
COMPTROLLER'S MESSAGE...

A MATTER OF STEWARDSHIP

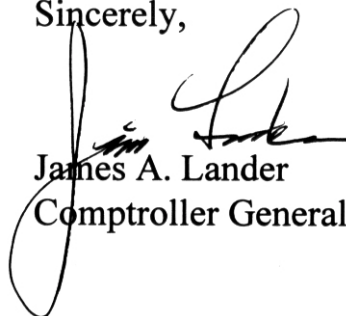
Each year, the pages of this annual report on South Carolina's financial condition have included information about other aspects of the State's rich traditions and heritage. It has been our belief over the years that a state's stewardship of its public moneys is directly related to the environment in which its leadership grows and matures.

As one of America's oldest states, in fact, South Carolina learns much from its past--its successes and failures, its triumphs and defeats.

When the Confederate submarine, the *H. L. Hunley*, was recovered from the waters of Charleston harbor in the summer of 2000, there was just such an opportunity to reflect on the State's history and to learn from its experience. The *Hunley* belonged to a bygone era of lost causes in South Carolina history, but its recovery signaled a new day of discovery and enlightenment for the State and the scientific world.

It is once again our pleasure to offer this report on the State's finances and their management. We also take pride in offering the story of the State's stewardship of its other resources and of the role that history and heritage play in the daily lives of South Carolina's citizens.

Sincerely,



James A. Lander
Comptroller General