

CONGRESSIONAL PAPERS ROUNDTABLE

Newsletter, December, 1991

What Happened In Philadelphia

There was much in Philadelphia to interest archivists working with Congressional collections. The meeting of the roundtable itself began with brief reports by Connie Gallagher, Rebecca Johnson, Bill Meneray and John Caldwell on their recent work. Gallagher spoke of the seminar he is teaching at the University of Vermont using the papers of Senator George Aiken. For the class he compiled a biographical packet and an oral history memoir based upon oral history interviews conducted with Aiken. The memoir consists of about 200 pages of selected questions and responses and some composite answers. Rebecca Johnson of the U. of Delaware described her work in processing the papers of John Williams. 29% of the original 480 ft. of papers were retained. 4 researchers have studied the collections and to encourage use Rebecca wrote LBJ biographers Caro and Dallek directly, citing material of potential interest to them. Her grant funded position is now a full time permanent one and the University is actively pursuing additional political collections. Bill Meneray of Tulane University is responsible for the Hale and Lindy Boggs papers. He spoke about his fund raising experiences, which included a \$100 a plate tribute for Lindy Boggs whose proceeds went to fund the papers project. And, John Caldwell told of his efforts in devising, mounting and carting across the length and breadth of Oklahoma, exhibits drawn from the collections at the Carl Albert Center. The annual exhibits have toured up to 40 sites including the statehouse, public schools and libraries. No charges is involved to the recipient and teacher instruction manuals are provided as well. A poster series replicating the exhibit will be offered this year, making the exhibit even more accessible.

During the business meeting John Caldwell was appointed to a two year term as Chair and Herb Hartsook, of the University of South Carolina, volunteered to serve as newsletter editor. Mike Gillette, the newly appointed director of the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives, was introduced. He formerly was with the LBJ library.

Karen Paul noted that the revised edition of the Senate papers manual is due out by year end. Senator Sam Nunn has added a records management position to his staff which has been filled by Amy Korzick. Karyl Winn offered an exhibit pamphlet on request. Cynthia Miller handed out an updated bibliography and noted that Women In Congress is still available in limited quantities. She noted that her office had received about 300 updates for inclusion in the Guide so far. If your repository has received additional house collections or revised its descriptions please write Cynthia.

The session sponsored by the roundtable featured a panel, composed of Karen Paul, Faye Phillips, Sheryl Vogt, Claudia Anderson, Gary Hoag and Don Ritchie, discussing the work of the Congressional Documentation Task Force.

A Note From our Chairman

The Roundtable meeting at Philadelphia attracted some thirty-five members of our group. This figure represents hardly a third of those currently receiving our newsletter. So that we as a group can best determine those actions which will best serve us as stewards of the historical record, please take a few moments to consider where we should be going and how best to reach that destination.

How can the Roundtable best assist our own membership? How can we influence our larger constituency in the Congress? among our patrons? within the profession? Are there services for the novice toiler among congressional papers that we can provide? Is there some new project which we should undertake? Some study leading to publication? Some traveling workshop? Some mini-conference outside SAA (Montreal in 1992, New Orleans in 1993) that should be held?

Help us out here! Just let your mind briefly float free of the day-to-day responsibilities we all have to consider the longer term. If you have an idea, please write me about it. Even if it involves work, you'll not be assigned it alone. Even if it would involved funds to bring out, don't let that be a hindrance. Put pen to paper, sit down at the keyboard to your work processor and compose your thoughts. You input will be much appreciated. Write: John Caldwell, The Carl Albert Center, The University of Oklahoma, 630 Parrington Oval, Room 101, Norman, OK 73019.

A Changing of the Guard

Cynthia Miller deserves our thanks for her good efforts in getting out the Roundtable newsletter, beginning in 1989. She stepped down as editor at SAA in Philadelphia. Please send any news, queries, etc., which you wish to share with the members of the Roundtable to Herb Hartsook, South Caroliniana Library Annex, 720 College St., The University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208. We hope to get two additional issues out before SAA meets next year in Montreal--one in the late spring or early summer and one shortly before the meeting. Please help by providing news and queries for the newsletter.

Newsletter Recipients

We have a mailing list of well over one hundred people who have, over the years, expressed an interest in congressional papers. We would like to ensure that each of you retains your interest in the Roundtable and that your addresses are still accurate, particularly those of you who are not current members of the Society of American Archivists. Please write and let me know if you wish to continue to receive our newsletter. While you are at it, you might share news of your repository for inclusion in our next issue. Also, if you know anyone who would benefit from the newsletter but is not now receiving it we would be happy to add their names to the mailing list.

Montreal

We had a very brief turn around time between this year's annual meeting and the deadline for receipt of program proposals for the Montreal meeting. It isn't too early to begin thinking about New Orleans. Please consider using the newsletter to float and discuss potential program ideas.

Congressional Oral Histories

Don Ritchie reports that both the Senate and House Historical Offices are seeking information on oral history projects with members of Congress and congressional staff, for inclusion in their guides to research collections of former senators and representatives.

The Senate Historical Office conducts its own oral history program with retired staff members. These interviews are deposited in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress and the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives, and are available on microfiche from Scholarly Resources, Inc. A cross-reference index to these interviews is also available at these repositories.

Drawing on its own experiences, the Senate Historical Office stands ready to advise and assist senatorial oral history projects around the country. For further information, contact Donald A. Ritchie, Senate Historical Office, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6816

South Carolina

The University of South Carolina's South Caroliniana Library established a division for Modern Political Collections in the fall of 1991. The division is responsible for manuscript collections which relate principally to South Carolina's political history in the post-World War II era. The collections administered by the division include the papers of Senators Olin Johnston and Fritz Hollings, Congressmen Robert Ashmore, William Jennings Bryan Dorn, Allard Henry Gasque, John L. McMillan, and James P. Richards, members of the South Carolina General Assembly, the Democratic Party of South Carolina, League of Women Voters of South Carolina, and Republican Party of South Carolina.

An extensive oral history project is being initiated and a special project is underway documenting Fritz Hollings' gubernatorial service, 1959-1963.

For more information contact Herb Hartsook, Curator of Modern Political Collections, South Caroliniana Library Annex, 720 College St., The University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 29208. (803) 251-8470.

Encouraging Research Use

Congressional collections obligate repositories to massive manpower and space costs. Evert Volkersz of the State University of New York in Stony Brook wants to know what people are doing to stimulate the use of congressional collections. If you have developed research use drop me a line describing what you are doing and we will devote part of our next newsletter to your responses. This might also make a good topic for the Roundtable session at Montreal or even a session at New Orleans.

Reporting New Collections Available for Research

Karen Paul suggests that we might promote use by reporting newly opened collections to various journals. Her suggested list begins at the top of the following page. If you know of others let me know and we will publish their addresses in the next issue.

Journal List

American Historical Association
400 A Street, S.E.
Washington, DC 20003

Society of American Archivists
600 South Federal, Suite 504
Chicago, IL 60605

Society for History in the Federal
Government Newsletter
The Federalist
Box 14139
Ben Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044

Shafer, Diplomatic History and Newsletter
Michael Hogan
Department of History
The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH 4321-1367

Oral History Association
Richard Smith
1093 Broxton Ave., No 720
Los Angeles, CA 90024

American Association of State and
Local History
172 Second Ave. North, Suite 102
Nashville, TN 37201

Former Members of Congress, Inc.
1755 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

National Archives, Prologue
Washington, DC 20408

Organization of American Historians
112 North Bryan
Bloomington, IN 47408-4199

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference
G. David Anderson, University Archivist
The Gelman Library
George Washington University
Washington, DC 20052

National Council on Public History
The Public Historian
Department of History
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

American Political Science Association
1527 New Hampshire Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20036

Capitol Historical Society
200 Maryland Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20002

Historical Society of Washington, DC
1307 New Hampshire Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20036

Center for Legislative Archives,
Michael Gillette, Director
National Archives
Washington, DC 20408

News from the Carl Albert Center

The Carl Albert Center is in the midst of a three-year program of outreach from the campus to the state at large. This outreach seeks to promote greater knowledge of representative government as well as to heighten awareness of the Center's archival resources. The chief component of this project has been the creation and dissemination of one new traveling exhibit in each of three successive years. Two of these exhibits have now been created; planning for the third is underway.

"Oklahoma and the Congress" commemorated the centennial of congressional representation for Oklahoma as well as the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. This exhibit opened at the Oklahoma capitol in Oklahoma City in conjunction with "To Make All Laws," a joint project of the Library of Congress and the American Library Association. "Oklahoma and the Congress" has thus far toured more than forty public libraries and schools about Oklahoma, with an estimated viewership now approaching 30,000.

To mark another bicentennial, the Center next created "Oklahoma and the Bill of Rights." These panels commemorate the freedoms guaranteed by the first ten amendments to the Constitution, with reference to how those freedoms have been protected or ignored during the state's history. This exhibit has just now begun its tour and will be visiting twelve public libraries during the coming year. A separate poster set will duplicate the exhibit's contents and will be distributed to public schools.

Funding for the first exhibit was provided from endowment funds at the University of Oklahoma Foundation. The Oklahoma Foundation for the Humanities assisted in the second exhibit. Free resource materials and teaching guides were created by the Center's staff for "Oklahoma and the Congress" and in association with the Law Related Education Committee of the Oklahoma Bar Association for "Oklahoma and the Bill of Rights." Scheduling for the latter has been co-ordinated with the Oklahoma Museum Association's TRACKS series of traveling exhibits.

Anyone interested in more specific news of this outreach activity should contact John M. Caldwell, Archivist, The Carl Albert Center, The University of Oklahoma.