



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Sandra Gioia Treadway
Librarian of Virginia

State Archivist Conley L. Edwards III to Retire

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For Immediate Release

When Conley Edwards joined the staff of the then-Virginia State Library on August 1, 1974, there were approximately 47,500 items in the archives, of which 15,743 were manuscripts. As he retires on November 1 he can take pride in the fact that the archives at the Library of Virginia contains more than 109, 221,000 items and is consistently one of the most visited archives in the nation.

Edwards' first job was as a reference archivist, a position he held until 1981 when he became a senior records management analyst. In 1984 he was promoted to head of the Public Services and Programs section. In that capacity he was responsible for assisting patrons using the archives and library collections. He quickly became known for his skill in finding little-known sources and for his love of his job.

He served as acting state archivist from May 1995 until his appointment as State Archivist on January 1, 1996. In addition, he is director of the Archival and Records Management Services Division at the Library. As State Archivist he serves as the chairman of the Virginia Board for Geographic Names and as the coordinator for the Virginia State Historical Records Advisory Board. He is immediate past president of the Council of State Archivists, an organization representing state archivists throughout the United States. The group has been recognized as a "mover and shaker" for its ability to mobilize effectively to address a wide variety of issues facing archivists.

Edwards is active in numerous professional organizations, including the Society of American Archivists, the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, and is a sought-after speaker on archival and genealogical topics. In 1993 he traveled to Belgium to address a professional conference concerning the Library's digital program for historical records.

Edwards received his bachelor of arts degree from Hampden-Sydney College and a master of arts degree in American history from the University of Richmond. He was selected as one of two recipients of the 2006–2007 Patrick Henry Public Service Awards given under the auspices of Hampden-Sydney College's Wilson Center for Leadership in the Public Interest. The award goes to Hampden-Sydney alumni for distinguished public service.

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“The Library and Virginia’s genealogical community will miss Conley Edwards’ commitment and passion for his job. I can think of no finer guardian of the commonwealth’s archival records than Conley. He is a true public servant, who has been willing to share his knowledge and expertise with all,” said Librarian of Virginia Sandra G. Treadway. “As a result of his leadership and mentoring we are blessed with knowledgeable staff dedicated to providing the highest level of service to our users.”

Edwards joins two other members of the Library’s executive management team who also are retiring November 1: Ann N. Harris, director of Finance and Administrative Services, and Elizabeth M. “Libby” Lewis, director of Library Development and Networking.

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