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The Forum

FROM THE EDITOR:

Although this issue of *The American Archivist* bears my name for the first time as editor, many of the editorial decisions were made by former editor C. F. W. Coker before I took over, and for this I am grateful. Because editing a journal is at best a subjective activity and at worst a personal one, there are bound to be some changes in style in future issues. Nevertheless, the basic purpose of *The American Archivist* will remain unchanged: to publish the best thinking and the most recent information about archival matters and the concerns of members of the profession. It is to be hoped that the contents will be representative of the work of both the younger, newer members and the elder statesmen.

Reader Survey

In June, nearly 300 members of the Society received questionnaires seeking their opinions about *The American Archivist*. Within a week, nearly 100 had been returned, a remarkable show of interest! When we have studied the results, we will know whether to change our emphases or to continue the good work of the past. Even if you were not randomly selected to receive a questionnaire, we will welcome any comment you would like to make about coverage, style, format, or any other aspect of the journal as it is now presented.

The Forum

The articles in this issue touch upon at least two controversial issues: sampling, and the exhibit of original materials. What has been your experience in these areas? What is your opinion? Write to The Forum. Letters will be printed with a minimum amount of editing.

Publication Schedule

The American Archivist is currently about three months (one issue) behind schedule, and we are doing our best to catch up. The assistance of contributors, readers, and reviewers is essential. Customarily, manuscripts are sent to one or more readers for criticism. If revision is recommended, the text is returned to the author. Once an article is accepted, an edited copy is sent for approval to the author, who must also approve the later galley proofs. If everyone who participates in this process acts promptly at each step, much delay can be eliminated. Members who agree to review books quickly and those who send in material for the departments on time earn the gratitude of our largely volunteer staff. We must have completely edited and approved copy ready to go to the printer on February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. Authors, readers, and reviewers can help us stay on schedule by bearing these deadlines in mind.

VIRGINIA C. PURDY

TO THE EDITOR:

Professors James A. Lewis and William Anderson have received a two-year NEH grant to microfilm material in Mexico, Spain, Canada, England, and France, about the Cherokee Indians. When finished, the project will be housed on the campus of Western Carolina University and in the Museum of the Cherokee Indian. Professors Lewis and Anderson would appreciate hearing from anyone who has knowledge of documents abroad about the Cherokees that they might otherwise overlook.

They can be contacted through the History Department, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina 28723.

JAMES A. LEWIS
Western Carolina University