

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
January 13, 2021  
Virtual Meeting**

***American Archivist Editor***  
(Prepared by Amy Cooper Cary)

I would like to make a brief report to the Council on the first two months of my service as Editor of *American Archivist*. In accordance with my goal to improve communications at all levels of the journal, I welcome the opportunity to report to the Council more regularly during this first phase of my tenure.

I began my service on November 1, 2020. In this very short two-month period, I have spent a great deal of time in listening sessions, which have proven invaluable. I have also accomplished the following:

- Worked with the SAA Publications team to bring together content for [83.2 \(Fall/Winter 2020\)](#) and contributed to “From the Editor.”
- In direct support of the Council, I am working with the Editorial Board as a whole to write a statement about the pivot to a digital journal, as of 84.1. This will come from the Board, will appear in 83.2, and will be available in the *American Archivist* portal.
- Worked to address a large backlog of articles for consideration and editorial work for future volumes.
- Planning for a meeting to discuss the broader implications of the Editorial Board’s proposal to the Council, to be held in early January.
- Planning for my first Editorial Board meeting (late January / early February) to discuss:
  - Publication of 83.2, articles in 84.1, and special design records section in 84.2.
  - Pivot to digital.
  - DEI – This is a continuing dialogue which will be critical to maintain throughout my tenure. I plan to make this an ongoing discussion for the group. In this initial meeting, I want to focus on:
    - Editorial Board’s ongoing commitment, experience, and how we reflect DEI to readers and membership.
    - Implications for our work in DEI in drawing and retaining all involved in the process – peer reviewers, authors, Board members.

- Professional development opportunities – shared experience.
- Implications for our work in DEI to support the ongoing conversation taking place throughout SAA. How does the Board best support the association in these efforts?
- Goals for 2021.

**Requests for the Council:**

- The Council’s decision to budget for output of the journal only in a digital format is a critical stewardship issue for the organization. Although the Editorial Board stands in support of this decision, I would like to ask that the Council commit to assisting the Board in providing support for messaging about the pivot to a digital format.
- I would welcome an invitation to join the Council for a future virtual conversation, whenever the Council has an opening for discussion.