MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 26, 1995

Dear Colleagues:

It is an honor, though a daunting one, to write my first "President's Page" letter.

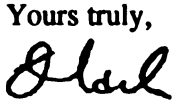
Those of you who couldn't be with us in Chicago for the Spring Meeting missed a memorable experience: the new hotel was a success (especially the chocolate chip cookies on everybody's beds), the sessions were excellent, and the mixer featured the ex-president dancing with a bird on his head. Ya shoulda been there.

At the Business Meeting a decision was made to raise dues for individual members to $20 per year ($40 for institutions). The increase will pay for roughly half of the cost of contracting for bookkeeping and publications services, the other half to come from current revenue. Council also passed a resolution opposing the nomination of John Carlin as Archivist of the United States; Carlin was nonetheless confirmed by the Senate on 25 May. The issue of MAC's role in national archival controversies is one which continues to evolve, and one on which Council and I would appreciate hearing from the membership. More about these two developments elsewhere in the newsletter.

This fall, Council will spend a day at the meeting in Topeka/Lawrence discussing MAC's fiscal philosophy and new initiatives which will permit us to improve member services without additional dues increases. Included in this discussion will be the future of the Program Innovation Fund, possible changes in the budgets for meetings, and suggestions for new programs. If you have suggestions or concerns regarding such issues, please let me know. During the next two years, Council will also be discussing the possibility of closer cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC), an organization whose history and current size closely parallels MAC's.

It's not too early to mark your calendar for the fall meeting: 19–21 October in Kansas. The meeting is being sponsored jointly with another sister regional, the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists. It will be MAC's first meeting in Kansas, and along with a tour of the literally brand new Kansas Center for Historical Research (it opens in September), there will be a (FREE) barbecue feast on Thursday night! Round 'em up, and move 'em out.

Yours truly,



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