Agenda Item 1-V.F.

Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 6, 2012
San Diego, California

Report: *The American Archivist* Editorial Board
May 17 to July 16, 2012
(Prepared by: Gregory S. Hunter)

With this report, I mark the completion of six months as editor of *The American Archivist*. It has been a busy time as I became familiar with the procedures and timeline of the Journal. It also has been a time to begin a conversation with the Editorial Board and SAA staff about the strategic direction of the Journal. We will continue this discussion at the Editorial Board meeting at the SAA Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Upcoming Issues

Volume 75, No. 1 (Spring/Summer 2012), is available in print and online. The issue totaled 261 pages.

Volume 75, No. 2 (Fall/Winter 2012), is well along at this point. Most of the accepted articles are with the copy editor. I anticipate that the issue will contain 10 articles totaling 258 pages. To this we will add approximately 30 pages of book reviews, front matter, and advertising.

Peer Review

Since January 1, there has been a steady flow of article submissions. Five articles that the previous editor accepted pending revisions were resubmitted to me. They will appear in 75:2.

Twenty-three other articles were received. Eleven articles have completed the peer review process with the following results:

- Accept: 3
- Revise and Resubmit: 7
- Reject: 1

The remaining articles will complete the peer review process in the next 30 days.

The review cycle was delayed a couple of weeks as I dealt with the overwhelming response to my request for additional peer reviewers. After my initial e-mail, 103 people

volunteered to serve as peer reviewers. This shows a great deal of interest in the profession as well as the Journal. To maintain this interest and involve as many people as possible, I have begun sending articles to three peer reviewers rather than two.

During this review cycle, I am piloting a rubric with the reviewers. My goal is to make the review process more transparent to authors as well as peer reviewers. Once we finalize the rubric at the Editorial Board meeting in August, we will make it available on the SAA website for prospective authors.

I continue to explore software systems to support manuscript receipt, tracking, and review. There are two approaches we can take in this regard. On the one hand, we can use a small-scale system just for *The American Archivist*. On the other hand, SAA could implement a larger system that may be useful for managing other peer review activities: the awards program, annual meeting program committee, etc. The Editorial Board will continue discussing this at its August meeting.

Other Editorial Board Matters

The Editorial Board also is involved in the following:

- We continue to explore online delivery, including ePub formats.
- Discussions continue about the redesign of the Journal, including a switch from footnotes to endnotes. This discussion will be informed by experiments with ePub formats.
- There will be several activities to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Journal.
- There again will be a "brown bag" reading group at the SAA Annual Meeting. The discussion will be based on an article accepted for the next issue of the Journal: Scott Cline's "'Dust clouds of camels shall cover you': Covenant and the Archival Endeavor."

I would be happy to answer any questions that Council members may have about the Editorial Board or *The American Archivist*.