



## FRIENDS OF KENTUCKY PUBLIC ARCHIVES, Inc.



VOLUME IV

A NEWSLETTER

FALL 1988

### George Cunha To Address Friends' Annual Dinner

George M. Cunha, internationally recognized document conservation consultant, will be the featured speaker at the Friends' Annual Dinner November 3, 1988, at the Capital Plaza Hotel, Frankfort. His address, entitled "An Endangered Heritage," will focus on the critical conservation challenges facing Kentucky's library and archival communities.

A retired naval captain, Cunha is Director Emeritus of the Northeast Document Conservation Center and a former Chief Conservator at the Library of the Boston Athenaeum. He is currently an adjunct professor at the University of Kentucky's College of Library and Information Science, where he teaches library and conservation management. He serves on Kentucky's State Archives and Records Commission, was chair of its Conservation Advisory Committee and is a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists and the American Institute for Conservation.

Captain Cunha's chief interests are the study and development of preventive conservation measures to minimize the deterioration of library and archival materials from their environment; the development of methods for the mass treatment of books and documents; security measures for libraries and archives; and the refinement of disaster prevention and disaster recovery programs and techniques. Active in numerous professional organizations and as a consultant and speaker, he is the author of *Mass Deacidification for Libraries* and the UNESCO RAMP study, *Methods of Evaluation to Determine the Preservation Needs in Library and Archives Collections*; the co-author of *The Conservation of Library Materials* and *Library and Archives Conservation*, and its companion

volume, *Conservation Administration*. He writes frequently for professional journals.

### Fourth Archives Institute Draws Participants from 11 States

With a record attendance of almost 70 participants, the Friends' Fourth Annual Kentucky Archives Institute on July 15 was the most successful such event to date. In addition to Kentucky residents, registrants came from Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia to take part in the day-long program. The event took place in the Activity Room of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives in Frankfort. Special out-of-town guest speakers included Gayle Peters, Director, National Archives - Atlanta Branch, and Dr. Raymond G. Hebert, Dean of Academic Affairs, Thomas More College, Crestview Hills, Kentucky.

The program, which focused on the use of public records for historical and genealogical research, featured sessions on federal records, Kentucky land records, state, local, and judicial records in Kentucky, and the importance of document preservation in ensuring the continued availability of records for research.

Mr. Peters provided a concise overview of federal records available regionally for research, especially those dealing with Kentucky, while Kandi Adkinson ably described the challenges of working with Kentucky land records and Mary Samples encouraged registrants to be conservation-minded in their work. During lunch, participants heard Dr. Hebert speak on the importance and value of local history. The afternoon sessions featured presentations on Kentucky records by Public Records

Division staff members Jeffrey M. Duff, Jerry Carlton and Jim Prichard. Upon conclusion of the event, registrants received certificates of participation.

Plans are already underway for next year's Archives Institute. Tell your friends about this special mid-summer event and make plans now to attend!

### A Message from the President

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read of plans for the Friends' annual meeting November 3rd and of our distinguished guest speaker, George M. Cunha, noted document conservator. I hope you will circle this date on your calendar now and make plans to attend this special event, for you will hear of some very exciting developments in the area of document preservation at our annual business meeting and annual dinner.

The mission of the state's Public Records Division is to manage, preserve and make accessible the public records of Kentucky's state and local government agencies. When we think of preservation in terms of the work of the State Archives, many images come to mind: preserving the physical integrity of those records through actual repair in the division's Document Preservation Laboratory, preserving the records themselves through physical storage in the Archives, or preserving the information contained in records through microfilming, to name just a few.

All of these actions are "preservation" in a sense and therein lies an important point. While the work of the division's Document Preservation Laboratory is the central focus of this activity, all division staff contribute to this work, directly or indirectly. Preservation actions have an important role in the management of records throughout their life, from their use in the office where

they are created to the time when they become archival records and are used for research by citizens, scholars, or public officials.

Plan to join us for this important meeting and learn of the challenges our Public Records staff face. We need your help in this important work.

Sincerely,



Cecil E. Goode

### **Filson Club Hosts Friends' Local Records Seminar**

The Friends' Ninth Local Records Seminar on the management and use of local government records featured a capacity crowd of more than 60 participants. The September 7 meeting, held in Louisville at The Filson Club, drew local officials from Jefferson and surrounding counties, municipal officials from a number of Jefferson County cities and researchers with a wide variety of interests.

After statements of welcome by Rick Bell on behalf of The Filson Club, Richard N. Belding on behalf of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, and Dr. Frank G. Rankin on behalf of the Friends, the formal program got underway with a session by Dr. Frank R. Levstik on the importance of local government records. Dr. Levstik discussed the characteristics of some of the wide variety of local government records available for research and encouraged participants to broaden their research strategies and use a wider range of these important historical resources.

Following Dr. Levstik's presentation, participants heard from a panel of local government officials, including Sharon Receveur, Director, City of Louisville Archives; David Logsdon, Hardin County Clerk; and Paul Coates, Office of the Jefferson County Circuit Clerk and a member of the State Archives and Records Commission. From a manager's perspective, speakers

focused on the special challenges they face daily in managing public records and making them accessible. Mary Samples, Document Preservation Supervisor in the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives' Public Records Division, spoke on conservation as a management responsibility and reviewed in detail the many actions local officials can take on their own to ensure the preservation of their records.

During a special catered lunch, registrants heard Dr. Larry Hood speak on the question, "What is a Kentuckian?" Dr. Hood drew on a wide range of sources in his depiction, which was both thoughtful and humorous.

The seminar concluded with an afternoon panel discussion devoted to users' perspectives on access and use of local public records. David L. Morgan of the Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation and Archives spoke of the conflicting challenges to county officials who want to aid county offices with their records management problems, while simultaneously meeting researcher needs for information. Jim Holmberg, The Filson Club's Curator of Manuscripts, detailed the club's public records holdings and related resources and encouraged their use by participants. Dr. Tom Owen, Associate Director of the University of Louisville Archives and Records Center, recounted his use of public records as unique visual sources for a local television series devoted to vignettes of Louisville history. Andy Anderson, Director of the University of Louisville Photographic Archives, identified several remarkable collections of photographs from his holdings which both complement the research value of public records for the greater Louisville area and, in many cases, are public records themselves, as they were created at the behest of public agencies, although by private contractors.

The Louisville meeting was the ninth in the Friends' continuing series of local records seminars. To date, these events have been held in Crestview Hills in 1988, in Glasgow in 1987, in Maysville and Prestonsburg in 1986, in Hopkinsville, Hawesville and London in 1985, and in Elizabethtown in 1984.

These meetings are designed to acquaint Kentuckians throughout the state with the challenges of managing and making accessible the Commonwealth's local public records and with the Friends' efforts to assure their proper management, preservation and use. The programs are an opportunity to make known the Department for Libraries and Archives' Local Records Program and its direct services and grants program, as well as to bring together local officials responsible for the daily management of public records and researchers for whom these records are a valuable source of information. In this way, each can better understand the needs and interests of the other and discover ways they can collaborate with the Friends to ensure the continued preservation and use of the Commonwealth's rich local records legacy.

Additional local records seminars are planned for 1989 in Paducah and Ashland. Plan now to attend one near you and encourage a friend to attend and become a Friend!

### **Friends Greet Hungarian Archivist on Kentucky Visit**

Several members of the Friends played host to a distinguished European archivist, Dr. Lajos Kormendy, Chief of the Department of Reprography at the National Archives of Hungary and an active leader in the International Council on Archives, during his recent visit to Kentucky. Kormendy visited Kentucky from June 7-10 as part of a 30-day tour of American archival facilities sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency's Foreign Visitor Program.

Friends having an opportunity to meet and speak with Dr. Kormendy included Board members Dr. Thomas D. Clark, Paul Coates, George M. Cunha, and Howard T. Goodpaster.

