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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*A History of Georgia*. Edited by Kenneth Coleman. (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1977. Pp. xvi, 445. Illustrations, appendices, bibliography, index. \$12.50)

As noted by President Jimmy Carter in his foreword to *A History of Georgia*, dramatic changes have come to the state since the 1930s when E. Merton Coulter first published his classic study.\* The purpose of this new multi-author survey of the state's past is to update the perspective and coverage of Coulter's work and to present a balanced account of the chief eras and trends in Georgia's history. Treatment of the period prior to 1820 has been markedly reduced, while discussion of the period since 1890 has doubled, and the work gives more adequate treatment to economics and blacks. The list of sources, as well as textual coverage, is updated from that in Coulter. The bibliography is enriched with annotations lacking in the older work, and includes unpublished dissertations but no reference to the location of major manuscript repositories.

In this new history of Georgia one can find interesting accounts of colonial recreation and medicine, the Indian agent Return John Meigs, the humorist Bill Arp, the convict leasing system, the story of Coca-Cola, and the growth of Atlanta. The book includes an outstanding treatment of the Civil War era, which fills gaps left by Coulter regarding black life under slavery and the home front during the war. The work also deals dramatically with the impact of the New Deal on Georgia, twentieth-century developments in education, and recent economic trends. The reader will have to go elsewhere, however, for details on Henry Grady, Rebecca Felton, and Ralph McGill; for adequate treatment of Indian culture, Georgia lifestyles, and the role of women; and for sufficient explanation of constitutional changes and the influence of the Progressives.

Varying in writing style and emphasis, six highly qualified scholars have surveyed the major periods of the state's history: Phinizy Spalding (colonial period); Kenneth Coleman (1775-1820); F. N. Boney (1820-1865); Charles E. Wynes (1865-1890); William F. Holmes (1890-1940); and

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\* E. Merton Coulter, *Georgia: A Short History* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1933, 1947, 1960).

Numan V. Bartley (1940 to the present). Within a broad chronological framework, all but the first section of the work is organized by topics such as economics, politics, society. The chapters providing economic coverage are among the strongest, best-written in the book. The topical approach is effective, making it possible to follow trends and make comparisons as well as to understand each time period as a whole, and the arrangement will facilitate use of the book by readers and teachers. Though at some points the presentation becomes disjointed, imprecise, or judgmental, for the most part the book is characterized by a solid and interesting narration of past events.

After an impressionistic overview of Georgia topography, the historical narrative begins with Phinizz Spalding's account of trustee and royal rule. Particularly interesting is the detailed description of the voyage and arrival of the first group of settlers in 1733 who, contrary to tenacious myths, were the result of "the most selective winnowing process of any British colony in America." Conditions under trustee rule are judged to have been not as "bleak" as has sometimes been claimed, and by 1750 "a marked upturn in trade, population, and affluence" had taken place. This turning point in the colony's prosperity, Spalding emphasizes, was passed *before* the colony was turned over to the crown.

Kenneth Coleman terms Georgia's participation in the American Revolution "inevitable," with "most" Georgians favoring independence by the spring of 1776. Coleman believes that the Revolutionary War had a salutary effect on Georgia, speeding up political and economic change and bringing more democracy. The War of 1812 gave further impetus to the rapid growth of the Georgia economy. The westward expansion of Georgia brought wild land speculation and such episodes as the Yazoo land fraud, which is well explained by this account. Coleman notes one major flaw: the lottery system adopted in 1803 enabled land to go as cheaply as ten cents an acre and produced little income for the state.

During the antebellum period, as F. N. Boney points out, Georgia continued to experience rapid economic expansion, both in agriculture and in industry. Boney presents a favorable view of plantation agriculture and states that "the planter elite was composed primarily of hard-headed businessmen skilled at managing a flexible, profitable system of slave labor." On the eve of the Civil War, Georgia led the South in textile manufacturing and prospects seemed bright indeed in the prosperous state. This author does an admirable job of leading the reader through a political maze he

describes as "fluid, inconsistent, and rather illogical." Noting that "the politicians were much more excited about the sectional struggle than the voters," the author claims that Georgians were moderate and basically unionist and thus not unified in the step to secession.

The Civil War cut short cultural and economic progress in Georgia and brought about what Charles Wynes describes as a "revolution in labor" but not in land ownership. The new class of sharecroppers were "little more than serfs" and the new factory workers "coughed out their lives in the lint-filled atmosphere of the cotton mills." Reconstruction is presented as a mild experience for Georgia and as less significant for the state's development than the Bourbon years. The Bourbons, with their "chamber-of-commerce mentality more popularly known as the 'creed of the New South,' " saddled the state with a one-party system, the white supremacy issue, and an unwillingness to spend state funds for public services.

The 1890s brought hard times to the state, and William Holmes describes the agricultural picture as a bleak one with cotton now an economic "ailment." Generating little but excitement, the Populists failed in their efforts to create an interracial coalition on the basis of shared farm problems. By the 1920s Georgia farmers again faced a crisis. Governor Eugene Talmadge showed little insight into the farmers' problems and vigorously opposed the New Deal. Though New Deal programs could not eliminate many of the long-standing problems, they did produce "profound" changes in the state's agricultural system.

Since World War II, Georgia has undergone more basic change than in any other time during her history as a state. Numan V. Bartley quantified this process of modernization and through his statistics effectively tells the story of Georgia's transition from a rural to an urban, industrial state. Since 1945, farm tenancy has collapsed, industry has grown rapidly, and Atlanta has emerged as the "banking, financial, and administrative hub" of the southeast. The state's voters have been left "disoriented" by the "seismic shocks" to the political system, such as the abolition of the county-unit system, the reapportionment of the legislature, and the emergence of an opposition party. Bartley emphasizes the conflicts that occurred as Georgians tried to adjust to the vast economic and political changes. He views Georgia as a paradox, committed to the future but clinging to the past, and concludes that by the 1970s "the material environment had changed more fundamentally than had Georgians themselves."

It is to be hoped that other governors will encourage such historical enterprises as this latest history of Georgia. This work allows the reader to draw conclusions about the state's status and should prove useful to those charting the course for the future. *A History of Georgia* supplements but does not replace the book by Coulter. The two works belong together in libraries as indispensable reference books for those investigating Georgia's past.

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George-Anne Willard

*Copyright Handbook* by Donald F. Johnston. (New York and London: R.R. Bowker Company, 1978. Pp. xviii, 309. Index. \$14.95.)

This book by the counsel to the Bowker Company, a subsidiary of the Xerox Corporation, "is intended primarily for use by publishers, libraries, educators, and authors, who regularly, or from time to time, have need for direct access to information about" the Copyright Act of 1976. It is the most comprehensive and useful work on the subject that this reviewer has seen. Clearly written, with a welcome absence of legal obfuscation, the book analyzes the provisions of the new law for the benefit of concerned laymen.

After an introductory overview, Johnston devotes thirteen chapters to fuller discussion, covering different aspects of the new law in each. Those of greatest interest to archivists are on copyrightable subject matter; registration; ownership, transfer, and licenses; exclusive rights of copyright owners; copyright infringement remedies; copyright duration; fair use (section 107); and library reproduction (section 108). Useful appendices include the text of the new law; the text of the 1909 law with amendments and notes; fair use and library reproduction guidelines developed concurrently with the congressional discussion of the new law; a table of limits on exclusive rights; cross-references between the 1909 and 1976 laws; application forms for copyright registration; and selected copyright office regulations. So much essential information in convenient format would make the book a worthwhile addition to the staff reference shelf of any manuscript repository even without the author's valuable exposition of the law.

The notes and reference section provides citations to the hearings and reports preceding passage of the law, explains and supplements statements in the text, and refers the reader to other literature on certain aspects of copyright. Many readers will wish that the author had included a full and up-to-date bibliography on copyright in general. Such a reference aid would have been an appropriate addition further enhancing an already valuable work.

Archivists may wish that the author had specifically addressed their problems and brought together in one convenient section all discussion pertaining to unpublished materials, but it is understandable that Johnston chose to serve a wider audience. Archivists must therefore use the book as they use the law itself, seeking information applicable to manuscripts in all pertinent sections. In a few cases archivists may justly criticize the author for not specifying how the law applies to unpublished materials. At a minimum, at points where the law is ambiguous, the author's statement of that fact and his enlightening discussion of probable interpretation and effect would have been welcome.

The sections of the 1976 law of most immediate concern to archivists in their day-to-day work are 107 and 108, pertaining to fair use and to the photocopying of materials administered by libraries and archives. Here, like the law itself and almost all persons who write on the subject, Johnston does not specifically discuss the problems archivists face in handling unique materials. The ambiguities of several paragraphs of section 108, particularly the question of how much of that section applies to manuscripts, are a major concern of archivists. Johnston does not, as do some authorities, specifically interpret paragraphs 108 (d) and (e) to apply only to published works, but neither does he make it clear that he considers manuscripts to be covered by these paragraphs.

There is a significant omission in the chapter on ownership, transfer, and termination. Johnston did not mention two important provisions, one permitting an author to transfer copyright by will and the other stipulating that such a transfer is not subject to the new right of termination. He discusses termination rights at some length, particularly the complicated problem that could arise if the designated heirs to the rights of a deceased author (the surviving spouse and children) were not the persons the author would wish to have own these rights. He speculates that timely re-negotiation of transfer contracts could prevent or moderate termination but did not consider whether a provision in a will could solve the problem. Clarification

and understanding of these details may be important to archivists who normally acquire copyright for their repositories along with gifts of the manuscripts as physical objects and Johnston's failure to discuss the effect of wills is unfortunate.

Until a later work provides both a complete exposition of all aspects of the new law and a full discussion of its effect on unpublished manuscripts, archivists will find *Copyright Handbook* an invaluable aid in spite of its disappointing silence on some points of special archival concern.

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*Archives and Manuscripts: Arrangement and Description.* By David B. Gracy II. (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1977. Pp. v, 49. Bibliography, index. \$4.00 members. \$6.00 non-members.)

*Manuscripts Collections Processing Manual.* By Susan Beth Wray et al. (Charlottesville, Virginia: University of Virginia Library, 1976. Pp. v, 29. Glossary. \$5.00.)

Having standard works which have become so generally accepted as Lucille M. Kane's *A Guide to the Care and Administration of Manuscripts* and Kenneth W. Duckett's *Modern Manuscripts*, one wonders why manuscript librarians and archivists feel the need for additional introductory manuals providing basic instructions in processing, preserving, and servicing collections of personal papers. Apparently lacking the security that their colleagues in academic libraries and historical societies find in consistent application of the prescribed methodologies of librarianship, however, archivists and manuscript curators continue to seek guidance in organizing manuscript collections. Two of the more recent additions to the corpus of professional literature related to the operations of manuscript repositories were issued in response to such requests for assistance. Although neither provides fresh insights nor new information, each of the two new manuals is an adequate and concise instructional guide which, had not the work of

Kane, Duckett, Theodore R. Schellenberg, Ruth Bordin and Robert M. Warner preceded it, would be considered a major contribution to systematizing the techniques of manuscript librarianship.

Two years before the publication of Duckett's treatment of the administration of personal papers, the Society of American Archivists appointed an *ad hoc* committee to evaluate the areas of greatest need for additional archival publications. In response to solicitations for advice the committee gave high priority to a series of manuals related to archival functions. Funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission enabled the Society to publish the Basic Manual Series under the general editorship of C. F. W. Coker. David B. Gracy was given the task of preparing *Archives and Manuscripts: Arrangement and Description*: a brief manual devoted to evaluating and describing various methods of processing both archival groups and manuscript collections.

The Society is to be commended for undertaking its publication series and Gracy for the solid work which he prepared in response to the need identified at the time his manual was begun. Noting in his preface that numerous articles have been published in professional literature describing procedures followed by individual repositories, Gracy indicates that he tried to resist the temptation to pick and choose what appeared to him to be the best of these procedures. Rather than construct a model system, he recognizes that local conditions may preclude uniformity of practice and attempts only to present a basic guide which can be adapted to local situations. His readers, however, profit by the fact that Gracy is more discriminating than he apparently intended to be. Whereas other manuals concentrate on telling their readers what should be done, Gracy's has the added feature of identifying certain procedures which may be especially inappropriate in dealing with specific types of collections and reference needs.

The *Manuscripts Collections Processing Manual* prepared by Susan Beth Wray, Vesta Lee Gordon and Edmund Berkeley, Jr., of the Manuscripts Department of the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia is an unbound, in-house staff training manual completed in 1976 and copied for sale in response to numerous requests from archivists seeking information on how the outstanding material housed in this major repository is administered. Conversational in style, the manual is intended for the novice processor assigned to organize, describe, clean, and box personal papers. Except for a good description of the admirable preservation procedures that

the University of Virginia has developed, the authors of this manual offer little information not found elsewhere. However, they have done an excellent job of stating basic procedures and instructions in language those new to work with manuscripts can understand. Their comprehensive glossary, comprising more than half of the manual, defines professional jargon in terms even the layman can appreciate.

Unlike other printed sources intended as guides for the professional manuscript librarian and administrator, this training manual appears to be directed to student assistants or new employees with little or no previous exposure to working with fragile, unique research materials. Since it seems to assume that its readers have at best only a passing knowledge of archival procedures, the manual initiates new employees into the technical mysteries of processing and preserving primary source material. Other repositories would do well to orient their staffs so thoroughly.

As manuscript repositories expand their holdings with the acquisition of large, twentieth century collections, they are more and more frequently encountering problems long faced by archivists who have dealt routinely with masses of records too bulky to permit the intensive item by item treatment that manuscript curators have cultivated. Since, as Duckett and Gracy point out, archivists and curators now share the inventory as their basic approach to processing and describing modern material, it seems appropriate and timely that rather than devote additional efforts to the preparation of manuals describing local practices or instructing professionals in general processing techniques, prospective authors should pay due respect to the works that already exist in these areas and direct their attention to considering ways to improve cooperation among those dealing with primary source materials and to refine the standardization so needed in the preparation of useful inventories.

Both the traveling researcher and the uncertain archivist or curator would profit if the profession were to establish a mutually applicable and acceptable descriptive methodology. The Society of American Archivists has moved in this direction by issuing a manual on inventories, but the profession's diverse membership must be willing to support and adhere to cataloging and processing guidelines before such standards can become normative. That it is often much easier to find an obscure printed pamphlet than an important block of unpublished material indicates that something is amiss in archivy. One wonders if the fault can be traced to a profession lacking sufficient instructional material, or to individual archivists and

curators unwilling to conform to standards which, though possibly needing modification, are already at hand and adequately described in several readily available texts.

Virginia State Library

Paul I. Chestnut

Technical Leaflet Series. (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History. Author, title, pages vary. \$.40 to members, \$.50 to non-members.)

Over the last several years the American Association for State and Local History has published a series of technical leaflets "for the purpose of bringing useful information to persons working in the state and local history movement." The series, which includes one hundred and two leaflets, covers ten basic categories: historical societies and programs; publicity and public relations; administering collections; historic preservation, restoration and interpretation; collection conservation; history museum exhibits; audio-visual programs; publications; historical and genealogical research; and crafts. In the limited space available in a pamphlet format, these leaflets offer a good introduction to the principle and practice of the work involved.

Several of these categories relate directly to the major activities of archivists who, regardless of the nature and function of the institution employing their skills, have traditionally been involved with "Historical Society Records," "Manuscript Appraisal," "Conserving Local Archival Materials," "Rare Book and Paper Repair," "Microfilming Historical Records," "Filing Photographs," "Cataloging Ephemera" and the accompanying problems solved by a "Glossary of Legal Terminology," "Security" and "Securing Grant Support." Even the experienced archivist, facing new types of materials for the first time, perhaps photographs or one of the innumerable varieties of ephemera, will find several of these brief but descriptive essays extremely helpful for a beginning.

"Use of Social Statistics," "Methods of Research," "Genealogical Research" and other leaflets concerning research methodologies and genealogical research (particularly the lineage charts) are of immense value to the many amateur historians who frequent the archivist's precincts in search of their own heritage, familial or communal. How helpful it would be to have a brief guide to hand the novice so that he or she might better focus the essential questions before beginning work.

These technical leaflets are of most benefit to the archivist in precisely those activities for which archivists do not expect to be called upon and for which they have received little or no training in library schools or archival workshops. This holds particularly true for those working in institutions of a smaller scale than state departments of history and archives or large state-wide historical societies which have diversified staffs and departmentalized operations. The lone, needy archivist, toiling away in local societies, public libraries, and smaller academic institutions, will surely find a helpful pamphlet a friend indeed. The technical leaflets' aid and comfort is immeasurable, a ready reference for the early stages of a project and a bibliographic source for locating further assistance. Admittedly some of these areas are familiar to some of us, but what is one person's on-going project is another's learning experience. And while deferring to experts is not always the wisest choice, the experienced practitioner's advice may often provide us with a first, halting step.

Clearly, all possibilities are not covered. Yet a number of the more interesting, if not innovative, projects are topics of detailed discussion: "Tape-recording Local History," "Photographing Tombstones," "Cemetery Transcriptions" and "Collecting Historical Artifacts." With acquisition comes the tasks of "Documenting Collections," "The Appraisal of Objects in Historical Collections," and "Storing Your Collections."

Ultimately, though, collecting, description, and conservation are of limited value if the collection's existence remains unknown to the public. Scholar and concerned laymen alike will profit greatly from careful "Exhibit Planning." "Preparing Your Exhibits" requires attractive "Designing" with thoughtful consideration given to case arrangement and the materials used and to providing "Exhibit Labels" that clarify the materials shown by placing them within the context of a cohesive narrative.

Without publicity, "Reaching the Public" becomes impossible. To make the world outside the institution aware of an exhibit and of the wealth

of materials not shown will involve "Publishing," for which the leaflets dealing with "Making and Correcting Copy," "Spotting Mechanical Errors in Proof" and the financial benefits of "Phototypesetting" are most instructive.

The job of the archivist is an increasingly more varied one, often requiring the practitioner to be something just short of a Renaissance person. In fulfilling this many-faceted role, the technical leaflets offer helpful guidance for the ubiquitous archivist-in-training.

Robert Scott Small Library  
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Ralph Melnick