

A Synopsis of the Founders' Papers Editorial Projects

As of November 2010

JOHN ADAMS

John Adams (October 30, 1735 – July 4, 1826)

Edited at the Massachusetts Historical Society
Published by the Harvard University Press/Belknap Press

33 of 67 planned Adams Founding Fathers volumes have been published.

Number of documents: approximately 30,000

Year Begun: 1954

Estimated Year of Completion: 2043

Last Grant Amount: \$185,307

Total NHPRC Funding: \$4,310,823

Pace of Production: One volume per year

Digital versions of 28 of 32 published volumes are available on Rotunda, the University of Virginia Press's electronic imprint. This site also includes the 2 published volumes of John Quincy Adams' Diaries:

<http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/ADMS.html>

Digital versions of these same volumes are also available on the Massachusetts Historical Society Web site:

<http://www.masshist.org/publications/apde/>

Unverified transcriptions of some 1785-1798, and 1813 Adams documents are available online on the University of Virginia Press's Early Access Web site:

<http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/default.xqy?keys=FOEA-print-03&mode=TOC>

In its 1954 report to the President, the Commission described these papers as “a single body of basic source materials for the study of American history that probably, so far as personal papers are concerned, is without equal in the world.”

Volumes 5 and 6 of the *Adams Family Correspondence* won the American Historical Association's J. Franklin Jameson Award. The project also assisted David Donald with a forthcoming book about John Quincy Adams, and aided the producers of the *American Experience* program, “John and Abigail Adams.”

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)	
Papers of John Adams, Volume 15 (Jun. 1783 – May 1784)	
1. Complete verification	Accomplished
2. Compile the index	Accomplished
3. Complete production work	Accomplished
Papers of John Adams, Volume 16 (May 1784 – May 1785)	
4. Complete the document selection	Accomplished
5. Begin collation	Accomplished
Adams Family Correspondence, Volume 10 (Jan. 1794 – Jun. 1795)	
6. Complete the annotation	Accomplished
7. Complete the critical reading	Accomplished
8. Begin verification	Accomplished

Harvard University Press published volume 11 of the *John Adams Papers* in 2003, volume 12 in 2004, volume 13 in 2006, volume 14 in 2008, and volume 15 in 2010. It published volume 7 of the *Adams Family Correspondence* in 2005, volume 8 in 2007, and volume 9 in 2009. The project expects to publish volume 10 of the *Adams Family Correspondence* in 2011.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Benjamin Franklin (January 17, 1706 – April 17, 1790)

Edited at the Yale University and the American Philosophical Society
Published by Yale University Press

40 volumes published of a planned 48 volume edition

Number of documents: approximately 30,000

Year Begun: 1954

Estimated Year of Completion: 2021

Last Grant Amount: \$215,130

Total NHPRC Funding: \$4,497,249

Pace of Production: Approximately 2½ years per volume

Digital versions of volumes 1 through 37 are freely available on the project's Web site:

<http://franklinpapers.org/franklin/framedVolumes.jsp>.

A separate Web site includes transcriptions of both published and unpublished Franklin documents. The rough transcriptions on this site will be removed when verified transcriptions appear in the published volumes. This Web site also includes brief biographical sketches of correspondents, translations of the most significant French-language documents, and a cumulative index to the printed volumes.

<http://www.franklinpapers.org/franklin/index.jsp?src=g1&gclid=CO74-NDp5qQCFUmA5Qodnh9P1w>

The University of Virginia Press hopes to mount the Franklin volumes on its Rotunda electronic imprint. The project's board plans to consider this possibility when it meets in December.

Selected Works that cite these papers:

H. W. Brand, *The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin*

Edmund Morgan, *Benjamin Franklin*

Walter Isaacson, *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*

Stacy Schiff, *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America*

Gordon Wood, *The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin*

The project provided important assistance to the organizers of traveling Franklin Tercentenary exhibition that toured the United States and France to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Franklin's birth. Volume 39, submitted to the press during the last grant period, drew praise from the press's outside reader, who pronounced the manuscript "superlative," and added, "I will teach my . . . classes differently because of this volume."

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)	
Volume 40 (May – Sep. 1783)	
1. Complete editorial revisions	Accomplished
2. Submit manuscript to the press	Accomplished
3. Compile preliminary index	Accomplished
Volume 41 (Sep. 1783 – Mar. 1784)	
4. Revise annotation	Accomplished
5. Begin final review	Accomplished
Volume 42 (Apr. – Dec. 1784)	
6. Draft annotation for 65 per cent of the documents	Accomplished
7. Complete reference checking for 50 per cent of documents	Accomplished
8. Complete textual verification	90 per cent done
Volume 43 (Jan. – Sep. 1785)	
9. Complete 90 per cent of the tandem proofreading	Accomplished
10. Complete 50 per cent of the textual verification at repositories	Completed after grant period
11. Draft annotation for 15 per cent of the documents	Accomplished

Yale University Press released volume 35 in 1999, volume 36 in 2001, volume 37 in 2003, volume 38 in 2006, and volume 39 in 2008.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Alexander Hamilton (November 20, 1755 or 1757 - July 12, 1804)

Edited at Columbia University

Published by Columbia University Press

Complete in 27 volumes

Number of documents: approximately 17,000

Year Begun: 1954

Completion: 1987

Last Grant Amount: \$13,250 (1979)

Total NHPRC Funding: \$612,862

All of the published volumes from this edition will be made available on Rotunda, the University of Virginia Press's electronic imprint.

Selected Works that cite these papers:

Ron Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*

Douglas Ambrose and Robert Martin, *The Many Faces of Alexander Hamilton: The Life and Legacy of America's Most Elusive Founding Father*

Joseph Ellis, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*, Pulitzer Prize 2001

Columbia University Press published volumes 23 and 24 in 1976, volume 25 in 1977, volume 26 in 1979, and volume 27 in 1987.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Thomas Jefferson (April 13, 1743 – July 4, 1826)

Edited at Princeton University
Published by Princeton University Press

36 volumes published of a planned 52-volume edition

Number of documents: approximately 70,000
Year Begun: 1943
Estimated Year of Completion: 2026
Last Grant Amount: \$173,870
Total NHPRC Funding: \$4,379,565
Pace of Production: One volume per year

Digital versions of the first 33 published volumes, documenting Jefferson's life through 1809, are available on Rotunda, the University of Virginia Press's electronic imprint:
<http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/TSJN.html>

In 1999, the Jefferson Retirement Series (1809-1826) was founded as a separate project, not funded by the NHPRC, edited and published by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello. Six volumes have been printed, covering up to 1813, with 17 additional volumes planned.

Digital versions of the first 4 published volumes documenting Jefferson's retirement years are also available on Rotunda:
<http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/default.xqy?keys=TSJN-print-03&mode=TOC>

The cumulative totals for both projects are 42 volumes completed of a planned 75.

Selected Works that cite these papers:

Joseph Ellis, *American Sphinx*, National Book Award 1997
Stephen Ambrose, *Undaunted Courage*
Christopher Hitchens, *Thomas Jefferson: Author of America*
Steven Waldman, *Founding Faith: Providence, Politics, and the Birth of Religious Freedom in America*

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)	
Volume 36 (Dec. 1801 – Mar. 1802)	
1. Check the page proofs	Accomplished
2. Compile the index	Accomplished
Volume 37 (Mar. – Jun. 1802)	
3. Complete second verification	Accomplished
4. Draft the annotation	Accomplished
5. Submit the manuscript to the press	Accomplished
Volume 38 (Jul. Oct. 1802)	
6. Complete the document selection	Accomplished
7. Complete the first and second verifications	Accomplished
8. Draft 50 per cent of the annotation	Accomplished
Volume 39 (Nov. 1802 – Feb. 1803)	
9. Begin the document selection	Accomplished

Princeton University Press published volume 31 (February 1799 – May 1800) in 2004, volume 32 (June 1800 – February 1801) in 2005, volume 33 (February – April 1801) in 2006, volume 34 (May – August 1801) in 2007, volume 35 (August – November 1801) in 2008, and volume 36 (December 1801 – March 1802) in 2009.

JAMES MADISON

James Madison (March 16, 1751 – June 28, 1836)

Edited at University of Chicago/University of Virginia

Published by University of Chicago Press – Congressional Series, Volumes 1-10

University of Virginia Press – Volumes 11-

32 volumes of a planned 52 volume edition

Number of documents: approximately 40,000

Year Begun: 1956

Estimated Year of Completion: 2030

Last Grant Amount: \$146,154

Total NHPRC Funding: \$3,719,675

Pace of Production: One and a half years per volume

Digital versions of the published volumes are available on Rotunda the University of Virginia Press's electronic imprint:

<http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/JSMN.html>

Unverified transcriptions of some 1817, and 1823-1836 Madison documents are available online on the University of Virginia Press Early Access Web site:

<http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/default.xqy?keys=FOEA-print-02&mode=TOC>

Selected Works that cite these papers:

Richard Bauman and Tsvi Tahana, editors, *The Least Examined Branch: The Role of the Legislatures in the Constitutional State*

Todd Estes, *The Jay Treaty Debate: Public Opinion and the Evolution of Early American Political Culture*

Richard Labunski, *James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of Rights*

A. J. Langguth, *Union 1812: The Americans Who Fought the Second War of Independence*

Cassandra Pybus, *Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution and Their Global Quest for Liberty*

Norman Shofield, *Architects of Political Change*

Michael McDonnell, *The Politics of War: Race, Class, and Conflict in Revolutionary Virginia*

Dwight Merriam, *Eminent Domain Use and Abuse*

Jack Rakove, *Original Meanings*, Pulitzer Prize, 1997

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)	
Secretary of State Series, Volume 9 (Feb. – Jun. 1805)	
1. Check page proofs	Completed after grant period
2. Compile index	Completed after grant period
Secretary of State Series, Volume 10 (Jul. – Dec. 1805)	
3. Complete verification	Accomplished
4. Complete annotation	17 per cent complete
Presidential Series, Volume 7 (Oct. 1813 – Jul. 1814)	
5. Complete proofreading	50 per cent complete
6. Begin drafting annotation	Accomplished
Retirement Series, Volume 1 (Mar. 1817 – Aug. 1820)	
7. Publish the volume	Accomplished
Retirement Series, Volume 2 (Sep. 1820 – Dec. 1824)	
8. Draft the annotation	Completed after the grant period
9. Complete proofreading	67 per cent complete

The University of Virginia Press published *Secretary of State Series*, volume 5 (May – October 1803) in 2000, volume 6 (November 1803 – March 1804) in 2002. This was followed by *Presidential Series*, volume 5 (July 1812 – February 1813) in 2004, *Secretary of State Series*, volume 7 (April – August 1804) in 2005, and volume 8 (September 1804 – January 1805) in 2007, and *Presidential Series*, volume 6 (February – October 1813) in 2008. The editors published volume 1 (March 1817 – August 1820) of the *Retirement Series* in 2009.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington (February 22, 1732 – December 14, 1799)

Edited at University of Virginia
Published by University of Virginia Press

63 volumes of a planned 89 volume edition

Number of documents: approximately 135,000
Year Begun: 1968
Estimated Year of Completion: 2023
Last Grant Amount: \$169,425
Total NHPRC Funding: \$2,620,795
Pace of Production: Approximately 1½ volumes per year

Digital copies of 59 of the 63 published Washington Papers volumes are available on Rotunda, the University of Virginia Press's electronic imprint:

<http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/GEWN.html>

The Mount Vernon Web page

http://www.mountvernon.org/learn/meet_george/index.cfm/

contains a link to the Washington Papers on Rotunda.

Unverified transcriptions of some 1794 Washington documents are available online on the University of Virginia Press's Early Access Web site:

<http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/default.xqy?keys=FOEA-print-02&mode=TOC>

Volume 11 of the *Presidential Series* received the Thomas Jefferson Prize from the Society for History in the Federal Government. In 2005, noting that the 135,000 Washington documents it has accessioned compose one of the most significant collections of American manuscripts, which shed important light on U.S. history in the late colonial and early national periods, and that the publication of the First President's papers will make this source material available to scholars and to all those interested in the founding of their nation, the NEH awarded the Washington Papers the National Humanities Medal.

Selected Works that cite these papers:

John Ferling, *The First of Men: A Life of George Washington*

Joseph Ellis, *His Excellency, George Washington* and

Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation, Pulitzer Prize, 2001

Harlow Giles Unger, *The Unexpected George Washington: His Private Life*

Peter R. Henriques, *Realistic Visionary: A Portrait of George Washington*

David McCullough, *1776*

John Ferling, *Almost A Miracle: The American Victory in the War for Independence*

David Hackett Fischer, *Washington's Crossing*, Pulitzer Prize, 2005

Henry Wiencek, *An Imperfect God*

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES (May 1, 2009 – April 30, 2010)	
Revolutionary War Series, Volume 19 (Jan. – Apr. 1779)	
1. Check page proofs	Accomplished
2. Compile index	Accomplished
Revolutionary War Series, Volume 20 (Apr. – Jun. 1779)	
3. Complete editorial work	Accomplished
Revolutionary War Series, Volume 21 (Jul. – Aug. 1779)	
4. Complete editorial work	50 per cent complete
Revolutionary War Series, Volume 22 (Sep. – Nov. 1779)	
5. Draft annotation	15 per cent complete
Presidential Series, Volume 15 (Jan. – May 1794)	
6. Publish the volume	Accomplished
Presidential Series, Volume 16 (May – Oct. 1794)	
7. Complete editorial work	Accomplished
Presidential Series, Volume 17 (Oct. 1794 – Apr. 1795)	
8. Complete layout	Accomplished
9. Check text	Accomplished
10. Draft annotation	50 per cent complete

In recent years, the University of Virginia Press published volumes 14 (2004), 15 (2006), 16 (2006) 17 (2008), 18 (2008), 19 (2009), and 20 (2010) of the *Revolutionary War Series*, and volumes 10 (2002), 11 (2002), 12 (2005), and 13 (2007), 14 (2008), and 15 (2009) of the *Presidential Series*.