

# Congressional Papers Roundtable Newsletter

## Society of American Archivists

### March 2002



#### FROM THE CHAIR

Todd Kosmerick

I was so pleased to see many of you at the Congressional Papers Forum and the roundtable's business meeting last August. Yet when I look back I cannot help remembering the events of last Fall. I have communicated with some of you since then, and I am thankful that you were not injured by these occurrences, although I know many of you have been affected forever. Let us hope for a better future.

The anthrax scare concerned all of us on the roundtable's Steering Committee, as I am sure it did you. Thankfully none of the Capitol Hill archivists were exposed to this menace, but many of them were displaced as several offices—and the entire Hart Senate Office Building—were closed for upwards of three months. They are still settling back into their routines, but I hope one or more of them can share their experiences, either in the newsletter or at the next roundtable meeting. I am sure we would all benefit from a report on the contamination, remediation, and clean up, as well as the effect that continued irradiation of mail is having on records and records keeping practices in congressional offices.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read the minutes of our 2001 meeting in Washington, D.C. You may remember that a couple of task forces have been implemented. Jeff Suchanek and the other members of the preservation task force are working to build upon the results of the 1999 survey of preservation issues at archival repositories holding political collections. They plan to develop recommendations to help congressional offices and archival repositories in this area. Rebecca Johnson Melvin and the others on the web site task force are investigating how best to link our site to either that of the Center for Legislative Archives or the Bioguide site maintained by Congress.

Last November, SAA Council called upon sections and roundtables to contact Congress voicing our concerns with President George W. Bush's Executive Order 13233. The order prevented the scheduled release of documents in the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library last year. On behalf of CPR, I sent a letter to Representative Stephen Horn, chair of the House Subcommittee on Government Efficiency. A copy of this letter appears in the newsletter (p.6), and is based on one authored by SAA President Steve Hensen. I contacted many of you about this, and I hope you were also able to express your concerns to Congress. Congressmen Dan Burton and Henry Waxman introduced legislation to circumvent the executive order, and I have contacted my representative and asked him to support it. The Bush administration did authorize a partial release of Reagan administration documents this past January.

Last September the Steering Committee approved a policy

(Continued on page 5)

#### MINUTES, 2001 ANNUAL MEETING, WASHINGTON, DC, 30 AUGUST 2001

Outgoing Chair Cynthia Pease Miller opened the meeting at 5:17 pm and welcomed all the members.

The first report was from Pam Hackbart Dean, serving as representative of the Program Committee for the 2002 annual meeting in Birmingham. The theme will be Archival Roots, Our Foundation and Our Future. The committee is encouraging submissions on principles and traditions of archives, changes to the profession, innovation, and collaboration with other professions. Submissions deadline is October 6, 2001.

Pam then spoke as chair of the nominations committee and passed out the ballot for elections, with thanks to all running. Candidates include Jeff Suchanek, University of Kentucky, for vice-chair/chair elect; and the following for steering committee: Lauren Brown, University of Maryland; Bill Meneray, Tulane University; Carla Summers, University of Florida; and Geoffrey Reynolds, Hope College, in Michigan.

Cynthia Miller gave her thanks to those leaving the steering committee: Pam Hackbart Dean, Karyl Winn, and Burt Altman.

Liz Scott passed around copies of the mailing list with requests for additions and corrections. She also asked for members to indicate if they would prefer to receive the newsletter by e-mail. Sending newsletters electronically does save a bit of money for the Roundtable (although not a huge amount). Members are encouraged to receive them that way, if that works for them, however, no one needs to feel guilty about getting regular mail if that is more convenient.

Cynthia introduced the ex-officio members of the Steering committee, who come from the Senate Historical Office, the House Legislative Resources Center, and the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives, and asked them for news from their institutions.

Karen Paul (Senate Historical Office) announced two books coming out this fall relating to the architectural history of the Capitol. First one is by William Allen, which is a history of the Capitol Building, very well written and lavishly illustrated. The second is *Capitol Builder: The Shorthand Journals of Montgomery C. Meigs, 1853-1859 and 1861*. Meigs oversaw the construction of the Capitol extension and dome in the years before the Civil War. The book includes social history of Washington of the day, as well as information about the construction.

Karen then discussed the team approach to closing Senate offices that was tried last year when 11 offices were closing. This was a new approach to deal with a very complicated process, especially in the electronic records area. Now they are going to try the same thing for opening offices. They have written a checklist of things to do when opening a Senate office, both for electronic and paper records. She passed

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## INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

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**Boise State University** is pleased to announce the acquisition of a small collection of the papers of D. Worth Clark (1902-1955), who represented Idaho in the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate from 1935 until 1945. Included in the collection is a scrapbook chronicling his prominent role in the America First movement before World War II and papers relating to a fact finding tour he led to China for President Truman after World War II.

Alan Virta

The **California State University Channel Islands** announces that the Robert J. Lagomarsino Federal and State (Senate) Collections (1974-1993) are open. Mr. Lagomarsino was a California congressman under Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush. A website is in the making and should be available through the Channel Islands homepage ([www.csuci.edu](http://www.csuci.edu)) in two months.

Evelyn Taylor

In June 2000, the **Library of Virginia** acquired the papers of Owen Bradford Pickett, member of the Virginia House of Delegates (1972-1986), chairman of the Virginia Democratic Party (1980-1982), and Congressman from Virginia's 2nd District (1987-2001). The papers span the years from 1955 to 2000; however, only the papers relating to Pickett's pre-congressional career are currently available for research. The papers concerning his service in the United States House of Representatives from 1987 to 2000 are restricted until 31 December 2010. The finding aid for the pre-congressional papers is available on-line at [www.lva.lib.va.us/findaid/38052.htm](http://www.lva.lib.va.us/findaid/38052.htm)

Jay Gaidmore

The Congressional and Political Research Center, **Mississippi State University Libraries**, ([library.msstate.edu/congressional/](http://library.msstate.edu/congressional/)), now has a link on our web page that allows researchers to search the John C. Stennis Collection (U. S. Senator, 1947-1989) and the David R. Bowen Collection (U. S. Congressman, 1973-1983). All data has not been entered, and we will be adding search terms for each folder. As of now, the search engine picks up terms in folder titles. The specific address is [library.msstate.edu/congressional/search.asp](http://library.msstate.edu/congressional/search.asp).

In cooperation with the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, we have also developed a site called "How Congress Works," which at present contains basic information and a case study, the latter being on the War Powers Act. Additional case studies will be added. The site address is [www.sig.msstate.edu/congress/index.htm](http://www.sig.msstate.edu/congress/index.htm).

We are working with William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS, to process the Charles Pickering Papers. Pickering is a Republican Party activist in Mississippi and has been nominated for a judgeship on the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. His son is Chip Pickering, currently U. S. Representative from Mississippi's Third District, who has agreed to donate his papers to our Center. The Charles Pickering Papers will remain at William Carey College, and when processing is completed, they will be searchable on the web site mentioned above.

Mike Ballard

On February 20, 1962, John H. Glenn, Jr. became the first American to orbit the earth as the astronaut aboard the Friendship

7 capsule launched during NASA's Mercury Project. To commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this historic event, the John Glenn Archives, housed at The **Ohio State University Archives**, has mounted a web exhibit featuring photographs, video and audio recordings, and manuscripts from the collection documenting the space flight and its impact upon the nation. The exhibit has been available since February 14th through the John Glenn Archives web site at

[www.lib.ohio-state.edu/arvweb/glenn/glenn.htm](http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/arvweb/glenn/glenn.htm).

Jeff Thomas

The **Metcalfe Collection** is a unique collection of Congressional papers. It is a private collection curated by Ralph H. Metcalfe Jr. The Metcalfe Collection's mission is to preserve the legacy of Ralph H. Metcalfe, Sr. (D-IL), who, after a long career in local politics and the Democratic Party, served in the House of Representatives from January 3, 1971 until his death October 10, 1978. The Collection became an Illinois not-for-profit corporation on November 30, 2001 and has applied for tax-exempt status with the assistance of Northwestern University School of Law's Small Business Opportunity Clinic.

No one gave a thought to preservation during Metcalfe's lifetime, which raced along from one accomplishment to another, including medal winning participation in the Summer Olympics of 1932 and 1936. Fortunately, both he and his wife were self-described "packrats" – they saved nearly everything – so there was subliminal awareness of the importance of preservation. Many items were lost through time, however. A fire in January of 1935 resulted in the loss of many track and field mementos after firemen threw a chest out of a second story window. Of more than 200 medals, we recovered only 27. Later, political struggles took their toll. When the Third Ward (Chicago) Regular Democratic Organization split in December 1974, many records were lost. Several subsequent burglaries further dinged the archives.

Currently the Collection resides in 300 record storage boxes containing papers, books, photographs, medals, trophies and memorabilia. Its historical backdrop includes Reconstruction Atlanta, early Chicago Bronzeville, the Great Depression, World War II and the politics of Chicago, the civil rights movement, black power, Nixon, police brutality, Panama Canal Treaties, Agent Orange and the Tuskegee syphilis experiments. After Metcalfe passed away, Ruth Soloff, a colleague in the Kennedy-King College social science department, offered to help sort his papers. The family gratefully accepted her offer in 1984, after obtaining sufficient space to assemble records from several storage facilities into one location. Joined by volunteer archivist Toni Costonie, we partially arranged the Collection and with the assistance of Fay identified many of the photographs. Costonie brought awareness of Hollinger boxes, top loaders, deacidification and the Society of American Archivists.

We plan to develop an independent site where the Collection will be available to researchers. Institutional requests for it started shortly after my father's demise, but we believe that its best arrangement will come from those who experienced the context of its creation.

Ralph Metcalfe, Jr.

*(Continued on next page)*

The papers of former Congressman E. G. "Bud" Shuster of Pennsylvania are now at **St. Francis University** in Loretto, Pennsylvania and will be processed by Valerie A. Metzler.

Valerie A. Metzler

The Archives and Special Collections of **Saint Joseph's University** in Philadelphia recently completed processing the Congressional papers of Thomas M. Foglietta, an alumnus who represented Pennsylvania's First District from 1981-1997. From 1997-2001, Mr. Foglietta served as U.S. Ambassador to Italy.

Mr. Foglietta's district included neighborhoods from north and south Philadelphia, the area around Independence National Historical Park, the city of Chester and the former Philadelphia Naval Shipyard (PNSY). His tenure in Congress came at a time when the First District and the City of Philadelphia were faced with overwhelming challenges, including the threatened and eventual closing of the Navy Yard. Other difficulties included sinking homes in the Logan and Roxborough neighborhoods, the physical deterioration of Independence Hall, and the need for improvements at the Ports of Philadelphia. The papers pertaining to PNSY are the most comprehensive and detail efforts by Foglietta and his staff to save parts of the Navy Yard along with wide-ranging endeavors to maintain ship repair and overhaul work, develop reuse plans, and retrain workers. The collection also provides insight into Mr. Foglietta's broader interests such as urban economic development through enterprise zones and concerns over U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf War.

For additional information or a copy of the finding aid, contact Saint Joseph's University Archives at 610/660-1903, or via e-mail at [nmiller@sju.edu](mailto:nmiller@sju.edu). The finding aid will soon be available at the following Web site:  
[www.sju.edu/libraries/drexel/archive/](http://www.sju.edu/libraries/drexel/archive/).

Nancy Miller

The John Joseph Moakley Law Library at **Suffolk University Law School** in Boston has become the repository for the late congressman's political papers. The John Joseph Moakley Papers span more than fifty years of public service, from Moakley's World War II service in the Seabees, through his Massachusetts political career, to his nearly thirty years in the House of Representatives. A public exhibit, "John Joseph Moakley: In Service to His Country," featuring artifacts drawn from the Congressman's papers is on display in the Adams Gallery of Suffolk Law School through April 7, 2002 (it is online at [www.suffolk.edu/moakley/index.html](http://www.suffolk.edu/moakley/index.html)). For more information, contact Betsy McKenzie ([emckenzi@acad.suffolk.edu](mailto:emckenzi@acad.suffolk.edu)).

Beth Bower

The Thomas J. Dodd Center at the **University of Connecticut** has received an addition to the papers of Congressman Bruce Morrison. The addition, totaling approximately twenty cubic feet, includes Morrison's campaign materials from his four Congressional races and his unsuccessful 1990 run for Governor of Connecticut. Also included is a large collection of records from his work during the 1990s on the Irish peace process. Mr. Morrison, currently the chairman of the Morrison Public Affairs Group, represented Connecticut's third district from 1983 until 1991.

Betsy Pittman

## FIRE AT NARA SUTTLAND FACILITY DAMAGES RECORDS

On December 4, 2001, a fire of undetermined origin broke out in stack 12 at the Washington National Records Center, a National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) storage facility located in Suitland, Maryland. A sprinkler system contained the fire, but not before damaging some 500 boxes of State Department and other records.

Reportedly, constituent correspondence from four members of Congress (Senator Thomas Daschle [D-SD], Senator Gordon Smith [R-OR], Senator Patty Murray [D-WA] and Representative Jesse Jackson Jr. [D-IL]) that were in courtesy storage suffered some water damage. State Department passport files appear to have been hardest hit, though Coast Guard and Navy records also appear to have suffered.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

The Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress met on December 10, 2001. The in-coming chair, Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House, opened the meeting and introduced the new co-chair, Jeri Thomson, Secretary of the Senate. Central to the meeting was a discussion of the SAA Congressional Papers Roundtable Forum on the Third Report of the Advisory Committee. In the absence of Karen Paul, Committee member Tim Johnson led the discussion. He reported to the Committee that 85 people had a chance to attend the forum last August. Participants did some listening and reflecting and had the chance to break into two discussion groups and come up with specific recommendations for Advisory Committee consideration. He explained that the recommendations fall into two tracks - improving archival records management and promoting the vital role of public policy centers. He then posed the questions: "Where do we go from here? What do we do with the recommendations that 85 people helped put together?"

Tim then moved that the Chair and Vice-Chair direct the creation of two task forces, one focusing on the records management and the other on the center recommendations. Trandahl said that he was eager to expedite progress and happily seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried. They hope to establish the task forces in January in anticipation of an Advisory Committee meeting in the spring or summer.\*

The Committee also had a chance to see plans for the new Capital Visitor Center. The center will be located on the East Front Plaza of the Capitol, although it will be primarily underground. (Some artist's renderings are online at [http://www.aoc.gov/cvc/cvc\\_overview.htm](http://www.aoc.gov/cvc/cvc_overview.htm).) Groundbreaking is hoped to begin in May.

\*Editor's Note: The Task Forces had not been set up as of the end of February.

(Minutes, continued from page 1)

around copies of the checklist and asked for comments or suggestions from the group. Karen can supply an extra copy to anyone who did not receive one at the meeting or who wants another. Write to her at the Senate Historical Office, 201 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 or e-mail at Karen\_Paul@sec.senate.gov.

Robin Van Fleet is the new steering committee representative from the Legislative Resources Center in the House. She started in January 2001 and has largely been dealing with committee records from the last Congress. The LRC held a forum in April to teach committee staff how to prepare records for transfer. She also has been consulting with members' offices and updating the research collection section of the *Biographical Directory of Member of Congress*. She also reported that there had been five or six offices closing since the start of the latest Congress due to resignations and the deaths of several members.

Kate Snodgrass is the representative on the steering committee from the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives, replacing Mike McReynolds who has retired. Kate discussed the renovation of the National Archives Building in downtown Washington, DC, currently in progress. She also noted that the Clerk of House has opened records of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). There are about 1500 linear ft. of HUAC records at the Center, and a great deal of research interest has been shown in these records. Access will be determined by a House rule that requires the Center staff to screen records before they can be given to researchers. Kate reviewed the history of HUAC and the targets of its investigations.

Kate also announced that the outreach staff of the Center is preparing its third educational publication, tentatively entitled *Congress and the Shaping of American History*. It will be a two-volume work for history and civics teachers. The first volume covers 1789 to 1877 and features color facsimiles of original documents and other instructional materials. It is due out during this coming academic year.

Pam then announced the results of the election, with Jeff Suchanek winning a close race for vice chair/chair elect. Carla Summers and Geoffrey Reynolds will be the incoming steering committee members. Cynthia thanked them and all candidates for their participation.

Todd Kosmerick (University of Oklahoma) discussed program proposals for next year's SAA meeting. One almost "in the bag" concerns ways of helping researchers have access to collections even though they are unable to travel to a repository. Three presenters are lined up including Todd himself, with a paper on travel grant programs; Tim Erickson (University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee) on archival loan programs among institutions; and Burt Altman (Florida State University) on the POLARIS project (Claude Pepper archives online), specifically how they choose documents to digitize for their Website. Mary Cordato (American Bible Society) will chair.

The second proposal deals with documentation of African-American Empowerment, although at the time of the meeting no presenters had been confirmed. The format may be a discussion panel rather than a series of paper presentations.

Rebecca Johnson Melvin (University of Delaware)

presented overheads illustrating the Congressional Papers Roundtable Website, which she maintains on a volunteer basis at University of Delaware. The page is listed on the Delaware site within the Special Collections section, under a page for "Congressional Sources on the Internet." She discussed the need to establish a more official presence for the CPR site and our information. There is a possibility of having the site hosted through SAA in the future. (The SAA site does provide a link.) Information on the CPR site includes a list of current Steering Committee members, with active e-mail links, and an archive of newsletters.

The "Congressional Sources" page (just above the CPR page) is a gateway for useful information for Congressional archivists. It includes links to a list of Congressional Collections at Archival Repositories, the Biographical Directory of Members of Congress, the official Senate and House sites and others. The list of Congressional collections is not comprehensive, and Rebecca requested that members provide information about links at their own repositories that could be added. She showed examples of good Web pages dealing with political collections.

Rebecca mentioned the Robert Dole Institute, which has created a similar clearinghouse of information about Congressional research collections. The question has come up about whether this sort of effort should be centralized and taken over by one repository or institution. The Congressional Information Service, a commercial entity, has made a proposal to do this, but this brings up issues of privatization and fees. Rebecca feels archivists should remain involved, and mentioned several possibilities of other institutions that might act as a central authority. At the same time it should not be a case of reinventing the wheel. Since several institutions are already doing this, perhaps the topic is covered. She suggested a task force be created to study centralizing this process, if needed, how it might best be done, and by whom.

John Nemmers (Florida State University), gave a report on their POLARIS Project, (Pepper OnLine Archival Retrieval and Information System), set up to increase the accessibility of the Claude Pepper papers at the Pepper Center in Tallahassee. This is a multi-phase project; they can't do it all at once because of the size of the collection. The first phase, begun late 1998, involved creating a unified, standardized finding aid that combined several legacy formats. The guide is now fully browseable and searchable on the Web.

A goal of the project, besides increasing access, has been to increase public awareness of the collection, as staff felt it had been under utilized. They wanted to make the site usable by a broad audience, including many kinds of researchers.

Phase II of the project, which began in January 2001, involves selective digitization of documents from Pepper's Senate papers. Phase III will involve digitization of Pepper's House papers. They started with Senate records (1936-1951) since they generate the most research activity, although the House papers (1963-1989) are more voluminous. Later they will add personal papers, and photographs (there are over 23,000 unique photos in the collection). They expect the project to go until about 2009.

Criteria for selection include research value, feasibility for

(Continued on page 5)



## Text of Chair Kosmerick's Letter to Rep. Stephen Horne

20 November 2001

Representative Stephen Horn, Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Government Efficiency  
2154 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Horn:

As an archivist who works with historical records and as chair of the Congressional Papers Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists, I write expressing my concern with President Bush's recent Executive Order 13233 concerning presidential papers. I ask you to consider congressional action to rescind this order.

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) is North America's oldest and largest national archival professional association, and its president, Steve Hensen, has already sent you a letter expressing concern over this measure. The Congressional Papers Roundtable is a section within SAA that is comprised of archivists who work with or have an interest in the papers of members of Congress and the records of Congress. The roundtable provides a forum for news, for discussion of issues and developments, and for setting standards and advocating action in the preservation and management of congressional papers and records.

My colleagues and I believe Executive Order 13233 is problematic on several counts. First, it violates both the spirit and letter of existing U.S. law on access to presidential papers (44 U.S.C. 2201-2207). It puts responsibility for governance of presidential papers with the current and any future president and not with the Archivist of the United States and established archival principles—which the law prescribes. Second, on a broader level this Executive Order potentially threatens to undermine one of the cornerstones of our democratic nation—free and open access to information. Finally, it is *Congress's* prerogative to change the law if it is necessary. Congress may need to revise the existing legislation to meet the concerns that have prompted the White House to issue this executive order. Any changes should be designed to protect national security and executive privilege *and* ensure that the American people have access to the records of their chief executive.

Steve Hensen has voiced SAA's willingness to provide advice in this area. We urge you and Congress to consider our concerns over the restriction of information inherent in Executive Order 13233 and to take action to overturn this measure.

Sincerely,

Todd J. Kosmerick

## Microfilm Puzzle

Students from the School of Information Resources and Library Sciences at the University of Arizona working on Sen. Dennis DeConcini's congressional papers wondered about the following.

In 1995, an attempt was made to decipher the index files and relate them to the constituent correspondence microfilm. The archivist contacted a former Senate office staff member inquiring about the microfilm numbering system. The document numbers were explained as follows: The first number indicates the particular year. The next three numbers are the Julian date. The next two numbers are the operator's number and the next number is a 1, 2, or 3 depending on the nature of the data being entered. This information was then given to a member of our campus computing center who was called in work on the problem. His findings are as follows.

(1) Cartridge numbers on constituent correspondence (CC) do not necessarily follow the order of document numbers.

(2) Many rolls of CC are missing document numbers on the images and/or letter work order forms preceding the images.

(3) The index just doesn't seem to work. It is difficult to impossible to find an item in the CC from the index. (Probably more a problem with the CC labels than the index labels.)

(4) The CC in the black and yellow cartridges are wound onto the reels backwards (not upside down).

(5) The master Name Index cartridges with handwriting on them are wound onto the reels upside down (not backwards).

(6) CC does not necessarily contain all of the range of document numbers shown on the label.

(7) Document numbers (on CC cartridges only) may be abbreviated with either the digits 1-4 of the document number or digits 2-4 of the document number. All of these may need to be viewed and relabeled.

(8) Not every document on the CC has a document number associated with it (either written on the document or on a work order).

(9) Some work orders appear to cover rather large ranges of document numbers. This makes it difficult to identify a particular document's number within the series.

Questions: (1) Constituent correspondence will be fully processed soon. Is it worth further diagnostics to fix this problem? (2) Do we retain the microfilm as a curiosity and perhaps fodder for student research? Or do we ditch it if we can't make the materials accessible? (3) Has anyone else had a microfilm problem? (4) How often are microfilmed congressional documents accessed at other facilities? (5) Is what we found here typical of the microfilm practices in the Senate?

Anyone who can help the students with their query can contact Linda Whitaker at [linda-whitaker@juno.com](mailto:linda-whitaker@juno.com)

## Out of the Backlog ... Snippets of Congressional History

By L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin

It is refreshing to find primary sources for congressional history other than the papers of personal members of Congress, those monster collections that absorb so much of our attention. An overlooked item selected from the processing backlog at the University of Delaware Library recently turned out to offer significant comment on the history of Congress. The following report is derived from the finding aid written by graduate assistant Gerald Cloud, who processed the collection.

This small collection comprises two volumes of news clippings representing John Wien Forney's editorial column in the *Philadelphia Press*, spanning the dates August 30, 1857 – June 25, 1861. The collected columns were submitted for copyright registration as a work titled "The Letters of *Occasional* by John W. Forney." Editor and publisher John Forney was born in 1817 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and died in Philadelphia in 1881. Forney also pursued a minor political career, serving as *both* Clerk of the House of Representatives and Secretary of the Senate.

After apprenticing at newspapers throughout his youth, by age nineteen Forney became joint owner and editor of the *Lancaster Intelligencer*. But politics also interested Forney and he actively supported U.S. Senator (later President) James Buchanan (D - PA.), who also hailed from Lancaster. In 1845, with Buchanan's support, Forney was appointed deputy surveyor of the port of Philadelphia. In the same year Forney sold his Lancaster paper and moved to Philadelphia to become the editor of *The Pennsylvanian*, a position he held for seven years.

Forney pursued his interest in politics and in 1851 he was elected to his first term as Clerk of the House of Representatives, where he served until 1857. Beginning in 1853 Forney also worked as an editor for the *Washington Daily Union*, the national Democratic organ. After unsuccessful attempts to advance his political career as a cabinet member under President Buchanan (1857-1861), and a failed bid for one of Pennsylvania's senatorial seats, Forney returned to Philadelphia in 1857 to establish a new newspaper, the *Philadelphia Press*. Forney's disappointment with the Buchanan administration also prompted him to shift his support to the Republican Party, and in 1860 he was again elected Clerk of the House of Representatives, this time as a Republican. Forney actively supported President Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865), whose influence helped to elect Forney Secretary of the Senate (1861-1868), making him the only Secretary to have previously served as Clerk of the House. During this active political period Forney's journalistic pursuits also thrived. He found time to start yet another new paper, the *Washington Chronicle*, as well as maintain his editorship of the *Philadelphia Press*. The *Press* published Forney's "Letter from Occasional" column, which offered editorials on political issues of the day.

Forney's column was written from Washington, D.C., and reported on national politics, congressional issues, United States foreign and domestic policies, the presidencies of Buchanan and Lincoln, life in Washington, and political events relevant to the *Press*'s Pennsylvania readership. Forney's

reporting often took a pronounced political stance on the topics he treated; his position as both an experienced journalist and Clerk of the House of Representatives (1851-1857, 1860-1861) provided his column with great insight on the political issues of the day. While Forney's well-informed editorials display his detailed knowledge of the political workings of Washington, his partisan position on certain issues reveals his politically ambitious nature. His critical treatment of President Buchanan is one example of his willingness to forward his political point of view through his editorial columns.

The complete finding aid is available online at: [www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/findaids/forney.htm](http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/findaids/forney.htm)  
Gerald Cloud found useful source information on the Senate's web site: [www.senate.gov/learning/learn\\_history.html](http://www.senate.gov/learning/learn_history.html)

### SAA SESSIONS

The Congressional Papers Roundtable has developed two session proposals for SAA's August 2002 meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. Both were accepted. They are briefly summarized below. We hope so see you there!

**Session Title:** "For a Researcher Far, Far Away: Connecting Archival Collections to Long-Distance Researchers"

**Time:** Friday 23 August 2002, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

**Cosponsors:** Reference, Access, and Outreach Section and Manuscript Repositories Section

**Chair:** Mary Cordato, American Bible Society

**Presenters and Paper Titles:**

**Todd Kosmerick**, University of Oklahoma, "Paying Researchers to Conduct Research: A Survey of Travel Grant Programs"

**Tim Ericson**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, "It's the Coming Thing—Or Is It? Loaning Archival Collections"

**Burt Altman**, Florida State University, "Meeting User Needs for Long Distance Access to Archival Materials: The POLARIS Project"

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**Session Title:** "Empowerment! Documenting African Americans Since the Civil Rights Movement"

**Time:** TBA

**Cosponsor:** Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable

**Chair:** Karen L. Jefferson, Atlanta University Center

**Panelists:**

**Cynthia Lewis Patterson**, The Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change

**Donna M. Wells**, Howard University

**Charles Bolton**, University of Southern Mississippi

**Horace Huntley**, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

In addition, the following poster session may be of interest to CPR members: "A Multi-Tasking Approach to Processing Congressional Papers." Linda Whitaker, a second year graduate student in the School of Information Resources and Library Sciences at the University of Arizona has been working on Sen. Dennis DeConcini's congressional papers for the past year and will be working on the session.

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## CONGRESSIONAL PAPERS ROUNDTABLE STEERING COMMITTEE 2001-2002

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### **Jeff Suchanek (Vice Chair/Chair Elect)**

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### **Cynthia Pease Miller (Immediate Past Chair)**

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### **Rebecca Johnson Melvin (2000-2002)**

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### **REPRESENTATIVE(S) WANTED FOR ICA**

Kim Efirm at the Illinois State Archives wrote in with the following opportunity. The International Council of Archives has a section called Archives of Parliaments and Political Parties. The group would like to have more American participants, as there is currently only one American member. This is desired so much that for the last meeting, the head of the group volunteered to pay for everything except the representative's airfare. ICA membership is \$130.00 a year. The International Congress on Archives meets once every four years. The next Congress will be held in Vienna, Austria, in 2004. For more information, please contact Kim Efirm directly at Kefird@ILSOS.NET





**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**From the Chair, by Todd Kosmerick.....p. 1**  
**2001 Meeting Minutes.....p. 1**  
**Institutional News.....p. 2**  
**Advisory Committee Meets.....p. 5**  
**Letter to Rep. Horne.....p. 6**  
**Microfilm Puzzle..... p. 6**  
**Out of the Backlog .....p. 7**  
**CPR Steering Committee 2001-2002.....p. 8**

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