



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 2004

Gregory S. Hunter Receives Writing Award from Society of American Archivists

CHICAGO—The Society of American Archivists' 2004 Waldo Gifford Leland Award for writing of superior excellence and usefulness in the field of archival history, theory, or practice was presented to Gregory S. Hunter for *Developing and Maintaining Practical Archives: A How-To-Do-It Manual* 2nd edition (Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc.). Established in 1959, the award is named for one of North America's archival pioneers and SAA's second president. The award was presented on Aug. 6, 2004, during SAA's 68th Annual Meeting in Boston.

The 456-page large-format book provides a comprehensive, intelligent, and fresh overview of what archives are and what archivists do, presented in a style nicely suited to beginners in the field or students in introduction to archives classes. Hunter's discussions of such standard areas as accessioning and arrangement are practical, sensible, and true both to practice and theory. He covers newer topics of archival concern, such as managing digital records and developing a perspective on EAD without assumptions that could lead to confusion. And he includes very recently developed insights to tasks such as appraisal, where theory and practice are both in constant development.

Hunter's style is straightforward, even pleasantly pithy at times, and he injects humor to lighten topics that otherwise could get pretty tedious. Extra features, such as an abundance of boxed quotations from archivally relevant news stories, illuminate real-life applications. His assured tone and wide knowledge of the field convince readers that they have all the essential background needed to make a more detailed study of any aspect of the archival domain.

Previous recipients of the Leland Award include Joan Echtenkamp Klein for the Philip S. Hench Walter Reed Yellow Fever Collection Web site; Richard J. Cox his books *Managing Records as Evidence and Information* and *American Archival Analysis: The Recent Development of the Archival Profession in the United States*; Charles Dollar for *Authentic Electronic Records: Strategies for Long-Term Access*; James O'Toole for *The Records of American Business*; and Anne Kenney and Steve Chapman of Cornell University for *Digital Imaging for Libraries and Archives*.

Founded in 1936, the Society of American Archivists is North America's oldest and largest national archival professional association. SAA's mission is to serve the educational and informational needs of more than 3,600 individual and institutional members and to provide leadership to ensure the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value. For more information, SAA at the address listed below.