



The FEDERALIST

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2018 SHFG ANNUAL MEETING

Federal History in Times of Transition

The Society for History in the Federal Government announces its annual meeting to be held March 23-24, 2018, at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education in Shepherdstown, WV.

For more information, please email shfgmeeting@gmail.com

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SOON.



Celebrating Fifty Years: NPG & SAAM

By James G. Barber

In 1968, following major renovations, the Old Patent Office Building opened as the permanent home for two Smithsonian museums, the National Portrait Gallery and the National Collection of Fine Arts (since renamed the Smithsonian American Art Museum). To mark the fiftieth anniversary of that grand event the Smithsonian mounted a one-room exhibition, “Celebrating Fifty Years.” During the 1960s, when historic preservation was just beginning to gain traction in the United States, it was fortuitous that the capital’s third oldest public building—a model of Greek revival architecture—was spared the fate of being demolished to make room for a parking lot.

Over the past five decades, in addition to serving as a vibrant downtown center for the arts, the two Smithsonian museums have anchored the Penn Quarter neighborhood amidst a sea of changes. The community was largely impacted by the race riots of 1968, and in the 1980s, the decline of the neighborhood caused many of the area’s retailers to close. More recently, particularly since the construction of the sports pavilion (now called Capital One Arena) in the late 1990s, the neighborhood has experienced a revival. While the museums have felt the effects of these transformations to some degree, they have consistently produced quality exhibitions, publications, and programs while steadily—and substantially—expanding their collections.

The exhibition, “Celebrating Fifty Years,”



Celebrating 50 Years at the National Portrait Gallery.

looks back at the origins of both museums by means of photographic displays and a selection of memorabilia pertaining to the gala openings. The Smithsonian American Art Museum dates to the early part of the nineteenth century—before the founding of the Smithsonian Institution in 1846. Comprising the nation’s oldest federal art collection, it was established as the National Collection of Fine Arts (NCFA) in 1937. David W. Scott (1916–2009) served as the museum’s director from 1964 to 1969, when he took on the

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“Celebrating Fifty Years” from page 1

responsibility of modernizing the collection through obtaining works of contemporary art.

The National Portrait Gallery, however, was a new Smithsonian entity that had not yet established a collection. Charles Nagel (1899–1992), the first director from 1964 to 1969, relied primarily on the generosity of donors when he set out to acquire works. An early purchase was the portrait of Chief Joseph (1840–1904), the great Native American resistance leader of the Nez Perce Indians. Painted from life by Cyrenius Hall in 1878, the portrait image was selected for a 6-cent stamp issued by U.S. Postal Service in a special ceremony held at the museum on November 4, 1968, in celebration of the opening.

The Portrait Gallery was also the lead story in the August 1968 issue of *American Heritage* magazine. A copy is on display in the current exhibition, as well the gallery’s first exhibition catalogue, *This New Man: A Discourse in Portraits*. In the introduction to that catalogue, Charles Nagel sought to define the gallery’s core mission with a fine measure of perspicuity. “First, ours must never be regarded as a gallery of art but rather as a history museum, one with a serious national purpose. Consequently, the sitter is always the most important element to be kept in mind, particularly when likenesses are being selected for the collections.”

Indeed, this was an astute cautionary observation, given the fact that Nagel was passionate about art, both as a professor in the art department at Yale and later as director of the City Art Museum in St Louis, and the Brooklyn Museum in New York. Over the years, Nagel’s distinction has blurred as the gallery’s staff of art historians has grown and its historians have dwindled. This can seem confusing which is why the museum is often regarded as an art museum with a specialty in people and faces—distinguished or not. Others view the museum as half art museum and half history/biography museum. Perhaps the truest definition of the Portrait Gallery is a museum of history and biography that uses art as a medium, and that would include art in its many forms—fine art, performance art, theatre art, film and photography, and biographical prose and poetry. It might be said that art powers the Portrait Gallery, and people of significance with stories to tell are what give the museum a sense of “serious



Patent Office Building, F Street Façade.

national purpose,” as Charles Nagel stated at the start in 1968. Moreover, it should be noted that there is only one National Portrait Gallery in America.

At its creative best, the Portrait Gallery juggles the three disciplines of history, biography, and art in thoughtful and compelling ways—always keeping the sitter foremost in mind. Exhibitions in the “One Life” gallery are indicative of the mix of disciplines. This room is devoted to a single person whose life is portrayed diversely through portraiture. The exhibition, “Thomas Paine, The Radical Founding Father,” was primarily a history show and included historical documents and portraits of Paine and his contemporaries like George Washington. A One Life show about Katharine Hepburn was largely biographical as it traced her life and film career through a selection of photographs, movie posters, and of course her four Oscar trophies, which she willed to the museum. Lastly, an exhibition about Sandra Day O’Connor was all about art and portraiture. This display was unique in that O’Connor had sat before a dozen artists who had gathered previously, and their individual renderings constituted the museum’s exhibition.

The National Portrait Gallery can be like a dance at a ball, pairing visitors with notable people in its collections. The disciplines of history, biography, and art set the stage for the museum encounter. Lacking a prominent subject with a story to tell, the experience is mostly aesthetic, oftentimes beautiful to behold, but somehow in need of a lead partner. Presently, half of the museum’s planned special exhibitions would be appropriate for the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Precision matters. We live in such a world.

A legal contract can hinge on one word; a wrong note played well can spoil the audition; a misplaced decimal can drain a bank account or send a space ship on an errant mission, as happened once at NASA. And imprecision in the field of medicine can be life threatening. Fifty years ago, Charles Nagel attempted to instill a measure of priority and precision as a mandate for the Portrait Gallery. In 2000, his successor validated the wisdom of his way of thinking. When a priceless portrait of George Washington, on long-term loan, was suddenly put up for sale, Marc Pachter, the museum's fourth director, faced the seemingly impossible task of raising the asking price of twenty million dollars. Pachter was a historian with a passion for biography and storytelling. Art was always secondary for him, which was beneficial in his peculiar situation. When the press broke the news of the imminent sale, millionaire Ross Perot spoke for many when he asked who would pay twenty million dollars for a portrait. Pachter had a natural gift for communication, which he demonstrated on the Today show in the five minutes he had to make his pitch for donations. What Pachter did not say was noteworthy, namely somewhere in America an art lover, who knows a good portrait, will step forward. What he did say, however, won him ten million more than the asking price—"I'm confident that somewhere in the country a patriot will answer the call."

Patriot! That one word brought us face to face with Washington the *man*. The painting was merely a means for the representative patron, Fred W. Smith, president of Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, to share his life-long passion for Washington with the nation. A gift of thirty million dollars

secured the portrait by Gilbert Stewart for the Smithsonian and enabled the painting to go on view in selected venues throughout the country. The Reynolds Foundation would subsequently fund major building projects at the Mount Vernon estate.

The National Portrait Gallery continues to make exciting and important new acquisitions. In 1968, there was considerable anxiety about its ability to acquire historic portraiture that was deemed rare. For instance, at that time it had only nineteen of the thirty-five men who had been president. The museum has since closed the gaps and enhanced the entire presidential collections. In October 2017, the Portrait Gallery purchased at auction the earliest photograph of a president, that of John Quincy Adams, taken in Washington by Philip Haas in 1843. Adams, a member of Congress, was a staunch advocate for "the implementation of James Smithson's bequest to establish an institution dedicated to the increase and diffusion of knowledge."

Today the Portrait Gallery holds more than twenty-two thousand objects. Encompassing paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures, and media art, the museum's portraits represent prominent individuals who have influenced the life and culture of American society.

"Celebrating 50 Years" remains on view at the National Portrait Gallery through January 6, 2019.

James G. Barber is a historian and curator at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. His research interests include the portraiture of the Jacksonian and Civil War eras, the American presidency, and original cover art in the TIME magazine collection.

Editor's Note

Museum work represents some of the most highly visible and accessible historical programming accomplished by history professionals. It provides a critical bridge to public audiences for the transmission of accurate and relevant historical information. It is particularly significant for federal history as a subfield, where public programs educate citizens about the federal government and inspire them to remain informed about, and engaged with, civic institutions.

Many of the articles in this issue of *The Federalist* focus on current museum work as it relates to federal history. **James Barber** provides an in-depth look at the exhibit he curated on the anniversary of the unique partnership between the National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, "Celebrating Fifty Years." **Jill Newmark** focuses on the intersection of popular culture and history in a feature on the National Library of Medicine's exhibit "Harry Potter's World." The Executive Director of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., **John Suau**, is featured in a History Professional interview where he discusses the ongoing partnership with Apple to renovate the Carnegie Library Building. **Alison Mann** and **Kathryn Speckart** present the first of an anticipated series of articles on

the nascent U.S. Diplomacy Center and its historical collection.

This issue of *The Federalist* also includes a look at the use of RSS feeds for news and information related to federal history. SHFG archivist **Chas Downs** presents a history of the controversial "Spector Report" on public history programs. **A.J. Daverede** highlights an extremely noteworthy group of records from the Classified Subject Files of U.S. Embassy Djakarta, 1963-1969, in his column on Recently Declassified Records. **Judson McLaury** provides updates on Outreach, an exciting SHFG initiative that has resulted in the creation of a new web portal for federal history programs (<http://shfg.wildapricot.org/outreachmainpage>). **Sarah Knowles**, a participant in the 2017 Villanova on the Hill program, offers her impressions of a Lepage Center panel on federal historians in the policy-making process, organized by **Jason Steinhauer**. Also don't miss a review of the website *Her Hat Was In the Ring*, several new book announcements in Recent Publications, and other news items in Making History.

Comments and suggestions are welcome at shfgfederalist@gmail.com or on Twitter @[faithtomfaith](https://twitter.com/faithtomfaith).

SHFG Outreach

From The SHFG Outreach Group: Judson MacLaury, Chair

It is with great pleasure that The Society announces a major new program. On April 13, 2017, the Executive Council authorized exploration of the development of a program and a website that will reach out to the public to help educate people in all sectors about the proud, if imperfect, history of their federal government.

Task Group: To organize this effort, the Council authorized long-time member Judson MacLaury to assemble and chair an Outreach Group. The following SHFG members, four of them past presidents and all experienced historical professionals, agreed to join the Group and have worked to organize this initiative: Carl Ashley, Christine Blackerby, Elizabeth Charles, Lee Ann Potter, Michael Reis, Don Ritchie, and Marc Rothenberg.

Mission: Recent surveys have revealed historically low levels of knowledge of basic facts about the federal government, and recent elections have clearly demonstrated the impact of this situation. The Outreach Program's primary mission is to combat widespread misunderstanding by sharing with the public the histories of a wide range of federal agencies. An important side benefit will be to facilitate public access to the online work of federal historical professionals.

Histories and Resources: The primary vehicle for Outreach will be a public Portal that will be linked from the main SHFG webpage. This Portal will provide a comprehensive directory to the full spectrum of the historical pages and online resources of the federal government. This will include a list of all known agency history pages, currently covering over 150 agencies. It is our hope that users seeking information on one topic will take advantage of the ease of visiting other pages. Besides making the work of historical offices and agencies more accessible online to a wider public, Outreach will promote and assist in the development of their own webpages.

Paired with the agency histories section will be a comprehensive listing of links to federal historical resources. It will pull together access to major repositories (like the Library of Congress and National Archives), smaller collections scattered among the agencies, and other resources.

"Beta" List: Before releasing this material to the public, we have created a "Beta" version accessible here: <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/outreachmainpage>. We encourage you to examine it critically.



Minerva mosaic at the Library of Congress.

Future: We envision developing the program into a teaching, learning, and research resource for all students of government, from K–12 and higher education students to the general public and inquiring retired men and women.

Members' Role: We will look to you, the members, to make it possible to realize the full potential of this venture. We will be counting on you for feedback, ideas, and creative contributions.

We are anxious to know what you think about the Outreach Program. You will receive a questionnaire shortly in which you can share your views with us. But don't hesitate to email us directly with your comments and questions. We will rely on your input as we finalize the site for the public roll-out.

Please send all your comments and questions to shfgoutreach@gmail.com.

Donate to SHFG

Support New SHFG Events

Please donate to SHFG's current efforts to organize and promote new events and workshops. These events will provide opportunities for professional development: to meet colleagues, exchange ideas, and learn more about the federal community. We urge you to contribute to our General Fund. You can donate the amount of your choice, either by check or online payment (at <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Donate>)

Your donations also support all activities of the Society, including publication of *The Federalist* newsletter, *Federal History* journal, and stories and news for our website; our annual conference, the Richard G. Hewlett Lecture; and programming such as occasional tours, workshops, and social events that help students and historians develop in their careers.

Report from the Outreach Chair

By Judson MacLaury

While I was in Washington, DC, in October to attend SHFG's Richard Hewlett event, I met with officials from the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) and, separately, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE). The purpose was to demonstrate the new Beta version of the Outreach site (<http://shfg.wildapricot.org/outreachmainpage>) and develop relationships with two influential organizations that represent a combined 900,000+ federal employees and retirees.

I met with Richard Loeb, Senior Policy Consultant for AFGE, at the headquarters in Washington on October 18th. Richard, a former federal attorney with years of experience (and quite a history buff), seemed very impressed with the website. He found it easy to use, and he loved seeing all the history pages and history resources gathered together in one place. He felt that Outreach should be of great interest to government employees. He agreed that AFGE should consider how it might publicize Outreach to those it represents. We promised to follow up with them as we get closer to the public rollout.

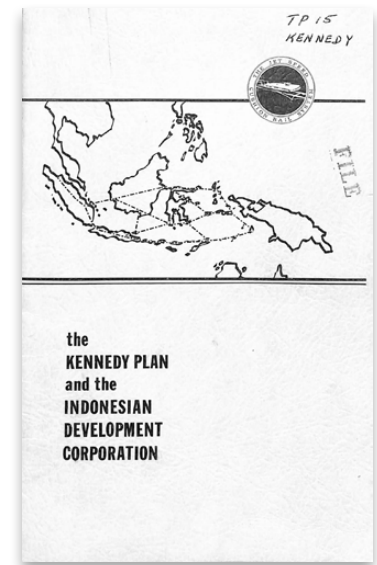
On October 20th, accompanied by Michael Reis of History

Associates, I met with Barbara Sido, NARFE Executive Director, and Susan Boswell, Editor, NARFE Magazine, at their Alexandria headquarters. They were also impressed with the content and functionality of the Outreach site. They believe that their members, many of them retirees who are actively "finding themselves" and putting their careers as federal employees in historical context, would be very interested in Outreach. Susan pointed out that the pictorial item "The Way We Worked," provided in cooperation with SHFG, is the magazine's most popular feature. Barbara and Susan promised to explore ways to publicize Outreach, SHFG, and federal history to their members, and we agreed to provide them with copy or authors as needed. They will also be looking into integrating federal history into NARFE's centennial in 2021, for which planning is about to begin.

With these budding partnerships and the rollout of the Beta version, I believe SHFG Outreach is off to a strong start. I want to thank the seven members of the Outreach Task Group for their ideas and support.

Newly Declassified Records

This issue's featured declassified series is significant—covering a memorable and still-controversial episode in U.S. foreign policy history. Drawn from Record Group 84, Foreign Posts of the United States, Entry P 339 consists of 37 hollinger boxes of the Classified Central Subject Files of the U.S. Embassy, Djakarta, Indonesia, 1963–1969. It was during these years that U.S.-Indonesian relations reached their nadir, internal revolts roiled the entire Indonesian archipelago, and the New Order government of General Suharto slowly replaced the Sukarno regime. Types of records found in P 339 are cables, memoranda, letters, newspaper articles, reports, and publications all related to the Embassy's observations and actions during those years. The Ambassador's observations about Indonesian government leadership and the various anti-American disturbances are eye-catching. Not as colorful, but certainly important to those studying the history of this era, is the Embassy and Department of State's analyses of Indonesia's economy and the financial and industrial/commodities sectors in the months leading up to the revolt of the 30 September movement. Other documents follow the developments of what became known as the *Konfrontasi*, the conflict between the newly-formed nation of Malaysia (and members of the British Commonwealth) and Indonesia. Other records in this series document Embassy-actions protecting U.S. citizens, such as the missionary Harold Lovestrand and his family, and the protection of American interests in Indonesia against confidence men such as John B. Kennedy. Like most previous series described in this column, documents have been withdrawn from these records. For the withdrawn documents, standard National Declassification Center withdrawn item notices have been inserted, each bearing enough information for the researcher to make a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR) request. To discover more record series declassified by the NDC, please visit the NDC Blog at <http://blogs.archives.gov/ndc/> for complete lists of declassified record series made available as soon as declassification processing is complete. Visitors to the blog also have an opportunity to set processing priorities on a number of record series awaiting indexing.



Cover of a brochure produced by John B. Kennedy's Indonesia Development Corporation, featuring the impossibly fantastic Cushion Rail Transportation System crisscrossing the Indonesian archipelago.

Reflections on History and Harry Potter at the US National Library of Medicine

By Jill L. Newmark

As the world's largest biomedical library, the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health houses a vast collection of print and electronic materials filled with medical information, research and history. NLM's most amazing resource is the History of Medicine Division (<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/index.html>), which collects, preserves, makes available, and interprets for diverse audiences one of the world's richest collections of historical materials related to human health and disease. The collections include thousands of volumes of rare and historical materials dating as far back as the 11th century. From its earliest origins in 1836, as the U.S. Surgeon General's library, to the present, NLM provides endless expertise and medical information to the public, here and abroad.

One of the joys of working in the History of Medicine Division of this great library is being close to its world-renowned historical collection spanning ten centuries and representing nearly every part of the globe. These unique and rare materials not only open a window to medical history, but intersect with and reflect economic, political and social history. Sometimes they even inspire popular culture. The History of Medicine collections include beautifully illustrated books authored by great Renaissance scientists and thinkers like Nicolas Flamel, Paracelsus, Cornelius Agrippa, and Ambrose Paré. If these names sound familiar to you, it is probably because you have read about them in the enormously popular Harry Potter book series. Influenced by these real-life historical figures in science and medicine, J.K. Rowling's research into history is clearly reflected in her Harry Potter series. The character Nicolas Flamel, a French alchemist, is the maker of the philosopher's stone, believed to be a key to immortality and Cornelius Agrippa, a noted German occultist, alchemist and physician, is featured on a wizard card found inside a Chocolate Frog treat collected by Harry Potter and his friends at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

The history documented in these historical scientific books and the popular story of Harry Potter first crossed paths at the NLM several years ago, when one of the library's reference librarians brought a small French volume, *La Metallique Transformation*, into the Exhibition Program offices as an example of how he engages with young people who visit the library. The author, to our great surprise, was Nicolas Flamel, who we were all familiar with from the Harry Potter books. The librarian used this rare historical volume to introduce medical history to his young visitors, making a connection between history and contemporary life and bringing relevance to their visit.



Above left: *Nicolas Flamel*

Above right: *A 16th century "potions" class from Liber de arte distillandi de compositis, 1512, Hieronymus Brunschwig*

Below: *Visitors to the History of Medicine Reading Room at the National Library of Medicine exploring the Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic and Medicine exhibition*



From that simple introduction to a volume in the History of Medicine collections, came a small exhibition at the library and an enormously successful traveling banner exhibition whose popularity has kept six copies traveling around the country since 2009.

This past June, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first publication of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (published in the United States as *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*), the NLM created a special display that featured the library's traveling banner exhibition *Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic and Medicine* (<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/harrypotter-sworld/>) alongside a display of 15th, 16th and 17th century books that influenced the Harry Potter series. This juxtaposition of history and popular culture attracted over 600 visitors, both adults and children, to the History of Medicine reading room during the week-long exhibit. Visitors spent quality time exploring the books on display, learning the history they contained and using it to spark their imagination to learn more about the connections between history and Harry Potter as they

See "*Reflections on History*" cont'd on page 7

The Importance of a Historical Perspective in Policy Making: Making Space for Common Ground

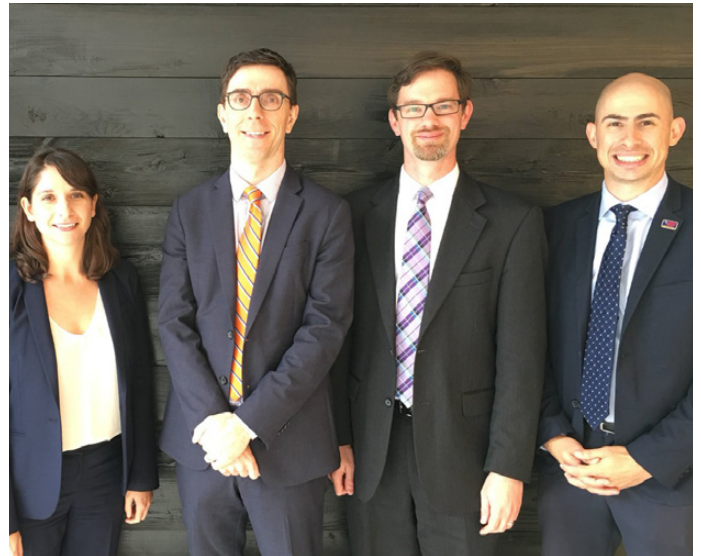
By Sarah Knowles

On Friday afternoon October 13th, the Villanova on the Hill Cohort gathered at the Business Roundtable and interacted with a panel of Historians working in the federal government hosted by Villanova's newly established Lepage Center. This panel included Thomas Faith, Historian in the Department of State, Clara Altman, Federal Judicial History and Daniel Holt, an assistant historian in the Senate Historical Office.

During this discussion, I and the other cohort members learned about the internal and external roles of historians in the federal government. Internally, historians within the federal government are focused on preserving records within their specific branches of government. For example, the Judiciary Historian, Clara Altman, discussed the importance of both preserving each case the Supreme Court examines as well as the extensive records generated by individual Judges. Externally, historians answer questions about policy through the historical context to citizens, reporters, and congressmen.

The historians primarily emphasized the importance of understanding policy issues in a historical context. This means that the issues we face now are rooted in past institutional interactions. Engaging in current policy changes and institutional implications with a historical context helps to identify what the policy problem is and how American institutions have shaped specific policies. Therefore, an understanding of policy with a historical context broadens the discussion around specific policies and helps policymakers find common ground.

Also, each historian discussed the importance of encouraging individual senators, judges, and government officials not to make judgments about what is and is not historically important. This specific aspect of historical work in the federal



Pictured from left to right: Clara Altman, Daniel Holt, Thomas Faith, and Jason Steinhauer at Villanova on the Hill

government was primarily emphasized because it is impossible to know what will be historically significant in the future! What might be extremely significant in contemporary American culture may not be as important in the future, and vice versa. Ultimately, the historical panel helped to expand the way I think about legislative policy and understand the interrelation of culture, institutions, and history that influences contemporary social issues and policies.

Sarah Knowles is a Junior at Villanova University studying Sociology and Political Science. She participated in the Villanova on the Hill program, a week-long immersion program in Washington for a select group of Villanova students interested in politics and public affairs, focusing on issues of bipartisanship in policy making. This article was originally posted at the Villanova ICE Institute blog (<http://www.villanovaice.com/2017/10/the-importance-of-a-historical-perspective-in-policy-making-making-space-for-common-ground/>) and is reprinted here with permission.

"Reflections on History" from page 6

reflected on the story they loved so much. Many explored the fully digitized historical books online, and some young students used these materials to create stories of their own. The excitement and joy was palpable and it was wonderful to see how a creative approach to history can stimulate and inspire people of all ages.

History and Harry Potter indeed go hand-in-hand and NLM discovered a way to creatively engage their audiences in the

intersection between history and popular culture. The great success of the library's exhibition is a testament to the popularity of the Harry Potter series, to the power of libraries everywhere to engage the mind, and to the excitement of learning how history influences literature and modern-day life.

Jill L. Newmark is an exhibition registrar, curator, and manager of traveling exhibition services at the U.S. National Library of Medicine.

The U.S. Diplomacy Center, Department of State

Telling the Story of American Diplomacy: Challenges

By Alison T. Mann with contributions from Kathryn Speckart

Visitors walking up 21st Street NW near the corner of Virginia Ave in Washington, DC's Foggy Bottom area, will notice a beautiful glass building abutting the original 1940s entrance to the State Department, formally the War Department building. This glass pavilion is the entrance to the United States Diplomacy Center. When completed, it will be the first museum and education center dedicated to telling the stories of American diplomacy and the work of our diplomats on behalf of the United States. Visitors will learn about the practice of diplomacy and the history of American foreign policy through multi-media exhibits, education and public programs, and curated artifacts. A nonpartisan, public-private partnership, the Center was conceived of by former Ambassador Stephen Low and Senator Charles Mathias during Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's tenure. With her strong support, a partnership was formed with the Diplomacy Center Foundation to raise funds for the construction of the Pavilion, the renovation of existing space within the State Department, and design and implementation of exhibits. The "public" side of the partnership, the U.S. Department of State, provides the space, staff, and security. Enthusiasm and support for the project has never wavered, though the public-private partnership has presented several challenges unique to establishing a public education and museum center inside a federal agency, which includes amassing and interpreting collections.

Early curators were faced with the Herculean task of building a collection from a few unremarkable gifts to former Secretaries, commemorative medals, and some replicas and busts. They were well aware they would need to search for compelling artifacts spanning the broad scope of American diplomatic history. And what constitutes diplomatic history? Jokes ensued regarding having a museum full of pens (which we do have, recently having collected the pen used to sign the 1981 *Declaration of Algiers* freeing the American hostages from Tehran), but our extensive collection of diplomats' communication tools, historic flags and material objects, art, jewelry, treaties, booklets, and much more, has grown largely due to the donations from retired diplomats and transfers from embassies. Acquisition of these personal objects has proved invaluable, as the Center has been able to craft personal stories around the broad framework of American diplomatic history.

To date, the Center has collected 7500 fascinating (and sometimes unusual) artifacts of diplomacy, and the curators continue to add items meeting the project's mission. One fascinating example of State Department institutional history is a



Above: *The U.S. Diplomacy Center Pavilion.*

Right: *A 1850s consular uniform worn by John Young Mason, U.S. Minister to France.*



1850s consular uniform worn by John Young Mason, U.S. Minister to France. Early American diplomats were instructed to wear the "simple dress of an American citizen" for official duties, which provided them a great deal of discretion. As most appeared before royal heads of state, the uniform of choice had to meet the "simple" requirement, yet be formally appropriate to appear in court. A former Secretary of the Navy, Mason chose a style resembling a naval dress uniform—simple, stylish, and dignified.

More stories of diplomacy told through the Center's artifacts will be featured in future newsletters, and interested readers can see more on C-SPAN's "American Artifacts," airing December 2017.

Alison T. Mann is a public historian at the U.S. Diplomacy Center and Kathryn Speckart is an associate curator.

Federal History Delivered by RSS

By Thomas Faith

RSS stands for Rich Site Summary, or Really Simple Syndication, a form of web syndication for frequently updated websites such as news release feeds or blog posts. Some federal history projects use RSS feeds to broadcast news and updates, and RSS feeds are a great way to get current information about history programs that interest you, without having to check their websites repeatedly over the Internet. You need to download and install an RSS feed-reader app in order to access RSS feeds—most are available free. RSS feed readers are useful for anyone who likes to read news online, but they are particularly worth trying if you are a person who dislikes aspects of more “social” media like Facebook or Twitter, since RSS feeds are simply broadcasts and are not designed to facilitate community interaction. Here are some of the RSS feeds that provide information on federal historical topics.

There are many Smithsonian Institution RSS feeds used for disseminating news and historical articles, including feeds for the National Museum of American History, National Portrait Gallery, and National Postal Museum. *Smithsonian Magazine* has a customized feed that can exclusively broadcast history related content and omit articles on other subjects.

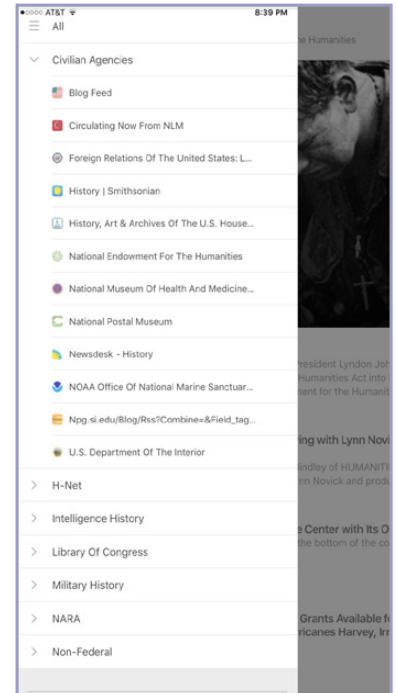
The National Archives and Records Administration supports an impressive variety of RSS feeds, a list of which can be found here <https://www.archives.gov/social-media/rss-feeds.html>, including DocsTeach, Prologue, The Text Message, and AOTUS feeds. The Library of Congress’ lengthy list of RSS feeds is here <https://www.loc.gov/rss/>, where you can access news feeds for most divisions within the LOC. The CIA supports newsroom, job posting, and library feeds, the latter of which alerts subscribers to

the availability of new publications and other research tools.

Air University’s *Air and Space Power Journal* broadcasts its articles by RSS feed, as does the Naval History and Heritage Command’s blog the *Sextant*. The U.S. House of Representatives Office of History, Art, and Archives blog and the National Library of Medicine’s blog both broadcast their posts via RSS. The Office of the Historian at the Department of State and the National Endowment for the Humanities share updates by RSS feed.

Many historical groups outside of the federal government also support RSS feeds, including the National Council for Public History and the National Coalition for History. History Associates has an RSS feed, as does WETA’s Washington history blog *Boundary Stones*. Many H-Net forums broadcast via RSS, including H-Announce, H-Review, and the H-Net job guide.

Whether you already use an RSS reader to get current news, or you’ve never used one before, consider using RSS for up to date information on projects that impact the history of the federal government.



Example of an RSS feed reader menu.

History Associates Contracted to Support the US Army Corps of Engineers Office of History

The U.S Army Corps of Engineers Office of History (CEHO) has contracted with History Associates to provide a wide range of historical services—from research and writing, to exhibit and website development, to archives and collections management. The \$2 million multi-year indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract includes a base year and two option years.

History Associates has already been awarded the first task under this contract to arrange, conserve, and describe a variety of archival collections housed in CEHO’s Research Collection, which is the most comprehensive archive of Army Engineer material in the United States. These research materials are used by CEHO historians and curators, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) personnel, and external researchers to document the

history of the USACE and understand its role in support of the Army and the evolution of the United States.

Future historical projects may include researching and writing narrative histories related to the USACE, developing printed and online publications and exhibits, organizing and digitizing historical materials, providing curatorial support for artifact collections, and conducting oral histories.

The award of this contract resulted from a competitive bidding process that included rigorous scrutiny of the proposals by the Office of History. History Associates was one of three vendors awarded the contract.

For more information about History Associates, call (301) 279-9697 or visit www.historyassociates.com.

From the Archives

The “Spector Report” — Public History Programs Evaluation

By Chas Downs

Founded by individuals with strong opinions and differing views, The Society for History in the Federal Government struggled early to find its purpose and articulate its goals. In the formative years, Society members were not always in agreement as to how it should operate and what issues it should take on. An example of this can be found in the saga of the so-called “Spector Report.”

The Fall 1980 *Federalist* (Vol. 1, No. 2, p. 4) announced that the SHFG Education and Training Subcommittee, headed by Ronald Spector of the Center for Military History, was “planning a study of the relations between government history programs and educational programs in public history. The study will help determine whether students trained in this new field are emerging with the skills that federal historians need.” The next issue of *The Federalist* for Winter 1981 (Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 3-4) elaborated slightly, adding that “Spector and a group of other members of the Society are conducting a survey of public history programs and reactions to them by Federal historians and archivists. The aim of the survey is determine how well the training individuals are receiving is preparing them for potential jobs in government agencies.” It noted that the study was jointly sponsored with the American Historical Association. A copy of the survey questionnaire and cover letter is in the SHFG Archives (Series 1, Box 9).

In an article titled “Survey of Academic Public History Programs,” in *The Federalist*, Spring 1981 (Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 1, 8, & 11), Spector released the project’s preliminary findings. The subcommittee “had designed a questionnaire to survey and evaluate so-called applied or public history programs in colleges and universities.” Forty questionnaires were sent and twenty-three replies were received; of these only thirteen identified their programs as applied or public history. Spector summarized the survey’s results, acknowledging the limitations of the small sample and the newness of the programs. Even so, he was quite critical of the lack of consistency that the survey discovered, and the failure of these programs to expand the horizons of history. The schools’ internship programs most impressed him, as did those programs that were genuinely interdisciplinary. He was disappointed that the programs’ faculties had little professional experience outside academia and provided little training in the use of modern government records.

Spector’s article evaluating the results of the surveys quickly drew a response, which was published in the next issue of *The Federalist* for Fall 1981 (Vol. 2, No. 3, p. 6) under “Correspondence on the Spector Survey.” In a letter to *Federalist* editor Sharon

Gibbs (Thibodeau), Aleisia Maltz, of the Program for the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Illinois at Urbana, found Spector’s conclusions to be premature and unfair, and argued that “it is inappropriate that he judges at all.” She concluded by questioning how much federal historians had done to promote public history. In his response, which appeared on the same page of *The Federalist*, Spector was disturbed that Maltz rejected out of hand any attempt to evaluate the quality and utility of public history programs. He also expressed his misgivings about the employability of historians these programs were producing. Spector went on to say, “We have an oversupply of historians and some of the same professors who helped create that oversupply are now into public history.” In an “Editorial Postscript” to this exchange, Paul Sheips objected to Maltz’s distinction between public historians and federal historians, because federal historians “were public historians long before the present public history movement appeared.” More optimistic than Spector, Sheips wrote, “I think we should expand the uses of history because of the values of history and not limit the supply of those who practice it.”

Spector submitted a copy of the subcommittee report, entitled “Public History Program Evaluation: A Draft Report of the Subcommittee on Education and Training, Society for History in the Federal Government”, to the SHFG Executive Council for approval, and it was placed on the agenda for the February 2, 1982, meeting. On January 20, SHFG President David Trask asked Paul Sheips to convene a subcommittee to make recommendations to the Executive Council on taking further action on the draft report. Sheips and the two other subcommittee members, Maeva Marcus and Sharon Gibbs (Thibodeau), recognized the report had good ideas but had some criticisms of it in its current form. Since the Subcommittee on Education and Training no longer existed, the report needed to be submitted to its successor, the Committee on Federal Historical Programs, chaired by Richard A. Baker. In a letter dated March 5, Baker reported to President Trask that a panel consisting of he, Anna Nelson, and Arnita Jones had reviewed the draft report at his request. Baker wrote that the report confirmed the panel’s belief that the current public history programs are “irrelevant to the needs of federal historical agencies,” but the data on which it was based was too preliminary and incomplete to justify its recommendations. While the conclusion deserved further verification, they did not believe that this was the appropriate time to do so. The panel recommended that the draft report be held “in abeyance for at least three years,” until a more stable survey population has developed. “Until then, we strongly urge the council to defer action.”

On May 20, 1982, the status of the Spector report was addressed by the Executive Council. The recommendation of the Baker panel to defer action was noted. Spector, no longer a subcommittee chair, was present as “a member of the SHFG with business before the Council”. He defended the report, noting that it represented the views of the entire subcommittee, which was

composed of experienced historians, arguing that any similar group would have come to similar conclusions. The report was not based on the surveys alone but utilized information listed in course catalogues. “The report was designed to be constructive in tone and not critical.”

Spector stated that the Society would be evading its responsibilities to wait three years before publishing it, and the Society did not have to agree with everything in the report in order to publish it. Spector suggested that the report could be published with a disclaimer and not be endorsed by the Society. Members of the Executive Council made several comments about the report, after which Spector withdrew from the proceedings. Discussion continued on the value of the report and how best to proceed. The Council members decided not to send the report back for revision, but to publish it as a basis for discussion. David Allison suggested that they return the report to Spector to condense it and make it suitable for publication in *The Federalist*. This course of action was unanimously approved by the Council.

In *The Federalist* for September 1982 (Vol. 3, No. 3, pp. 7-8), the article titled “Public History Programs and Federal Historians: An Assessment,” appeared with the following extraordinary introductory paragraph:

This is a summary of the final report of the subcommittee chaired by Ronald Spector. The views expressed in it are solely those of the committee and do not represent the position of the SHFG. The Society is publishing the report in an effort to encourage constructive debate on this important topic.

This summary of the report consisted of much of the same material from the preliminary report that appeared earlier in *The Federalist*. It did include a statement that the subcommittee included members with “a cross-section of experience in a variety of fields,” but none were “directly connected to any academic public history program.” The report noted that the data it collected was two-years old, and might no longer be relevant, but did describe continuing problems of a fundamental nature. One area of concern was the lack of communication between public and academic historians, and public history programs were not helping to narrow this division. Public history faculty members needed to work more closely with federal historians to learn about actual job requirements. Such interaction would result in better historians and a stronger profession. The report concluded, that as public history programs continue to mature, they must be “solidly based on rigorous professional standards and carefully tailored to the diversity of employment available.”

Of special interest are seven “recommendations” appearing at the end of the draft report, but which did not appear in the revised, published version, that reemphasized the points made in the body of the report.

- History departments should consider familiarizing all their students with employment possibilities outside of academia, instead of creating a few specialists in public history.

- They should not try to teach everything, but concentrate on that which can be taught well.
- Encourage Increased contact between academic and public historians.
- History associations should profile public historians in order to acquaint academic historians with their diversity and accomplishments.
- An advisory group should be created to work with public history programs and federal historians.
- Internships should be tailored to allow students to work in their chosen fields.
- Emphasize that students should be grounded in basic history and research methods rather than in specialized skills more readily acquired by on-the-job training.

Aside from allowing the revised version to appear in *The Federalist*, the Executive Council was unwilling to do more with the report. Some members had misgivings about its methodology and feared that it was already outdated. Others found that its conclusions were too blunt, or wanted to give public history programs more time to mature before evaluating them. As Dennis Roth noted in his ten year history of the SHFG, the Council “did not want to be too critical at a time when these programs were just getting started. Besides there was a feeling that it might alienate potential allies in the public history movement.” After all, the SHFG had been in existence for only a brief time and was still trying to find its own identity.

To learn more about the SHFG Archives, or if you have additional information or documentation on this or other SHFG matters, contact Chas Downs at chasdowns@verizon.net.

Donate to SHFG

Support New SHFG Events

Please donate to SHFG’s current efforts to organize and promote new events and workshops. These events will provide opportunities for professional development: to meet colleagues, exchange ideas, and learn more about the federal community. We urge you to contribute to our General Fund. You can donate the amount of your choice, either by check or online payment (at <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Donate>)

Your donations also support all activities of the Society, including publication of *The Federalist* newsletter, *Federal History* journal, and stories and news for our website; our annual conference, the Richard G. Hewlett Lecture; and programming such as occasional tours, workshops, and social events that help students and historians develop in their careers.

The History Professional *An Interview with John Suau*

John Suau became the Executive Director of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. in 2014, where he not only oversees historical programming but also helms the ongoing redesign of the Society's home at the historic Carnegie Library Building. Prior to his appointment, he served as Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums, and as Manager of Meetings, Professional Education, and Diversity for the American Alliance of Museums.



John Suau

Interview by Thomas Faith

What are your current duties at the Historical Society of Washington D.C.?

I am the executive director of the organization; since we are a very small staff of 4 full-time employees, I am a soup-to-nuts “change leader” for the organization.

You had an extensive background in museum work before becoming executive director of the Historical Society, but is there a particular aspect of your personal or professional experiences that you think most influences your approach to your current position?

I think that all of my previous experiences have informed my current role, but perhaps my tenure at the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and my role as executive director for the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums (MAAM) may have been the most important. The 10 plus years of work in the Washington area planted seeds to some of the most significant relationships I have maintained over the years. They have allowed me to advance the mission of the Historical Society and to recreate the Historical Society in a collaborative arena—since my approach has been one of collaboration since my first day.

What are some strengths of the Historical Society's collection related to the history of Washington, D.C.?

Our entire collection is related to the history of the District. We have great resources for researchers in many areas. Our business archives have records of such defunct department stores as Woodward & Lothrop, hardware stores (Hechinger), breweries, funeral homes, and banks. Our maps, atlases, and directories all support homeowners researching their house histories. Our strength resides in the diversity of our collections, from ephemera such as menus, tickets, pamphlets and posters to works of art and thousands of photographs. They all help to inform researchers about what came before as we continue to collect today's D.C. for future researchers.

How does the history of the District inform the study of the history of the federal government?

D.C. history, whether local or federal, is American history.

The relationship between the local and the federal in Washington, D.C. obviously is both dynamic and intertwined. While the Historical Society has traditionally focused on local stories often overshadowed by federal concerns, it is impossible to talk about local history without contextualizing it within the national story as well as the federal government's ongoing use of D.C. as a testing ground for its experiments and whims. Today, we seek to find the sweet spot where the local and federal stories meet to create U.S. history.

How does the partnership between the Historical Society and Apple work in practice?

This is a new paradigm for both the Historical Society and Apple. The Historical Society holds the master lease in the Carnegie Library with Events DC until 2098, so the partnership is actually a tri-party, cross-sector collaboration between the public, private, and non-profit sectors. The project is based in the reality that the Apple Global Flagship store will coexist next to the Historical Society. As a part of the project, Apple has provided resources to enable the Historical Society to relocate operations to the Newseum during the restoration of the building. Apple's restoration of the Carnegie Library will result in a new and better home for the Historical Society's collections, programs, and operations.

How did the idea for this partnership originate?

Apple approached the Historical Society in early 2015. Apple has similar global flagship stores in historic buildings in important cities around the world.

What will the renovated Carnegie Library Building feature for visitors and researchers?

We will continue to run the Kiplinger Research Library on the second level of the building. The structure will be modified and updated so that collections will have state-of-the-art climate controls and secure access. The building, restored in great measure to its original plan, will feature two new Historical Society public spaces to host exhibits and public programs. In the new situation, our public hours will expand so researchers will have

greater access to the Historical Society's collections. The project will expose more of the historic building to the public than any time in its history. We foresee a huge increase in our visibility, with projections of an average of more than 10,000 visitors coming to the building each week.

What stage is the plan in now?

We have finalized the conceptual plans and the historic reviews have been completed. We are working with Apple on the final designs, with the ultimate goal of returning to the Carnegie Library in late 2018.

What lessons have you learned from working with a for-profit entity?

From the beginning of our discussions, it was clear that this type of partnership was as new to Apple as it was to us. I have a real respect for Apple and their emphasis on design. The expertise that they bring to the table is paralleled by the resources they are able to leverage to support this project. Alone, the Historical

Society would struggle to get the necessary building updates to allow us a 21st-century presence in the Carnegie Library. The Apple team has been extremely collaborative. I dare to venture that as a result of our partnership, they understand better our expertise in content about the city. Together, we envision a transformative partnership that will evolve over the next 20 years or more.

What is your favorite aspect of your duties?

I thrive on connecting people and realizing new projects. I am passionate about lifelong learning, for myself and for others. I enjoy the wide variety of things I have an opportunity to influence and help to change. I enjoy updating the Historical Society's relevance to new and younger audiences, and I love seeing the results of our work manifest in Washington History (our biannual publication about the history of DC) and our annual History Awards, when we honor the people and places in the city that make Washington, D.C. an amazing and wonderful place to live and work.

Ground is Broken on Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial

On November 2, 2017, in Washington, Members of Congress and the Administration; members of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission; the Eisenhower Family; and friends of the Eisenhower Memorial gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Eisenhower Memorial.

The event, emceed by Greta Van Susteren, featured the President's Own U.S. Marine Band Brass Quintet; a Presentation of Colors by the Color Guard Unit from USS Eisenhower; an Invocation by Father Leo Blasi, Priest at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays, Kansas, and vocals by teenagers Emma and Annie Bathurst of Abilene, Kansas, Eisenhower's home town.

Speaking at the ceremony were: Senator Pat Roberts and Congressman Mike Thompson, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Eisenhower Memorial, respectively; Susan Eisenhower; and First Captain of the West Point Corps of Cadets, Simone Askew. In his remarks, Senator Roberts, observed:

"We build this memorial today not only to honor a single person, but as a symbol for all generations of the greatness of America and what our values have made possible at home and abroad," Roberts said. "Lest anyone forget what can be achieved in the land of the free and the home of the brave, let them come here and understand what Eisenhower, and America, have done. And what they, in turn, will do for themselves and for our nation's future."

Groundbreaking participants included members of three generations of the Eisenhower family, ten members of the bipartisan Eisenhower Memorial Commission; and memorial designer, Frank Gehry.

Following the ceremony, memorial designer Mr. Gehry, commented,



Artist rendering of the Eisenhower Memorial

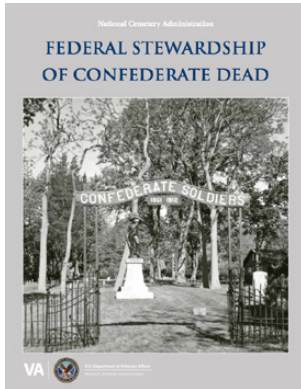
This project has been an enormous honor for me both professionally and personally. I was sixteen years old when Eisenhower defeated the Nazis and led America to victory in WWII. I had lost thirty-three members of my family in the camps, so his victory was all the more meaningful to me. His leadership in peacetime was as inspiring. He led the country with strength, but also with great humanity and humility. I hope that these values are captured in the memorial, and that it will be a place to honor and to learn from one of the greatest heroes that the world has ever known.

During the ceremony, Senator Roberts announced that the Construction Permit to begin building the memorial has been granted by the National Park Service and that construction will commence immediately.

Dedication of the memorial is envisioned for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, May 8, 2020.

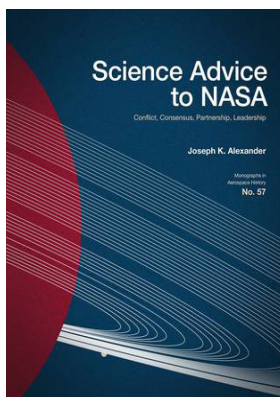
Recent Publications

Many recent federal agency publications are featured at <http://shfg.org/shfg/category/recentpublications/>



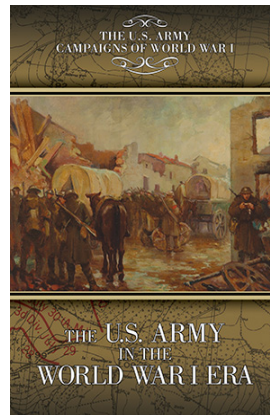
Federal Stewardship of Confederate Dead is the result of a project the History Program of the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), developed to assemble primary historic information about a thematic group of NCA properties—cemeteries and memorials that exclusively or partially contain Confederate burials. It encompasses nine Confederate cemeteries and nine national ceme-

teries that contain in excess of four hundred Confederate interments each. This publication marks the completion of the 2010 *Confederate Historic Resource Study* context and allows NCA to make it available to users in print and online. The objective is to educate VA and its partners, Civil War scholars and enthusiasts, and the public about these lesser-known federal cemeteries. Part I of the study, the historic context, addresses the legislation and the broad social and political currents that affected the ownership and marking of some Confederate graves. Part II of this study, the individual cemetery histories, describes their physical evolution in the context of nineteenth century geography, construction of Confederate monuments/memorials, individuals significant to decision making, the number of Confederate dead interred, and other themes applicable to multiple sites. Tangential but critical information associated with the history of these properties and NCA's management is found in the appendices. This includes the legislation that guided the location, marking, and ownership of Confederate cemeteries; national and military flags of the Confederacy; and instances of commemorative events, including the display of Confederate flags. Read it at https://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/publications/NCA_Fed_Stewardship_Confed_Dead.pdf.



Science Advice to NASA: Conflict, Consensus, Partnership, Leadership is now available. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has a long history of interacting closely with and inviting advice from the scientific community. This tradition is integral to the culture of the Agency's scientific programs. In this newly published monograph from Joseph

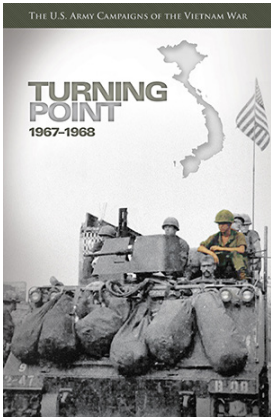
K. Alexander, aspects of the early advisory history at NASA and its predecessor the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) are fleshed out and followed into the mid-2010s. NASA's interactions with outside scientific advisors over the Agency's full lifetime are described in order to draw lessons from that history for research managers, decision makers, and scientists. Finally, Alexander discusses the recurring characteristics of notably successful advisory activities and provides a glimpse of what past experience might imply for the future of scientific advice at NASA. Printed copies are available free at the NASA Headquarters Information Center, 300 E St. SW, Suite 1U72, Washington, DC 20546. Ordering information and more details can be found online at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/hqlibrary/ic/ic2.htm>. Download the e-Book for free at http://www.nasa.gov/connect/ebooks/science_advice_to_nasa_detail.html.



The U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) is pleased to announce the upcoming publication of *The U.S. Army in the World War I Era* as a part of the *U.S. Army Campaigns of World War I* series. Drawn largely from CMH's two-volume textbook, *American Military History*, the pamphlet provides an overview of the decades leading up to the United States joining the World War, and its experiences during the eighteen months of the nation's involvement in the war. The conflict capped a period of reform and professionalization that transformed the Army from a small dispersed organization rooted in constabulary operations to a modern industrialized fighting force capable of global reach and impact. The more than four million Americans who served during the war, half of whom deployed overseas, helped create the modern U.S. Army. This pamphlet is intended to honor their service and to help the members of today's Army to connect with an important element of its past.

CMH provides the United States Army, from senior civilian and military leaders to individual soldiers, with an awareness of history. The purposes are to educate and inform. Other military services, policymakers, government agencies, and the public at large also benefit from the Center's history program. To those ends, CMH produces publications on the history of the United States Army for worldwide distribution, administers the Army's far-ranging field history operations, and manages the Army's museums both stateside and abroad.

CMH publishes books, monographs, pamphlets, CD-ROMs, historical map posters, and the professional bulletin *Army History*. For more about the Center, go to www.history.army.mil; the home page also provides a link to CMH's online book catalog.

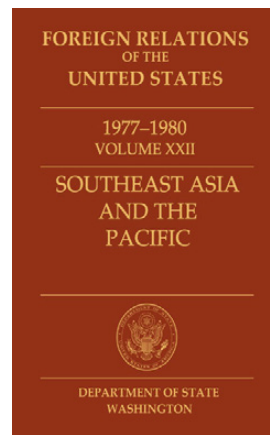


The U.S. Army Center of Military History recently published a new pamphlet in its *U.S. Army Campaigns of the Vietnam War* series, *Turning Point, 1967–1968*, by Adrian G. Traas. The author describes several key operations that took place in South Vietnam. During October 1967, the United States appeared to be making slow but steady gains against the Viet Cong insurgents and their North Vietnamese allies who were at-

tempting to destroy the South Vietnamese government. The enemy was suffering enormous casualties. Hammered from the air by B–52 bombers and disrupted by allied ground sweeps, the Viet Cong base areas in South Vietnam were no longer the safe havens they once had been. The author discusses a turning point in the war that came in 1968 with the Tet offensive, a massive campaign launched by the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong against major urban areas and military installations in South Vietnamese. As a result of the surprise attack, the U.S. press and public began to challenge President Johnson's assurances of success and to question the value of the increasingly costly war. The author concludes that although Tet was a military disaster for the Communists, the conflict had shaken America's will to continue to fight.

The Center of Military History (CMH) provides the United States Army, from senior civilian and military leaders to individual soldiers, with an awareness of history. The purposes are to educate and inform. Other military services, policymakers, government agencies, and the public at large also benefit from the Center's history program. To those ends, CMH produces publications on the history of the United States Army for worldwide distribution, administers the Army's far-ranging field history operations, and manages the Army's museums both stateside and abroad. CMH publishes books, monographs, pamphlets, CD-ROMs, historical map posters, and the professional bulletin *Army History*. For more about the Center, go to www.history.army.mil; the home page also provides a link to CMH's online book catalog.

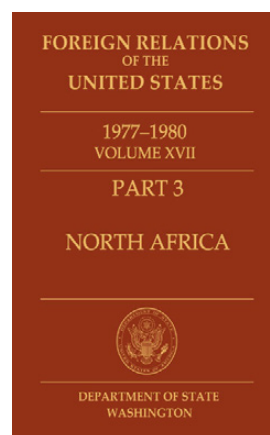
The Department of State released *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1977–1980, Volume XXII, Southeast Asia and*



the Pacific. This volume is part of a *Foreign Relations* subseries that documents the most important foreign policy issues of the Jimmy Carter administration. The focus of this volume is on the administration's largely reactive policy towards the countries in Southeast Asia, as well as substantial documentation on refugee policy and narcotics trafficking, which were important regional issues.

The volume documents the Carter administration's efforts to normalize relations with Vietnam, the Sino-Vietnamese War, and the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea, which led to a refugee crisis in the region; high-level meetings with officials from Australia and New Zealand, including discussions about nuclear proliferation; the establishment of U.S. relations with newly independent Pacific island nations; base negotiations with the Philippines; narcotics trafficking in the Golden Triangle; and the desire of most countries in the region to be a higher U.S. foreign policy priority than they were.

This compilation was compiled and edited by David P. Nickles and Melissa Jane Taylor. The volume and this press release are available on the Office of the Historian website at <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1977-80v22>.



The Department of State released *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1977–1980, Volume XVII, Part 3, North Africa*. This volume is part of a *Foreign Relations* subseries that documents the foreign policy decisions of the administration of President Jimmy Carter. The volume documents the Carter administration's efforts to promote peace and stability in the Maghreb through a variety of strategies that addressed the many challenges in the region: “normalizing”

relations with Algeria and Libya; reassuring Morocco and Tunisia of the administration's continued support and consultation on the Middle East peace initiative; and serving as an “honest broker” in the regional dispute over the Western Sahara. This volume was compiled and edited by Myra F. Burton. The volume and this press release are available on the Office of the Historian website at <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1977-80v17p3>.



The Department of State released a portion of *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1977-1980, Volume XXIV, South America; Latin America Region*. The two compilations released, on Argentina and the Latin America Region, were given priority in the declassification process as part of the National Security Council-led Argentina Declassification Project. Unedited versions of these documents were made available in April 2017 as part of an earlier release.

Today's publication includes additional information on the provenance and context of the documents. The release of the complete volume in 2018 will include compilations on U.S. policy toward nine more countries in South America and the front matter of the volume.

This volume is part of a subseries of volumes in the *Foreign Relations* series that documents the foreign policy of the Carter administration. The compilations released today show high-level U.S. concern over human rights violations in the Southern Cone and policy debates within the U.S. Government over what exactly to do about those violations. Carter's policy toward Argentina sought to promote human rights, moderate the internal dynamics of the ruling junta, and encourage the reestablishment of electoral democracy and an orderly end to the military government that had taken power in March 1976. At the same time, U.S. officials tried to calm disputes between Argentina and its neighbors, limit the spread of developing nuclear technology, encourage the stabilization and growth of the Argentine economy, and, in 1980, ensure Argentine cooperation in the grain embargo that the United States had placed on the Soviet Union.

This volume was compiled and edited by Sara Berndt. The volume and this press release are available on the Office of the Historian website at <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1977-80v24>.

Her Hat Was In the Ring

By Thomas Faith

Kate Kane Rossi, an attorney who practiced in Wisconsin in the late 19th century, ran for Associate Judge of the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 1883. She lost the election and moved to Chicago where she attempted to run for judge again in 1893. Rossi failed to gain enough signatures to appear on the ballot, but ran for public office a third time in 1911 when she campaigned for Chicago Chief of Police. While she was never elected to any of the offices she sought, her attempts represent a significant form of women's political participation in the years that preceded full women's suffrage in the United States.

Her Hat Was In the Ring (<http://www.herhatwasinthering.org/>) is an ongoing web-based project focused on women who ran for political office in the United States prior to the passage of the nineteenth amendment to the Constitution in fall 1920. The project is the creation of Wendy Chmielewski, the George R. Cooley Curator of the Swarthmore College Peace Collection, and Jill Norgren, professor emerita of political science at John Jay College, and the Graduate Center, the City University of New York. The database and website were designed by Kristen Gwinn-Becker, founder and CEO of HistoryIT and author of *Emily Greene Balch: The Long Road to Internationalism*. HistoryIT, owned and managed by professional historians, archivists, and technologists, creates innovative technological solutions for historical projects.

This website features biographical information on over 3000 women who ran in 5000 elections before they secured

the right to vote nationally. The database is organized and searchable by name, state, office, and party. Each woman's entry offers other information, when available, such as birth and death dates, marital status, and occupation. Sadly, and unfortunately for the website user, many entries lack key information. For too many of the women featured at *Her Hat Was In The*



MISS KATE KANE, Chicago

Ring, information on the outcome of their electoral campaigns, and in some cases even their full names, are missing. These omissions are a poignant reflection of the lack of available historical information about most of these prominent and civically active women. *Her Hat Was In The Ring* is an ongoing project, which promises updates as more research is completed. This database remains an important and useful resource for researchers across historical subfields, and will help ensure that information about these relatively unknown office seekers will not be lost to history.

Making History

Atomic Heritage Foundation

The Atomic Heritage Foundation (AHF) is pleased to announce a \$198,000 grant from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, WA, for interpreting the history of the Manhattan Project and its legacy. One hundred thousand dollars will be awarded outright with \$98,000 contingent on raising a one-to-one match. The focus of the grant is the world-changing developments in nuclear science and technology in the Pacific Northwest during World War II and the Cold War and their continuing social, economic, and environmental legacies. These new resources will enrich the experience of visitors to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, which has units at Hanford, WA, Los Alamos, NM, and Oak Ridge, TN. They will also be available to students, educators, journalists and other audiences online.

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

The U.S. Department of Defense announced on September 5, 2017, the selection of Kelly McKeague to be the Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. McKeague was sworn in that morning during a ceremony at the Pentagon. McKeague, who retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2016 at the rank of major general, served as the DPAA Deputy Director and as the Commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, one of the entities merged in 2015 to form the Department's newest defense agency. Fern Sumpter Winbush, who had been serving as Acting Director, will resume her role as Principal Deputy Director for the agency, responsible for formulating policy, overseeing business development, and increasing outreach initiatives.

Department of State

The Department of State announced the release of newly digitized versions of thirty-two volumes from the *Foreign Relations of the United States* series, the official documentary record of U.S. foreign relations. These volumes cover events that took place between 1920 and 1941 and were originally published in print between 1935 and 1943. This release is part of the Office of the Historian's ongoing project, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center, to digitize the entire Foreign Relations series. The University graciously provided high quality scanned images of each printed book, which the Office further digitized to create a full text searchable edition. These volumes are available online and as free ebooks at the Office of the Historian's website (<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments>). This is the latest in a series of quarterly releases, which will continue until the FRUS digital archive is complete.

International Committee of the Red Cross Library and Archives

The ICRC has created *CROSS-Files*, an official blog of the

ICRC Library and Archives. Its purpose is to highlight and bring out specific items or collections as a whole—including audiovisual archives. Researchers are encouraged to explore ICRC history, IHL and humanitarian action through these collections at <http://blogs.icrc.org/cross-files/>.

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress and the five U.S. Service Academies on September 18, 2017, entered an inter-agency cooperative agreement to support growth of service member representation in the national collections at the Library, including within the Veterans History Project. The agreement also provides enhanced research access to Library collections for the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Naval Academy and enhanced access to service academy collections for Library researchers. Read more details at <https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-17-128/>.

On September 19, the Library of Congress launched *labs.loc.gov*, a new online space that will host a changing selection of experiments, projects, events and resources designed to encourage creative use of the Library's digital collections. To help demonstrate the exciting discoveries that are possible, the new site will also feature a gallery of projects from data challenge winners and innovators-in-residence and blog posts and video presentations from leaders in the field.

National Endowment for the Humanities

On August 30, 2017, The National Endowment for the Humanities announced the award of up to \$1 million in emergency grants to preserve

humanities collections and help restore operations at libraries, museums, colleges, universities, and other cultural and historical institutions in the areas of Texas and Louisiana affected by Hurricane Harvey. NEH is providing approximately \$250,000 in initial funding to the two state humanities councils to be re-granted according to their assessments of local needs. The Texas Cultural Emergency Response Alliance and the Heritage Emergency National Task Force also will receive NEH funding to conduct outreach and assess damage. In addition, cultural institutions in FEMA-designated disaster areas have been able to apply directly to NEH for streamlined emergency grants of up to \$30,000 through the agency's website, www.neh.gov. All current NEH grantees impacted by Hurricane Harvey may apply to change the scope of their grants to repurpose the agency's funding to focus on critical needs.



National Museum of American History

There has been an addition to the First Ladies exhibition. First Lady Melania Trump visited the National Museum of American History on October 20 to formally present her 2017 inaugural ball gown to the collection. The vanilla silk crepe off-the-shoulder gown has a slit skirt, a ruffled accent trim encircling the neckline that flows down to the hem to trail ever so slightly onto the floor, and a thin claret ribbon tied around the waist in a small bow. It was designed by Hervé Pierre in collaboration with Melania Trump and it is now on display in the center of the museum's First Ladies exhibition.

National Museum of the American Indian

The National Museum of the American Indian invites entries to the design competition for the National Native American Veterans Memorial—the first to recognize the exceptional military service of Native Americans. These servicemen and women are some of the most honored members of their tribes and communities. Across the nation, Native Americans who protect our country and our way of life are recognized publicly as the greatest patriots of all. Despite this enduring and distinguished legacy spanning two and a half centuries of American history, no national memorial yet exists—Native veterans and those serving today remain unrecognized by any landmark. With your participation, however, this will soon change. Learn more here: <https://nmai.si.edu/nnavm/>.

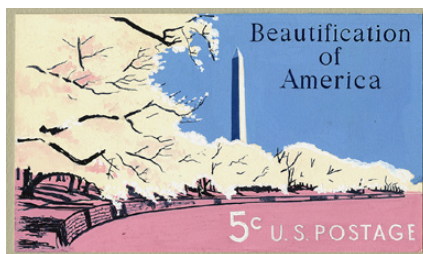
National Portrait Gallery

The National Portrait Gallery has acquired the earliest known photograph of a U.S. President for its permanent collection. Dating from 1843, the photograph of President John Quincy Adams is a unique daguerreotype and was produced by artist Philip Haas just four years after Louis Daguerre's radical invention was revealed to the world. The portrait will go on view in *America's Presidents* in 2018.

National Postal Museum

"Beautiful Blooms: Flowering Plants on Stamps," opened on October 20, at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum. The exhibition, open through

July 14, 2019, celebrates the variety of flowering plants commemorated on U.S. postage stamps during the past 50 years and explores the symbiotic relationship between flowering plants, bees, birds and butterflies. The exhibition showcases 33 botanical artworks from the renowned Postmaster General's Collection, on long-term loan to the National Postal Museum from the U.S. Postal Service. Created in partnership with Smithsonian Gardens, "Beautiful Blooms" invites visitors to observe and appreciate not only the compelling artwork, but also the



creative process behind stamp design. By juxtaposing concept art and final art, and by linking larger-scale art with images on actual stamps, visitors will be able to see beyond the stamps to their meaning and messaging. A special website has been created to augment the exhibition as well at <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/beautifulblooms/>, providing additional access to the rich content presented.

National Security Archive

Forty-four years after the U.S. supported military coup, the Santiago Museum of Memory and Human Rights has inaugurated a special exhibit of declassified CIA, FBI, Defense Department and White House records on the U.S. role in Chile and the Pinochet dictatorship. The unusual exhibit, which officially opened to the public on September 5, is titled *Secretos de Estado: La Historia Desclasificada de la Dictadura Chilena*—Secrets of State: The Declassified History of the Chilean Dictatorship.

Curated by National Security Archive senior analyst Peter Kornbluh, the exhibit consists of 45 formerly classified documents dated between 1970 when Richard Nixon ordered to the CIA to instigate a coup in Chile, and October 1988 when General Augusto Pinochet sought to orchestrate a second coup after losing a plebiscite to stay in power. The exhibit, mounted in the museum's "Galeria de la Memoria," will run until March 2018.

Oral History Association

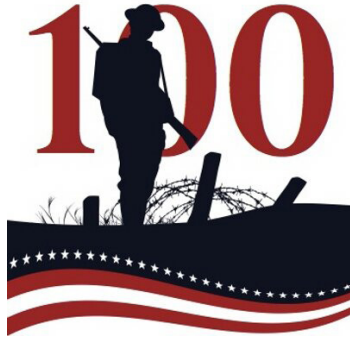
The Oral History Association (OHA) is pleased to announce the selection of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, as its new institutional home, along with the addition of new incoming co-directors Dr. Louis Kyriakoudes, director of the university's Albert Gore Research Center, and history professor Dr. Kristine McCusker. MTSU will begin as the new home of OHA in January 2018.

Society of American Archivists

SAA notes with concern the recent news that several current and former senior White House officials, including Senior Advisor to the President Jared Kushner, used private email accounts to conduct official public business. SAA is dismayed that this issue continues to plague public officials regardless of their political affiliation. Laws and regulations regarding public records are clear, as are the responsibilities of individuals entrusted with executing government functions. Use of unofficial, non-government email accounts rather than official government accounts violates the transparency and openness that the public requires from its government, makes it difficult to hold public officials accountable, unnecessarily mixes government and personal records, and ultimately jeopardizes the accessibility of the archival record by the American people. Read the Joint Statement on Conducting Public Business in Non-government Email Accounts (2015) at <https://www2.archivists.org/statements/joint-statement-on-conducting-public-business-in-non-government-email-accounts-june-2015>.

World War I Centennial Commission

The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission has elected a new Chair for the organization. The election took place during the Commission's quarterly meeting on September 13th, in Washington, DC. Commissioner Terry Hamby was selected to follow Chair Robert J. Dalessandro, who has led the group since 2014. Chair Dalessandro stepped down from the Centennial Commission due to the obligations of his full-time position as Acting Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission. Biographies for both Chair Dalessandro and for Chair Hamby can be found here: <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/about/the-commission.html>.



The SHFG Directory of Federal History Offices has recently been updated, with new staff and contact information for the Office of the Secretary of Defense Historical Office.

See the directory at <http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/directory-of-history-offices> and please contact webmaster@shfg.org to share similar updates from your office.

Staff Writers Needed

The Federalist seeks writers to highlight agency news and write short feature articles. Specific areas of coverage include the National Park Service, U.S. Army, Smithsonian Institution, and Library of Congress, among others. Direct questions and responses to the editor at shfgfederalist@gmail.com.

Join H-Fed Hist

Online at <http://www.networks.h-net.org/h-fedhist>

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Hewlett Lecture

The Society for History in the Federal Government presented the 38th annual Richard G. Hewlett Lecture on October 18 at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC. This year's lecture commemorated the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I.

A panel of distinguished federal historians: Dennis Conrad from the Naval History & Heritage Command, Brian Neumann from the U.S. Army Center of Military History, Seth Rotramel from the Department of State, and Mitch Yockelson from the National Archives, discussed aspects of the First World War and its legacy.

A huge thank you to our Hewlett lecture speakers and to the Wilson Center. We had an excellent turn out—thanks to our members for supporting the Society's events.

To make a donation to the Hewlett Lecture fund, please visit: <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Donate>



Pictured from left to right: Mitch Yockelson, Brian Neumann, Seth Rotramel, and Dennis Conrad.



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Federalist Calendar

Jan. 3–7, 2018. Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society. Biennial Convention. New Orleans, LA. Visit <http://phialpha-theta.org/biennial-convention-2018>

Jan. 4–7, 2018. American Historical Association. 132nd Annual Meeting. “Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism in Global Perspective.” Washington, DC

Mar. 1–3, 2018. Missouri Valley History Conference. 61st Annual Conference. “Resistance and Activism Throughout History.” Omaha, NE

Mar. 23–24, 2018. Society for History in Federal Government. Annual Meeting. “Federal History in Times of Transition.” Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education. Shepherdstown, WV.

Apr. 5–8, 2018. Society for Military History. 85th Annual Meeting. Louisville, KY. Visit <http://www.smh-hq.org/2018/2018annualmeeting.html>

Apr. 12–14, 2018. Organization of American Historians. Annual Meeting. Sacramento, CA. Visit <http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/2018/>

Apr. 14–18, 2018. American Society for Environmental History. Annual Conference. Riverside, CA. Visit <http://aseh.net/conference-workshops/2018-conference-riverside-ca>

Apr. 18–21, 2018. National Council on Public History. Annual Meeting. “Power Lines.” Las Vegas, NV. Visit <http://ncph.org/conference/2018-annual-meeting/>

May 4–5, 2018. Dumbarton Oaks. Garden and Landscape Studies Symposium. “Military Landscapes.” Washington, DC. Visit <https://www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/scholarly-activities/military-landscapes>

June 20–23, 2018. The Association for Documentary Editing. Annual Meeting, Olympia, WA

June 21–23, 2018. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. Visit <https://shafr.org/conferences/annual/2018-annual-meeting>

July 19–22, 2018. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR). 40th Annual Meeting. Cleveland, OH

Aug. 12–18, 2018. Society of American Archivists (SAA). Joint Annual Meeting. Washington, DC

Nov. 1–2, 2018. 10th Blount Postal History Symposium. “World War I and its Immediate Aftermath.” Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington, DC. Visit <http://postalmuseum.si.edu/research/symposiums-and-lectures/>

Additional listings at <http://shfg.org/shfg/category/calendar/>