

Perspectives

We're Making History

by W. Todd Groce, Ph.D.

YOU ARE HOLDING IN YOUR HANDS A PIECE OF HISTORY.

No, it's not a historical document or artifact like we have in our collection. But it is historic in the sense that, by publishing this new magazine, the Georgia Historical Society has made history.

Since 1917, Georgia's first and only statewide historical society has been the publisher of Georgia's scholarly history journal; and now GHS is the publisher of the state's popular history magazine, as well.

For some time, we have been talking about how we could publish a popular history magazine. One of the most obvious ways to accomplish this was to transform our newsmagazine, *Footnotes*, into such a publication. And that's exactly what we have done.

The concept of *Georgia History Today* is to examine the ongoing presence of the past. Unlike our scholarly journal, the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, *Georgia History Today* will look at efforts underway around the state to promote history, including articles on some of the fascinating documents and artifacts in our collection, historic sites, new books being published, and the programs and activities of our affiliates throughout Georgia. We will also focus on the many Georgians who are making a difference in how history is preserved and taught, both through their time and their resources.

At the same time, we hope to retain many of the features you have come to enjoy in *Footnotes*, especially the news items, calendar of events, and recognition of donor contributions. It's really an evolution, not a conclusion, for the newsletter we began back in 1972.

The redesign of the newsmagazine is also part of a larger branding campaign aimed at creating a consistent, powerful identity for GHS. To that end, you will notice that we now have a new wordmark and new color scheme that will be found throughout GHS published materials, including our Web site. The historic seal that has been used since 1839 has not gone away, but will be used only on official documents and other materials such as awards, certificates, and some stationary.

And so with this first issue of *Georgia History Today*, GHS has taken a giant step forward in sharing history by making it more accessible to the public. We remain committed to publishing the best in Georgia history, both in the *GHQ* and in the new *GHT*. It is our sincere hope that this new publication will complement the scholarly nature of the *GHQ*, and bring to life the ongoing story of Georgia's journey through time. *G*

W. Todd Groce is president and chief executive officer of the Georgia Historical Society. He can be reached at wtgroce@georgiahistory.com.

