I recall vividly the phone call that began my career as a historian in the federal government. I was sitting in my office at a small, private Midwestern university where I worked as a visiting instructor of history when my telephone rang. Don Ritchie, the Senate Historian, was on the other end of the line. I was ecstatic to have the opportunity to join the Senate Historical Office (I recollect an inadvertent squeal of excitement into the phone handset). But I’ll confess that over the next few months, as I completed my teaching assignment and relocated to Washington, DC, I often worried about how well I would make the transition from a university environment to a career in public history.

As a graduate student I never committed myself exclusively to a traditional academic career. Temple University has a strong graduate program in public history and my advisors encouraged me to pursue any opportunity to work as an historian. In the summer of 2005 the director of Temple’s public history program, Jim Hilty, helped me land a summer internship with the Penn-Jersey American Red Cross. Penn-Jersey administrators planned to develop an internal history office that would help them write a history of the institution. To help them begin, I organized an oral history program and conducted the first interviews of former and current staff. I developed plans to locate and organize key documents for inclusion in a small archive. When I turned the project over to a full-time historian at the end of the summer, I felt a sense of accomplishment.

It was a rewarding, though brief, experience. But how well would this experience help me transition into the world of government history?

When I started at the Senate Historical Office in January 2010, I realized quickly how fortunate I am to work with such knowledgeable and supportive colleagues. They are excellent mentors. Associate Historian Betty Koed assured me in those early months that academic history was not so different from public history. Historians, regardless of the institution that they call home, ask questions and conduct thorough research. To ease my transition they assigned me the task of responding to questions, comments, and concerns that the office receives via the “historian” email account. I’ve learned that opening the historian’s inbox every morning is a bit like unwrapping a gift: you never know what you’ll find inside.

The Senate Historical Office, like historical offices throughout the federal government, serves communities inside and outside the government. Our classroom has no boundaries. The office receives inquiries from genealogists, armchair historians, avid political watchers, middle school students, and high school teachers. I give talks on Senate history to congressional staff, volunteers, and tour guides from the Capitol Visitors Center. In the past few months I have provided documents to a staff member of the Norwegian Parliament who inquired about Senate parliamentary procedure. I helped a historian locate the roll call votes of

See A New Classroom continued on page 3
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Pete Daniel

From time to time in conversations with federal historians, I have picked up a hint of amazement at the mistaken notions that academicians hold toward our work, and some of you, I am sure, have experienced condescension from our academic cousins. I recall in the late 1980s a distinguished historian, thinking that he was commiserating with me for having to work in a museum, assure me that a “real” job would come my way before long. It so happened that I preferred museum work to teaching and enjoyed collecting objects, planning exhibits, and writing history in my “unreal” job. It was apparent that some academic historians saw any job outside the academy as inferior. Fortunately, times have changed and in no small part because of the Society for History in the Federal Government. As SHFG members, we know that our jobs as federal historians are rewarding, remunerative, and satisfying, and some academic historians are looking over their shoulders and wondering what they missed. The Society has been active in many spheres including fighting for the independence for the National Archives and championing many other causes. Most of our members enjoy their jobs, make notable contributions to the nation’s history, and strongly support SHFG. I’m impressed with members’ eagerness to volunteer for leadership positions and with the wonderful spirit that pervades our Executive Council meetings. I’m also impressed with our younger members who are taking leadership positions within the Society. Working with our diverse membership allows me to learn about the work of many federal historians and appreciate the incredible diversity of our organization. As I thought about efforts to expand our membership, I wondered if we had explored all of the places where historians work in the federal government. Should we be recruiting in offices that we have ignored? Why don’t all federal historians belong to SHFG? How do we advertise SHFG to a larger body of historians? More than most historical organizations, SHFG stresses the opportunity for our members to interact. The Hewlett Lecture on October 27, the December holiday party, and the spring conference at Archives II provide important opportunities for members to meet, discuss ideas, and make or renew friendships.

This year I hope that we can focus on recruiting new members. No federal historian should feel isolated, and we should think carefully about history offices we have neglected in the past. Membership chair Sejal Patel is eager to hear ideas about recruiting new members. When I write a welcoming letter to new members, I stress our publications, the e-bulletin, The Federalist, and our website, and I mention our annual activities, including the Hewlett Lecture and book awards at the spring meeting. I conclude the letter with these thoughts: “SHFG is a dynamic organization that thrives with the hard work of volunteers. As a member, you are supporting activities crucial to the federal historical community and, indeed, all historians.”

From The Editor

This issue of The Federalist brings to a close my service as co-editor. I wish to thank my colleagues Ben Guterman, John Roberts, and John Lonnquest for their helpful suggestions and careful proofreading over the last three years. I would also like to thank my predecessor, Betty Koed, for familiarizing me with compiling the issue while maintaining a high standard throughout. Beginning with the winter issue, Albin J. Kowalewski, Historical Publications Specialist at the Office of History and Preservation, U. S. House of Representatives, will serve as co-editor.

—Terrance Rucker, Office of History & Preservation, U. S. House of Representatives
landmark environmental legislation passed in the 1970s. I offered advice to a graduate student who plans to write her dissertation about the role of women staff in Congress. The great, great, great, grandson of a former senator of Ohio contacted us looking for information about his distant relative and I sent him a few newspaper articles that he hadn’t already located. The diversity of our audience is just one of the many exciting aspects of this job. Each day brings new questions and prompts research into new topics.

Our audience, of course, includes the 100 men and women who serve as United States Senators and their office and committee staff—which totals more than 6,000 people. Don and Betty research and write “historical minutes”—short histories about key events and developments in the history of the institution. They deliver these minutes weekly at the Democratic Caucus and Republican Conference lunches. We provide committee staff with information about membership and chairmen, as well as offer guidance for researching legislative histories. One of the many benefits of this position is that it offers me myriad opportunities to educate people. My experiences as a teaching assistant, adjunct, and visiting professor taught me the importance of knowing my audience. Whether crafting a syllabus for undergraduate survey courses or designing a multidisciplinary graduate seminar, teachers craft lesson plans tailored to the knowledge and skill level of their audience. At the Senate Historical Office, my audiences are more diverse than on the university campus, but the same basic principles apply.

Transitioning to the field of government history was less complicated than I anticipated. My exposure to public history as a graduate student and my experience in the classroom prepared me for this work. I have my colleagues to thank, too, for their guidance and unfailing patience. The move has not been seamless, however. I’ve resigned myself to the fact that it will be years before I can navigate the hallways and underground passages of the Capitol building complex without getting lost!

Kate Scott is the Assistant Historian in the United States Senate Historical Office in Washington, DC.

CAPTURING THE SPIRIT OF HISTORY: ORAL HISTORY IN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

By Lu Ann Jones

Scores of parks use oral history interviews to document the people and events they honor and to capture the history of individual parks. Interviews also inform park management’s decisions as they contribute to historic resource studies, cultural landscape reports, and administrative histories. This article highlights some of the key themes that the National Park Service (NPS) is using oral history to explore. It draws from the “Directory of Oral History in the National Park Service,” completed by the Park History Program in the summer of 2010, which describes projects in 141 NPS units. Links to the directory and NPS websites that feature interview transcripts and audio excerpts can be found at http://www.nps.gov/history/history/oh/index.htm.

The Park Service’s use of oral history to expand its knowledge of cultural and natural resources has a long history. As early as the 1930s, a curator at the Thomas Edison National Historical Park recorded conversations by telephone as he spoke with several former Edison employees. The 41 Ediphone brown wax dictation cylinders remain in the park’s collection. The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site is among the oral history pioneers in the United States. Between 1947 and 1951 George A. Palmer, park superintendent, and Frederick D. Rath, Jr., park historian, made wire recordings with friends, neighbors, local political advisers, staff, and associates of the families of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Frederick W. Vanderbilt. Palmer and Rath anticipated the use of oral history when they interviewed people who worked on the estate. Narrators included President Roosevelt’s secretary, chief telephone operator, a butler, a tenant farmer, outdoor handyman, and a gardener and his wife. Interviewing projects have continued apace. In 2003, Donald A. Ritchie, U.S. Senate Historian and a veteran oral historian in the federal government, estimated that the Park Service had “the most ongoing oral history projects” of all federal agencies (now possibly eclipsed by the U.S. military). NPS projects vary widely in scale and scope. Some parks have recorded
hundreds of interviews, while other collections contain a handful of recordings.

For example, the NPS developed interpretive exhibits for the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. Between 1996 and 2006, agency staff asked participants in the spring 1965 civil rights marches to share their stories. Local and national leaders of the freedom struggles reflected on the protests that inspired Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act later that year. Among the narrators was U.S. Representative John R. Lewis of Georgia, whom sheriff’s deputies and state troopers beat bloody as he led marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. “It was almost like the spirit of history had tracked us down,” Lewis observed, “and we allowed ourselves to be used.” In another case, historians at the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site collected more than 30 interviews with people associated with the 1957 desegregation crisis. All nine of the African American students who attended the historically white Central High School in 1957–58 describe the pain and pride of their pioneering efforts. Soldiers in the Arkansas National Guard and the Army’s 101st Airborne Division, white students from Central High, and members of the Women’s Emergency Committee (which worked to reopen the schools on a desegregated basis) also shared their perspectives.

Memories of World War II veterans and life on the home front are prominently featured at several NPS sites. Visitors at the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in Alabama can hear the airmen themselves describe what it was like to be among the first African American military aviators and their training at segregated facilities at Moton Field. Museum exhibit curators drew upon some 850 interviews conducted between 2001 and 2005. The oral history project centered on the fighter pilots, but NPS interviewers also talked to military and civilian support personnel who kept the pilots flying. These included flight instructors, members of the quartermaster corps, parachute packers, and radio operators. Narrators described life during the era of racial segregation, the African American fight against racism in the United States as well as against fascism overseas, and the role the airmen played in the modern American civil rights movement.

Parks that explore social history topics such as ethnicity, labor, and social movements, find oral history essential to their mission. Immigrants themselves tell the story at the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island. Since 1973 the site of the federal immigration center has recorded almost 2,000 interviews with immigrants who arrived between 1892 and 1954. The historians interviewed former employees and members of the U.S. Coast Guard who were stationed there. Interviewees described everyday life in their countries of origin, their reasons for coming to America, and the journey aboard ship. They also described their arrival and processing at the Ellis Island facility, and how they adjusted to living in the United States. Everyone from school children to scholarly researchers can listen to the interviews in a public listening room and search tran-
scripts. At Keweenaw National Historical Park in northern Michigan, interviews with 150 former mining company employees and community members are used to explore the heritage of the area’s hard rock copper mining. Workers and managers give firsthand accounts of mining, explosions, and the corporate side of mine operations.

A number of national parks in Alaska have collaborated with the University of Alaska–Fairbanks Project Jukebox, the digital branch of the university’s oral history program (http://jukebox.uaf.edu/) to document their natural and social histories. For example, at Denali National Park and Preserve, historians interviewed 42 climbers, bush pilots, park rangers, and concessionaires about their climbs and routes, accidents and rescues, and other aspects of climbing philosophy and technology. In other parks, ethnographers have used interviews to document subsistence activities of native Alaskans, including hunting and fishing practices.

Finally, the Park Service uses oral history to document its own past. Interviews with former NPS directors, retired superintendents, and rangers illuminate management decisions and changes in agency culture over time. No doubt as the NPS approaches its centennial in 2016, oral history will help capture and preserve the agency’s own spirit of history.

Lu Ann Jones is a staff historian with the National Park Service’s Park History Program in Washington, DC.

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THE SUPREME COURT’S OFFICE OF THE CURATOR: A SHORT HISTORY

By Matthew Hofstedt

Generations of historians have interpreted the legacy of the Supreme Court’s opinions and scores of judicial biographies have been published about the 112 men and women who have served as Justices. As those involved with the history in the federal government know, however, the stories that end up in textbooks and scholarly publications are not the only ones generated by an institution. The daily life, material culture, and behind-the-scenes history of an institution provide another avenue to interpret the important historical events that shape our federal government. Since 1973, the responsibility of documenting, preserving, and sharing the Supreme Court’s institutional history has been the responsibility of the Office of the Curator.

In 1928, the history of the Court was on the mind of Chief Justice William Howard Taft. The Court, having resided in a cramped space on the Senate side of the Capitol for over a century lobbied for a home of its own. Taft appeared before a House Committee to show his support for a new Supreme Court Building, where he described how the Court would use such a large building. Taft testified, “We have not any place now for anything connected with the history of the court.” He described how the family of John Jay, the first Chief Justice, offered Jay’s robe for public display. Reluctantly, Taft declined the gift because the Court lacked sufficient space for offices and storage, let alone any space where it might display the artifacts of its history. (The robe ended up at the Smithsonian Institution.)

Taft did not live to see the Court’s spacious new home in 1935, but one staff member set out to fulfill Taft’s dream of having the Court’s history displayed in the building. The Marshal of the Court, Thomas Waggaman, took on the responsibility of tracking down Court-related objects including the collection of portraits of former Justices, which originated in the Capitol. In addition to portraits, Marshal Waggaman contacted the families of former Justices asking them to donate letters, photographs, and other objects to create a “museum” for the Court. Some of these objects, which form the basis of the Court’s collection today, were exhibited in the Main Reading Room of the Supreme Court Library, but the public was unable to see them.

In 1960, the first public exhibition at the Court was held on the ground floor to coincide with the Annual Conference of the American Bar Association. A large group of objects was borrowed from the John Marshall House in Richmond, Virginia, and some of the objects collected by Marshal Waggaman were included as well. This initial foray into public exhibitions was brief, but in 1973 Chief Justice Warren E. Burger created the Office of the Curator to maintain a regular exhibition program, among other duties. At the same time, he founded the Supreme Court Historical Society, a nonprofit organization, dedicated to the collection and preservation of Supreme Court history.

With the hiring of Cathe Hetos as the first Curator in 1973, the Court renewed its effort to locate objects related to its history.
Soon, a regular exhibition program began to fill the barren marble halls on the ground floor. In addition, a decorative arts program was initiated with the assistance of the Society to provide a more dignified atmosphere to the private rooms in the building. By 1978, the Court’s second Curator, Gail Galloway, was overseeing a growing exhibits program, which, in subsequent years, highlighted the lives of Chief Justices John Jay, Charles Evans Hughes, William Howard Taft, and Earl Warren. One exhibition looked at the Court during World War II and another surveyed High Courts from around the world. Since 2002, Curator Catherine E. Fitts has continued this tradition, and in October 2010, a new exhibition commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Supreme Court Building will open.

While the exhibits program is one of its more visible components, the Curator’s Office plays other roles in telling the history of the Court. The office handles most of the Court’s educational programs for visitors, including docent-led presentations in the Courtroom that review the judicial functions of the Court and the architecture of the Supreme Court Building. The Court’s photographer continually documents daily life in the building, including investitures and other special events. He also processes photograph requests for scholarly and personal use. The staff is also assisting with developing the historical information available through the Court’s website. Finally, the Curator’s Office maintains the Court’s collection of historical objects, including portraits of more than 200 Justices, their spouses, and other Court officers. The Office also stores an archival collection of mostly non-case related material that documents some of the administrative history of the Court as well as a constantly growing collection of historic memorabilia relating to the Justices. The staff maintains an internal database to manage this collection and coordinates conservation of artwork and historic artifacts. All told, the collection has over 25,000 objects and over 150,000 images.

Looking back, Chief Justice Taft would likely be pleased that the Court’s history has found a place within the building he envisioned. The Supreme Court Building welcomes over 300,000 annual visitors who, today, can see a variety of objects relating to Court history such as a robe of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, the first woman to serve on the Court, and the Bench chair used by Chief Justice John Marshall. Not only can visitors attend sessions of the Court where history is being made, they can also look back at the Court’s long history and learn about its significant role in American life.

Matthew Hofstedt is the Associate Curator of the United States Supreme Court in Washington, DC.
As a major repository for the nation’s cultural heritage since 1846, the Smithsonian has received gifts of artwork, furniture, and historical relics that reflect our nation’s varied history. In the 1960s, however, the Smithsonian received some of its largest gifts to date: private homes. This article will describe one of these gifts, the unusual circumstances that led to such a generous offer, and the benefit of a longstanding relationship between the Smithsonian and one of its patrons.

The procedures for acquiring gifts differ between the curatorial departments of the Smithsonian’s 19 museums. Some departments acquire objects by a committee vote, and others grant curators discretionary authority to acquire collection items. The Smithsonian’s real estate acquisition procedures however are distinct. In some cases, the institution has leases with several government agencies – for example, The National Postal Museum is in a building owned by the U.S. Postal Service. In other cases, leases between the Smithsonian and a lessee are vetted by the Smithsonian’s Office of Contracting and Office of the General Counsel. In cases when the Smithsonian receives a gift of property, they are left by patrons who are familiar with the institution and have a social relationship with the Secretary of the Smithsonian or a member of the institution’s governing Board of Regents.

Hillwood was the home of Marjorie Merriweather Post, a prominent art collector and entrepreneur who founded the General Foods Corporation. A long-time Washington, DC, resident, she was familiar with the collections of the Smithsonian and wanted her renowned collection of Russian and French decorative art left to the nation. A formal agreement between Post and the Smithsonian was executed on December 14, 1967 which transferred the property and contents of Hillwood to the Smithsonian, with a lifetime tenancy for Post. In addition to the property and contents, Post left a $10 million endowment for the care and upkeep of Hillwood. The agreement also stipulated how the Smithsonian would manage Hillwood after her death, including a clause for her employees to live at Hillwood for six months without rent after her death. Post died at Hillwood on September 12, 1973.

At the time, the Smithsonian felt confident that the $10 million would be sufficient to maintain Hillwood in accordance with the agreement Mrs. Post signed in 1967. However, in June 1974, Charles Blitzer, Assistant Secretary for History and Art under Secretary S. Dillon Ripley, wrote a memorandum to the Trustees of the Hillwood Trust and Directors of the Marjorie Merriweather Post Foundation, stating that the funds received through the endowment were “not sufficient to maintain Hillwood at a level at which it was maintained during Mrs. Post’s lifetime; nor, of course, are these funds sufficient to permit the operation of Hillwood as a Smithsonian museum.” In essence, Hillwood was put, according to Blitzer, in a “minimal holding operation.” Smithsonian staff began to realize that the agreement was not sustainable and questioned if it could be altered. On September 10, 1974, Ripley wrote “the reputation of the Smithsonian in regard to living up to the conditions of a Will, such as that of Mrs. Post’s, is something that we must cherish . . . we should adhere to the moral principles involved attempting in all possible ways to make sure that the provisions of the will are carried out.”

In a November 7, 1974 confidential memo to Ripley, Charles Blitzer and Peter Powers, the General Counsel of the Institution, wrote “the Hillwood problem, quite simply, is that income from the Trust when (or if) it is fully funded is likely to be inadequate for the operation of Hillwood in a manner required by the agreement.” The Smithsonian had prepared a budget for fiscal year 1975 of $735,000. This sum was not realized by the Post Foundation and Trust because of a delay in settling Post’s estate, and the Smithsonian was given $500,000 with which to manage the estate. Citing future inflation, Blitzer and Powers noted that “inflation will presumably turn $735,000 into $800,000 and so on. It seems very unrealistic to suppose that income from the Trust will keep up with needs . . . the future does not look bright.” Hillwood survived under the decreased budget for one year. A skeleton staff operated Hillwood at this time. Among them were Post’s curators and several former staff including her butler, several gardeners, and security personnel who worked for the Smithsonian. Two Smithsonian employees were reassigned temporarily to Hillwood: Richard Howland, Special Assistant to the Secretary who administered the estate, and a secretary. The Smithsonian also rented two small houses on the property to two employees of the Institution for a nominal sum. The property remained closed to the public with the exception of visits by scholars and invited guests.

In September 1975, Ripley and Blitzer met Post’s financial advisors, to discuss options for keeping Hillwood as part of the Smithsonian family. In January 1976, Ripley wrote to Mrs. Augustus Riggs IV, Post’s eldest daughter.
and President of the Post Foundation, “the Smithsonian sees no realistic possibility that it will be able to own and operate Hillwood as a public museum in the manner specified by the 1968 agreement.” Post’s will and the agreement stipulated that in the event the Smithsonian ceased to operate Hillwood as a non-profit museum, the property and its contents would become the property of the Marjorie Merriweather Post Foundation. Three months later the Post Foundation agreed to manage Hillwood as a museum. During that time, it was determined that Hillwood would revert to the foundation on July 1, 1976. The foundation contracted the Smithsonian to run Hillwood for the rest of the year, giving them time to decide upon the future.

In an April 9, 1976 letter to Riggs, Ripley conveyed his willingness to uphold the Post family legacy:

I have just heard that . . . the trustees of your mother’s Foundation have decided to receive the Hillwood property back, and to undertake to operate it as an entity themselves. I want you to know that I am entirely in accord with anything that you and your sisters wish to do to carry out your mother’s will and concern, and that, as nearly as possible, without being a member of the family, that this is, and has been my intention as well.

On April 13, 1976, the Smithsonian issued a press release stating that Hillwood would revert to the Post Foundation on July 1, 1976. Hillwood opened to the public in 1977. Today, Hillwood Museum and Garden (as it is known today) is an accredited museum by the American Association of Museums. Its innovative programs include children’s workshops, lectures on the collections, and beautiful grounds. Secretary Dillon Ripley’s consummate skill with people and his keen grasp of the realities of the Hillwood gift allowed the Smithsonian to divest itself of this treasure with tact, honesty, and the understanding of the Post family.

Amy Ballard is a Senior Historic Preservation Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.
THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH: THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COLLECTION’S PRIMARY HOLDINGS INITIATIVE

by Remé Grefalda

The Asian Pacific American (APA) holdings in the Library of Congress are extensive and scattered in various divisions. The largest of these are the war records on the internment of Japanese American communities during 1942–1946. Monographs and periodicals on Asian Pacific American subject matter written in English are in the General Collection. A smaller number of Asian language sources are housed in the Asian Division. In contrast, APA primary papers are almost few and far between, unless they are identifiable as being from ethnic newspapers, government papers, and federal agencies’ reports. Audio recordings of Asian Pacific American cultural festivals can be found in the American Folk Life Center and in the Sound Online Inventory & Catalog (SONIC) in the Recorded Sound Collections. In the Prints and Photography Division, photographs are categorized according to country: photographs of Chinese Americans, Korean Americans, or Filipino Americans can be found under China, Korea, and the Philippines, or sometimes under states where large Asian American populations exist. In many instances, these photographs are pooled together under “Asians,” some are in the portfolios of famous photo journalists who have donated their work to the Library.

The focus of the Library’s Asian American Pacific Islander Collection (AAPIC) is on English-language primary sources such as original travel papers of immigrants, annual documentation of migration arrivals from Asia, diaries, and oral histories. Some of these collections include founding papers of community social organizations, historical documents of early church affiliations, and documentation on the hiring of migrant labor during the 1930s. Finally, the collection includes archival files of early labor movements, curriculum listings from language and heritage schools, and unpublished treatises on social, cultural, health and economic issues affecting Asian Pacific American communities.

A number of Asian Pacific American communities are celebrating their centennial presence in the United States. A constant goal of the newly established Asian American Pacific Islander Collection (AAPIC) is to reach out to Asian Pacific American communities to impress upon them the importance of legacy-building. With the passing of time, family papers are being scattered or destroyed. It is imperative for communities to gather and record oral histories or document their lives in print for future generations. Among communities emerging from their refugee experiences within the past 40 years, however, members are still marked by paranoia from the scars of authoritarian rule in their former homeland. As a result, they are wary about allowing themselves to be interviewed. Foremost in their minds is: Why is the Library of Congress interested in their stories? What rules did they break? Why is it important to share their family photographs? A unique approach to this dilemma has been to gather a community by way of symposiums and conferences, book launches, author appearances, and lectures that involve community leaders and residents. This initial outreach to community leaders and reciprocal attendance at social gatherings to share in heritage celebrations resulted in trust and gracious hospitality and garnered a positive response to the Library’s call.

In 2008, for instance, Vietnamese communities nationwide participated in the Library’s “Journey to Freedom,” a Boat People Retrospective Symposium on May 2, 2009. The date is important because it commemorates a significant date—the Fall of Saigon, April 30, 1975, commemorated in Vietnamese communities worldwide. The response to the call for primary materials to establish a Boat People’s Archive came from as far as Manila and Hong Kong. The Vietnamese Overseas Initiative for Consciousness Empowerment (V.O.I.C.E.) founded by Mr. Hoy Trinh brought together Vietnamese American volunteers to conduct the necessary interviews of stranded boat people refugees in Southeast Asia. V.O.I.C.E. workers followed the paper trail to authenticate each refugee’s identity. Authenticating their identity became the basis to reconstruct the travel documents required by embassies. These documents were transferred to the Library’s Asian Division when the V.O.I.C.E. offices in Manila and Hong Kong closed down. The Library’s field office in Jakarta facilitated the transfer of more than twenty V.O.I.C.E boxes to the Asian Division. As a result of this research, all of the stranded refugees were hosted by sponsors during their time in the United States.

“Journey to Freedom” became a template for gathering a community and introducing its members to the collections in the Library of Congress. The AAPIC Primary Holdings Initiative received refugee narratives, photographs, and family papers including the symposium papers donated by the speakers. An earlier symposium in 2006 on “Carlos Bulosan’s America is in the Heart in the 21st Century” opened the Library’s collections to Filipinos in the Washington, DC Metro area and fostered a Carlos Bulosan Archives in the Asian Division. One of the donated primary sources was a rare film (DVD) of the stage production of Bulosan’s short story, “The Romance of Magno Rubio.” The collection’s acquisition efforts are now focused on gathering the founding papers, programs, and curricula of weekend heritage
schools which have long been the basis of educating children in Asian American communities. Similar documentation of APA community organizations, as well as materials and programs of the Asian Adoptee/Adoptive community, and those of APA associations in the federal government have found their way to the Library. Many unknown community newsletters and tabloids in the early 1930s and 1950s (which may have had short runs and closed shop for lack of sustainable funding) have surfaced in private personal papers donated by families. Some of these are new single-item deposits; others are from the private collections of authors, artists and/or cultural activists of Asian or Pacific Islander descent living in the U.S. Three collections in particular are worth noting:

The James Miho Collection. More than 50 conceptual diaries from 1960–2008 of James Miho, book designer and graphic artist, were donated by the artist. The miniature monographs, many of which were hand-made, functioned as Miho’s initial sketches and work drafts for projects. The diaries provide invaluable insights on the creative methods of this particular commercial artist. Miho headed the graphic design department of Champion Paper Company during the late 1970s. Instead of merely sending clients samples of the new paper line-up, Miho designed a coffee-table book, the Imagination Series, using a variety of the company’s new line of papers. These limited-edition publications were sent to Champion’s clients. Additionally, the Miho Collection has among its items videotaped interviews of the artist expounding on his career and various projects, as well as Miho’s lecture notebooks from the 1980s when he taught at Samsung’s Design School, which he founded in Seoul, Korea at the invitation of the Samsung Corporation.

The Jade Snow Wong Collection. The papers of ceramic artist, Jade Snow Wong, author of Fifth Chinese Daughter, were donated by the Ong Family in 2009. The collection covers a major span of the author’s life (1922–2006) and family history in the Chinese community in San Francisco. Wong’s documentation of her travels, speeches, and news clippings in the early 1950s as a cultural representative of the State Department during the Cold War period is part of the collection. The collection also includes Wong’s unpublished manuscripts, experimentation on color formulas for her ceramic work, scrapbooks and photographs, and calligraphy notebooks from her childhood. Included too are translated versions of Fifth Chinese Daughter in Urdu, Balinese, Indonesian, Burmese, Hindi, German, French and Chinese. As a prolific writer in the early 1950s, Wong’s writings were featured in many educational text books on literature.

The APA Performing Arts Collection. This is the AAPI Collection’s most recent addition. It began with the Lia Chang Theater Portfolio, a unique collection of backstage photographs of productions where Asian Pacific American theater artists are featured. The portfolio boasts of artists in pre-production activities: during rehearsals, in the process of makeup, costume changes, all non-promotional work seldom seen by the public. The collection serves as a visual depository of Asian Pacific American theater history. The Playwright Series houses materials such as the Velina Hasu Houston Collection (Playwright), the Christine Toy Johnson Collection (Playwright & Film documentarian); the drafts, scripts, and research papers of novelist Carlene Sobrino Bonnivier on the 1978 eviction of elderly Asians and Asian veterans from the International Hotel in San Francisco. Some of the other sources are the Sarah Joaquin Papers (stage director and actor), the papers and music worksheets of Kundiman Artist Stephen Shey, and the research, notes, souvenir programs, and other supporting papers of the Ford Foundation 2003 report, Towards a Cultural Community: Identity, Education and Stewardship in Filipino American Performing Arts.

Is the AAPI Collection open to researchers? Yes it is! The Collection has been a valuable resource for researchers, particularly for Fellows of the Florence Tan Moeson Fellowship Program whose particular field may be focused on Asian Pacific American studies. It’s also useful for professors who encourage students to engage in primary source research. For example, Mr. Gem Daus, an adjunct professor of Filipino American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, has taken advantage of the Library’s special collection by requiring his students to include primary material sources from the Carlos Bulosan Archives, the Roy Morales Collection, and the extensive variety of pre-1970s Filipino American newspaper collection. Students can also make significant contributions to the collection. In the case of the James Miho Collection, Miho was interviewed by a Library of Congress Junior Fellow in 2009.

Remé Grefalda is the librarian and curator of the Asian Pacific American Collection at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.
**American Folklife Center**

**Program goals:** The goals of the American Folklife Center’s Volunteer Internship Program are 1) to provide educational experience or career training in the fields of folklore and folklife, ethnomusicology, archival studies, library science, or related areas; 2) to provide in-depth exposure to the field of folklife by working directly with archival materials and assisting with public events; 3) to organize and structure activities that produce concrete results to benefit both the intern and the Center; 4) to build networks with future generations of professionals concerned with aspects of folklife, ethnomusicology, and archives.

**Intern duties:** Interns participate in a number of activities of the American Folklife Center, primarily focusing on archival work, but also assisting with public events. Some examples include compiling finding aids for specific subject areas in the archive’s collections, arranging and describing collections for preservation and public access, and maintaining a wide variety of subject and collection files. Internships are unpaid. Academic credit can be arranged through the intern’s academic institution.

**Work location:** Internships are on-site at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, and must be on weekdays, no weekends or evenings.

**Application requirements:** Please email a resume and cover letter to Ann Hoog (ahoo@loc.gov). There is no deadline for applications, but it is recommended that you apply at least two months in advance of when you wish to intern. Interns must able to commit to a 200-hour minimum; have an interest in the subject of folklife, ethnomusicology, or related disciplines; and possess a willingness to work in an archive. Some prior experience in an archive or library setting is preferred. Include in your application an indication of when you would like to schedule your internship.

**Web site:** [http://www.loc.gov/folklife/interns.html](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/interns.html)

**Contact:** Ann Hoog, Folklife Specialist (Reference)
Tel: 202-707-4428
FAX: 202-707-2076
E-mail: aahoo@loc.gov

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Chloe Raub in the Folklife Reading Room at the Library of Congress with one of the collections she worked with

**Chloe Raub**

I interned with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress over the summer of 2010. During my internship I had the opportunity to work on several interesting projects under the guidance of Folklore Specialists Ann Hoog and Todd Harvey. Notable among these were assisting with the arrangement and description of the Archive of Folk Song Audio Disc Sleeves Collection and storing unpublished music transcriptions from the Herbert Halpert 1939 Southern States Recording Expedition Collection. I was very excited to work so closely with such unique materials. Establishing intellectual order over these collections and making their contents available to researchers will provide invaluable information and enhance the usefulness of other Center collections. My work was especially rewarding because I know that it will be appreciated by scholars for years to come. My internship experience with the American Folklife Center was both enjoyable and productive. The work I performed at the Center complements the coursework I have completed in my Anthropology and Museum Studies master’s program at The George Washington University and has prepared me to pursue archival work in the future.
FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Charles Downs

One of the unique SHFG committees was the Millennium Committee, formed in response to public interest in entering a new century and chaired by Anne Effland. Since the millennium was a natural time for the SHFG to take stock of the past and plan for the future, it was natural that a project that did just that fell under the Millennium Committee’s prevue.

In the fall of 1998, my predecessor as SHFG Archivist, Richard F. Myers, proposed a program to strengthen federal history programs, which he called “A Century Before Us.” Since its founding, one of SHFG’s goals has been to improve the standing of federal history and increase the number of federal agencies with viable history offices. As Myers wrote in his overview to the project, “The year 2000 [was] a propitious time to launch such a program with its ‘century perspective’ and a new administration coming to Washington.” His proposal had grown out of a presentation on the status of federal history he had made to the Executive Board at the September 1998 meeting, and was formally approved by the Board in November.

There were two parts to Myers’s proposal. First, was to develop a matrix that used data gathered for the recently updated SHFG’s Guide to Historical Programs in the Federal Government. The matrix would delineate the federal history programs and activities then in place, and serve as a benchmark for improvement. Part II of Myers’s proposal was a five-year program to improve the status of federal history and to establish history programs and program elements in federal agencies that did not have them.

The matrix’s organization followed that of the federal government, with the legislative, judicial, and executive Branches. The executive Branch was further broken down into the White House, executive departments, independent executive agencies and establishments, and federal historical resources. This last category consisted of the National Archives and Records Administration, the Smithsonian Institution, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Research Institute. In addition to noting if the agency had a history office, each entry was further annotated to show if it had activities in the nine program areas characterized by the SHFG Guide.

The 1994 NARA study, “Government Historians and Federal Records” was to be used to identify specific program areas that needed additional attention. The completed matrix is an impressive looking document, which was completed in time for the Spring Annual Meeting in March 1999. The Keynote Address for the meeting was delivered by Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, Assistant to the President and Advisor to the First Lady for the Millennium. The plenary session included a roundtable discussion, “Into the New Millennium,” in which Myers discussed his proposal for expanding federal historical programs. Another session, a roundtable discussion led by Anne Effland, “Planning the Celebration of the Millennium,” provided a forum for views on planning on the observation of the millennium, and how the SHFG should be involved. The Summer 1999 issue of The Federalist featured a story on recent initiatives, “Strengthening Federal History.” In the “The President’s Column,” R. Michael McReynolds discussed the activities Millennium Committee, and the prospects and possibilities of SHFG’s “A Century Before Us” initiative. For more information on the SHFG Archives, write to chasdowns@verizon.net.
On May 2, 2009, the Asian Division Friends Society opened the year with two important symposiums: JOURNEY TO FREEDOM: The Boat People Retrospective Symposium, an all-day event that brought Vietnamese communities from as far as Vancouver in the Pacific Northwest to the Library of Congress to share their experiences as refugees in flight after the fall of Saigon in 1975. The second was an event that highlighted the patriotism of Asian Pacific American soldiers during World War Two: the Filipino guerilla network in the Philippines, the Flying Tiger pilots, the 100th Battalion, the 442nd “Go for Broke” Japanese American unit in Europe and the Asian Pacific American women who served in the military. The October 26, 2009 symposium, UNSUNG HEROES: Asian Pacific American Heroism during World War II, was a collaborative effort with the Library’s American Folk Life Center Veterans History Project. Both symposiums were informative and produced important documentation. From both these events, the Asian American Pacific Islander Collection increased its primary holdings, thus benefiting future researchers with the following sets of documents.

The Vietnamese American Collection housing the reconstructed files of stranded U.S.-bound refugees that were compiled and assembled by the staff of the Vietnamese Overseas Initiative for Consciousness Empowerment (V.O.I.C.E.) has information on each individual that were retrieved and verified from interviews and paperwork, and then authenticated to form the necessary identification and travel papers for entry into the U.S. The Vietnamese American collection also includes copies of reports from the U. N. High Commissioner’s Office for Refugees on the Vietnam War, personal narratives, and photograph collections of Vietnamese communities in the U.S. The Cayetano Catura Collection contains photographs and papers of Catura, who served as a steward and cook under two admirals during World War II and the Korean War. The Library also has the Papers of Veteran Dr. Valentin Ildefonso, a Filipino survivor of the Bataan Death March. The Catura and Ildefonso collections were transferred to the Veterans History Project. Finally, archivists discovered hand-drawn sketches and paintings of the Flying Tigers buried among the unprocessed archives in the Asian Division for more than 50 years.

New NASA publication: Lunar Impact: The NASA History of Project Ranger, by R. Cargill Hall (Reprint: Dover Publications, June 2010). New online resources: Documents and videos marking the 35th anniversary of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, at http://history.nasa.gov/astp; and text, photos, and videos about the history of the Marshall Space Flight Center, are marking its 50th anniversary. Roger Launius organized and chaired the session “Spaceflight and the Environment: At the Conjunction of History and Policy” at the National Council on Public History/American Society for Environmental
History annual meeting, Portland, Oregon, March 11, 2010, and organized and commented on the papers presented at the session “Visualizing Space Exploration: Images and Symbols from the Space Age” at the Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 7, 2010. Michael Neufeld and Alex Spencer, Aeronautics Division, are editing a new illustrated book, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum: An Autobiography, to be published soon by National Geographic. The book covers the history of the Smithsonian Institution’s involvement in flight technology, from Civil War ballooning through the building of the Mall Museum, to the completion of the Udvar-Hazy Center’s Phase Two in 2010.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA)

The National Archives’ special exhibit, “Discovering the Civil War,” continues, with the second part, titled “Consequences,” opening on November 10, 2010, in the Lawrence F. O’Brien Gallery at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. The Office of the Federal Register has launched Federal Register 2.0, an online version of the daily Federal Register at www.federalregister.gov. The updated newspaper format allows quicker access to the critical news and documents of the day, in such areas as Money, Environment, World, Science & Technology, Business & Industry, and Health & Public Welfare.

A major revision is now available of Select List of Publications of the National Archives and Records Administration (General Information Leaflet 3). It catalogs NARA’s primary print, electronic, and multimedia publications, including all new titles since the 2001 edition. While many of the agency’s guides, finding aids, and pamphlets have been revised and reprinted, many others have been made available solely online. In recent years, NARA’s offices—in Washington, DC, the regional archives, presidential libraries, and the Federal Register—have made increasing use of the Web for development of finding aids and guides to their holdings. This list allows the researcher to instantly learn what publications exist nationwide and in what formats, ordering information, and current prices. It also provides websites and addresses for the regional archives and presidential libraries. For a free copy, contact the Research Support Branch (NWCC1), 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20408; telephone 202-357-5400, or 1-866-325-7208.

Preservation of the Universal Newsreel Collection (RG 200 UN) has been completed. It took 10 years, but the Motion Picture, Audio, and Video Branch (NWCS-M) and the Motion Picture Preservation Lab (NWTS) has preserved and made available these films, originally on 35mm original acetate reels. The National Archives gained full rights to the Universal Pictures library in 1974, as well as additional holdings by Universal Pictures. The edited releases extend from 1929 to 1967. Preservation was essential due to the high demand for these historically valuable films. Through a partnership with Amazon, the DVDs are available to the public at the relatively low cost of less than $20 per release. The films suffered from “vintage syndrome,” with high levels of acidity and damage such as scratches, cracks, and tears.

NATIONAL PRESERVATION INSTITUTE

The Institute has published its schedule of Professional Seminars in Historic & Cultural Management seminars for 2010–11. Examples include “Cultural and Natural Resources: An Integrated Management Strategy,” “Identification and Evaluation of Mid-20th Century Buildings,” and “Native American Cultural Property Law.” Seminars are held nationwide and can be customized. Consult the schedule online or request a copy. P.O. Box 1702, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1702; tel: 703-765-0100; www.npi.org.

NAVY HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

The Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) has been directed to create plans for commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the Star Spangled Banner to take place from 2012 through 2015. Planning will involve many partners, including federal, state, and local agencies; the U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Army; National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration; Navy League of the United States; International Council of Air Shows, Naval Historical Foundation; and National Maritime Historical Foundation. In 2012, vessels of all types and the Blue Angels will take part in events at New Orleans in April; in New York, May; Norfolk, June; Boston, July; and Toronto, in August. Then, events will be held at numerous historic sites. Extensive media coverage is expected. The NHHC is also working to commemorate the Navy’s role in the Civil War commemorative events with a new blog, www.civilwarunavy150.blogspot.com.

U.S. ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

2010 marks the 75th anniversary of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Created by Congress in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), NRCS today is a leading national provider of technical and financial assistance for conservation on private lands. Douglas Helms has served as na-
tional historian for the SCS and NRCS since 1981. Sam Stalcup joined the history office staff from the University of Oklahoma in 2008. NRCS is proud to be part of a long tradition of history at the USDA that stretches back to the 1910s and today includes historians at the Forest Service, the Economic Research Service, and extensive archival collections at the National Agricultural Library.

The work of the NRCS history office falls into three general categories that support the broader mission of the agency. These are 1) providing historical analyses of contemporary topics to the Department, agency administrators, and field staff; 2) serving as a source of information on agricultural and conservation history topics to the general public; and 3) conducting original historical research and writing for presentation at academic and professional conferences.

During this anniversary year, the history office staff has been busy with a number of projects designed to commemorate the origins and development of the national commitment to soil and water conservation in the United States. These include presentations made on the history of SCS/NRCS at the annual meetings of Soil Science Society of America, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, the Agricultural History Society, USDA’s Agricultural Outlook Forum, and at meetings of NRCS employees and conservation district partners in Texas, South Carolina, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Washington, DC.


As public historians, one of the pleasures of the job is working with a varied group of specialists on a daily basis, using history to inform an interdisciplinary agency approach to meeting contemporary natural resources challenges.

**United States Department of State**

The Office of the Historian has recently published *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1969–1976, Volume VII, Vietnam, July 1970–January 1972*. The volume covers the Richard Nixon administration’s expansion of the Vietnam War into Cambodia and Laos. This volume covers South Vietnam in the context of this larger war in Southeast Asia; therefore, it begins in July 1970 in the aftermath of the Cambodian incursion. At the time, a variety of topics dominated the policy discussions of President Nixon and his principal advisers. Among these topics were U.S. troop withdrawals, Vietnamization, negotiations in Paris (both the public plenary sessions and the secret talks between Kissinger and North Vietnamese Politburo member Le Duc Tho), and possible South Vietnamese operations in Cambodia, Laos, and North Vietnam.

This volume also documents President Nixon’s penchant for secret operations and covert warfare: his continued support for secret bombing campaigns in Cambodia and Laos and his approval of the November 1971 Son Tay raid into North Vietnam to rescue American prisoners of war. Nixon also signed off on new and continuing information gathering initiatives and propaganda that supported intelligence operations against Communist forces, organizations, and governments in South Vietnam, North Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. Additionally, he approved clandestine support for South Vietnamese political entities friendly to the United States. For more information, visit http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1969-76v07.

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