Henry Laurens*. He currently serves as Deputy Executive Secretary of his State's American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. Also active in historic preservation, Charles E. Lee is a member of the Consulting Committee of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings of the National Park Service and is vice president of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Liaison Officers.

A Fellow of the Society since 1966, the new President has been SAA representative to the National Archives Advisory Council (1969-70), Vice President (1970-71), a member of the Committee for the 70's, and a contributor to the *American Archivist*.

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January 1, 1972

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Editor's Forum

The *American Archivist* with this issue begins its 35th year and its seventh editorship. Harold T. Pinkett, who became editor in 1968, is now busy directing a new natural resources branch of the National Archives. During his tenure he continued the high standards of his predecessors, Theodore Calvin Pease, Margaret Cross Norton, Karl L. Trever, G. Philip Bauer, and Ken Munden. Dr. Pinkett has earned the Society's gratitude for his able, conscientious service and his successor's thanks for his counsel and cooperation during the transfer of duties.

Also stepping aside is F. Gerald Ham, who with imagination and energy served as the Society's secretary from 1968. His final yearly report, given at the San Francisco meeting and printed in the proceedings above, illustrates well the dedication and hard work of Dr. Ham and his staff at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in their efforts to make the SAA responsive to the needs of a growing profession. The new secretary is Robert M. Warner, Director of the Michigan Historical Collections at Ann Arbor.

The *American Archivist* will miss two contributing editors after this issue, Helen Finneran Ulibarri, faithful compiler, the news notes, and William E. Bigglestone, who did 10 years at hard labor for the Society as advertising editor. They are succeeded, respectively, by Daniel T. Goggin, Regional Archives Coordinator of the National Archives, and by Wilbur G. Kurtz, Jr., Archivist of the Coca-Cola Co.

Several other changes should soon broaden news coverage in the journal. Carolyn Hoover Sung, Library of Congress, will report news of recent manuscript acquisitions, and Julian L. Mims of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History will gather information about the activities of State and local archival organizations. Beginning with the April issue, SAA committees will report on their activities and on new developments in their areas of special interest. Finally, we hope soon to expand international coverage with the help of a worldwide network of contributors who will report to John P. Heard at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Changes in editorial personnel are naturally accompanied by promissory rhetoric, solemn pledges that the quality and purposes of the past will be maintained but that the innovations will make the publication more modern, attractive, punctual, readable, relevant, or whatever. Readers should be cautious about such hyperbole; an editor has control over form, but his word about content is only worth the paper his contributors write upon. With articles, for instance, if he expects that

he can refine base samples of archival lore into brilliant essays, then he deceives himself as well as his readers.

An editor must first have something of substance to work with. He needs more than testimonials delivered at annual meetings or low-proof, "practical" pieces that are essentially old solutions served in new vessels and often untainted by any reference to still useful, vintage articles. Archivists must rethink the old assumptions of their craft and reappraise their current practices in the light of new technology and research needs. But for them to ignore the past literature of their own profession and to fail to build on it would indeed be ironically unhistorical.

Contributors permitting, then, the *American Archivist* will carry the best *available* contemporary writing, both theoretical and practical, on the several areas of archives administration and, when possible, will present historical examinations of archival practices, institutions, and documents. The quarterly will both satisfy the daily needs of the trade and remind archivists of their professional heritage and their ethical responsibilities in an age marked by rapid change. That is, it will offer this diet if archivists care to think and write about these things.

TO THE EDITOR:

If it is the policy of your journal, may we inquire by way of the "Editor's Forum" about information on the following items:

1. Halbert, Henry S. "Ensign Isaac W. Davis and Hanson's Mill," *Gulf Ports Magazine*, I (1902), 145-51.
2. [anonymous] "A Sketch of the Life of Jefferson Davis, the Democratic Candidate for Governor, by a Citizen of Mississippi," Jackson, Miss.: Mississippi Power Press, 1951 (20-page pamphlet).

We are also generally interested in Davis material from the period 1840-1853. Any information about holdings of such material and concerning the items listed above may be sent to the Jefferson Davis Association, Rice University, Houston, Texas 77001.

LINDA LASSWELL

The Papers of Jefferson Davis

Correction

In the October 1971 News Notes it was announced erroneously that C. E. Welch had been designated University Archivist at the University of Ottawa. M. Paul Dumas is the University Archivist, whereas Mr. Welch is the newly appointed associate professor of archive administration in the university's library school. He is to organize a 1-year training course for archivists of Canada and developing countries. We regret the error.

Another

Robert D. Armstrong, reviewer of *The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, 1969 and Index 1967-1969* in the October 1971 issue, has written to tell us that an extra *not*, which completely vitiates the meaning, has crept into the sentence beginning on line 8 of page 390. When Mr. Armstrong sent in the review the sentence read, and should still read: "As an example, archival institutions are not allowed to submit reports on materials one would expect to find in them."

We apologize.

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1. Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies	52	67
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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

ROBERT M. WARNER, Secretary