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# The American Archivist



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## The American Archivist

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## The Forum

TO THE EDITOR:

In a book I am writing on secret codes and ciphers, 1776–1861, I have plans to include more than sixty different codes and ciphers used by American presidents and diplomats during this period. Several codes have not been found, and I would appreciate information from any of your readers on the location of codes employed by any of the following:

Thomas Jefferson to David Humphreys, American Minister Resident in Portugal in 1791, in which “994” was the symbol for *the*.

Thomas Pinckney, Minister Plenipotentiary in Great Britain, 1792–1796, and by Robert Livingston to Rufus King in 1802, in which “663” was the symbol for *the*.

Rufus King, Minister Plenipotentiary in Great Britain, 1796–1803, in which *the* was “769.”

Thomas Jefferson to William Short in 1790, and to John Jay in 1787 and 1789, in which *the* was “224.”

John Armstrong, Minister Plenipotentiary in France, 1804–1810, in which *the* was “972.”

Thomas Jefferson to William Carmichael in Spain between 1787–1789, in which *the* was “1196.”

George Erving, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim in Spain, 1805–1810, in which *the* was “1651.”

Anthony Morris in Spain 1814–1816, in which *the* was “285.”

Thomas T. Barlow, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim in France, 1812–1813, in which *the* was “1700.”

RALPH E. WEBER  
*Professor of History*  
*Marquette University*  
*Milwaukee, WI 53233*

TO THE EDITOR:

The Social Welfare History Archives at the University of Minnesota is conducting a nationwide survey of more than 9,000 archives and manuscripts repositories for sources documenting the history of women in the United States from the colonial period to the present. The results of this survey will be published as a multivolume guide designed to serve scholars in women’s history, women’s studies, and a variety of other fields in the humanities and social sciences.

The Women’s History Sources Survey, which is funded by a \$347,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the University of Minnesota, has been formally endorsed by the executive council of the Society of American Archivists. It has also received support from the American Historical Association, regional organizations of archivists and historians, and many individuals in the archives, library, and history professions.

At this time approximately 3,975 repositories are participating in the survey; many of them are reporting dozens—or hundreds—of collections which fall within the criteria for inclusion outlined by the survey staff. Although the survey requires

yet another investment of time on the part of overburdened staffs, archivists and manuscripts curators are responding enthusiastically. Some believe the work done for the survey will enable them to answer more efficiently increasing numbers of inquiries about women while others believe the survey provides an opportunity to reinterpret their holdings and examine their acquisitions policies. Still others are cooperating because they believe, as SAA Executive Director Ann Morgan Campbell has said, that the Women's History Sources Survey is "another important indication of the expansion of the modern archivist's role—from passive custodian of 'old papers' to the vigorous partnership in the quest to document American life."

Because work on the survey will continue through 1977, there is still ample time for interested archivists and manuscripts curators to report collections. Those who wish to do so are invited to write to: Clarke A. Chambers and Andrea Hinding, Co-directors, Women's History Sources Survey, Social Welfare History Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455.

ANDREA HINDING



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