



The Association for Documentary Editing

e-newsletter

No. 11: Special Advocacy Issue

To all ADE members:

It was an edifying pleasure to represent ADE at the national Humanities Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. in mid-March. Actually, as organized by the National Humanities Alliance (NHA)—a group the ADE supports as an organizational member—this annual event is a series of days. As Charlene Bickford reports elsewhere in this publication, the official event occurred on Tuesday, 20 March, when some 250 participants from around the country descended on the houses of Congress to talk about the importance of the humanities (and their funding) for the nation's cultural heritage. I had arrived the Sunday before for a day and a half of training. The expert and eloquent staffers of the NHA shared the background to the funding cycle under discussion. They also prepped us on how to speak precisely about budget and policy matters with members of the U.S. Congress and their staff people.

Then came the actual visits. It felt a bit like one's first job interview, with some anxiety about whether one might be late. In fact, I left the hotel two hours before the first appointment in order to find my cohort (Chris Brick of the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers at GWU and Esther Mackintosh, president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils). With those two Washington insiders at my side, I relaxed and just went with the flow. We had three appointments to discuss funding of the Fulbright-Hays program, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Our goal was the Rhode Island delegation.

As with a job interview, there was, inevitably, some waiting. Esther and Chris filled this time with even more background on policy and funding. Then came our first visit, to the office of the senior Rhode Island U.S. senator, Jack Reed. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, he knew more about the funding situation than we did, so we listened. I was heartened by his understanding of our case. Then to the office of Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island's junior senator. He was tied up, so to speak, so we met with a senior staffer, Regan Fitzgerald. Chris and Esther explained why an allocation of five million dollars for NHPRC was a bare minimum to keep the agency afloat, as opposed to the three million in the bill. We also discussed

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the NEH appropriation and I mentioned earlier NEH grants to the Brown University Women Writers Project for text encoding—which had helped create SGML and XML and other innovations in computers and, thereby, countless numbers of jobs. After lunch we scuttled across the hill to the office of David N. Cicilline, Providence’s former mayor and now a U.S. representative. Initially we met with a staffer, Brad Greenburg, but soon were joined by Rep. Cicilline. Again, there was intelligent understanding of our humanities cause. (Rep. Jim Langevin was unavailable for a meeting.)

At the end of the day I felt proud of the Rhode Island delegation and happy that they understood the dilemma of humanities funding. I was also impressed by the dedication and knowledge of their staff members. And, if anything, I was even more concerned about the need for pointed advocacy right now. Like many ADE members, I get Charlene’s updates on email and feel guilty for a while, but act on them only if I feel personal urgency. After this visit to Washington, I feel that personal urgency much more strongly on behalf of the entire profession of documentary editing. All of us—editors, projects, staff members of NEH and NHPRC, students seeking to enter our profession, and the general public that uses our documents—will be negatively impacted by the proposed budget levels.

Another byproduct of this visit is that I am newly aware of just how respected our Federal Policy Committee Chair, Charlene Bickford, is in the halls of Washington. Charlene and I had worked together on language supporting fuller funding for the NHPRC, to be entered as testimony to the House Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee appropriation and the Senate equivalent.

This year, we would be wise to take Charlene’s advice and advocate for what we do. As Esther Mackintosh said before our meeting with the first senator: it matters less what you say than that you are here in person. Your presence is what is remembered and counted. I suggest we all show up and be counted now for our cause.

Carol Deboer-Langworthy

FY 2013 Appropriations—

ACTION NEEDED

Administration’s Budget Would Slash NHPRC Grants Funding Again—This Time by 40%

As ADE members are only too aware, the appropriation for the NHPRC’s grants program has been steadily declining in recent years—from a high of \$13 million in FY’10 to \$7 million in FY’11 to \$5 million in the current fiscal year. Though we had hoped that this downward spiral would end in FY’13, the release of the Administration’s proposed FY’13 budget

brought very disappointing news—a request for only \$3 million.

After the Administration’s number was known, constituent group representatives conferred and decided that an “ask” of *at least* level funding (i.e. \$5 million) was the most prudent move in this situation. Though we aren’t happy with taking such a conservative stand and know that the needs in both the documentary editing and archival communities are great, this is simply not a good year to seek increases.

Our primary targets in this year’s NHPRC advocacy efforts are the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Financial Services and General

Government. The House subcommittee held an agency hearing on March 20, but no public hearings were scheduled by either subcommittee. Therefore our efforts have been focused upon ensuring that the subcommittees on both sides receive both written testimony from NHPRC constituent groups and letters and other contacts from their colleagues on this issue. The ADE submitted written testimony on both sides, as did the National Coalition for History and the National Humanities Alliance. The archival community pitched in with testimony from several groups, including a statement from the Council of State Archivists signed onto by all 50 state archivists. At our request Reps. James P. Moran (D-VA) and Wm. Lacy Clay (D-MO) sent a “Dear Colleague” letter requesting \$5 million. Rep. David Price, who co-chairs the House Humanities Caucus, both surprised and pleased us with a strong plea to the subcommittee for a \$10m appropriation.

Neither subcommittee has marked up its bill yet. There is still time to impact the outcome by contacting your own Representative and Senators and asking them to tell the subcommittee that they support *at least* a \$5 million appropriation FY’13 appropriation for the NHPRC’s grants program. Phone calls (ask for the staff person who handles appropriations issues) and letters are best. Offices often just keep track of how many contacts they get on a particular subject, but we need to make our case using strong arguments and recruiting people such as university presidents, library directors, authors who have used our editions, and others to write and make contacts. The link below will take you to additional NHPRC advocacy information:

<http://www.nhalliance.org/advocacy/funding-priorities/national-historical-publications-records-commissio-2.shtml>

Administration Requests \$8.3 Million Increase for the NEH

The Administration is actually seeking an increased appropriation for another federal agency that provides funding for documentary editions—the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). NEH funding has also been declining since FY’10—from \$167.5 million that year to the final FY’12 number of \$146.0 million. The Administration’s proposed figure for FY’13 of \$154.3 million would make up some of that loss. The constituent groups united under the National Humanities Alliance are supporting this figure.

ADE members who attended HAD and visited Representatives and Senators from their states with other HAD participants made the pitch for *at least* the \$154.3 million figure. We urge you to make contact with your Representative and Senators on this subject as well. They should be asked to contact the relevant appropriations subcommittee—in this case Interior, Environment and Related Agencies—and ask them to fund the NEH at the Administration’s requested level.

A fact sheet with much more information on advocating for the NEH can be found on the website of the National Humanities Alliance at:

<http://www.nhalliance.org/advocacy/funding-priorities/national-endowment-for-the-humanities-fy2013.shtml>

Charlene Bickford

NHPRC Report to the President

Since the passage of the Federal Records Act of 1950, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission has prepared a number of reports to the President of the United States. The first, at the request of President Truman, was a preliminary report in 1951 on the state of publishing the papers of major historical American figures. A more formal report, “A National Program for the Publication of Historical Documents” was conveyed to President Eisenhower in April 1954. It envisioned funding for the Commission for a cooperative program for the publication of historical documents, plans for a national register of archival and manuscript groups, and a list of 361 persons whose papers had been suggested for publication.

In January 1963, the Commission sent a report to President Kennedy recommending a grants program for the preservation and publication of historical records. The most recent Commission Report to the President dates from 1978, and it describes some of the prevailing conditions regarding access to, and preservation of, historical records. In the 34 years since that report, much has changed—including public expectations for access to historical records (especially online), the rapid expansion of born-digital records, online publishing, and many more challenges for the fields of archives, records management, and documentary editing.

The NHPRC is writing a new Report to the President that summarizes the progress we have made thus far, describes current conditions and the challenges ahead, and recommends future actions and initiatives. At its November 2011 meeting, the Commission endorsed such an idea, and it has the enthusiastic support of the Archivist of the United States.

A working group of about 20 archivists, records managers, historians, funders (private and feder-

al), documentary editors, and others is helping us think about the most pressing issues. Using face-to-face meetings, online discussions via a wiki and other tools, the working group is assisting us in identifying the challenges and opportunities ahead, and our intention is to make the Report an iterative process, publishing current analysis and ideas, and posting research and discussions on a public forum as well as in print form. We plan on issuing the NHPRC’s final report and recommendations shortly after the November 2012 election.

Keith Donohue
Communications Director
National Historical Publications and
Records Commission

Humanities Advocacy Day—March 20, 2012: Personal Accounts

Charlene Bickford, *First Federal Congress Project*

As has been the case on previous Humanities Advocacy Days, the participation by ADE members was impressive, and we were able to have representatives in several state groups, as well as put together a group to meet with key appropriations staffers on the NHPRC appropriation issue. ADE participants also attended the March 19th annual meeting of the National Humanities Alliance—an educational event that prepares us to advocate for the humanities in all spheres and at all levels. One leaves those meetings charged up about all the exciting and important research being conducted in the humanities!

Many thanks to Mary Jo Binker, Christopher Brick, Carol DeBoer-Langworthy, Bill Ferraro, Ed Lengel, Jim McClure, Ken Price, Christy Regenhardt, and Jennifer Steenshorne for participating in HAD. We had ADE representatives in the Maryland, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia groups, as well as our ADE NHPRC team made up of

Charlene Bickford, Mary Jo Binker and Ed Lengel. Thanks also to NHPRC Executive Director Kathleen Williams, who did a briefing for attendees the evening before the NHA meeting and attended the NHA meeting.

Several of us, including some student assistants from the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, attended the hearing of the House Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee on the National Archives' FY'13 appropriation. Unfortunately the committee members in attendance did not ask the only witness, Archivist of the United States David Ferriero, any questions about the appropriation requested for the NHPRC. Perhaps they did not want to put him in the position of having to support the Administration's requested budget number of only \$3 million.

Please consider joining us for next year's NHA meeting and Humanities Advocacy Day. We need to have more states and congressional districts represented in our contingent to broaden our appeal. This annual effort is an essentially important education/advocacy event and our activism does make a difference.

Jim McClure, *Papers of Thomas Jefferson*

On Humanities Advocacy Day I had the pleasure of being part of the New Jersey group organized by Joyce Rechtschaffen and Kim Nerres of the Princeton University Office of Government Affairs and Rachel Marcus of the Rutgers University Office of Federal Relations. Returning stalwarts Dave Berry, of Essex County College and the Community College Humanities Association, and Steve Wheatley, vice president of the American Council of Learned Societies, anchored the group. Professors Claudia Johnson and Emily Bartels of the English departments of Princeton and Rutgers, respectively, and I were first-timers with the group. Together we represented some of the di-

versity of humanities organizations and interests brought together by the National Humanities Alliance annual meeting.

On March 20, the New Jersey group had meetings with Congressmen Rush Holt, Rodney Frelinghuysen, and Leonard Lance. Rush Holt, whose district includes Princeton, is an active and effective supporter of programs in research and education. Rodney Frelinghuysen's family has provided New Jersey with influential political figures since the 18th century, and Leonard Lance also has a deep interest in the state's political history. Each took time from a hectic day to spend time with our group as we reinforced the need for strong funding of humanities programs, including scholarly editions. I continued a tradition of presenting them with copies of the latest volume of the Jefferson Papers as a tangible sign of the productivity and worth of editorial projects. These visits underscored the importance of regular contact with legislators who have an interest in our work—highlighted by Representative Holt's appearance at the NHA reception on Capitol Hill the previous evening.

We took the first steps to forge such a relationship with Representative Albio Sires, who made time to meet our group and received a copy of the Jefferson Papers volume.

But that was not all. We also met with aides of Senator Frank Lautenberg, Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Steven Rothman, and Congressman Frank Pallone. On each visit we left a packet that included National Humanities Alliance sheets on NHPRC and NEH funding and a two-page handout that used the Jefferson Papers and other New Jersey projects as examples of scholarly editing endeavors. On each occasion I had an opportunity to speak on behalf of editorial projects and Rachel Marcus commented on the work of the Edison Papers.

A highlight of the day was in our first meeting,

when a young legislative aide surprised us by revealing that he had visited the Jefferson Papers offices in Princeton several years ago as part of an ongoing relationship the editorial project has with the social studies department of a northern New Jersey high school. His comments brought home the wide-ranging influence of editorial projects and the importance of direct personal interaction in our connections with legislators.

Jennifer Steenshorne, *The Selected Papers of John Jay*

I decided to attend the National Humanities Alliance annual meeting and Humanities Advocacy Day because I was angry and frustrated. I also felt helpless.

I unfortunately arrived in Washington too late on Sunday night to participate in any training sessions. I made my way over to GWU early the next morning, to grab a coffee and get the lay of the land. Fortunately, I quickly spotted Charlene Bickford and Carol DeBoer-Langworthy. Other members of the ADE in attendance were Mary Jo Binker, Christopher Brick, Bill Ferraro, Ed Lengel, Jim McClure, Ken Price, and Christy Regenhardt. This gave me a certain amount of reassurance, but I kept thinking about Tuesday, "Can I handle this?"

The talks and general conversation on Monday were really inspiring, helping us to mentally prepare for Tuesday. Most of the talk was about the NEH, understandably, as it funds the majority of humanities-based projects. Very few people seemed aware of the NHPRC and its mission, and the attack the agency has undergone. This hits home for me, because my project is solely funded by the NHPRC and Columbia University.

I wish more talk had been of jobs and direct economic impact. Aside from jobs lost directly when a project loses funding, supporting jobs are lost. If an

historic site or library has to cut funds, thereby closing exhibits or shortening hours, that impacts the local economy. In a world in which everything is measured by metrics, it's necessary to have that kind of ammunition. That being said, the handouts did provide a lot of data, and proved invaluable on Tuesday.

My jittery nerves calmed somewhat when I met the rest of the New York group: David Laurence, Director of Research and Association of Departments of English, Modern Language Association; Karen LoParco, Cornell University, Government Relations Office, Federal Legislative Associate; Brenna McLaughlin, Strategic Initiatives Director, Association of American University Presses; Emily Tai, Associate Professor, Queensborough Community College; and Gilmar Visoni, Associate Professor, Queensborough Community College. Karen, the professional, became our leader and our mentor. She filled us in on inside information, tactics (such as, tell a story), navigating the byzantine politics and hallways, and even which security entrance was the best. My colleagues were all smart and enthusiastic, and we quickly became a team, putting together our strategy. My particular piece focused on the NHPRC and its plight. My confidence grew.

The next morning, I met Karen up on the Hill. My first meeting was with my local rep, Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY-12) -- and it was just me and Karen. Gulp. Representative Velazquez couldn't meet with us in person, but fortunately, her aide was very bright and asked a lot of questions about the NHPRC.

The rest of the day went well and went fast. We met with aides, as expected. In the morning, we visited the offices of Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-08), Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-14), and Representative Tom Reed (R-NY-29). Representative Reed did come out to meet us and promised to join the House Humanities Caucus. In the afternoon, it was the Senators (or rather, senators' aids), Charles

Schumer (D-NY) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). It was advocacy boot camp, but by the end of the day, I didn't feel quite so helpless.

Of course, everyone we visited was friendly. They support the humanities. As nice as it was to be able to say "thank you, you're appreciated" and offer yourself as a resource, it was a little frustrating. I felt I had accomplished something by telling them about the NHPRC, its mission, and the danger it was in. But I wonder how I would have interacted with someone who was indifferent, or hostile, to our mission.

ADE News

Annual Meeting

The Association for Documentary Editing, 2012 Annual Meeting, "Documenting Democracy" will be held August 9-11, 2012, in Charlottesville, VA, at the Omni Hotel. Please join us!

Conference registration information may be found here:

<http://documentaryediting.org/meeting/RegForm.pdf>

Logistical information regarding travel and accommodations may be found here:

<http://documentaryediting.org/meeting/conferenceInfo.pdf>

Conference program may be found here:

<http://documentaryediting.org/meeting/2012ADEProgram.pdf>

A tour will be held on Saturday, August 11 of Poplar Forest, Thomas Jefferson's Bedford County Retreat. Tour information may be found here:

<http://documentaryediting.org/meeting/tour.pdf>

A pre-conference workshop, "Fundraising in the Private Sector," led by Claire Holman Thompson, will be held on Wednesday, August 8, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Information may be found here:

<http://documentaryediting.org/meeting/index.html#workshop>

Need additional information? Please contact Darrell Meadows, ADE Secretary (darrell.meadows@ky.gov).

Scholarly Editing

Thanks to James R. Kelly, Humanities Research Services Librarian at the W.E.B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts, *Scholarly Editing* and back issues of *Documentary Editing* will be indexed in the MLA International Bibliography. This will make articles and reviews in the journal far more visible and accessible to compilers of databases and discovery sources, and to scholars.

Member News

Mark Ashurst-McGee, Matt Godfrey, and Robin Jensen of the *Joseph Smith Papers* presented a panel on "Bridging the Gap between the Academy and the Public: The Joseph Smith Papers Documentary Editing Project" at the recent OAH meeting in Milwaukee, with **Sara Martin** of the Adams Papers as discussant.

Lynn A. Bonfield will speak at the Peacham (VT) Historical Association annual meeting, August 1, at 7 p.m., Peacham Congregational Church on her book *New England to Gold Rush California: The Journal of Alfred and Chastina W. Rix 1849-1854*.

The Papers of Jacob Leisler Project intern **Stephanie Krom** was presented with a check by Dr. Charles Wendell from The Holland Society of New York in recognition of her outstanding work at the Leisler Papers Project at New York University. The presentation ceremony took place at the Cornell Club in Manhattan on April 12, 2012. Stephanie has been an intern with the project since January. She will be a graduate student in the NYU History Department's Archives and Masters Program beginning in September 2012.

Maeva Marcus's essay, "A Note of Appreciation for Documentary Editing" was featured in the *William and Mary Quarterly's* Critical Forum on Pauline Maier's *Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788* (WMQ, 3d ser., 69, no. 2 April 2012

http://oieahc.wm.edu/wmq/index.cfm?issue_num=69_2).

Beverly Wilson Palmer gave a talk on Thaddeus Stevens and the Journey to Full Emancipation at a symposium to celebrate his 220th birthday in Lancaster, Pa., on April 13 2012.

Project News

David Livingstone Spectral Imaging Project has announced the first edition publication of two digital resources that will be of significant interest to scholars of Victorian literature, the Digital Humanities, postcolonial studies, African history, and library science. Both resources focus on David Livingstone, the celebrated Victorian abolitionist, missionary, and explorer of Africa: Livingstone's 1871 Field Diary: A Multispectral Critical Edition (<http://livingstone.library.ucla.edu/1871diary/>) and the Livingstone Spectral Image Archive (http://livingstone.library.ucla.edu/livingstone_archive/)

Livingstone composed the diary crosswise over old newspaper pages with ink concocted from the seeds of a local African plant - an expedient that has not stood the test of time. Today large portions of the text are illegible and nearly invisible to the naked eye. However, the David Livingstone Spectral Imaging Project has succeeded in restoring the full text of the diary by using advanced imaging technology and digital scholarship to produce a comprehensive critical edition. The edition also includes an extensive "Project History & Archive" that chronicles the journey of Livingstone's text from its rediscovery in 2009 to its publication. This section of the site contains over 60 downloadable documents and files that together provide a detailed account of the production of the critical edition and spectral image archive.

The Livingstone Spectral Image Archive consists of "flat" digital files not dependant on any graphical user interface (GUI), has been created to international library standards, and reflects the archival model established by the Archimedes Palimpsest Project (<http://www.archimedespalimpsest.org/>). The archive includes registered spectral TIFF images with metadata embedded in the header; TXT metadata files; XML TEI P5 transcriptions; MD5 checksum files to ensure data fixity; and extensive documentation. In most cases, the XML transcriptions also include

spatial data linking lines of text to corresponding spectral image areas.

The publication of these two resources represents the culmination of a two-year collaborative, international endeavor that brings together scholars, scientists, archives, and educational institutions. The U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities and the British Academy have made the project possible through generous funding. Questions and comments about the project can be sent to project director Adrian S. Wisnicki, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, at <awisnicki(at)yahoo.com>.

Publications

The Papers of John Adams, Volume 16 February 1784–March 1785. Gregg L. Lint, C. James Taylor, Robert Karachuk, Hobson Woodward, Margaret A. Hogan, Neal E. Millikan, Sara B. Sikes, Sara Martin, Sara Georgini, Amanda A. Mathews, and James T. Connolly, eds. (Harvard University Press, 2012). ISBN: 9780674065574. <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674065574>

Foreign Relations of the United States, 1969–1976, Volume XVI, Soviet Union, August 1974–December 1976. David C. Geyer, Editor. Edward C. Keefer, General Editor (United States Government Printing Office, 2012). ISBN:

<http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1969-76v16>

The Selected Papers of John Jay, Volume 2, 1780–1782. Elizabeth M. Nuxoll, Editor; Mary A. Y. Gallagher, and Jennifer E. Steenshorne, Associate Editors (University of Virginia Press, 2012). ISBN: 9780813931234. <http://books.upress.virginia.edu/detail/books/group-4214.xml?q=author:%22Jay,%20John%22>

The Papers of George Catlett Marshall: "The Whole World Hangs in the Balance," January 8, 1947–September 30, 1949, Volume 6. Edited by Larry I. Bland, Mark A. Stoler, Sharon Ritenour Stevens, and Daniel D. Holt (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012). ISBN: 9781421407920. <http://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/ecom/MasterServlet/GetItemDetailsHandler?iN=9781421407920&qty=1&source=2&viewMode=3&loggedIN=false&JavaScript=y>

John Reading's Diary. David R Reading (Compiler, Editor), Dorothy A Stratford (Compiler) (The Mount Amwell Project Inc., 2010). ISBN: 0615370985.

The Joseph Smith Papers: Histories, Vol. 1 (1832–1844). Karen Lynn Davidson (Editor), David J. Whittaker (Editor), Mark R. Ashurst-McGee (Editor), Richard L. Jensen (Editor) (Church Historian's Press, 2012). ISBN: 1606411969.

<http://deseretbook.com/Joseph-Smith-Papers-Histories-Vol-1-1832-1844-Karen-Lynn-Davidson/i/5026279>