

**National Historical Publications and Records Commission
Executive Summary Minutes of June 1, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by David Ferriero, chairman at 9:00 am in the Archivist's Board Room of the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

Commission Members present:

David Ferriero, Chairperson
Edward Brynn
James Ceaser
Nancy Davenport
Timothy Ericson
F. Gerald Handfield
Stanley N. Katz
Erin Mahan
Deanna Marcum
Raymond Smock
Rodger Stroup

NHPRC staff present:

Kathleen Williams, Executive Director
Lucy Barber
Timothy D.W. Connelly
Jeff de la Concepcion
Christine Dunham
Keith Donohue
Alexander Lorch
Nancy Melley
Daniel A. Stokes
Nancy Taylor

National Archives Staff

David McMillen

Guests and Attendees

Lester Gorelic, (NARA volunteer)
David Haury (Council of State Archivists)
Charlene Bickford (Editor, First Federal Congress Project)
David Coleman (Director, Presidential Recordings Project)
Bruce Ragsdale (Federal Judicial Center, for Judge Rothstein)
Debbie Yamada (for Senator Cardin)

I: Welcome and Archivist's Remarks

Mr. Ferriero opened the meeting and greeted the Members, staff, and guests. He welcomed Ambassador Edward Brynn, Acting Director of the Office of the Historian, the new appointee from the U. S. Department of State, who has been appointed to the Commission. He then congratulated Tim Ericson, as he becomes chairman of the Executive Committee, and Ray Smock, also appointed to the Committee.

Mr. Ferriero reported on the final FY 2011 budget of \$6.986 million, which represents a significant cut. He also announced that the Administration called for a budget of \$5 million for FY 2012, explaining that this is the beginning of a long process. Advocates are already approaching Congress for an increase to \$8.5-\$10 million, although it will be several months before we know if they are in the right neighborhood.

Staff will present new guidelines that reflect changes discussed at the February meeting, and he reported on how NHPRC is telling its success stories online via Facebook and our website, in print with a new annual report, and through the DocsTeach program at the National Archives.

He ended with a cautionary note that the NHPRC needs to reexamine its goals in light of new budgetary realities, not just the \$7 million for FY 2011 but the potential \$5 million for FY 2012.

II: Adoption of Agenda and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Mr. Ferriero called for adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the November 2010 and February 2011 meetings, and a motion was passed by unanimous consent.

III. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Williams reiterated the Chairman's concerns on funding and shared a chart with the Commission that shows possible funding levels for current grant programs at the \$5 million for FY 2012.

For the current cycle, the Commission will consider 91 applications from 36 states plus the District of Columbia requesting \$10.7 million in grant funds. Similar to the approach adopted for the November meeting, the staff employed a strategy of level funding for ongoing documentary editing projects to be applied this grant cycle.

On a positive note, she announced that work being undertaken as a part of the Founders Online project through a cooperative agreement with the University of Virginia is proceeding on schedule. Highlights for the past seven months include the completion of rights agreements and payments with editorial projects and their publishers (except Franklin), ingesting and encoding the contents of the Alexander Hamilton volumes, and contracting with a noted vendor with expertise in web design. She intends to visit the project in late June to discuss the project's progress first hand. Tentative plans are for a "splash" launch of the project sometime this fall.

Dr. Katz observed that the Franklin project will have a new chairman of the board and that it may be prudent to wait until that moment to negotiate terms for their inclusion in the Founders Online. He also pointed out the difficulties in maintaining online publications once the grant funds have been expended, quoting Katz's Law: it costs more to maintain a database than it does to create it.

On a track parallel with the work on the published volumes, Ms. Williams reported on plans for the inclusion of unpublished transcriptions on the Founders Online web tool.

The Founding Fathers Advisory Committee is now without a member, following the resignation of David Hackett Fischer. The Archivist reported that a replacement has been found and is awaiting clearance.

Finally, Ms. Williams discussed efforts to improve how we demonstrate the Commission's importance and impact. Among other efforts, the NHPRC is undertaking a project to connect the many documentary editing projects it has supported with a new educational tool at the National Archives called DocsTeach, which provides teachers and students with digitized images of key documents in the holdings of the National Archives.

IV. Executive Committee Report

Chair Tim Ericson reported on the Executive Committee meeting which took place the previous day. He characterized the budget situation as “grim,” and shared their discussions about what to do about unobligated funds from FY 2011.

Upon reflection following the February meeting, the Executive Committee voted to reinstate the publication subventions for one final round, stating that the publishers were not given enough notice of the program’s termination.

Given the budgetary straits, the Executive Committee also decided that the 50/50 split was a good “decision principle” for funding for FY 2012. There was a brief discussion about the nature of publications as continuing projects for which we have made a long-term commitment to fund.

There was considerable conversation over the policy of free online access. The issue is complex, Mr. Ericson said, and editors raised issues over how to fund production of volumes and the meaning of “free.” The Executive Committee recommended that the NHPRC work with others – perhaps a private foundation or a third party organization - to create a White Paper on online access and achieving some balance between copyrights and open access.

The Executive Committee also reviewed staff work on the thematic nature of grants and decided that such categorization is a “squishy” thing, of interest to the staff and commission as we move forward with describing the value of the Commission and the projects it supports.

Two policy matters were clarified. The Executive Committee decided that it would entrust the staff, by its interpretation, to ensure that the Commission would not fund projects “to undertake an archival project centered on the papers of an appointed or elected public official who remains in major office, or is politically active.” It also said that the language regarding projects that do not provide access to documents to all qualified users on equal terms should be restated in line with the ALA/SAA Joint Statement on Access to Original Research Materials in Libraries, Archives, and Manuscript Repositories. The language will be revised to state:

“As part of its funding restrictions, the Commission has deemed ineligible those projects in which: a repository charges fees for making available the materials in its holdings. However, reasonable fees may be charged for copying material or providing special services or facilities not provided to all researchers.”

[The Commission approved Grant Opportunity Announcements for Documenting Democracy: Access to Historical Records; Electronic Records Projects; and the Archives Leadership Institute.]

The Commission then approved by unanimous consent the following resolution:

NANCY TAYLOR joined the staff of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in 1990 and has served with distinction as the Management and Program Analyst. She began her tenure at the National Archives more than 35 years ago, starting as a teenager and working part-time and summers while going to nursing school. She decided to stick with historical records when she realized she couldn’t stand the sight of blood.

During her time at the agency, she also worked in the office of the Archivist of the United States and in the Office of Presidential Libraries, the Federal Register, and just about everywhere else. Throughout her career, Nancy has learned or invented federal processes to become our reigning expert in all things regulatory. Red tape cannot hold her. She is a font of good judgment and quiet

wisdom, and her forbearance with the many grantees over the years has honed her patience and kindness and generosity. They have come to know that they will not receive their funds unless Nancy says so. Her colleagues on the staff will miss her more than she can know, and the Commission thanks Nancy for her dedicated service and contributions to its programs with our sincere respect and affection.

V. Proposal Review

During consideration of proposals, the following individuals recused themselves from voting on the noted applications:

Strategies & Tools

DS50019 – Virginia Foundation for the Humanities
Stan Katz

Publishing – New Republic through the Modern Era

PM50040 – George C. Marshall Foundation
Edward Brynn

PM50047 – Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation
Stan Katz

PM50060 – Stanford University
Ray Smock

PM50062 – University of Maryland
Nancy Davenport

PM50064 – University of Virginia
James Ceaser
Erin Mahan

Publication Subventions

PS10052-53 – State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Tim Ericson

PS10058-59 – University of Virginia
Erin Mahan
James Ceaser

Archives-Basic Projects

RB50174 American Sephardi Federation
Stan Katz

RB50176 – Pepperdine University
Deanna Marcum

Archives-Detailed Processing Projects

RP50053 – Florida Department of State
Deanna Marcum

RP50057 – Vermont State Archives
Edward Brynn

The following projects were recommended for funding.

STRATEGIES AND TOOLS

Virginia Foundation for the Humanities
Charlottesville, VA

\$148,782

On behalf of Documents Compass, a three-year project to create a customizable database structure and interface that will aid historical documentary editors in preparing, editing, and managing their documents and files for complex publishing projects.

PUBLISHING – NEW REPUBLIC THROUGH THE MODERN ERA

George C. Marshall Foundation
Lexington, VA

\$44,000

To support editorial work on the *Papers of George Catlett Marshall*, a documentary edition of the historical records of the 20th century military leader, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense, and creator of the Marshall Plan after World War II. This grant will assist work on records from the years 1947 – 1950, during which Marshall served as president of the American Red Cross and Secretary of Defense.

University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN

\$70,280

To support editorial work on the *Correspondence of James K. Polk*, a selected edition of the letters to and from the 11th President of the United States. Assisted by this award, the project will edit records from 1847, the final months of the Mexican-American War.

William Marsh Rice University
Houston, TX

\$75,269

To support editorial work on the *Papers of Jefferson Davis*, the President of the Confederate States of America. With the assistance of these funds, the project will edit records from the last decade of Davis' life. In these years, he sought to promote trade and also wrote a history of the Confederacy.

SUNY College at Old Westbury
Old Westbury, NY

\$77,074

To support editorial work on the *Clarence Mitchell Jr. Papers*. As director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, Mitchell worked to promote civil rights through legislation and executive action. This grant will assist the editing of documents from 1955 – 1960.

University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN

\$120,141

To support editorial work on the *Papers of Andrew Jackson*. This award will enable the project to edit records from the third year of Jackson's presidential administration.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation
Springfield, IL

\$143,446

To support editorial work on the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln*, an electronic documentary edition of the historical records of the 16th President of the United States. This project is preparing a comprehensive edition that will

include both images and annotated transcriptions of Lincoln's papers. During the period of this grant, the project will continue to accession documents from the National Archives and the Library of Congress.

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ \$133,808

To support editorial work on the *Papers of Thomas Edison*, a documentary edition of the historical records of the late 19th/early 20th century American inventory. This award will assist preparation of a comprehensive image edition of Edison's papers and a selective transcribed and annotated edition of his papers from 1885 – 1887.

University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA \$79,560

To support editorial work on the *Marcus Garvey and Universal Negro Improvement Association Papers*. Marcus Garvey directed the largest mass movement of African Americans. This grant will fund work on the Garvey movement in Africa and the Caribbean.

University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE \$86,142

To support editorial work on the *Walt Whitman and Reconstruction*, a documentary edition of historical records as part of the online *Walt Whitman Archive*. This award will assist the editing of letters written by Whitman in the Reconstruction era (1865-1871). During these years, Whitman was working in Washington, D.C., as a government clerk.; and this project will also edit the documents he wrote in that capacity.

Duke University
Durham, NC \$75,310

To support editorial work on the *Selected Papers of Jane Addams*, a documentary edition of historical records of this American recipient of the Nobel Prize, settlement worker, and leader in women's suffrage. With the support of this grant, the project will edit documents from the first decade of Hull House, the most famous American settlement house, known for its efforts to assist the less fortunate inhabitants of Chicago.

Ulysses S. Grant Association
Starkville, MS \$64,426

To support editorial work on the *Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, a documentary edition of historical records of the 18th President of the United States. This grant will fund work on a scholarly edition of Grant's *Memoirs*.

Stanford University
Stanford, CA \$119,743

To support editorial work on the *Martin Luther King Jr. Papers*, a documentary edition of historical records of this 20th century Civil Rights leader. Assisted by this award, the project will collect and edit records reflecting King's participation in the Civil Rights Movement from 1961 through 1964.

New York University
New York, NY \$112,780

To support editorial work on the *Selected Papers of Margaret Sanger*, a documentary edition of historical records of this 20th century social activist. This grant will fund editorial work on papers relating to Sanger's international work for birth control.

University of Maryland
College Park, MD \$175,845

To support editorial work on the *Freemen and Southern Society* project, a documentary edition of the history of the emancipation of slaves in the United States. This award will support work on volumes tracing Federal

dealings with freedmen in the southern states. One volume will treat the development of land and labor policies, another will document the administration of law and justice.

Indiana University
Bloomington, IN

\$77,125

To support editorial work on the *Frederick Douglass Papers*, a documentary edition of the historical records of this 19th century African American social reformer, orator, and statesman. Assisted by this award, the project will publish *The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, the last of Douglass' autobiographical writings, and will edit Douglass' correspondence from the years 1853 – 1862.

University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA

\$130,000

To support editorial work on the *Presidential Recordings Project*, a documentary edition of the audio recordings made by six U.S. Presidents from 1940-1973. This grant will assist the preparation of online editions of Lyndon Johnson's recorded conversations relating to the War on Poverty, Civil Rights, and the War in Vietnam. It will also assist similar work on the recorded conversations from the early years of the Nixon administration.

George Washington University
Washington, DC

\$250,000

To support editorial work on the *Eleanor Roosevelt Papers*, a documentary edition of the historical records of the 20th century First Lady and human rights advocate. Funded by this grant, the project will edit documents reflecting the former First Lady's activities from 1949 – 1956.

PUBLICATION SUBVENTIONS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

\$10,000

To publish Volume 25 of the *Ratification of the Constitution*.

State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

\$10,000

To publish Volume 26 of the *Ratification of the Constitution*.

University of Oklahoma Press
Norman, OK

\$10,000

To publish Volume 3 of *The North American Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied*.

University of North Carolina Press
Chapel Hill, NC

\$10,000

To publish *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867: Series 3, Volume 2, Land and Labor, 1866-1867*.

Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL

\$10,000

To publish Volume 32 of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ

\$10,000

To publish Volume 6 of *The Selected Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony*.

University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA \$10,000
To publish Volume 7 of the Presidential Series, *The Papers of James Madison*.

University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA \$10,000
To publish Volume 3 of *The Papers of John Jay*.

ARCHIVES-BASIC PROJECTS

Alaska Department of Education
and Early Development
Juneau, AK \$109,267

A two-year project by the Alaska State Archives to process records related to the Exxon Valdez oil spill and subsequent litigation. Staff will appraise 3,300 boxes of records and process 400-600 boxes determined to have permanent historical value.

University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI \$111,350

A project to process 1,661 manuscript collections and photograph albums from the William L. Clements Library concerning 18th, 19th, and 20th century persons and events. Over two-thirds of these materials pertain to women, Native Americans, and African Americans.

Montana Historical Society
Helena, MT \$165,732

A two-year project to process 1,580 linear feet of records created by five state agencies, covering the period 1902-2007, and documenting topics of historical interest such as the environment, water rights, public health care, education, and transportation.

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Siletz, OR \$31,086

A project to process Tribal records, create finding aids to the collections, implement formal accessioning procedures, and plan for selecting documents for digitization.

Kentucky Historical Society Foundation
Frankfort, KY \$48,275

A project to process the records of the Kentucky Folklife Program, currently consisting of 35 analog and 370 electronic series of project documentation, video, audio and photographs. The Kentucky Folklife Program is designed to identify, document, present and conserve the Commonwealth's diverse cultural traditions, of particular interest to anthropologists and folklorists.

University of Oregon
Eugene, OR \$116,127

A two-year project to provide access to 14,288 linear feet of historical materials concerning the settlement and development of Oregon and the Northwest United States, housed in the University of Oregon Libraries Special Collections and University Archives.

Historical Society of
Western Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh, PA \$88,738

A two-year project to process and catalog 633 collections drawn from the late 18th century to the present day which document western Pennsylvania's business development, industrial growth, ethnic communities, race relations, arts organizations, religious groups, civic entities, and local politics.

Hebrew Union College/
Jewish Institute of Religion
Cincinnati, OH \$96,104

A two-year project for its American Jewish Archives to process its backlog of historical records totaling nearly 2,000 cubic feet. The collections document the broad scope of American Jewish society—political, economic, communal, professional, philanthropic, family, and religious—through the papers and records of rabbis, synagogues, social groups, individuals, and organizations.

Baltimore Museum of Art
Baltimore, MD \$112,039

A 30-month project to develop and implement a records management program and process 994 cubic feet of institutional records and manuscript collections that document the formation and development of this cultural institution. Founded in 1914, the Museum now houses more than 90,000 works of art, and it is known around the world for the Cone Collection, which includes the largest and most significant collection of works by Henri Matisse.

American Sephardi Federation
New York, NY \$42,866

A project to identify, survey, and document existing historical records in collections in the northeastern United States related to Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews. Sephardi Jews are those persons descended from Jews expelled from the Iberian Peninsula in the 15th century. Mizrahi Jews are descendants from Middle Eastern and North African Jews who are commonly included among the Sephardim community.

Pepperdine University
Malibu, CA \$110,143

An eighteen month project to create online descriptions of 1,225 linear feet of unprocessed university archives and manuscript materials held in the Special Collections and Archives. Founded in 1937, Pepperdine University was originally located in Los Angeles, and the records are important not only for the institution and its founding religious order, but also for students of the history of Southern California and its post World War II growth and development.

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Cold Spring Harbor, NY \$66,361

A 15-month project to process 19 collections of institutional and personal records, dating from the 1890s through the present, which comprise the entire backlog of unprocessed collections at this not-for-profit research and education institution at the forefront of molecular biology and genetics.

ARCHIVES-DETAILED PROCESSING PROJECTS

Florida Department of State
Tallahassee, FL \$46,181

A 15-month project at the state Division of Library and Information Services to process the records of the Koreshan Unity as well as personal papers of some of its members. The Koreshan Unity was a late 19th/early 20th century religious utopian community, which began in New York and moved to Florida in 1894.

Peabody Essex Museum
Salem, MA

\$75,692

A two-year project to process 74 manuscript collections drawn from the 18th and 19th centuries on Massachusetts history, including maritime history, notable Essex County individuals and families, volunteer militia, and Civil War campaigns.

University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK

\$96,303

A two-year project to process and make accessible the papers of James R. Jones, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1973-1987 and U.S. Ambassador to Mexico from 1993-1997. Jones served as a key figure during the Reagan era federal budget negotiations.

Vermont State Archives
and Records Administration
Montpelier, VT

\$118,078

A 22-month project to arrange and describe 446 cubic feet of docket books, record books, and case files created by the courts in three counties and dating from 1794 to 1945. Both criminal and civil cases are documented in this span of 150 years of records, which provide perspectives on crime and punishment, economic development, and all facets of social history.

Stanford University
Stanford, CA

\$106,191

A project to make available the records of the STOP AIDS Project (SAP), a grassroots organization founded in San Francisco in 1985 to prevent AIDS/HIV through community-based approaches. These records document public response to this enduring world-wide health crisis, and include the project's work with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, the State of California, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Office of National AIDS Policy.

Michigan Technological University
Houghton, MI

\$168,394

A 24-month project to process 1,329 cubic feet of historical records from Michigan's Copper Country region on the Upper Peninsula. Copper Country comprises four counties that experienced the United States's first hard rock mining boom during the Industrial Revolution.

University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, MS

\$113,198

A two-year project to preserve and increase access to materials related to the timber industry in southern Mississippi. Three collections totaling 1,063 cubic feet will be processed, three EAD compatible finding aids, and three MARC catalog records will be made available online.

[The Commission adjourned at 1:45 PM]