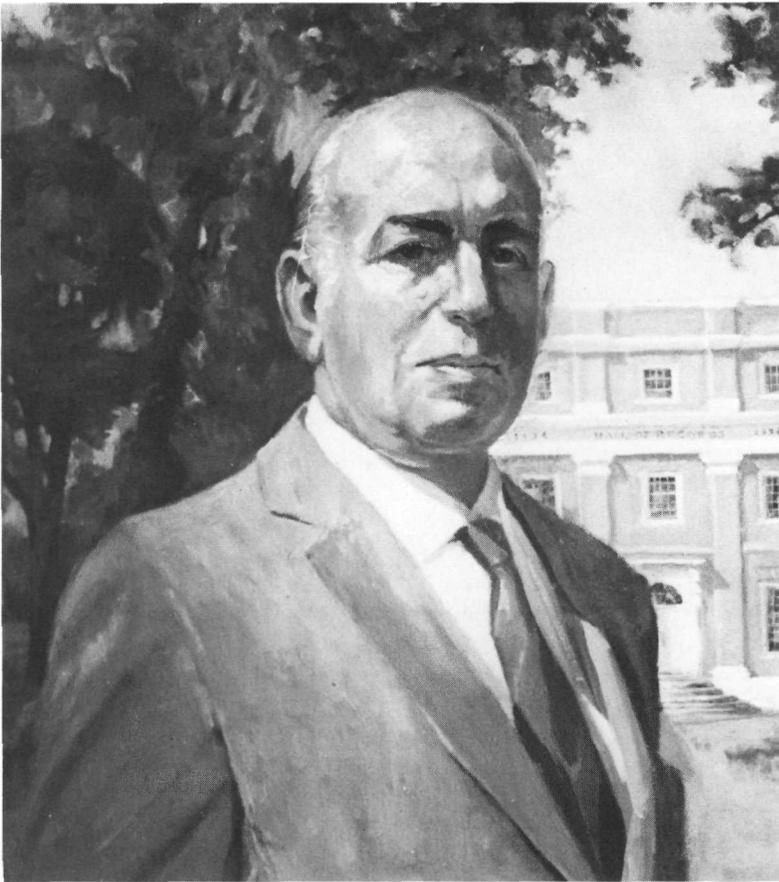


The committee has also suggested major revisions in the draft “Code of Ethics for Archivists,” prepared by the Ethics Committee, especially in regard to section 2, “Collecting Policies” and section 3, “Relations with Donors.” [CHARLES R. SCHULTZ]

Recent Deaths

MORRIS LEON RADOFF, 1905–1978. On Saturday, 2 December 1978, at the age of seventy-three, Morris Leon Radoff died at his home in St. Margarets, near Annapolis, Maryland. For almost thirty-six years, from 1939 until his retirement in 1975, Dr. Radoff served first as archivist and then as archivist and records administrator of the state of Maryland. He started with few records and virtually no archival program. He reluctantly retired, having established one of the best



Morris L. Radoff
1905–1978

President, Society of American Archivists, 1954–55
Portrait by J. B. Thoms, 1973, at Maryland Hall of Records
(Detail)

archives in the country and having created both a personal and institutional record of unparalleled accomplishment.

As an editorial in the Baltimore *Evening Sun* pointed out: "Without training in American history, though with a Johns Hopkins Ph.D., he proved to be an administrator as good at looking forward as back, and simultaneously a scholar whose output shamed many of his contemporaries. Scholar-administrator, Morris Radoff was also publisher, editor, author, bookman, architectural connoisseur, lobbyist, bon vivant, outdoorsman. History? He cultivated it as one would a young, beautiful, humorous, and intelligent woman, and she smiled back at him."

The details of Dr. Radoff's career are touchingly recounted in a fitting essay written by his close friend, Aubrey C. Land, professor of history at the University of Georgia, and published in a *festschrift* entitled *Law, Society, and Politics in Early Maryland* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1977). At the end of this volume, following papers presented at the 1974 conference held in his honor, is a bibliography of Radoff's writings. Not only did he compose classic essays on archival methods and administration (among numerous other works), but he also took pride in his first published article on the English origins and usage of the word "nincompoop" (*Philological Quarterly* 10 [1931]: 312-86).

Dr. Radoff was always impatient with the inanities of modern bureaucracies and the pretensions of professional societies. He opposed big government and would have been happy to have been left in peace running his own small agency. He felt that there need be no other requirements for an archivist than a reverence for history, an ability to express oneself clearly and succinctly, and a willingness to work hard for modest pay. He opposed high membership dues and felt the Society of American Archivists should remain a largely volunteer effort.

Dr. Radoff lived to see his independence curbed by the absorption of the archives into a larger department while the Society he once presided over attempted to set qualifications for professional archivists and hired a full-time staff. Neither move had consequences as dire as he predicted, although he undoubtedly took great satisfaction in reading those economists who today advocate less government and he definitely persisted in believing that the Society could not long survive if it altogether abandoned the ways and advice of the old guard.

Dr. Radoff's accomplishments are too numerous to review in depth here, nor would he have wished it. Tribute was paid to him in *Law, Society, and Politics* the way he wanted it paid: while he was still alive to criticize constructively and thoroughly enjoy it. We will miss Dr. Radoff, but as the *Evening Sun* writes "History? It'll remember Morris Radoff."

The Maryland Hall of Records and the Saint Marys City Commissions have established separate memorial funds in Dr. Radoff's honor, funds that will be used to further projects in which he had an abiding interest. Contributions to either fund can be sent to the Maryland Hall of Records, Box 828, Annapolis, MD 21404.

EDWARD C. PAPENFUSE, *Maryland State Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents*