

NEW HAMPSHIRE ARCHIVES GROUP

May 7, 1988

The inaugural meeting of a New Hampshire archivists' support group was held at Proctor Academy in Andover on Saturday, May 7. Eleven people attended the two-hour session on copyright law led by Thomas Field of the Franklin Pierce Law Center. Mr. Field discussed the 1978 copyright law as it affects libraries and archives. He particularly addressed the "fair use" policy covering photocopying printed and manuscript works as well as the question of how long a work is covered by copyright. That period of time differs depending on whether a work was created before or after January 1, 1978.

If you are interested in learning more about copyright, Heather Makechnie at Proctor Academy has copies of a tape made of Mr. Field's presentation as well as copies of the 1978 copyright law. Please contact her for further information.

Before he left, Mr. Field mentioned an "innovation clinic" held at the Law Center each fall. Students are available to answer questions on law, although their answers cannot be considered legal advice. Anyone interested in participating should call Thomas Field at the Law Center in Concord.

The brainstorming session which followed provided some guidance as to the direction the archivists' support group should take. The consensus was that any group should provide for the free flow of ideas and offer the opportunity to meet other archivists. No one thought the group should be formally organized. However, it will need some direction, which will be provided by the New Hampshire Historical Society and State Library. Both institutions are exploring and the people at the meeting expressed a need for a computer network that would tie all the repositories in the state together.

Participants agreed that the group should sponsor workshops. Suggested topics included conservation methods, techniques of dating archival material through internal evidence, and a history of printing technology to help in dating manuscripts and books.

While most agreed that a weekday in Concord would be preferable as a meeting time and place, the next meeting of the group was scheduled for Saturday, September 24, 1988, to coincide with the

first of the New Hampshire Historical Society's technical workshops series. Jule Cox, the New England Archivists' education coordinator, will offer a full day workshop on basic archival management. During the lunch recess, interested people will gather to further discuss the purpose and "structure" of the group. Additional information on the workshop will be mailed to you later this summer.

For those of you who were unable to attend May 7, I hope you will join us in September. Those who did attend learned a great deal, not only about copyright law but also about the other repositories in the state and the problems they face. This is the kind of forum the archivists' group hopes to provide for its "members." However, we will need your help and input. Please mark your calendar for September 24 and I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,



Barbara E. Austen
Curator/Assistant Director
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