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NEWSLETTER
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DOCUMENTING DEMOCRACY National Historical Publications and Records Commission Annotation

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EDITOR'S NOTE

With this issue, we welcome Kathleen Williams as the 10th official Executive Director of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. From joining the Commission in June 2004 to taking over in an acting capacity in February 2008, Ms. Williams has helped transform the NHPRC into a more dynamic and accountable agency, and we join her colleagues in welcoming her behind the helm.

One of the more challenging tasks of the new Executive Director was to frame a response for the inquiry made by Congress in late December 2007 to deliver the papers of the Founding Fathers to the American people in a more timely fashion. Within four months of consultation and conversation, Archivist Allen Weinstein and Ms. Williams crafted a plan that uses the Web as the place to show a Work-in-Progress as the Founding Era projects move forward. Within the next several years, people will be able to access the completed Founding Era projects through the Rotunda web site and, we hope, the transcribed versions of the remaining unpublished papers. As work moves forward to edit and annotate the papers, scholars and the general public will have access to both the "raw" materials and the authoritative version.

Finally, we look at another historical documentary edition on a modern subject: the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Under the direction of historian Clayborne Carson, the project is housed in the Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute at Stanford University, which has published six volumes of Dr. King's papers along with four additional collections of sermons, speeches, and autobiographical pieces. Forty years ago on April 4, 1968, Dr. King was shot and killed in Memphis, but it is another anniversary—the March on Washington on August 28, 1963—that is a more fitting tribute, for it was instrumental in prompting supporters of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Well-remembered for its sweeping crescendo and conclusion, the speech also begins with the prescient words: "I am happy to join with you today in what will go down as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation."

Cover: Martin Luther King, Jr., delivers his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Photo courtesy of Flip Shulke, Black Star.

KATHLEEN WILLIAMS NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kathleen M. Williams was named Executive Director of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) on April 22, 2008. Ms. Williams, who had been Acting Executive Director since January 2008, replaces former director Max Evans.

In making the appointment, Professor Weinstein said, "Ms. Williams brings a broad knowledge of the fields of archives and documentary editing to the Commission and its work. I am optimistic that together we will further the work of the NHPRC in preserving, publishing, and making accessible the nation's historical records."

Ms. Williams was previously Deputy Executive Director of the NHPRC where she oversaw daily operations and the grant award cycles. She has worked at the NHPRC and the National Archives since 2004. Prior to joining the National Archives, Ms. Williams worked at the Smithsonian Institution where she served for 10 years on the staff of the Smithsonian Institution Archives in various supervisory capacities, including its Archives Division Director

from 1998 to 2004. Her career has included work as Assistant Archivist at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, and 10 years, from 1984 to 1994, as Archivist at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, where she began the archives program. While in Houston, she also served as an adjunct instructor in the History Department at the University of Houston.

Ms. Williams holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, Massachusetts) and a Masters Degree in Arts and Cultural Administration from Goucher College (Baltimore, Maryland).



Kathleen Williams

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S

MESSAGE

THE NHPRC AND I ARE OLD FRIENDS.

My first connection to the NHPRC came almost 30 years ago as a graduate student. Frank Burke was head of the Commission and, at the time, my instructor at the University of Maryland in its library science program. Among the many topics featured in his class on archives and manuscripts, Dr. Burke talked about the Commission and its work. He impressed on his students the unique focus and purpose of the NHPRC as a catalyst within the communities of doc-

umentary editors, archivists, and manuscript curators.

As a graduate student with aspirations in the field of archives, I found this heady stuff. Knowing about the Commission and its work was enlightening and energizing. In fact, support for archives was a relatively new phenomenon for the NHPRC, having begun a mere five years before my enrollment in Burke's class. As Dr. Burke envisioned, the Commission led through its grant programs and its

forward-looking actions, all spurred by a conviction that there was important work to be done in preserving and making accessible the nation's historical records, despite the modest resources available.

Less than four years later, I was working as the first archivist at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas, through a three-year grant awarded by the NHPRC. Like many of you, I witnessed the tangible and intangible benefits that resulted from a Commission grant. The initial NHPRC seed money to establish the archives paved the way for a permanent archival program at the institution. In addition, well beyond the three-year NHPRC grant, and during the past 20 years, that archives has emerged as a robust program, and has helped other cultural institutions to establish their own archives.

Clearly, Commission investments have resulted in far-reaching benefits well beyond the confines of single grants and immediate grant outcomes. This experience provided me with ample evidence that the sum of the Commission's grants is much greater than its parts.

Some years later, I was fortunate to serve as director of the archives division at the Smithsonian Institution Archives where we faced the challenges of administering a large archival program with unique collections and very modest resources. The Smithsonian's proximity to the NHPRC across the National Mall had moved me physically closer to the Commission, but I was painfully aware that the NHPRC's largess was not available to federal entities.

My appreciation of the benefits of NHPRC grants now comes from within the Commission by having served almost four years as its deputy and now as its Executive Director. Combining my archival

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knowledge and experience as a grantee with an insider's detailed knowledge of federal grant programs and processes, I return to what brought me to the profession and to the Commission.

Leadership can take many forms. For me, Commission leadership comes through appreciating challenges and turning them into opportunities by understanding the developments within the communities before us, that is, the fields of documentary editing and archives. When

we help those communities to realize new opportunities, we serve the American people, the true beneficiaries of the work we all undertake.

What brings many of us to the history and archives professions is our commitment to understanding the past and communicating its meaning to new generations of Americans. The next big challenge for the NHPRC and for the archives community as a whole is in this form of education, showing history at the ready through accessibility to primary source materials. Whether it is through creative programming that uses technology to show the breadth and depth of collections or through re-thinking how a public archives interacts with the public, we are on the cusp of another wave of change and progress. Over the course

we have built these incredible collections and archives, and now we have an opportunity to make them not only accessible but welcoming to all.

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THE PROPHET RECONSIDERED

By Christopher Phelps

We forget so much. We forget that he was hanging by a thread in 1968 at the time of his death, whose 40th anniversary we marked in April. We forget that his moral authority had frayed, leaving his fundraising in free fall. We forget that in his final years he faced not only a rising "white backlash"—the media term for white obduracy in the suburbs and working-class neighborhoods, North as well as South—but resentment from establishment liberals who thought he had executed too radical a turn by opposing a Democratic president and the Vietnam War. We forget that although blacks still looked to him more than any other leader, he was increasingly viewed with cynicism by young militants who derided him as "De Lawd" and thought his nonviolence too tepid for the times. We forget that police agencies from the Federal Bureau of Investigation to military intelligence viewed him as a dangerous subversive, listened in on his conversations, and spread both true and false rumors about him in a concerted campaign to discredit him. We forget that between major addresses he was prone to depression, afflicted by insomnia so severe that he slept only a few hours each night, even when popping sleeping pills. We forget that his close associates were concerned by his anxiety and fatigue, and taken aback by his fixation on his own mortality. We forget the critics who accused him of harboring a "Messiah complex."

By all rights, though, we ought to remember. We are surrounded by constant reminders of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. Statues, monuments, and postage stamps bear his likeness, highways and boulevards his name. He has become a national icon. Television ads sample his voice. Presidential candidates invoke the "fierce urgency of now." Ubiquity has come, however, at a price. The nonviolent revolutionary who upended conventional society and sought to induce tension has become an anodyne symbol of progress. The disappointed prophet who spoke toward the end of his life of America as a nightmare is remembered only for his 1963 dream. Once widely reviled, King has become an almost obligatory object of reverence. Even conservatives genuflect before his memory. While dismantling affirmative action, a policy King advocated, they cite King's aspiration that Americans be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. King is a totem: safe, universal, unobjectionable. He is as remote and mythical to schoolchildren as any other figure in the national pantheon stretching back to the Founding Fathers. His inner turmoil, his public failures, his vocal critics, left and right, have all faded from view, replaced by a fable in which a nation awakens gently to his self-evident dream.

This pattern is not wholly lamentable. It may even be necessary. Had the long campaign waged by Coretta Scott King after his mur-

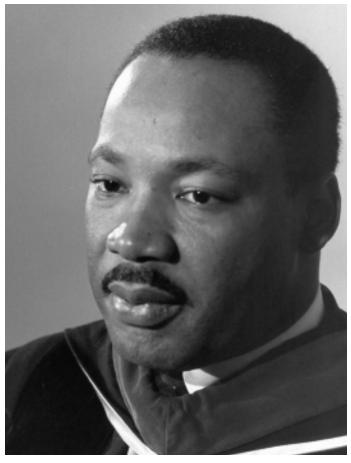


Photo courtesy Library of Congress

der not succeeded, had she and her husband's closest associates not surmounted strong resistance and achieved a national day named for him, there might be no annual Federal commemoration of the life of any African American. There might be no occasion for the nation to reflect upon the merit of the dismantling of overt racism in law, public accommodations, and education, as well as the securing of voting rights for all citizens, regardless of race. These accomplishments—understood by King himself as gigantic steps forward—merit our commemoration.

But the ceremonial gloss now overlaid upon Martin Luther King, Jr., causes problems. By rendering him immaculate and incontrovertible, sanctification has, paradoxically, left him vulnerable. Cynicism is too easily the reaction when revelations occur about, say, King's sexual escapades or collegiate plagiarism. But King's heroism and place in history never depended on a halo of saintly purity. Brilliant, flawed, controversial, talented, King—as he was first to observe—was always a sinner.

To view Martin Luther King, Jr., as the Man Who Brought About Civil Rights is to conflate movement with man, and biography is no substitute for history. King's stature ought not obscure the vast and variegated activity from below, in countless cities and rural districts,

that made up the civil rights revolution. Too often King's story is framed within a self-contented story of national progress that idealizes the extent to which the country has transcended race and minimizes the disruptive tactics necessary to bring about an end to Jim Crow. Commemoration further confines King's life to the box of "civil-rights leader," making it seem that his sole aim was to eliminate *de jure* discrimination—the explicit racist barriers to opportunity. In actuality, King, like the black freedom movement as a whole, pursued an expansive moral mission dedicated to ending inequality, racism, war, and poverty.

"If any of you are around when I have to meet my day," King told the congregation of Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church on February 4, 1968, two months before his assassination,

I don't want a long funeral. And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy, tell them not to talk too long. Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize—that isn't important. Tell them not to mention that I have three or four hundred other awards—that's not important. Tell them not to mention where I went to school. I'd

like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to love somebody. I want you to say that day that I tried to be right on the war question. I want you to be able to say that I did try to feed the hungry. I want you to be able to say that I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked.

Our scholarship on the civil rights movement—truly stunning in its quality—is not to blame for our oversimplified iconography of Martin Luther King, Jr. King is the subject of many fine biographies, among them David Levering Lewis's King (Penguin, 1970), Stephen B. Oates's Let the Trumpet Sound (Harper & Row, 1982), David J. Garrow's Bearing the Cross (William Morrow, 1986), and Taylor Branch's magisterial trilogy, beginning with Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63 (Simon and Schuster, 1988). Excellent biographies now exist of Ella Baker, Bayard Rustin, and Rosa Parks, King's colleagues. Testimonies of the black freedom struggle are collected in oral histories and memoirs. Narratives have appeared of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Freedom Rides, and Freedom Summer, as well as struggles in local communities, from Birmingham to Greensboro. Writers have shed new light on *Brown* v. *Board of Education* (1954), organizations like the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the press's "race beat," and segregationists' "massive resistance." The freedom movement has even occasioned the best historical documentary ever produced on any subject, *Eyes on the Prize*.

These investigations have transformed historical understanding in ways the nation's culture has yet to fully register, let alone absorb. Scholars now emphasize the global context of cold war (as a lever) and decolonization (as inspiration) for the American civil rights movement. Many of them speak of a "long civilrights movement" stretching back at least to the 1940s, when A. Philip Randolph led fights to desegregate industry and the military—if not even further back, to Ida B. Wells's antilynching crusade of the 1890s or the creation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by W.E.B. Du Bois and others in 1909. Recent scholarship heralds women's networks, rooted primarily in the black church, as critical to movement success in the 1950s and 1960s, giving Septima Clark,



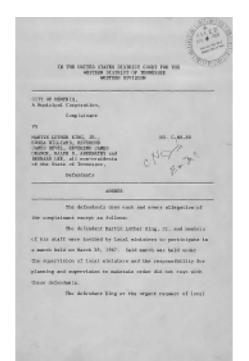
The Leaders of the March on Washington meet with President John Kennedy, August 28, 1963. John F. Kennedy Library.



King on his way to White House meeting

Diane Nash, Fannie Lou Hamer, and others their due. Historians have shown conclusively that armed self-defense was a significant factor in a cause once taken to have been purely nonviolent. They have depicted numerous mobilizations against Jim Crow in the North, as well as the South. They have begun to explore with sophistication the complex relationship between black radicalism and militant liberalism in the 1950s and 1960s.

Those insights, which mark off civil rights scholarship as one of the most imaginative fields of modern American historiography, pose profound challenges to those who would consecrate King as the personification of the movement. In I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle (University of California Press, 1995), a brilliant local study, Charles M. Payne blasts "top down" civil rights histories for obscuring the "collective, multi-faceted nature" of the movement's leadership. "King-centric" studies, he writes, promote a "normative history" by assuming that "national institutions work more or less as advertised." They tend to overestimate the national consensus about the movement's goals and frame radicalism as irrational. In "popular discourse about the movement," Payne



This document gives the response of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Reverand Hosea Williams, Reverend James Bevel, Reverend James Orange, Ralph D. Abernathy, and Bernard Lee to allegations by the city of Memphis, Tennessee, that they had been engaged in a conspiracy to incite riots or breaches of the peace. National Archives.

finds, King fits the normative bill as "the apostle of nonviolence, advocate of interracial brotherhood and Christian patience."

As if in conscious response, a new scholarly synthesis seems emergent four decades after the death of King, one that draws upon decidedly bottom-up conceptions of the civil rights movement to reconsider King's life and thought. Far from a comforting, "normative" figure, King emerges in these studies, as Thomas F. Jackson puts it in his very fine intellectual portrait From Civil Rights to Human Rights: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Struggle for Economic Justice, as "much more radical, earlier and more consistently, than he is credited for being." One hallmark of these recent works—which concentrate above all on King's economic and social philosophy—is their attentiveness, again in Jackson's words, to the way in which King's voice echoed "the values and languages of specific audiences" while "challenging them with antithetical truths, stretching their terms of understanding and prodding them to think and act in new directions."

Nowhere is this more evident than in *The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, the ongoing work of the King Papers Project headed by Clayborne Carson at Stanford University. A labor of love, the King Papers Project is a money-losing venture both for its host institution, which quarters it in a temporary modular building, and its publisher, the University of California Press. Subject to the ebb and flow of whatever financial support it manages to cobble together, the King Papers Project has somehow succeeded in assembling an extraordinary, state-of-the-art digital database and issuing six handsomely bound volumes of King's papers to date.

An hour spent with a volume in this series is virtually equivalent to a conversation with Martin Luther King, Jr. Each volume is a trove of letters, memoranda, transcriptions, photographs, speeches, minutes, and fragmentary notes, some in facsimile of the handwritten original.All are reproduced verbatim, complete with King's wretched spelling ("diciple," "fudal"). The staff editors—as historians trained in social history and, in several cases, veterans of social movements—are ambivalent about Great Man theories of King. Aided by squadrons of Stanford students they oversee, they acquire King documents from the world over, make selections from mountains of potential items, and write the contextualizing footnotes and introductions.

The most recent volume comprises King's sermons from 1948 to 1963, which remind us of King's immersion in the black Baptist church and of the wide range of theological sources and social criticism he drew upon. For King, Christianity was the social gospel. His outlook was astonishingly radical, especially for the McCarthy era. In a college paper entitled "Will Capitalism Survive?" King held that "capitalism has seen its best days in America, and not only in America, but in the entire world." He concluded a 1953 sermon by asking his congregation to decide "whom ye shall serve, the god of money or the eternal God of the universe." He opposed communism as materialistic, but argued that only an end to colonialism, imperialism, and racism, an egalitarian program of social equality, fellowship, and love, could serve as its alternative. In a 1952 letter responding to

Coretta's gift to him of a copy of Edward Bellamy's utopian socialist novel *Looking Backward* ("There is still hope for the future ...," she inscribed on its flyleaf), King wrote, "I would certainly welcome the day to come when there will be a nationalization of industry."

The volume's assiduous editorial annotation permits us to locate King in lived dialogue. We discover, for example, that his 1952 sermon on "Communism's Challenge to Christianity," delivered at Ebenezer Baptist Church, prompted a letter of retort from Melvin H. Watson, a Morehouse College professor and Ebenezer congregant, who attempted to set King straight on the virtues of Stalin. Watson, a holdover from the Communist-led Popular Front, helps us place King's democratic radicalism in bold

relief while providing a concrete illustration of how black communities retained a strong left-wing presence even after the 1940s.

Reviews of the first volume of King Papers in 1992 were mixed, but read today those initial objections look stingy. Regrettably, no volume issued since has received much attention, even though the third, on the 1955–56 Montgomery Bus Boycott, is nonpareil as a sourcebook on that critical struggle. With six volumes now in print, it is time we hail the King Papers Project as a triumph of national scholarship, one that would have been impossible without grants

from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and other Federal agencies.

It may be too much to hope that the steady accumulation of scholarship drawing attention to King's radicalism and situating him within a complex movement will alter popular conceptions of King, but if a breakthrough does come, it would seem most likely to take place in a year, like this 40th anniversary, that draws our attention to his activity in 1968.

Never was King's full agenda more visible than after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In his last years, King struggled to devise tactics suitable to challenging economic injustice, a target more amorphous than Jim Crow. In 1966

he launched an ill-fated challenge to Chicago's slums and residential segregation. In 1967, in a speech against "racism, materialism, and militarism," he described the United States as "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today," placed America "on the wrong side of a world revolution," and blamed the "need to maintain social stability for our investments."

In 1968, King visited a bare-bones elementary school in rural Mississippi. As he watched, the teacher provided each child with a few crackers and a quarter of an apple for lunch. "That's all they get," his friend Ralph Abernathy whispered. King nodded, his eyes filled with tears, which he wiped away with the back of his hand. That night, King conceived the notion of a Poor People's Cam-

With six volumes now in print, it is time we hail the King Papers Project as a triumph of national scholarship, one that would have been impossible without grants from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and other Federal agencies.

paign. To open the eyes of the nation to poverty, he would lead a Washington encampment of poor people whose civil disobedience would compel a shift of funds from war to social priorities such as full employment and a guaranteed annual income.

Opposition instantly greeted the Poor People's Campaign. King's advisers privately doubted its wisdom. Former allies criticized it publicly. As King soldiered on undaunted, he was called to Memphis, where garbage workers requested his presence. Their strike, sparked by the deaths of two workers crushed in a faulty trash compactor, had unified the black community in opposition to Memphis's intransigent segregationist mayor, Henry Loeb.

Never before has there been so complete

a rendering of that episode as in Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign. Situating the Memphis strike within the sweep of history, Michael K. Honey shows that the poverty wages of sanitation workers were emblematic of the black working poor. One might take issue with some aspects of Honey's retelling, such as his rendering of King as opposed to obsessive anticommunism but never to communism. Honey also misses that King, by invoking the Jericho parable, did not merely mean to call us to service like the Good Samaritan; he actually proposed, through social transformation, to alter the road itself to eliminate the need for charity. ("We're going to change the whole Jericho road!" he shouted in Chicago.) Honey's intricately

researched reconstruction, however, leaves far more to commend than fault. His portraits of key players, from union leaders to Black Power youth, are highly informative. He effectively recreates King's powerful oratory—including his startling call for a Memphis general strike. *Going Down Jericho Road* is a majestic work of black history as labor history, and social history as American history.

When King died after being shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel at age 39, he was beleaguered. Some people say he was a dreamer, but—to quote another martyr—he was not the only one. Malcolm and Medgar, Allende and Lumumba: The casualties dotted that

age. King's mellifluent baritone voice and charismatic leadership in 1968 were directed beyond attitudinal racism and legal segregation, toward overturning the tables of the money-changers. He meant to bring an end to war, slums, underfunded schools, destitution, and unemployment. Down riot-torn streets, he continued his quest for audacious social transformation by means of creative tension, compassion, love, inclusion, and humility. His death reminds us of American violence. The aspirations he left unfulfilled—especially for social equality and economic justice—may yet supply the legacy for a renewed American hope.

Christopher Phelps teaches 20th-century American history at Ohio State University at Mansfield.

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THE KING PAPERS PROJECT:

AN INTERVIEW WITH CLAYBORNE CARSON

By Christopher Phelps

H istorian Clayborne Carson is the author of *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s* (Harvard University Press, 1981), the definitive study of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. He directs the Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute, housed at Stanford University, which produces *The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.*

When Coretta Scott King asked you to preside over the King Papers Project in 1985, did it give you pause?

Initially, I said no. I felt there were other people more suitable, partly because I never really thought of myself as a King biographer. I was a SNCC person. Even before I first saw King, at the March on Washington in 1963, I had met Stokely Carmichael and other SNCC activists. At that time, the march was the most significant experience of my life. I am fairly certain that I would not be studying King and the African-American freedom struggle if not for that experience. It exposed me to ideas and possibilities that had never occurred to me.

As you radicalized in the 1960s, were you affected by SNCC's disenchantment with King?

Oh, sure, I shared that sense. I was impatient. I didn't want to wait for change. And I was disillusioned with liberalism, thought it was too willing to compromise on rights and too dominated by middle-class reformers, as opposed to grass-roots people. The pieces I wrote then were in the Black Power, Black Panther vein.

Later you reconsidered?

The Black Power movement didn't get much power, so I faced the reality. I was at UCLA when black militants were killing other black militants. I saw the movement self-destruct. I saw the white New Left self-destruct. Repression was part of it, but I was honest enough to know that if you call for revolution, you should not be surprised if the existing order tries to repress you.

When you sat down to plan the King Papers, what scholarly models did you have in mind?

The one that influenced me most was the Marcus Garvey Papers, edited by Bobby Hill, a friend. His project was similar, in that Garvey was a black leader who was a symbol of a larger movement. So

he faced similar kinds of problems—as opposed to, say, a papers project concerned with a President or a literary figure.

Did the King family give you total autonomy?

I wouldn't have accepted the role as director of the project if there had been any kind of editorial control from the family.

Did you have any inkling of King's plagiarism when you took on the project?

I had some sense that King's speeches were not entirely original, that there were ghostwriters and editors involved. So I don't think that I went in with a naïve sense that King wrote everything attributed to him. But I didn't think he had ghostwriters in college, so in terms of the academic work, it was a surprise.

We just reported what we found. One of the things that we were both praised and criticized for is that we didn't get into the morality or ethics of what he did. My job as editor was simply to document passages in King's academic writings that were not attributed to the original source and that violated the rules of the institution he was attending.

How is your project financed?

A lot of it is from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and large foundations such as Mellon and Hewlett.

How expensive is it?

Very. In the age of the Internet, we'll probably be one of the last projects to produce multivolume print editions. They're just enormously expensive. Probably each of our volumes will cost a half-million dollars to produce, on average.

Do you read every volume through? They're so meticulous, with the annotation and cross-referencing.

I am not a figurehead senior editor, definitely. I get involved in the meticulous detail. But I do have a very good staff. The kind of checking and crosschecking that happens for one of our volumes is way beyond what is normal for a scholarly publication.

They're impressive.

I feel that each volume is at least as much of an original contribution to the literature in the field as most scholarly books that come out. It's not like we're taking materials already familiar to scholars and repackaging them. Every volume has documents that we've discovered, that were not available to scholars before.

You've been at this 22 years. Are you glad you made this life decision?

That depends on the day you ask. Some days are very frustrating—

NHPRC AWARDS GRANTS

In FY 2008, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission recommended to the Archivist of the United States \$7.47 million for 113 projects across the nation. Long-standing programs provided access to thousands of historical documents—from the papers of America's Founding Era to the White House recordings of 20th-century Presidents Johnson and Nixon. Two new documentary editing projects received first-time funding—the St. George Tucker Law Papers, detailing the career of this 18th-century jurist who advocated states' rights and a strict interpretation of the Constitution, and "Walt White-

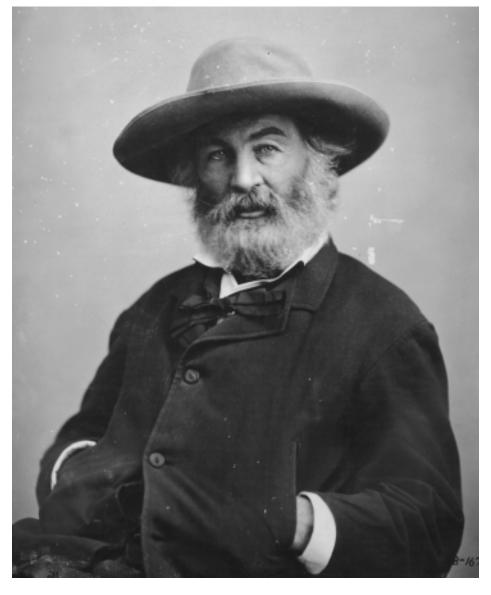
man and the Civil War," a selected edition of the poet's papers to be published through the University of Nebraska. New and revamped records programs— from the Connecticut Historical Society to a new archival program for the City of San Antonio, Texas—uncovered hidden collections and helped preserve and process wide-ranging collections including videotapes documenting life in Chicago; audiotapes on Hawaiian cultural traditions, language, and history; and the rich history of American comic strips and cartoons housed at Syracuse University.

The State and National Arts Partnership was also launched during FY 2008, replacing the categories for State Historical Records Advisory Boards Administrative support and the general State Programs. The new Partnership makes it easier for state boards to apply for basic support and also includes a category of supplemental grants to support efforts to improve statewide, regional, or national collaborations and services. Among the projects funded in FY 2008 were several state programs to undertake disaster planning and recovery workshops, regrant programs for small to medium-sized repositories, and to help states reach out to American Indian tribes, increase use of electronic libraries, and provide training to archivists and records managers.

Walt Whitman and The Civil War is a new documentary edition project from the University of Nebraska. Photo by Mathew Brady. National Archives.

Professional Development also became a new funding category, combining programs such as the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents, now in its 37th year, and projects such as Digital History Across the Curriculum at New York University. For a complete list of funding categories, please see our web site.

At the May meeting, Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) joined the Commission as the representative from the U.S. Senate, and he was joined at the meeting by Representative John Larson (D-CT), representing the U.S. House of Representatives. May also marked the first meeting under the direction of Kathleen Williams. Following the National Archives' recently issued report, *The Founders Online: A Report to Congress* (see accompanying article), the Commission also agreed to consider a proposal for a pilot project to prepare unannotated documents from America's Founding Era for publication on the Web.



For projects to improve training and education of archival professionals and documentary editors.

Digital History Across the Curriculum

New York University New York, NY

\$83,100 to support a two-year project to incorporate digital technology skills into the university's Archives and Public History course curriculum.

Institute for the Editing of **Historical Documents** University of Wisconsin

\$35,579 to support the summer

2008 Institute.

Madison, WI

Editing Fellowships

Grants to support a fellowship at a bistorical documentary editing project.

Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B.Anthony **Rutgers University**

\$55,000 to support a one-year fellowship.

Publishing Historical Records

These long-term projects document major bistorical figures, records groups, and important eras and social movements from the history of the nation.

The Howard Thurman Papers is a selective edition of the writings of the noted 20th-century theologian and civil rights leader. Photo courtesy of Howard Thurman Papers project.

Founding Era

The Papers of George \$173,090 Washington University of Virginia

The Documentary History of the First Federal Congress George Washington University Washington, DC

The Papers of Benjamin Franklin \$198,900

\$223,098

\$20,000

Yale University New Haven, CT

The Papers of James Madison \$146,154 University of Virginia

Charlottesville, VA

Charlottesville, VA

The Papers of Thomas \$181,284

Jefferson Princeton University

Princeton, NJ

The Documentary History of \$208,000

the Ratification of the

Constitution

University of Wisconsin Madison, WI

The Adams Papers

Massachusetts Historical Society

Boston, MA

Non-Founding Era

The Selected Papers of \$78,347 Jane Addams **Duke University**

Durham, NC

\$66,438 Documentary Relations of

the Southwest: the O'odham-Pee

Posh Communities University of Arizona

Tucson, AZ

\$162,550

St. George Tucker Law Papers

Omohundro Institute of

Early American History

& Culture

Williamsburg, VA



G R A N T S —

Clarence Mitchell, Jr. Papers SUNY College at Old Westbury Old Westbury, NY	\$55,000	Thomas A. Edison Papers Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Piscataway, NJ	\$124,320	The Papers of Jefferson Davis Rice University Houston,TX	\$89,495
Marcus Garvey and UNIA Papers Regents of the University of California Los Angeles, CA	\$70,819	Walt Whitman and the Civil War University of Nebraska Lincoln, NE	\$75,000	Selected Papers of Margaret Sanger New York University New York, NY	\$89,480
Papers of Charles Carroll of Carrollton College of William and Mary	\$15,000	Howard Thurman Papers Morehouse College Atlanta, GA	\$67,000	The Papers of George C. Marshall George C. Marshall Foundation Lexington, VA	\$44,000
Williamsburg, VA		Samuel Gompers Papers University of Maryland	\$105,965	Publication Subventions	
Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony Rutgers, The State University	\$90,000	College Park, MD The Papers of Andrew Jackson University of Tennessee	\$108,560	Grants to publishers to help dep printing costs of individual vol documentary editions.	J
of New Jersey Piscataway, NJ		Knoxville,TN The Selected Papers of John Jay	\$150,000	The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, Vol. 17	\$10,000
Freedmen and Southern Society University of Maryland,	\$163,438	Columbia University New York, NY	Ψ190,000	University of Virginia Press Charlottesville,VA	
College Park College Park, MD		Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Stanford University Stanford, CA	\$104,328	The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, Vol. 18	\$10,000
The Papers of Abraham Lincoln Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation	\$75,000	The Presidential Recordings Project	\$127,843	University of Virginia Press Charlottesville,VA	
Springfield, IL Emma Goldman Papers	\$130,000	University of Virginia Charlottesville,VA		The North American Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied, Vol. 1	\$10,000
Regents of the University of California Berkeley, CA	¥130,000	The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers George Washington University Washington, DC	\$260,896	University of Oklahoma Press Norman, OK	
Frederick Douglass Papers Indiana University Indianapolis, IN	\$74,656	Papers of the War Department George Mason University Fairfax,VA	\$95,210	The Papers of James Madison, Presidential Series, Vol. 6 University of Virginia Press Charlottesville, VA	\$10,000

— G R A N T S —

The Papers of Ulysses S.	\$6,300	Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa &	University of Idaho	
Grant, Vol. 31		Chippewa	Moscow, ID	
Ulysses S. Grant Association		Suttons Bay, MI	\$60,000 to support the arrangement and	
Carbondale, IL		\$12,000 to support a one-year project to	description of 22 collections related to the	
		assess its archival needs and develop an	history of environmental conservation in	
The Selected Papers of Jane Addams, Vol. 2	\$10,000	archives management and preservation plan.	the Pacific Northwest.	
University of Illinois Press		Longue Vue House & Gardens	San Antonio Public Library	
Champaign, IL		New Orleans, LA	San Antonio,TX	
		\$20,800 to establish an archives and records	\$52,000 to support the continued develop-	
Papers of George Washington,	\$10,000	management program for the Longue Vue	ment of an archival program for the City of	
Presidential Series, Vol. 14		House and Gardens documenting its history	San Antonio.	
University of Virginia Press		and the family of Edgar and Edith Stern.		
Charlottesville,VA			Forest History Society	
		Kansas State Historical Society, Inc	Durham, NC	
The Sound of the Genuine:	\$6,195	Topeka, KS	\$44,648 to support a year-long project to	
Papers of Howard		\$161,187 to support a two-year project to	eliminate its existing processing backlog	
Thurman, Vol. 1		create or verify high-level content informa-	of six collections, create collection-level	
University of South Carolina Pre	ss	tion for its holdings of 42,000 cubic feet of	catalog records for every archival collec-	
Columbia, SC		records and 20,000 rolls of microfilm.	tion, and convert all existing finding aids	
			to EAD.	
		Georgia Historical Society		
Archives-Basic Processing		Savannah, GA	Wiyot Tribe	
Grants to reveal bidden collect	ions in	\$75,189 to support a two-year project to cut	Loleta, CA	
archives and to create archives.		in half its backlog of unprocessed collections,	\$12,000 to support a 12month project to	
		including a survey of collections and process-	assess its current holdings and procedures,	
San Jose University Research Foundation		ing of at least 500 cubic feet of records.	and make recommendations for developing	
San Jose, CA			a comprehensive records program.	
\$151,704 to support a two-year	project to	Atlanta Historical Society		
create catalog records and EAD finding aids		Atlanta, GA	Sitka Tribe of Alaska	
for all of the manuscript collections and		\$87,465 to support a two-year project to	Sitka,AK	
university records in its holdings.		reduce its backlog of unprocessed collec-	\$12,000 to support a strategic plan for	
		tions and provide access to 528 cubic feet	establishing an archives for this Southeast	
Connecticut Historical Society		of records contained in 23 collections.	Alaska tribe.	
Hartford, CT				
\$88,959 to support a twoyear project to		Arizona State University		
\$88,959 to support a twoyear p	roject to	Arizona State University		
\$88,959 to support a twoyear p catalog and improve access to 900	ŕ	Arizona State University Tempe,AZ	Archives-Detailed Processing	
	manuscript		Archives–Detailed Processing Grants to conduct detailed processing and	

that document the history of children's the-

atre in the United States.

significance.

Princeton University	Electronic Records	State Historical Society of Iowa \$9,980		
Princeton, NJ	Grants to support projects that preserve,	Arizona SHRAB \$6,895		
\$57,133 to support the processing of the	or make accessible, electronic records.	Tennessee SHRAB \$10,000		
George F. Kennan Papers and the James For-		Mississippi Dept. of Archives \$10,000		
restal Papers, two important collections of	Emory University	and History		
Cold War-era documents.	Atlanta, GA			
	\$300,337 to support MetaArchive:A Sus-			
University of Illinois, Chicago	tainable Digital Preservation Service for	State and National Archival		
Chicago, IL	Cultural and Historical Records.	Partnership Grants		
\$27,874 to support a 16-month project to		Basic grants support the operations, pro-		
arrange, describe, and make available 700	Tufts University	grams, and activities of State Historical		
linear feet of records from the university's	Boston, MA	Records Advisory Boards (SHRABs)—made		
Chancellor's Office dating from 1936 to	\$149,974 to support the Tufts Accessioning	g either directly to the SHRAB or a fiscal agent.		
1995.	Program for Electronic Records.			
		Friends of California Archives \$20,000		
Bishop Museum	University of California, San Diego	State Historical Society of Iowa \$13,500		
Honolulu, HI	San Diego, CA	Illinois State Archives \$19,580		
\$149,750 to support a two-year project to	\$257,800 to support the development of a	Kansas State Historical Society \$20,000		
preserve through digitization 1,734 audio	Distributed Custodial Preservation Center	Pennsylvania Heritage Society \$8,500		
recordings that document Hawaiian cultural traditions, language, and history.	for electronic records.	Texas State Library & Archives \$16,500 Commission		
	Johns Hopkins University	State Historical Society of \$20,000 North Dakota		
Denver CO	Baltimore, MD	Wisconsin Historical Society \$16,586		
Denver, CO	\$50,000 to support an assessment of the	Mississippi Dept. of Archives \$16,000		
\$49,840 to support the processing of five	viability of an Electronic Records Manage-	& History		
collections held by its Western History and Genealogy Department that document	ment Consortium for the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions.	Indiana Commission on \$20,000 Public Records		
social activism by minorities in the Ameri-		Kentucky SHRAB \$12,583		
can West.		Missouri Office Secretary of State \$19,466		
Fund for Innovative TV	SHRAB Administrative Support Grants to support administrative	Washington Office Secretary \$16,870 of State		
Chicago, IL	expenses of State Historical Records	Colorado SHRAB \$19,200		
\$65,900 to support the digitization of 361				
videotapes that document life in Chicago	0.115 t 14	New Mexico Commission \$9,803		
during the past 35 years.	California Museum for History, \$7,720 Women, & the Arts	on Public Records		
	Wyoming Dept. of State Parks \$10,000	Alaska Dept. of Education \$16,280		
Syracuse University	& Cultural Resources	South Dakota Dept. of Tourism \$10,173		
Syracuse, NY	Texas State Library and Archives \$8,391	& State		
\$79,440 to support detailed description	Commission			
and preservation rehousing of 134 collec-	Kentucky SHRAB \$10,000			
tions documenting American cartoons and	Montana Historical Society \$9,990			
cartoonists from the 20th century.	Nevada State Library & Archives \$9,904	national collaborations and services.		

South Carolina Dept. of Archives
Columbia, SC
\$70,000 to support basic activities, disaster

\$70,000 to support basic activities, disaste planning and recovery workshops, local archives management workshops, and an ongoing regrant program.

Georgia Office of Secretary of State
Atlanta, GA
\$65,000 to support basic activities, a probate court regrant program, and three disaster plan templates.

Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, MN
\$22,394 to support basic activities and a regrant program.

Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries
Oklahoma City, OK
\$65,000 to support basic activities and a
regrant program for projects to help mitigate threats to historical records collections.

Idaho State Historical Society
Boise, ID
\$40,484 to support basic activities, regrants
to local records managers, and projects for

to local records managers, and projects for records to be transferred to the Idaho Public Archives and Research Library.

Arizona SHRAB
Phoenix,AZ
\$26,826 to support basic ac

\$26,826 to support basic activities and a regrant program.

Michigan Dept. History, Arts & Libraries

Lansing, MI \$45,000 to support basic activities, promote increased usage of the Michigan Electronic Library (MeL), and partner with institutions to add MARC records to the MeL. Tennessee State Library & Archives Nashville,TN

\$67,000 to support basic activities and regrants to non-governmental repositories to conduct needs assessments, education, and training.

Wyoming Dept. of State Parks & Cultural Resources

Chevenne, WY

\$66,000 to support basic activities and a regrant program for training, along with a Circuit Rider Archivist program.

New Jersey Division of Archives & Records Management Trenton, NJ \$56,642 to support basic activities and

expand the scope of its statewide Connect-

ing to Collections Project.

New York State Education Department Albany, NY \$41,000 to support basic activities and collab-

oration with institutions on workshops for

basic preservation of electronic records.

Utah State Archives & Records Services
Salt Lake City, UT
\$70,000 to support basic activities and
regrants to augment the state legislature's
appropriation of \$150,000 over three years.
Maine SHRAB

Augusta, ME \$65,000 to support basic activities and a regrant program for up to 25 small and medium repositories. Alabama Dept of Archives & History

Montgomery,AL

\$66,964 to support basic activities and a
regrant program for preservation activities,
equipment, and supplies to 10–12 repositories.

State Program

This program was replaced by the Supplementary Grants category under the State and National Archives Partnership.

Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries
Oklahoma City, OK
\$229,287 to support the Oklahoma Tribal
Heritage Project.

State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Madison,WI
\$89,756 to support planning for the collection of post-WWII Wisconsin manuscripts

Pennsylvania Heritage Society
Harrisburg, PA
\$120,356 to support the Itinerant Archivist
Regrant Program.

New Mexico Commission of Public Records
Santa Fe, NM
\$86,257 to support a statewide subgrant
program.

Indiana State Historical Records Advisory Board
Indianapolis, IN
\$10,000 to support disaster assessment
after statewide flooding.

ACCESS TO FOUNDERS

In December 2007, Congress asked the Archivist of the United States "to develop a comprehensive plan for the online electronic publication, within a reasonable timeframe, of the papers of the Founding Fathers." Six weeks later, the Sen-

ate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the question of access and the time it is taking to complete the fully annotated and authoritative documentary editions. Historian David McCullough testified that:

The value of the Papers of Founding Fathers goes far beyond their scholarly importance, immense as that is. These papers are American scripture. They are our political faith, the

free and open exchange of ideas, the often brilliant expressions of some of the most fertile minds, the greatest statesmen, patriots, and seers in our history.

Scholars have long been at work to gather the historical documents

of America's Founding Era from collections and archives scattered far and wide. They are transcribing the handwritten original documents and publishing them in books complete with explanatory notes. The passage of time has witnessed the appearance of individual volumes in separate editions that will include the most important papers of the major figures of the Founding Era. When complete, these documentary editions will occupy the shelves of great libraries, affording scholars the opportunity to study authoritative primary source materials.

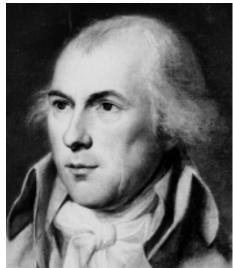
Although it was ambitious, in the middle of the 20th century the idea of a wall of books containing the holy documents on the founding of America made sense, given the technologies of the time. First, assemble the documents and create an archives. Then, con-

vert the historical records into books and create a library. Or perhaps six separate libraries: The Papers of George Washington, The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, The Adams Papers, The Papers of James Madison, The Papers of Alexander Hamilton, and The Papers of Benjamin Franklin.

From the vantage point of the early 21st century, the individual projects can be viewed as an organic monument to America's

Founding Era. Rather than separate shelves of books, the documentary editions could be reconfigured into a single collection. And one can easily add to the individual statesmen by including the documentary record of the first Federal Congress, first Supreme Court, the Ratification of the Constitution, and any num-





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Rather than simply shelving these individual documentary editions in libraries, forward thinking publishers have realized the potential of the making all these documents available on the World Wide Web, connected through a single search engine. Over the past seven years, Rotunda, the electronic imprint of the University of Virginia Press, has developed a robust searching and indexing capability and a highly reliable platform for the Founding Era. The American scripture is going online.

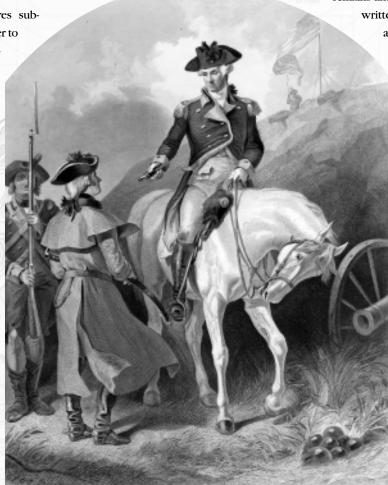
Rotunda, however, requires subscription fees from users in order to recover its costs. The development of the Internet as a new means of distributing information has forced media of all kinds to rethink their own delivery systems. Print publishing is no exception, and the editors and publishers of the Founding Era papers have been trying to find ways to use both print and electronic technologies to deliver their work to the American people. But the whole question of open access to scholarly publications is a conundrum that bedevils the entire spec-

In February 2007, the Association of American University Presses issued a STATEMENT ON OPEN AC-CESS, which states:

trum of publishing.

The increasing enthusiasm for open access as a model for scholarly communication ... pres-

ents new challenges and new opportunities for university presses. In its pure form, open access calls for an entirely new funding model, in which the costs of publishing ... are paid for by authors or by a funding agency, and readers can have access to these publications for free. Clearly, if open access to America's Founding Era documents is desired, then some steps may be required to cover the future costs of publishing. Through extensive conversations between the staff at Rotunda and staff at the National Archives, a preliminary model emerged to provide open access to current and future volumes.



George Washington at Valley Forge

As promising as Rotunda is in terms of delivering, relatively quickly, an online electronic version of America's Founding Era, the problem is not entirely solved. Some Members of Congress have expressed concern about the time it is taking to complete the fully annotated and authoritative documentary editions. As the *Founders*

Online report (http://www.archives.gov/nbprc/publications/founders-report.pdf) points out, the projects estimate that the remaining 125 volumes in toto of annotated and authoritative editions will take several decades to complete. Even with additional funds or "splitting" projects the way the Jefferson Papers has already done, the work still requires the same painstakingly close reading and editing.

Scholars wishing to access the unpublished material have to contact each individual project directly. A portion of the papers remains untranscribed—as facsimiles of hand-

written documents—and these papers and others (about 90,000 docu-

> ments) are not encoded in XML. The Founders Online report calls for an expedited process to prepare verified transcriptions of the remaining documents and publish them immediately alongside those authoritative versions on Rotunda. Scholars would have access to virtually the entire collection in fairly short order, and after the unannotated materials are edited and annotated and published in a print volume, they would be incorporated in authoritative electronic editions. In essence, online publication allows us to consider this monumental undertaking as a work-in-progress.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission has issued a grant opportunity announcement to "jump start" the process of transcribing and encoding a portion of the remaining documents. A sin-

gle grant of up to \$250,000 will be awarded for a pilot demonstration project to develop the process for transcribing and encoding at least 20,000 pages of Founding Era materials. The deadline for applications is October 15, 2008. Details of the announcement can be found on our web site at http://www.

FIRST ARCHIVES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

By Lucy Barber, Director of Technology Initiatives

Twenty-seven archivists benefited from the first NHPRC-sponsored Archives Leadership Institute held at the University of Wisconsin, Madison from June 21-28, 2008. Designed by Jane Pearlmutter, director of the continuing education department at the School of Library and Information Studies, the Institute sought to build the capacity of these archivists to lead institute sought.

In many ways, the most important

effect of the Institute was to give

these busy professionals a time to

talk and think about what they do

and why they do it.

tutions and the profession. Selected from a competitive pool of 109 applicants were representatives from state and national archives, corporate archives, a historical society, a public library, state university, liberal arts college, and private universities. Indeed, there was one Canadian: Scott Goodine, currently president of the Association of Canadian Archivists. Over the

course of the week, they heard from experts in state and federal policy making, lobbying, public relations, and professional organizations about the larger environment that shape effective advocacy and leadership for the archives profession. Mary Caldera, an archivist at Yale University, appreciated that the Institute gave her "specific tools for approaching situations I may face."

Participants were challenged to explore their own leadership goals, capacities, and challenges. Daily presentations helped the participants apply the information they had learned from experts to the challenges of politically-sensitive collections, lack of institutions support, and the need to diversify the racial composition of the archives profession. Donna McCrea, Archivist & Manuscripts Librarian at the University of Montana, commented that a key benefit of the Institute was meeting "outstanding archivists whose paths I likely would not have crossed elsewhere."

In many ways, the most important effect of the Institute was to give these busy professionals a time to talk and think about what they do and why they do it. Their comments suggest their dedication to make archives even better in the future. William C. Carpenter, Program Analyst for Information Security Oversight Office at National Archives and Records Administration, observed that it allowed him "to step away from my day-to-day responsibilities so I could start to think strategically about what my institution and the profession faces for the future." Jane Rosario of

the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley noted that the Institute gave her time to understand her role as the head of a unit in a bigger institution and also of the role of regional archival associations in the profession. She is already recommending the Institute to colleagues.

The Institute reached archi - vists outside of Madison thanks to

participant Geof Huth of the New York State Archives using his blog, Anarchivist, to discuss the events on a daily basis. His detailed observations begin on June 22 on *anarchivist.blogspot.com*. "The ultimate value of the institute," wrote Huth, "was to instill ... a sense of the need for a constant renewal of leadership in the profession and the idea that we are all somehow responsible for making sure the profession as a whole moves forward."

For those interested in take part in this effort, the next Archives Leadership Instittue will take place in the Summer of 2009. Information about the Institute can be found at http://www.slis.wisc.edu/continueed/archivesinst.html.

SENATOR CARDIN NAMED TO COMMISSION

The United States Senate named Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD) as its representative on the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. He replaces Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT). A member of the Senate since 2006, Senator Cardin serves on the Foreign Relations Committee, Judiciary Committee, Environment and Public Works Committee, Budget Committee, and Small Business Committee.

From 1987 to 2006, he represented Maryland's Third Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. In the House, he served on the Ways & Means Committee, Budget Committee, Public Works & Transportation Committee, Judiciary Committee, Ethics Committee, House Administration, and the Select Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. Cardin has a long-standing interest in foreign affairs and human rights. He has been a Commissioner on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the U.S. Helsinki Commission) since 1993, serving as Ranking Member from 2003 to 2006. In the 110th Congress, he has been appointed co-chairman of the Commission, and is currently Vice President of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly.

From 1967 to 1986, Mr. Cardin served in the Maryland House of Delegates, as Speaker from 1979 to 1986, and as chairman of the Ways & Means Committee from 1974 to 1979.

He graduated first in class from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1967, and he earned his B.A. degree in 1964 from the University of Pittsburgh *(cum laude)*. Senator Cardin also holds honorary degrees from the University of Baltimore School of Law, (1990), University of Maryland at Baltimore (1993), Baltimore Hebrew University (1994), and Goucher College (1996).



Senator Ben Cardin flanked by Executive Director Kathleen Williams and Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein.

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS
AND RECORDS COMMISSION (NHPRC)
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
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From the Archives, a 1991 grant to the Grand Rapids (MI) Historical Society helped save 40,000 photographs, including this image of the 1952 Grand Rapids Chicks of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.