

Congressional Papers Roundtable Newsletter

Society of American Archivists

July 2002



FROM THE CHAIR

Todd Kosmerick

I hope that you are looking forward to SAA as much as I am. Yeah, yeah, it will be hot and humid in Birmingham, but I think it will also be an interesting conference. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the CPR meeting on Thursday, August 22, 5:15 - 6:45 p.m. An agenda for the meeting appears elsewhere in this newsletter. In addition to election of new officers and other roundtable business, there will be a discussion on public policy research centers stemming from last year's Congressional Papers Forum. The Advisory Committee Task Force on Public Policy Research Centers recommends that the Congressional Papers Roundtable finalize a definition of such centers (also published elsewhere in this newsletter). The Advisory Committee also asks for our input on maintaining a list of centers and on holding periodic meetings of their directors and staff.

The program portion of our meeting will be devoted to last fall's anthrax scare on Capitol Hill and the impact it has had on records in congressional offices. Rebecca Altermatt, now at the Winthrop Group but formerly an archivist in Senator Barbara Mikulski's office, will talk about her experiences. Doris Hamburg, director of preservation programs at the National Archives, has also agreed to talk to us about preservation issues that have arisen because of the remediation and cleanup last winter and the irradiation of mail that continues.

I want to make sure that the membership realizes that this is their roundtable and should view the meeting as an opportunity to make announcements or ask questions of the membership. If you have any business that you would like bring up at the meeting, please let me know by sending a message to kosmerick@ou.edu or calling me at (405) 325-5045.

Make a note also to attend the SAA sessions sponsored by the roundtable. These are: Session 4, Empowerment! Documenting African Americans Since the Civil Rights Movement, and Session 27: For a Researcher Far, Far Away: Connecting Archival Collections to Long-Distance Researchers. OK, so I'm tooting my own horn because I'm presenting a paper at the second session, but so is fellow CPR member Burt Altman, who will probably have more interesting things to say than I will.

PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTER WORKING DEFINITION

The Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress in its *Third Report* endorsed the development of statewide or regional Public Policy Centers that focus on the acquisition of United States senators and representatives papers. A Forum on Congressional Papers was held in Aug. 2001 to analyze and promote this recommendation. Forum participants proposed the development of a roster of congressional centers actively engaged in documenting Congress and the political process as a way to encourage members to preserve their papers and donate them to a center in their home state. Ideally, it was thought, there should be at least one center dedicated to preserving political history in every state.

The following working definition of a public policy research center is developed to guide institutional selection for the roster. The roster will be used to inform members of Congress about where their predecessors' collections have gone and about which institutions in their states have committed themselves to collecting and preserving congressional documentation. For states that have no pre-eminent public policy center, it is hoped that the roster will serve as a catalyst and resource for institutions that wish to develop such a center.

A Public Policy Research Center is defined as an institution that has assumed responsibility for acquiring, preserving, and making available for research use public policy documentation. The center has adopted a written development policy that identifies congressional papers from the state's delegation and related ancillary public policy papers as a collecting priority. Related collections might include the papers of congressional staff, state and local politicians, the papers of unsuccessful candidates in significant elections, the records of state and local political party organizations, third party organizations, lobbyists, special interest groups, the League of Women Voters, journalists and journalists' associations, political cartoonists, broadcasting stations, public policy foundations and think-tanks, judges, political scholars, and political consultants—individuals and organizations that are deemed to relate in a significant way to the lives and careers of the state's congressional delegation.

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INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

The Baylor Collections of Political Materials at **Baylor University** has recently completed the processing of the small group of letters from the family of former U. S. Congressman, William Robert Smith.

Ben Guttery, the donor, acquired the papers from a paper dealer in Oklahoma. He first purchased a lot of about 100 letters in 1999 when he noticed the dealer selling a Congressional letterhead on eBay. Mr. Guttery asked about one letter and ended up buying the first 100. Later, he noticed the same man selling more letters and acquired the balance of the materials. Some of these were separated from the collection as they were sold for the interesting letterhead. Mr. Guttery collected these as part of his overall interest in Texas politics. They represent a unique view into the life of a traveling district judge and congressman separated from his wife while serving in office.

W. R. Smith was elected to represent the 16th Congressional District of Texas in 1903 and served until 1917. He was born in Brenham, Tex., in 1863 and graduated from Sam Houston Normal Institute at Huntsville. In 1890 Smith married Frances Lipscomb Breedlove and they continued to live in Colorado (now Colorado City) where Smith practiced law from 1888 until elected to Congress. A month after leaving Congress, President Wilson appointed Smith U.S. district judge for the Western District of Texas. Smith remained there until his death in 1924.

The majority of this collection from Congressman Smith involves correspondence between Smith and his wife, Frances Breedlove Smith, during the years 1890 through 1912. Other correspondence found in this collection occurs between W. R and Frances' children, close relatives, and friends of the Smith family. A web page for this collection, which includes a complete inventory listing, is at http://www3.baylor.edu/~Ben_Rogers/BCPM/smith/.

The Baylor Collections of Political Materials has recently completed the processing of the small group of letters from the family of former U. S. Congressman from Dallas, Hatton W. Sumners.

These materials were acquired through Ben Guttery from Mr. Dave Dillingham of Fort Worth about 1999. Dillingham was an auctioneer and purchased these papers in two or three old suitcases at an estate sale. Interestingly, they also contained a flyer

from a coin and stamp storeowner in Fort Worth, Robert Wallace. Mr. Wallace said that at one time he

had acquired the entire remainder of the Sumners' estate. He was interested in the items for their postal history as they contained many letters to Sumners from around the globe. These papers were of a more personal nature and were not part of the congressional papers that he donated to the Dallas Historical Society.

Hatton William Sumners, a Representative from Texas, was born near Fayetteville, Lincoln County, Tenn., May 30, 1875. Sumners studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1897, and commenced practice in Dallas, Tex. He was elected prosecuting attorney of Dallas County in 1900 and served two terms. He also served as president of the district and county attorney's association of Texas in 1906 and 1907. Elected as a Democrat to the Sixty-third and to the sixteen succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1913-January 3, 1947), he served as chairman, Committee on the Judiciary (Seventy-second through Seventy-ninth Congresses). He was not a candidate in 1946 and retired from public activities. Sumners remained a resident of Dallas, Tex., until his death there April 19, 1962.

These Hatton Sumners materials provide a small supplement to the major collection of his papers housed at the Dallas Historical Society in the Hall of State in Fair Park. While individually, they may seem insignificant, collectively, they provide insight into the private, family life of a public figure. Of special interest is the close relationship these letters show between Hatton, his sister Kate, and their mother. A web page has been created for these papers at http://www3.baylor.edu/~Ben_Rogers/BCPM/sumners/

The annual report of the Baylor Collections of Political Materials is available online: http://www.baylor.edu/~Ben_Rogers/BCPM/report02.

Sections include Highlights, Progress, Goals 2002-2006, Plans 2003-2006, Plans FY2003, Long Range Plans, Possibilities/Challenges, Researchers in FY 2002, BCPM Collections, and Web Page listing for collections online.

One of our main goals in the near future is to install temperature-humidity controls so that the archives are truly maintained in a proper archival environment. Another goal is to secure funding for a

large format scanner-printer system so we can make display as well as preservation copies of historic newspapers including our 9-11 Project, campaign posters, and oversize items.

Ben Rogers
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Glenn Gray is the new archivist for the Central Valley Political Archive at **California State University, Fresno**. The CVPA was established in 2000 and includes the papers of former U.S. Congressmen Bernie Sisk and Chip Pashayan. Glenn formerly worked as an archivist/records manager for the Senate Committee on Finance at the U.S. Senate and for the Federal Reserve Board.

Glenn Gray

The Claude Pepper Library at **Florida State University** Libraries is pleased to announce the second installment of a virtual exhibit of the U.S. Senate speeches of Claude Pepper. This portion of the exhibit includes speeches from the war years 1939 to 1945. The exhibit begins with Pepper's 1934 campaign for the Senate and his first years in office from 1936 through 1938. In the near future, the exhibit will include speeches from the post-war period through 1950 when Pepper lost his bid for re-election. Photographs and recordings documenting his speaking engagements also will be added. Later this year, the full text of the online speeches will be searchable through the POLARIS (Pepper Online Archival Retrieval and Information System) search engine.

To view the exhibit visit:

http://pepper.cpb.fsu.edu/library/speeches/speech_title.html

For more information about the exhibit, please contact Burt Altman at baltman@mail.fsu.edu or call 850/644-9217.

Burt Altman

The "Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies" and the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at the **University of Georgia** have forged a partnership to chronicle Georgia's rich history in the Civil Rights Movement. The new venture, focusing on "unsung foot soldiers," will establish UGA as one of the premier institutions in the nation for the study of civil rights.

The foundation for the project is the award-winning documentary of social work professor Maurice Daniels, "Foot Soldier for Equal Justice: Horace T. Ward and the Desegregation of the University of Georgia." Research from this documentary yielded more than 30 rare interviews of civil rights figures in Georgia and from around the country, including Ward and fellow federal judge Constance Baker Motley, attorneys Donald Hollowell

and Vernon Jordan, U.S. Senator Herman Talmadge and former Governor Ernest Vandiver. The vision of the "Foot Soldier Project" is to expand this endeavor to collect additional archival and documentary materials that can be used by researchers involved in issues dealing with civil rights, social justice and policy reform.

"Despite many significant events in Georgia and many Georgia trailblazers in the Civil Rights Movement, there has been little consistent documentation or chronicling of these participants and events," Daniels said. "This project's focus on unsung foot soldiers in the movement for social justice and civil rights is also unique. While there exists a panoply of literature and archival materials on prominent civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, many persons in Georgia who played significant, powerful and historic roles in the movement have been overlooked and are largely unknown. The Russell Library is a quality facility with great resources and these are materials that should and need to be preserved."

In addition to donating to the library the photos, interview transcripts and other materials gathered in the process of creating the documentary, Daniels and other participants in the project have agreed to partner with Russell Library staff in the identification of archival materials, particularly from African Americans.

The Foot Soldier Project is a collaborative and interdisciplinary project. Daniels and Derrick Alridge, assistant professor of education, are principal investigators. The initial research team also includes R. Baxter Miller, director of African American Studies and professor of English; Cheryl Dozier, associate professor of social work; and Dwight Brooks, associate professor of journalism. Archivists Jill Severn and Sheryl Vogt of the Russell Library also will be playing a very active role in helping the Foot Soldier Project bring important collections on to the University.

A major focus of the Foot Soldier Project is to contribute significantly to reconceptualizing how the Civil Rights Movement has traditionally been presented. Instead of focusing primarily on well-known participants of the Movement within the 1954-1968 time frame, the Foot Soldier Project focuses on unsung persons before, during, and after the prevailing time frame.

Alongside the Foot Soldiers' primary focus of producing research via documentaries and books, other goals include 1) editing a print collection of primary sources, 2) digitizing archival and primary source documents that can be readily accessed by students and faculty around the world, 3) creating an interactive web site that K-12 students can use to learn about the Civil

Rights Movement, 4) providing educational workshops for local teachers, the community, and students, and 5) applying lessons learned from the civil rights movement to understanding today's continuing

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struggles against the barriers to social justice.

The Richard B. Russell Library is presenting a major exhibition to highlight one of its most popular collections, Senator Russell's baseball card collection, one of the largest private collections of turn-of-the-century tobacco cards held by a public institution in the United States.

"Legends of the Deadball Era: Vintage Baseball Cards from the Richard B. Russell Collection" will focus on the specific character of the game of baseball during this time period (1900-1919), known as the dead-ball era. Lecture and film series are being planned for summer and fall in conjunction with the display.

The Russell collection contains more than 1,000 baseball cards produced by the American Tobacco Company. The majority of cards come from the T-206 "White Border" series, the largest tobacco card set of the early 20th century and the one containing some of the most prized cards in the collecting world. Some of the rarest T-206 cards are included in the Russell collection, including an extremely scarce misprint of a Joe Doyle card, one of less than six known to exist, and an equally uncommon Ty Cobb portrait featuring the slogan, "Ty Cobb, King of the Smoking Tobacco World," on the reverse.

The exhibit opened in April and will be available through Nov. 22. The Russell Library will be open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., in addition to regular hours, for the exhibit, which, in addition to the cards, will consider the rules of fair play that most players honored and some ignored, the way in which equipment and its performance shaped strategy, and the skills that made a player a star. Also featured in the exhibit is an exploration of baseball's connections to American culture and imagination.

Richard Brevard Russell Jr. served in public office for more than 50 years, including 38 in the U.S. Senate, becoming one of the most influential people in 20th century American politics. The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies is dedicated to the support of scholarly research in modern political history with the collections of more than 100 public officials, influential citizens and political and public policy organizations.

Like many young men born at the turn of the 20th century, Russell developed a lifelong passion for baseball. In addition to playing the game with friends and school chums, the young Russell was a "crank" of the first order, devouring baseball statistics from

newspapers and annual publications with the same intellectual curiosity that he would later display as a politician and legislator. According to his biographer Gilbert C. Fite, while in office Senator Russell "almost always managed to listen to the World Series over the radio, and in later years, he watched the games on television."

The baseball card collection is available for research at the Russell Library and a selection of the cards will be featured on the library web page www.libs.uga.edu/russell.

Jill Severn

On this past Memorial Day, May 27, 2002, the John and Annie Glenn Historic Site in New Concord, Ohio, opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Senator Glenn and his wife, Annie. The museum is located in Senator Glenn's boyhood home, which over the past year underwent extensive restoration to return the house to how it looked during the late 1930s. The restoration included an expanded basement level and rear annex to house classroom and exhibit space. In addition to highlighting the lives of John and Annie Glenn, the museum's programs focus on the history of New Concord and life in small town Ohio during the Great Depression and the Second World War. The restored homestead and its accompanying exhibits feature numerous artifacts, images, and other materials from the John Glenn Archives at **The Ohio State University**.

Jeff Thomas

**CONGRESSIONAL PAPERS ROUNDTABLE
ANNUAL MEETING
22 August 2002 5:15 - 6:45 p.m.**

Agenda

The meeting will begin with a short report from the Nominating Committee and the handing out of ballots for election of new officers.

Presentations

Rebecca Altermatt, now with the Winthrop Group, on her experience in Senator Mikulski's office during the anthrax scare.

Doris Hamburg, National Archives, on preservation issues resulting from anthrax remediation and clean up and from irradiation of mail.

Program

Program Committee
Newsletter
Preservation Task Force
Web Site Task Force
Results of Election of New Officers
Center for Legislative Archives

House Office of History and Preservation
 Other announcements
 Public policy research centers: definition, list,
 meeting of directors and staff

Public Policy continued from p. 1
 Congress (S.Pub. 102-20).

Center budgets are sufficient to provide the necessary storage space, facilities, and environment for large, complex collections. Because archival work on contemporary political collections is complex, challenging, and labor intensive, centers employ staff of sufficient size and experience to implement their documentation policy. If the institution is an established one, the number and breadth of its holdings reflect the success in carrying out its documentation policy. Established centers supplement their collections with oral history interviews, either conducted or sponsored by center staff. Centers make their collections available for research use and support such use with appropriate secondary sources.

Centers develop public outreach activities such as symposia, conferences, lecture series, exhibits, and publications. Other activities might include awards programs, travel grants, and research fellowships for the study of politics and government and for archival management and administration. Fully developed centers might also include an educational component whereby their resources are made available to faculty and teachers for the purpose of developing course curricula.

Centers may be independent or may be affiliated with an academic department or university library. When affiliated, they possess sufficient of the above identifying characteristics to have a distinctive profile within the larger institution.

Centers are part of a larger community of congressional archivists and scholars. Their staffs have professional working relationships with other "centers," with the House Legislative Resources Center, the Senate Historical Office, and the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives. Centers are aware of the work of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress and cooperate on implementing common objectives.

From the Chair continued from p. 1

Those of you who remember the closure of the Office of the House Historian in the mid-1990s will be gratified to know that the House Administration Committee has approved a proposal to create an Office of History and Preservation separate from the Legislative Resources Center. Current Historical Services Manager Kenneth Kato will head the new office. We will hear more about this at the roundtable meeting.

You may also recall the interest CPR and SAA has had in President George W. Bush's Executive Order 13233. The order has prevented the scheduled release of documents in the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. The Bush administration has been authorizing the release of some of these documents, but in April, Rep. Stephen Horn (R-CA) introduced legislation to completely override the executive order. The Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2002 (H.R. 4187) has been referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, and Horn has held hearings on the bill, which has bipartisan support. Rep. Dan Burton (R-CA), chair of the committee, is reported to be "undeterred" in challenging the executive order. A bill similar to Horn's is expected to be considered this summer.

As this will be my last official article as chair of the roundtable, I think it fitting that I recognize a few people before I go. First, as they rotate off the steering committee, I want to thank Jill Severn and Rebecca Johnson Melvin for all of their work and input into the roundtable. Second, I want to thank all of the previous chairs for being such great role models. Finally, I especially want to thank Cynthia Pease Miller, who is coming off the steering committee at the conclusion of our meeting, for all of her many years of tireless service to the roundtable and the "cause" of congressional papers. I think I speak for the entire roundtable when I commend all of you for jobs well done.

PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTERS ROSTER

The Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress has endorsed the Congressional Papers Roundtable's assistance with the creation of a roster of public policy research centers, institutions that have congressional collections as part of their collections/documentation policy. This roster will be used by the House and Senate historical offices to assist members with the placement of their papers. The roster also will be used to issue invitations to a follow-up conference for center directors and staff. The conference will be designed to discuss program and development issues affecting centers, ways in which centers can cooperate with each other and with the Center for Legislative Archives, and other matters affecting preservation of the documentation of Congress and the political process.

To assist with the compilation of this list, please send the name of your institution, address (e-mail and regular), phone number, fax number, names of key staff, and a brief description of the political collecting policy to Karen D.

Paul, Senate Historical Office, Washington, DC 20510 or preferably, e-mail it to karen_paul@sec.senate.gov. Karen's phone is 202/224-3351.

ARCHIVES LISTSERV SIGHTINGS

Over the past few months, a few topics of interest to CPR have come up on the Archives Listserv. In May, Michael Ridderbusch of West Virginia University wrote asking if “any repositories have had the experience of acquiring, arranging, and describing the records of a politician, preserving and providing access to them over many years, only to have the same politician request that his records be transferred to another repository?” He received replies telling him to contact CPR, charge for storage or to just cut his losses.

Also in May, Steven Cox of the University of Tennessee., Chattanooga, wrote “I am arranging the collection of a Congresswoman and need to redact names from certain letters and documents (as per her directive). Several years earlier someone began the process but I notice that the redactions (by magic marker) have faded a bit and the names are still visible. Is there a better way to do this, short of cutting out the names?” He later reported that most of the responses mentioned photocopying the letters, blacking out the names, and using those for access.

Peter Kurilecz’s RAIN also mentioned a few articles of interest. For the full text of an article about collecting political papers, check out www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38333-2002Jun12.html. An article in techway.washtech.com/news/3_12/forefront/16238-1.html discusses the new reCap searchable video database by Federal Network. In addition, most recently, RAIN included a link to another Washington Post article about scanning letters at the House. For full text check www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A36814-2002Jul7.html.

In another listserv submission, Cal Lee from the University of Michigan referred to an article <http://security.ittoolbox.com/news/Dispnews.asp?i=75683> on the House’s use of XML for resolutions.

SAA MEETING NOTES

Thurs. Aug. 22

1:30-3:00 Empowerment!: Documenting African Americans Since the Civil Rights Movement

5:15-6:45 *CPR Meeting*

Fri. Aug. 23

1:00-2:30 For a Researcher Far, Far Away:
Connecting Archival Collections to Long-Distance Researchers

3:00-4:30 Presidents, Governors, and Mayors:
Public Access to Public Records

Poster Session

Jan Payne and Linda Whitaker, University of Arizona
"A Multi-Tasking Approach to Processing
Congressional Papers"

NHPRC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Dan Stokes of NARA sent the Archives Listserv the full text of the speech Dr. John Brademas, President Emeritus, NYU and former member of Congress (D-IN), gave upon receiving the 2002 Distinguished Service Award of the NHPRC. Attached are excerpts from the speech, in which he mentioned not only his own political papers, but also the need for a federal policy for members papers. He also mentions CPR. For the full text of the speech, see the archives of the listserv for May 2002, week 3 at listserv.muohio.edu/archives/archives.html.

Excerpts from the remarks of Dr. John Brademas.

“But I hope you will let me say a few words not about the papers of Presidents and Vice Presidents but those of Senators and Congressmen.

Some personal observations.

My own papers cover 22 years as a Member of the House of Representatives.

I served with six Presidents—three Republicans: Eisenhower, Nixon and Ford; and three Democrats: Kennedy, Johnson and Carter. During my last four years, I was, by appointment of Speaker Tip O’Neill, House Majority Whip.

During my service as Whip, I joined Speaker O’Neill, Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd, House Majority Leader Jim Wright, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey while he lived and the other Democratic Leaders of Congress for breakfast nearly every other Tuesday at the White House with President Carter and Vice President Mondale.

I hope to make use of my notes, over two decades later, for a study of how a President deals with the Leaders of his own party in Congress.

Recently, with the help of New York University’s Archivist, Nancy Cricco, my papers were brought from a Library of Congress warehouse to NYU where Professor Peter Wosh is using them as materials for a class he is teaching on the management of historical archives.

Let me make one other observation.

On the admonition of my Oxford classmate and longtime friend, the eminent historian of Russian culture and distinguished Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington, I plan to use my papers as the seed for creating, at New York University, a Center for the Study of Congress.

