

CONGRESSIONAL PAPERS ROUNDTABLE

Newsletter, August 1992

Changing of the Guard

John Caldwell, this year's chair of the Roundtable, has accepted a teaching position and will leave the Archives of the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center effective August 31. On September 1 he will become Assistant Professor of Geography at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston. The change to northern Louisiana represents a return to his "home turf."

The decision to leave the profession at least officially was not an easy one. From someone who discovered archives only in graduate school, he recounts that he fell in love with the work almost immediately. He is hopeful that some adjunct or joint appointment may open up as well. Meanwhile he will keep an oar in the water, with plans to begin collecting oral history from the rural and small town folk in the hill country of north Louisiana.

John had worked as an archivist at Oklahoma for the past seventeen years and had been among the first archivists there to work with congressional papers, even prior to the creation of the Albert Center in 1979. He will not be at the Montreal meeting but looks forward to seeing other members of the Roundtable at the New Orleans convention.

Roundtable-sponsored Session at Montreal

"Archival records of democratic legislatures: profiles and problems" is the title of the session sponsored by the Congressional Papers Roundtable to be held at the annual meeting in Montreal. The session will be held on Wednesday, September 16, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants from Canada, The Netherlands, and the United States will explain how the democratic legislatures of each country are documented, including both official records and private papers.

The Canadian speaker is Loretta Barber, archivist in the Prime Ministers and Ministers Archives Programme of the Political Archives Service of the Manuscripts Division of the National Archives of Canada. One interesting issue for Canadian archivists is the complexity of distinguishing parliamentary from executive records. Ms. Barber has been involved in the development of procedures for the new class of public records, "ministerial records," created by the 1987 National Archives of Canada Act. She will present "profiles and problems" from her own area of expertise, as well as issues from other divisions of the National Archives relating to this subject.

The speaker from The Netherlands is Henny van Schie, archivist at the Algemeen Rijksarchief. Mr. van Schie participated in the 1991 archival conference in Maastricht in a similar program, "The archives of the parliaments of Europe."

Karen D. Paul, archivist at the Senate Historical Office, will speak about the archival records of the United States Congress. Ms. Paul has recently completed the report of the Task Force on Congressional Documentation, "The Documentation of Congress." From her experience as Senate archivist and her work on the Task Force, Ms. Paul will offer valuable comments on congressional primary source documents.

John Woodard, archivist at the University of Delaware, reports that the papers of North Carolina Governor James O. Easton, which were being returned to the E. Smith Reynolds Library. They had been stored off-site where they were not available for study.

Rebecca Johnson, University of Delaware

Roundtable Meeting, Wednesday, September 16

Following a business session, the Roundtable's meeting at SAA will be devoted to a panel presentation concerning the appraisal of congressional papers. Rebecca Johnson of the University of Delaware will discuss appraisal decisions for the Senator John Williams Papers after they arrived at the repository. James Cross of Clemson University will describe the ongoing appraisal of Senator Strom Thurmond's papers, and Susan Goldstein will talk about the appraisal decisions she is making as Senator Alan Cranston's office prepares for his retirement. Robin Kolodny, a political scientist from Temple University who has used several Congressional collections in the course of her research, will look at appraisal from a user's point of view.

James Cross, Clemson University

Congressional Oral Histories

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

News and Notes

The University of South Carolina's Modern Political Collections is receiving the papers of Edward "Ted" Riley (b. 1900), and his son, Richard W. "Dick" Riley (b. 1933). Ted Riley has maintained a lifelong interest in political affairs and served as Chairman of the Democratic Party of South Carolina from 1960 to 1964. Dick Riley has had a distinguished political career including consecutive terms as governor, 1979-1986. Riley has recently been mentioned as a possible chief of staff or Secretary of Education in a Clinton administration. The University is conducting a series of oral history interviews with the Riley's.

Processing of Congressman Bryan Dorn's papers is nearly complete. The collection was originally received in 1974 and with several subsequent accessions of additional material stood, in January, at almost seven hundred linear feet, chiefly relating to Dorn's career in Congress, 1948-1974. The collection was then unprocessed and had received minimal reference use. Included were 112.5 feet of records originally identified as case files. This formed a perfect series to sample. We reviewed each file and retained every fifteenth folder, all particularly fat files, and a very few files identified as relating to prominent families. Our sample resulted in 8.75 feet of retained case files. An additional six feet of topical and general correspondence was discovered among the case files and interfiled into their proper sub-series. Our sample represents eight per cent of the total case work and will document the emphasis on constituent service within the Dorn office. We have not yet established our ground rules for access to the files. They will be restricted until we have adopted procedures to protect the confidentiality of the persons involved. I'd be delighted to receive copies of restrictions others have developed for constituent case files.

Herb Hartsook, University of South Carolina

John Woodard, Archivist at Wake Forest University, reports that the papers of North Carolina Congressman Charles Whitley are being returned to the Z. Smith Reynolds Library. They had been stored off-site where they were not available for study.

Cynthia Pease Miller, Assistant Historian with the House of Representatives, notes that The Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) has recently published Identifying and Handling Classified Documents in Archives by Kenneth Schlessinger and Marvin F. Russell. The twenty page booklet is the seventh in a series of technical leaflets offered by MARAC. It discusses the types of classifications used by the Federal Government, what to do and who to contact if classified documents are discovered in a manuscript collection, declassification review, and the handling and transmission of classified documents. The leaflet is \$2.00, including postage and handling, and may be ordered from MARAC, c/o Marsha Trimble, University of Virginia Law Library, Charlottesville, VA 22901, (804) 924-3023. Checks should be made payable to MARAC.

Newsletter Recipients

As noted in the last newsletter, our mailing list consists of over one hundred people who have, over the years, expressed an interest in congressional papers. To ensure that each of you retains your interest in the Roundtable and that your addresses are still accurate, we ask that you write and confirm that you still wish to receive our mailings. Please check your mailing label. If an asterisk appears beside your name, this will be your last mailing unless we hear from you. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter, notify Herb Hartsook, The University of South Carolina, 720 College St., Columbia, SC 29208.

Reporting New Collections Available for Research

In our last issue we listed a number of journals suggested by Karen Paul to which we could report newly opened collections and hopefully stimulate research. We asked for suggestions of additional journals. Rebecca Johnson had the following excellent suggestions for reporting:

this newsletter,
the Carl Albert Center,
Senate Historical Office for their newsletter--"Senate History",
presidential libraries, particularly those of president's whose terms coincide with the member's,
the newsletter of the Midwest Archives Conference,
American Enterprise Institute,
Brookings Institution,
Center for the Study of the Presidency,
Claremont Institute for the Study of Statesmanship and Political Philosophy,
Drew University's Institute for Research on Government,
Heritage Foundation,
Institute of Public Administration,
University of Michigan's Institute of Public Policy Studies, and the Dirksen Congressional Leadership Research Center.

It is certainly appropriate also to notify local newspapers and journals of regional interest.

Assistance Requested: Locating Missing Records

Sheryl Vogt of the Richard B. Russell Memorial Library, University of Georgia, discovered several problems in processing the Legislative Series of the Herman E. Talmadge Collection. Thirty boxes of materials could not be located when the boxes in hand were checked against the records transmittal and receipt form from the Federal Records Center at Suitland, Maryland. The Center was contacted and they were also unable to find the missing records.

The missing records relate to Talmadge's legislative work from 1959 to 1964. The Library has some of the legislative record but hopes that the missing records may be misfiled in other congressional archives. Sheryl notes that they have found papers from Robert Byrd, Howard Baker and Lowell Weicker in the Talmadge collection. The Byrd files were discovered in boxes clearly marked H.E. Talmadge with Talmadge accession numbers. The Russell Library forwarded the Byrd, Baker and Weicker records to their respective archives.

If your institution has any Herman E. Talmadge records, please contact Sheryl Vogt or Pam Hackbart-Dean at (706) 542-5788. The newsletter offers an excellent forum for this kind of exchange of information. Please let us know if you have made similar discoveries.

S.A.A. Congressional Papers Roundtable
c/o Herbert J. Hartsook
South Caroliniana Library Annex
The University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

"Archival records of democratic legislatures: profiles and problems" is the title of the session sponsored by the Congressional Papers Roundtable to be held at the annual meeting in Montreal. The session will be held on 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom will explain how the records of each country are documented, including both public and private papers.

Ms. Barber is Loretta Barber, archivist in the Prime Ministers Archives and Archives Programme of the Political Archives Service of the Manuscripts Division of the National Archives of Canada. One interesting issue for Canadian archivists is the complexity of distinguishing parliamentary from executive records. Ms. Barber has been involved in the development of procedures for the new class of public records, "ministerial records," created by the 1987 National Archives of Canada Act. She will present "profiles and problems" from her own area of expertise, as well as issues from other divisions of the National Archives relating to this subject.

The speaker from The Netherlands is Henny van Zchie, archivist at the Algemeen Rijksarchief. Mr. van Zchie participated in the 1991 archival conference in Maastricht in a similar program, "The archives of the parliaments of Europe."

Karen D. Paul, archivist at the Senate Historical Office, will speak about the archival records of the United States Congress. Ms. Paul has recently completed the report of the Task Force on Congressional Documentation, "The Documentation of Congress." From her experience as Senate archivist and her work on the Task Force, Ms. Paul will offer valuable comments on congressional primary source documents.

Rebecca Johnson, University of Delaware