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American Archivist is the leading publication in the archives field. Published semi-annually by the Society of American Archivists, this peer-reviewed journal seeks to reflect thinking about theoretical and practical developments in the archival profession; the relationships between archivists and the creators and users of archives; and cultural, social, legal, and technological developments that affect the nature of recorded information and the need to create and maintain it. In addition to articles, the journal includes resource reviews that critically engage with scholarship from the archival community and allied professions, as well as reviews of other resources that have implications for archives and archivists.

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Christopher A. Lee

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THEODORE CALVIN PEASE AWARD

Big Questions: Digital Preservation of Big Data in Government

Emily Larson

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EDITORIAL | MARCH 01 2020

Archival Evolution

Christopher A. Lee

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In this issue of *American Archivist*, you will find contributions on a range of topics relevant to the archival profession. Three of the articles relate to the role of silences in social memory. Veronica Ehrenreich-Risner discusses how geographical renaming in postapartheid South Africa, examining “the symbolic power of the state, as well as of the processes of boundary-making.” She argues that “geographic names are often tools of hegemony and that the location and the name combine to create a document in this ‘living archive’ of the power structure.” Edward Janak compares records at the Rockefeller Archive and records at the Texas State Library and Archives related to the General Education Board. Drawing on Eliot Eisner’s concept of the null curriculum, Janak argues that “what is missing is just as important as what is present.” Jessica Holden and Ana Roeschley describe efforts at the University Archives and Special Collections in the Joseph P. Healey Library at the University of Massachusetts Boston to process and provide access to records of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. This included steps to make the records “accessible to the survivors represented in the records and to their descendants, while also providing appropriate access to the collection for the wider public.”

One way to view the evolution of the archival profession is through its approaches to organizing and providing access to records. Ciaran B. Trace explores “literature that covers the first sixty years of the development of the American archival profession,” examining “the negotiated order that formed around the early conception of the purpose and function of archival classification and arrangement.” She contends that “notions of classification and arrangement are emblematic of the profession’s identity and aspirations” throughout the



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