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RECENT PROBLEMS OF FLORIDA HISTORY

by CHARLES W. ARNADE

THIS TIME I COME to you not with a research paper which has resurrected from oblivion with the help of original documents a certain phase or episode of Florida history.¹ That kind of job is tedious but rewarding and requires expert training, enthusiasm, perseverance, and often linguistic and paleographic knowledge. This last might seem to be snobbish or an expression of professional conceit. It is not. Rather, it emphasizes the problem we face here in Florida in dealing with state and local history. This problem is nothing other than what is the difference and what should be the proper cooperation between the professional and the amateur historian. Many of our troubles have stemmed from our wrong concepts of these two types of historians. Unfortunately there has developed - especially when dealing with St. Augustine history which is one of the most important chapters in the annals of Florida - a sort of misapprehension between these two types of historians. This is hardly a matter of personalities or jealousies but is one consequence of Florida's tremendous neglect of the stimulation of historical research and writing.

I think that we all can agree that the state of Florida has no match in all the fifty states of the Union in the depth and color of its history. Only New Mexico can match Florida history in chronology and, with no aspersion on New Mexico, I do think that Florida with its four periods - Spanish, English, Spanish, and American - does have a more exciting history than New Mexico or even California. Yet with all this, the history of the state of Florida is not emphasized and has been neglected. Again I say, it should not be.

First of all, I believe in the value of state and local history. It should be obvious that national history cannot be written adequately and objectively without it. I cannot understand some of my own professional colleagues who look with disdain upon anyone engaged in Florida history. Usually heads of departments, deans, and presidents are fascinated with those professors who

1. This paper was read, at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society in Sarasota, May 3, 1963.

write about the history of faraway places. These same men consider it unscholarly to do local or state history, and those who do it are scorned and are often bypassed in promotions or raises. In university after university I have noticed that the fellow who teaches state history is pitied and considered quite a provincial guy. Naturally there are exceptions to this generalization, but wherever state history is well accepted and developed it has not been at the initiative of the departments of history of state universities, but rather because of the efforts of the university libraries and the support of the state government. In Florida, however, neither state officials, university officials, key members of the university faculties, nor most university libraries have shown much interest in developing Florida history. As a matter of fact, some of them have been hostile to state history. I do want to mention favorably here the recent interest shown by our present secretary of state, Tom Adams, about the problems of history and the preservation of historical records.

Let me cite a few examples without prejudice to any personalities. Florida history was not taught for many years at Florida State University. F.S.U. had taught a Florida history course for undergraduates since 1927 and many F.S.U. alumni still remember the dynamic lectures of Dr. Kathryn Abbey. But the teaching of Florida history was done irregularly until it was resuscitated by the efforts of the new chairman of the history department, Dr. Weymouth T. Jordan. The F.S.U. Florida collection was jealously guarded from public contact, and students and professors were not admitted to the library stacks but had to receive the books through the circulation desk. Furthermore, the collection was available only during short periods on weekdays. In short, those interested in Florida history felt that F.S.U. was of little help. Only with the coming of Dr. Jordan did conditions change and today, thanks to his enthusiasm, good Florida research is done at F.S.U., resulting in excellent theses and doctoral dissertations. The Florida collection at F.S.U. is improved, but not yet too good. F.S.U. had a chance to get the marvelous Mark Boyd collection but the narrow-mindedness and the sheer ignorance of key library officials let this great chance go by. Therefore the collection does not belong today to the State of Florida but to a private institution (the University of Miami). The Boyd collec-

tion preserved in Tallahassee would have been a tremendous asset.

There is no doubt that when Julien C. Yonge donated his most valuable library to the University of Florida in memory of his father, Philip Keyes Yonge, this University had the best Florida collection. For fifteen years Mr. Yonge served as director of this library, selflessly dedicating his whole life to it and to Florida history. Much material was added and he made it the best depository of Florida history. While librarians are often bound by inflexible rules, Julien Yonge had one policy: to serve with every means available to him those who were qualified to do research and who wanted to study and write about Florida history. One had to prove himself to Mr. Yonge but once the old gentleman was convinced of the individual's ability and honesty he would go out of his way to aid him in his research and to allow him unrestricted library facilities.

On the other hand, the Yonge Library was never properly recognized by the University of Florida Library authorities. Such a research library requires an adequate budget for its continuous existence. The University of Florida did agree to spend \$2000 a year enlarging the Yonge collection and during some years gave more than this minimum; nonetheless this is a pitifully small budget for one of the top research libraries in the country and the best in the state. At one time the University financed the expenses for further document collection activities by two competent professors but this has been abandoned. When the Main Library at the University was enlarged the Yonge Library did receive new quarters with a good vault, but today these quarters are insufficient. I think this splendid collection should have its own separate building, as is the case with the William Clements Library at the University of Michigan, for instance.

It was Mr. Yonge and Dr. Rembert W. Patrick, research professor of history at the University of Florida, who kept alive the Yonge collection. Nearly ten years ago both men acquired a great treasure for the P. K. Yonge Library with the acquisition of the Stetson Collection. These more than 100,000 pages of photostats represent an enormously rich archive of early Florida history. Later with my own help many reels of microfilm of Spanish Florida material were purchased. By the end of the 1950's the Library had become the best depository of Spanish Florida material, be-

sides its excellent English and American collections. As a matter of fact, the Library had become the only true research library that I have known in Florida. Its contents nearly equaled those of such famous places as the before-mentioned William Clements Library of Rare Americana in Ann Arbor, the Huntington and Bancroft Libraries in California, the North Carolina Collection at Chapel Hill, as well as the rich South Carolina Collection housed in a beautiful old building in Columbia. Many of these depositories are better housed and larger than the P. K. Yonge collection but all of them have one common denominator, that of being libraries of primary materials. They are centers of research where the past can be resurrected with original documents. And in the absence of a true state archive in Florida the P. K. Yonge Library has vital importance in state history.

Yet no one can recall that the director of research and dean in charge of graduate studies at the University of Florida has ever visited the P. K. Yonge Library located on his own campus. I know that the late Mr. Julien Yonge was annoyed by this. Hardly any government official has visited the Library. When the quadricentennial commissions were set up the various members knew nothing about the Library and did not visit it. The executive director of the commission in charge of the Pensacola program wrote to the director of the Spanish Archive in Seville requesting certain documentation. The director coldly told him to look in his own backyard, in Gainesville, where all these documents from Seville were available. The Spanish director was most surprised about this ignorance and commented in private that this was probably due to someone getting a political appointment. Anyhow, it was an embarrassing incident to scholars, but I remind you it was only one among many others. One has to stop here and give a word of praise to the St. Augustine Historical Society for well understanding the value of the P. K. Yonge Library and for having aided the advancement of the progress of the Library when it undertook to make a calendar (a job quite expensive and time consuming) of the Stetson papers. Unfortunately the Society abandoned the project in 1959 when about two-thirds completed.

On the other hand, the University of Florida has so far failed to appreciate the true value of this Library. When Mr. Yonge retired the University showed no interest in replacing him with

another director. When an assistant librarian was put in charge and showed interest and great capability little was done to improve the status of this person in terms of money, rank, or cooperation. She finally quit for a much better job of a similar nature at the University of South Florida. Even with this lesson no efforts were made to get a director, and another assistant librarian -completely removed from Florida history and bibliography and with no Spanish knowledge - was appointed. Even with all good will this person will find it difficult to return the Library to its deserved status. A few professors interested in Florida history, seeing the Library stagnate, have turned away from Florida research to other more profitable fields in history. At the same time, the P. K. Yonge Library has been an important research center for such eminent professors as Samuel Proctor, Arthur W. Thompson, Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., John K. Mahon, and others. Professors and amateurs from all over the state and beyond the state are often present in the Library, which obviously needs a dynamic director of great scholarly status and a staff of able assistants. In sum, the state of Florida (of which the University of Florida is a part) has neglected its richest depository of history.

Enough has been said about this one case, which has resulted not from any one individual but rather from a whole pattern of neglect, snobbish scholarship, and plain ignorance about the value and true nature of history. In this connection, the non-existence of a state archive is a disgrace to the state. Hardly any state in the Union lacks an archive; even Mississippi, considered far poorer and with more acute problems than Florida, has a beautiful archives building in Jackson. We have none. We have a State Library with a State Librarian who supposedly also holds the title of State Archivist. She is a most competent person, recently honored by the Florida Historical Society-indeed a much deserved honor. Yet this lady has no state archive-there are a few state documents saved by personal initiative-and her library is more a lending library than what is considered a true state library. It certainly is not a state library containing valuable sources, a true depository for the State. Where are the records of the Catts administration-the records of all the governors? Where are all the records of the three branches of government and the many administrative units? They are here and there, in boxes, in corners,

in basements, in attics-many misplaced, misfiled, miscatalogued. There are many that have been lost from sheer neglect and others destroyed by ignorance and stupidity. Is there any law that regulates the preservation of historical records? There are agencies that preserve or have preserved their records well. But often they have no one (or just a plain simple secretary of low civil service classification) to attend them and there are no fixed hours when one can do research. Any request to see them meets with polite disapproval or soon one becomes aware that one is considered a nuisance, and therefore the researcher feels most uncomfortable. Other places make all kinds of excuses for not letting the historian or student see the records. Once in awhile one finds a good setup such as the Field Note Division of the Department of Agriculture. But the frustrations far outnumber the bright spots.

Without a central state archive with rules and regulations subject to a state law and with facilities and strict hours for the visitors, such a situation of confusion and hardship is the obvious result. It cannot be otherwise. With no archive or true state library, state officials, whenever the need has arisen, have improvised commissions and thought it feasible to name to them distinguished citizens whose historical knowledge is either nil or most amateurish. May I say that I know many of these appointees and consider them good and cordial friends. I think of them as able and dedicated persons but they are very busy in their own affairs (this is why they have become successful citizens) and lack the time to catch up with history. Furthermore, to know history is not only to read a lot of books. The key to a good historian is his experience and ability to do research with primary sources and then convert his findings into clear and precise reports or monographs. This kind of experience none of the gentlemen of these commissions possesses.

What I am saying is that if there were a state archive and state library then the executive of the state, whenever the need arises, could rely on the advice and help of this agency. If a commission is needed then the governor could get recommendations for appointments from the state archivist and others connected with history, such as presidents of local historical societies and chairmen of the history departments of the state and private universities in Florida. Today this is not done and appointments

tend to be political. To give an example: recently a vacancy occurred in the Florida Civil War Centennial Commission. A most distinguished and experienced Florida historian, native of the state and a professor at one of our state universities, was suggested. The Governor turned the recommendation down, indicating that he did not know the individual and had not read his works. A non-historian was appointed. I cannot recall that the present executive has ever made known any desire to request recommendations from historians or such organizations as the St. Augustine Historical Society.

Let me emphasize that I am not saying that boards or commissions dealing with history, anthropology, or archaeology should be staffed only with professors or professionals in these disciplines. I would not approve such a thing and it would be contrary to our democratic procedures. We must beware of the domination of administrative committees by professionals and scientists. What I am asking for is that some professionals and some experts - some trained historians, anthropologists, etc. - should be appointed to committees and boards dealing with these matters. In the past this has sometimes been done. Ex-Governor Collins had a liberal sprinkling of reputable professionals, including historians. Governors Warren and Johns showed little interest in these matters and their appointments, like the ones of Governor Bryant, tended to be political. A decade or more ago a few professionals who were experts in the subject matter of concern to this or that commission were appointed, and one can cite the examples of the able Kathryn Abbey Hanna on the Parks Board and Rembert W. Patrick on the State Library Board, the latter occupying its chairmanship for one year.

Of especial concern now is the matter of the State Quadricentennial Commission and especially the St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, which is a state commission. Members of these commissions are well intentioned men but none has any knowledge of the profession of history, anthropology, or archaeology. Some of the most childish mistakes have been made that could easily have been avoided by the presence of only one true professional. These commissions, moreover, have even shown a certain disdain toward professionals. The St. Augustine Restoration Commission in March, 1963, organized a

huge festivity which was virtually a political rally since practically all the politicians of Florida were present including the two Florida Senators, the state cabinet and the Governor, and many others including the Vice President of the United States, Lyndon Johnson. It was a gigantic promotional event with multiple merits -to generate enthusiasm and try to get funds. Most of Florida's leading historians were not invited and only one (myself) of those who had done research for the commission was present by invitation. The archaeologists, the geographers, and the architectural historians who had given their services-most of it crucial for the Restoration-were forgotten. Instead most all men of wealth in Florida received an invitation, and at the banquet were recognized as having rendered invaluable service to the cause of Florida and St. Augustine history and restoration. One whispered that he really did not know what this was all about. Not a single professor or architect who had given expert advice was publicly recognized, but politicians and millionaires were greatly praised. Among the many hundreds of banquet guests, present as a guest of one commissioner, was Dr. Kathryn Abbey Hanna whose long years of service to Florida history are widely recognized. She had been ignored by the commission, other members saying they had never heard of her. A member of the large delegation from Spain-which included two Spanish professors-confided to this author his surprise (which he said was shared by all the other members of this illustrious delegation) at the absence of American professors or delegates from the state universities and historical societies, and the absolute neglect of history and historians by the Historical Restoration Commission and by the invited politicians.

Another example, quite embarrassing to Florida, will suffice to illustrate my arguments. The Quadricentennial Commission several years ago had invited a Spaniard for its festivities on the lower west coast. Spain sent the most able scholar and director of the Spanish Naval Museum, Admiral Guillen. Nothing was done to inform the universities and scholars of Florida of Guillen's presence. The man was given a lukewarm welcome by the local arrangements committee and then abandoned in a motel. The Admiral was anxious to give lectures and visit the universities and archives. Nothing was done. The Admiral, it is said, was quite

upset. Only when it came to the attention of Dr. Mark Boyd did this venerable Florida historian, in not too good health, rush down to south Florida and visit with Guillen. Boyd's hurried efforts to convince state authorities to take the visitor to Gainesville and honor him on the University campus were ignored. By the time Dr. Boyd contacted the various history professors Guillen had to return. The Admiral was astounded by this whole affair and his private opinion of the Quadricentennial program is quite harsh. Had a history professor been on the Commission this ugly affair would never have happened. No one involved with this matter knew the reputation of Guillen and no one thought of putting him in contact with his equals in Florida-professional historians and archivists.

There is now a new Commission which was sworn in this year, 1963, during the above-mentioned St. Augustine promotional festivities. This is the National St. Augustine Quadricentennial Commission appointed by the President of the United States. Those who have followed the creation of this Commission will remember its comic birth. President Kennedy appointed a commission, but the Restoration Commission and the State Quadricentennial Commission did not like the selection and forcefully requested the appointment of candidates recommended by them. They included Henry Ford and Peter Grace and the Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh (representing the Mellon interests). For a long while no one knew who was on the Commission but finally the President's office was persuaded by the Florida congressional delegation to change the appointments, and the original appointees were asked not to accept and to make room for new appointments. The final National Commission has two men who make sense-Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley (on original appointee) of St. Augustine and Mr. Conrad L. Wirth (the only other original appointee), director of the National Park Service. But one wonders why the Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh should be on it when not a single head of a Florida university was appointed. At the first meeting of the Commission Henry Ford II and Peter Grace failed to show up but sent unknown stand-ins. Not a single historian is on the Commission. It is difficult to understand all this. As a matter of fact, one respected foundation has informally expressed its lack of interest in

the St. Augustine restoration because of its shallowness and its too promotional nature, and has indicated that more serious research by trained professionals is absolutely necessary as a condition for any support from the foundation.

There is no reason why one or two trained historians or archaeologists should not be members of the St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, or the Civil War Centennial Commission, or the Florida Parks Board, etc. It was done in the past in a very restricted way. It could and should be done again-but on a larger scale than in the past. Today it is not done at all. Is it not true that citrus experts (citrus growers) are members of the Florida Citrus Commission? How would the citrus growers feel if not a single grower were on the board and if board members were to claim to know citrus problems because in their garden or on their lot they have a dozen or so citrus trees? I have a dozen or so trees and I know something about citrus problems. Again I am not trying to be facetious, I am just trying to put the problem in some kind of perspective. I am trying to create a bridge of better understanding between the amateur and the professional.

One of the reasons why such understanding does not exist, I repeat, is lack of concern by the state and the state universities for Florida history. I think it is necessary to point out that Florida is fascinated with its progress; it has become an obsession. Whenever the statistics do not show rapid growth here or there, there is near panic. Progress is the lifeblood of civilization; no one should deny this. But in Florida this has developed into a reckless destruction of the old, a scorn for the past, and a glorification of the businessmen who can show the best statistics of progress. Only a few lovers of nature and the past, such as past Governor and now State Supreme Court Justice Millard F. Caldwell, perceived the importance of conserving the past.

Even such commendable ventures as the quadricentennial celebrations have, to my mind, been converted into cheap promotional affairs and I cannot detect any of the erudition and genteel dignity which marks the true heritage of the past. I admit that in St. Augustine, where some of the greatest offenses against Florida history are committed, there are men who do want to provide these celebrations with a proper and sound atmosphere. I

cannot detect much support for the quadricentennial celebration from Tallahassee and I do not find any lasting achievements. The occasion should have been used to sponsor, for example, a multi-volume publication of the most important Florida documents or other such projects. Here again what started out as a good idea fell totally into the hands of unsound amateurs and promoters.

Here the Florida Historical Society as well as the St. Augustine Historical Society are organizations that deserve praise because they are, with other local societies, the groups in which there is an honest attempt to recreate accurate history with the aid of sound amateurs and professionals. Indeed we must mention the great value of local historical societies. It is they who must carry the main responsibility for developing a solid "grass-roots" interest in good and honest state history and it is they who must be on guard against local phonies and false historical pretenses. In Florida we have a number of excellent local historical societies. There is the St. Augustine Historical Society which has many friends and which also has a great number of enemies. The Society has unintentionally made mistakes by often relying too much on inexperienced historical advice. But in later years the Society has done a superb job in doing true research with the help of a group of first-rate historians and anthropologists such as Albert Manucy, Luis Arana, Hale Smith, and others. This Society has always stood against the unwarranted destruction of historical landmarks of the city-yet it still is occurring. This Society is of great credit to the State.

I have given many speeches at local historical societies and the largest audience I ever had at such a meeting was before the Jacksonville Historical Society the day it snowed in 1958. This, too, is a dynamic society which has a scholarly publication which is issued irregularly. Another society which deserves the best of praise is the Palm Beach County Historical Society which has its headquarters and library in the beautiful Flagler Museum in West Palm Beach. The Society has a monthly program which attracts wide attention. Another local society on the Atlantic side which must be mentioned is the General Duncan Lamont Clinch Historical Society of Amelia Island. This Society, although it has had its ups and downs, has always kept on moving with great spirit. Recently it has anxiously pushed local restoration of the

town's historic area-something everyone had been talking about for years. The Society has offered living accommodations during this summer for a graduate archaeology seminar of Florida State University under the direction of Dr. Hale Smith. Another successful restoration project done by local initiative with expenses far, far less than the St. Augustine venture is that of the Old Island Restoration Foundation of Key West. This, too, has the support of the local citizenry of Monroe County.

There are many more places where local societies are doing a good job, such as the one in Pensacola under the prodding of T. T. Wentworth, Jr. There is indeed always one or two persons behind the enthusiasm of a society as is the case of Dena Snodgrass in Jacksonville, Judge James Knott in West Palm Beach, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Bartels in Fernandina Beach, and Mrs. Reta Sawyer in Key West. I think that this is commendable but a society should strive to reach a permanency not based on one or two persons. This has been achieved only by the St. Augustine Historical Society. There are other organizations, not strictly local, such as the enthusiastic Confederate Round Table of Dade City which, thanks to Mr. E. M. Covington of Dade City and Mr. William Goza of Clearwater, has achieved a high and sound level of performance. Finally, one must mention the dynamic and booming Historical Association of Southern Florida with its own building, its own journal of high caliber with such a recognized editor as Dr. Charlton Tebeau, and now its own full-time librarian. It has a full program and it is no secret that many consider this association far more dynamic and progressive than the older and more venerable Florida Historical Society. Unfortunately there are many places in Florida where no local societies exist or if they do they are dormant or spottily active. Many have no professional historians or sound amateurs among their members or directorates.

Let me finish this study by telling you what a professional historian is and what a sound amateur should be, as compared to the reckless amateur and the snobbish or conceited professional. The professional in the mind of the amateur distinguishes himself for having a degree in history. This is true but to me it has little value. For me there is one basic yardstick which, if fulfilled, makes one a professional historian and this is one's record of cre-

ativity. There are many people in schools who teach history; they are valuable but they are not historians; they are teachers of a subject called history. The same applies to some professors who have a Ph.D. degree.

Now let us take a man like Carl Sandburg. He has no history degree and no Ph.D. yet he is a true professional historian, and much more than that he has created history by using primary sources intelligently and with style. Through him has come to life Abraham Lincoln. The historian must resurrect the past as closely to the truth as is humanly possible, but he must also reduce and synthesize and the final product must be healthy and appealing to the public. This is not an easy task; it requires ability, expertness, and patience. It is a task quite similar to that of a sculptor. He always has plenty of raw material (most researchers' problem is not the lack of primary documents but the abundance). Out of this mass of granite or other material he has to carve a story that must be accurate and pleasing to the eye. As the sculptor, the historian has the power and ability to perform accurately or to deform and create ugliness and deception. All this then is far more than reading historical books or teaching events and names. A historian is also one who can handle, read, and edit primary sources and make them available to the public. For example, there was no finer historian in this state of Florida than Miss Jeanette Thurber Connor.

The only thing that the Ph.D. degree guarantees is that in order to receive the title the student has to submit to his maestros a sample of his research and writing. The maestros will gather to judge the apprentice's first product, called a dissertation. If acceptable, he will get his degree. It is hoped that the experience of creating a first product will encourage the new professional to do others on his own. Many, indeed a majority, never write this second work and they simply become teachers of history not historians. During his Ph.D. training the student has to learn certain rules and regulations such as the proper method of citing sources, handling documents, etc. This one can pick up without having to go to graduate school. It is the experience and the discipline of research and writing and the willingness to take criticism that is the most important part of his university training. For example, such men as Mark Boyd and Albert Manucy have

no doctor of philosophy degrees nor majors in history, yet both have mastered the techniques of historical research and both have created excellent historical monographs that show a mastery of creativity, originality, and accuracy. They are obviously professionals in history.

What is an amateur historian? He can be a man who has made history his hobby and is well read in certain phases of history. Often he is a collector of history books and maybe even primary sources. He rarely does genuine research. When he writes he often uses only secondary sources and therefore he cannot become a true historian. Once in a while an amateur becomes a professional after he has produced a true piece of research. In St. Augustine we have the case of Mr. Kenneth Besson, a tailor, who has made this transition and whose research is of outstanding quality. Mr. Luis Arana has always been a professional historian and I never considered him an amateur, but like all of us he was a student. I also consider that the teachers in grammar and high school who teach history are not professionals, but amateurs, unless they have done genuine research. They are, I repeat, teachers. The same applies to librarians who deal with historical material. They are librarians and that is their profession. Again, once in a while they will use the rich resources, if at hand, and produce good history. Such, for example, is the case of Miss Margaret Chapman, formerly of the P. K. Yonge Library and now Special Collections Librarian at the University of South Florida. She is obviously a professional historian besides being a good librarian.

Too many amateurs think that they are historians once they have read much history or have done some writing with basic secondary sources. Others become fascinated by genealogy and, on the basis of interest in their own family's past, claim the title of historian. Genealogy is often of aid to history. My own St. Augustine research was much aided by the able genealogist, Mrs. Eleanor Barnes. But genealogy alone is not history; it is simply one tool which often is needed. A historian should shy away from research dealing with the past of his own family. He can do this as a private hobby but not as a matter of public research. A sound amateur is of great value to history. While the professional is often submerged in difficult primary sources and loses touch with

the secondary literature or the broad overall picture of historical problems, the amateur often has a refreshing common sense and an awareness of contemporaneity. This is not to say that I have not known many professionals who are level-headed and well versed in the secondary literature and in generalities of history.

What I have said is a product of eleven years of work in Florida, first as a Ph.D. candidate in history, and then as a professor of history associated with three state universities here. During this time I have become fascinated with Florida history and I have made many friends, and possibly a few enemies. Three men were responsible for my Florida career and interest, and all three are dedicated historians and devoted teachers. First of all is a man whom I think never taught during his whole life in a classroom nor had a Ph.D. degree, the late Julien Yonge. Then there is Rembert Patrick to whom Florida history today owes very much. Without Julien Yonge and Rembert Patrick we would be in sadder shape with regard to Florida history. Finally there is Donald Worcester of the University of Florida who brought me to Florida and who in the first years of my academic career convinced me many times not to leave the state for greener pastures. Worcester, although not a practitioner of Florida history, was one of the few professionals who, as head of the University of Florida history department, wanted to stimulate the growth of the P. K. Yonge Library and who has always been a friend of Florida history. Thanks to him and to Dr. Patrick many graduate students have done theses and dissertations in Florida history using the rich P. K. Yonge Library.

Finally I must say that there are at hand many dormant positive factors such as good men and women - professionals and amateurs - and many enthusiastic organizations, plus many documentary sources, to build Florida history into a respectable part of the State's program. I think that the criticisms given to you are valid and deserve attention. It is hoped that State officials in Tallahassee can start a movement of renovation and reorganization.