



# E-Newsletter

*Summer 2021: Volume 15, Issue 3*

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## A LETTER FROM THE ADE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

**Michael Cohen,**

*The Correspondence of Zachary Taylor and  
Millard Fillmore*

The ADE wishes to better communicate with its members and with all who can benefit from or contribute to the editing of documents. The rise of social media and the pandemic-era shift toward virtual contacts make it increasingly feasible to share the organization's and its members' work with diverse professionals, students, and readers.

To that end, in October, President Constance Schulz established the Communications Committee. She recruited Katie Blizzard, Kathryn Gehred, Felix Harcourt, and me to serve for its inaugural year. Our central goals are to grow the ADE's social media presence, to amplify affiliated projects' voices, and to identify new constituencies whom the ADE can learn from and serve.

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You've likely seen us online already. We're the ones behind the ADE's accounts on [Twitter \(@editorialnotes\)](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Throughout the week we post announcements of events and grant opportunities, links to interesting articles, reposts from projects, and other information relevant to the editing community.

Many of you filled out our survey this spring. Thank you! Sixty-two respondents shared how you use social media, where you prefer to get ADE info, and what content you find most useful on the website. Forty-one percent, for example, use Facebook on behalf of your projects; 31 percent, Twitter; 8 percent, Instagram; and 3 percent, LinkedIn. We're working with other committees and the Council to improve communication based on your answers.

We've also sought advice outside the ADE. We met with Wout Dillen, of the European Society for Textual Scholarship, and Megan Brett, of George Mason University's Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, to learn how we can promote editors' work to their communities. In the coming months, we'll continue this "listening tour."

Most of all, we want to hear from you! [A new form on the ADE website](#) lets you send us project announcements for posting on the website or on social media. Soon the site also will include an option to add your project to the site's project lists.

In addition, you can send us questions or suggestions at [ade-communications@documentaryediting.org](mailto:ade-communications@documentaryediting.org). We're excited to find new ways to spread the word about our organization and its members.

Finally, be sure to watch social media during the virtual conference. We'll be posting throughout it to the ADE's accounts on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. To follow all who are live-tweeting the conference, or to do so yourself, use the hashtag **#docedit21**.

## QUESTION CORNER

*What lesson from Camp Edit has stuck with you?*

Share your response in an email to Katie Blizzard ([kal3aw@virginia.edu](mailto:kal3aw@virginia.edu)). We may feature your **Question Corner** comments in a future issue of the newsletter.

## QUESTION CORNER RESPONSES

***What is your favorite memory from an ADE conference? (Spring 2021)***

I've attended some twenty ADE meetings, but the session I recall most distinctly was one at the 1993 meeting in Philadelphia, which I see by referencing the program was titled Editing and Publishing in the Digital Age. The session featured papers and remarks from five scholars on how documents presented in an electronic environment could be linked to external sources with far more information than traditional notes. What is commonplace now was extraordinary then, and the images shown on a big screen astonished editors trained to use books to publish books. Another memory from Philadelphia was the look on John C. Van Horne's face at the registration table when he realized that I wasn't joking when I said that I had a ticket to the World Series game that evening. It came to me from my family in New Jersey who then had a Phillies season ticket package.

***William M. Ferraro, The Washington Papers, University of Virginia, but in 1993, The Ulysses S. Grant Association, Southern Illinois University Carbondale***

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# INSIGHTS FROM A QUESTIONNAIRE POSED TO FORMER ADE PRESIDENTS

## Victoria Sciancalepore, Jane Addams Papers Project

An editor's job is to search the past for answers—to pore over hundreds, if not thousands, of documents for answers to questions that the documents' authors probably never anticipated. It is, at times, a semi-fruitless endeavor, with editors only able to speculate as to the true thoughts of their subjects. To assist future editors who choose—to our delight or, possibly our dread—to study the papers of scholarly editors, I have asked ADE presidents of years' past the following questions:

1. How have you been inspired by others in your field?
2. What aspect of your time as ADE president are you most proud of?
3. What advice would you give to future presidents of the ADE?

In regard to the first question, inspiration came from a multitude of places. One respondent found it in editions of "old papers" that they felt were "well transcribed". While each editor may hold a different view as to what constitutes a "well done" publication, there is no doubt that coming into contact with one of these editions is indeed invigorating. Another respondent added that there "was not a year that [they] did not learn from the students" at Camp Edit.

An interesting aspect of the answers given to the second question was that each president pointed to a part of the ADE they decided to change in their effort to usher the organization into a new era. One president was most proud

of helping to convert *Scholarly Editing* into an online publication. Another cited a revision of the ADE constitution that went through "without a single 'nay.'" Both respondents, of course, noted that these changes were a group effort, a theme that interestingly also permeated others' responses to this question.

When asked to give advice for future presidents, there were two points frequently made by the respondents. The first was to plan in advance for the full length of the presidency. As I learned, deciding on a few specific items to accomplish during that period saves a president from trying to achieve too much and, in the end, seeing nothing come to completion. One response specifically suggested thinking about the presidency as a three-year term. During the first year, the president-elect assists the current president in order to learn more about the role they will undertake in the following year. In the second year, the incoming president has the ability to enact policies formulated from ideas that were seeded during the previous year. The final year of a president's term is reserved for mentoring the next leader. The second piece of advice suggested by respondents was a reminder to consider the needs and interests of smaller projects when making various decisions. Editors of smaller projects, one respondent urged, "really want to do good work; they just don't know where to turn for good advice."

The answers I received shed new light on the evolving scope and role of the ADE president as each president brings a unique perspective on how the ADE can best assist editors. As I continue to review answers to this questionnaire, I am only excited about how the Association will continue to improve and grow.

*On June 24, as part of this year's annual meeting of the ADE, a few former ADE presidents will hold a forum. [Register now for the event.](#)*

# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Register now for this year's annual meeting of the ADE, which will meet virtually from June 24-27 and on Tuesdays in July. [Register here.](#)

In January 2021 the *Edinburgh Critical Edition of the Complete Works of Alfred North Whitehead* published volume 2 of its planned 6-volume collection of the complete, published works and previously unpublished lectures, papers, and correspondence of Alfred North Whitehead, one of the most original and significant philosophers of the twentieth century. [Learn more.](#)

On Feb. 12 the Department of State released *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1969-1976, Vol. E-15, Part 2, Documents on Western Europe, 1973-76, Second, Revised Edition*. This volume is part of a subseries of volumes of the Foreign Relations series that documents the most important foreign policy issues of the Richard M. Nixon and Gerald R. Ford administrations. It was compiled and edited by Kathleen B. Rasmussen. [Learn more.](#)

In March 2021 the University of Tennessee Press published the fourteenth and final volume of the *Correspondence of James K. Polk*. Covering the period from April 1848 to June 1849, it features letters from the last months of Polk's presidency and life. It culminates over six decades of work by forty-three faculty, staff, and student editors at Vanderbilt University and the University of Tennessee. [Learn more.](#)

On April 22 the Department of State released *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1981-1988, Volume XI, START I*. This is the first of two volumes in the Foreign Relations series

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## QUESTION CORNER RESPONSES

*What is your favorite memory from an ADE conference? (Spring 2021)*

I attended my first ADE meeting in 1979, where I met Lester Cappon. Lester was nearly 80 years old at the time, and I fondly remember that he took time to talk with a very novice editor who was still in his 20s. In addition to his warmth, I was impressed by his creative and forward-thinking mind. During one of the sessions, probably one of the perennial ones on funding issues, Lester spoke from the audience. He suggested that instead of thinking about having projects all making do on soft money and each competing for a limited piece of the pie, should we not work toward creating centers for documentary editing. These could be located at multiple universities and research institutions, each specializing on different historical eras. They would be staffed with scholars who would have both the historical knowledge of the period as well as skills in documentary editing. Working with university fund-raising staff, endowments could be created to provide for centers that could serve the university's educational mission, permit trained scholarly editors to find some employment security, retain staff with expertise, and allow new editions to seamlessly begin as older ones were completed.

What I found so interesting is that more than four decades ago, Lester anticipated in different ways today's efforts to create publishing cooperatives. What remains the same is the warmth of personal connections and the abundance of new ideas which make ADE meetings so pleasurable.

**Michael Stevens, Co-author of *Editing Historical Documents: A Handbook of Practice***

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devoted to the START I agreement (the "Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms"), which President George H.W. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed on July 29, 1991. This volume was compiled and edited by James Graham Wilson. The volume and the press release regarding its publication are available on the Office of the Historian website [here](#).

The April 2021 issue of [Chebacco](#), the annual magazine of the Mount Desert Island Historical Society, has published the fully annotated and illustrated "Summers of Science and Wonder: The Champlain Society Logbooks 1880-1882." The collection features the summer camp logbooks of a group of student naturalists known as The Champlain Society. Edited by Catherine Schmitt, an IEHD participant in 2017, the notebooks describe the students' efforts to document the geology, flora, and fauna of Mount Desert Island. The pages also contain the origins of the idea to conserve for the public the land that became Acadia National Park.

**[Congratulations to all May 2021 NHPRC Grant Recipients!](#)** This year the NHPRC awarded grants to the following ADE affiliated projects:

- **Civil War & Reconstruction Governors of Mississippi Digital Documentary Edition**, University of Southern Mississippi
- **"Fame and Infamy: Walt Whitman's Correspondence, 1888-1892,"** University of Iowa
- **The Frederick Douglass Papers**, Indiana University
- **The Freedmen & Southern Society Project**, University of Maryland
- **The Jane Addams Papers**, Ramapo College of New Jersey
- **The John Dickinson Writings Project**, University of Virginia

- **The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers**, Stanford University
- **The Papers of Abraham Lincoln**, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation
- **The Papers of Andrew Jackson**, University of Tennessee
- **The Papers of George Washington**, University of Virginia
- **The Papers of James Madison**, University of Virginia
- **The Papers of Martin Van Buren**, Cumberland University
- **The Papers of Roger Taney, A Digital Documentary Edition**, University of West Florida
- **The Papers of Thomas Jefferson**, Princeton University
- **The Pinckney Statesmen of South Carolina**, University of South Carolina
- **The Thomas A. Edison Papers**, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

## DID WE MISS ANYTHING?

*If you have an announcement you would like to see in a future ADE e-newsletter or at any time on the ADE's social media channels, email it to Kathryn Gehred ([kig7w@virginia.edu](mailto:kig7w@virginia.edu)) .*

## NEWSLETTER CREDITS

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