



# Congressional Papers Roundtable

## NEWSLETTER

Society of American Archivists

July 2008

### From the Chair

*Kate Cruikshank*

We have a wonderful “preconference” day planned for San Francisco, with opportunities for some great discussions. Sean Kelly and Scott Frisch of California State University-Channel Islands have done research in several of our repositories, and they love doing presentations and discussing issues with archivists. To quote Sean from a recent email: “I did a panel at a regional archivists’ conference a couple of years back; a user’s perspective panel like this one. It was STANDING ROOM ONLY! I was so impressed! Archivists GO to panels, they like to discuss, and they really want to help. That was such a refreshing change from our conferences....” So we have a wonderful session to look forward to.

Our business meeting includes election of new officers and steering committee members, reports from NARA’s Center for Legislative Archives and the Historical Offices of the House of Representatives and Senate, as well as an update on the new guidelines volume, *Managing Congressional Collections*, which will either be hot off the press or almost so by our meeting date.

*Continued on Page 2*

### H. Con. Res 307, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Passes

June 20, 2008 was a milestone in the long term efforts to improve preservation of the papers of members of Congress. What began over thirty years earlier with the establishment of a Historical Office in the Senate in 1975 culminated when the House passed H. Con. Res. on March 5, 2008 and the Senate in turn passed it by unanimous consent on June 20<sup>th</sup>. This resolution puts in place the final piece of a puzzle whose design element is the documentation of Congress, specifically the preservation of the papers of its members. With this concurrent resolution, the Congress finally has expressed in writing its “policy” regarding the preservation of these materials.

The discussion began years ago when the Public Documents Commission recommended that members’ papers become public records. [National Study Commission on Records and Documents of Federal Officials. *Final Report*, March 31, 1977 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1977), 19-22]. At the time, there were many objections and perceived problems, mainly centering on separation of powers and cost issues. The result was that nothing was done. Both House and Senate went on to produce records management guidance for members and gradually an acceptable modus operandi developed.

*Continued on page 2*

### In This Issue:

ACSC Annual Meeting .....	12	Institutional News.....	7
CPR Candidates .....	21	In The News .....	14
Forthcoming Publication .....	16	On-line Ballots Question .....	20
From the Chair .....	1	Rutgers Presentations .....	18
H. Con. Res 307 Passes .....	1	SAA Pre-Conference Program.....	15

## From the Chair *(cont. from page 1)*

We'll also continue a conversation begun at our meeting last year on ways of dealing with restrictions and privacy issues, in a panel discussion entitled "Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Restrictions and Privacy Issues in Congressional Papers Collections," with the help of presenters Dorothy Hazelrigg of the University of South Carolina, Leigh McWhite of the University of Mississippi, and Jan Zastrow of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, sharing experiences from both developing and implementing policies and practices.

This year we also have the opportunity to join the Privacy and Confidentiality Roundtable as they tackle issues of privacy and confidentiality raised by electronic records, another topic we only had time to

touch on last year. The P&C Roundtable meeting is immediately after ours, so we should be able to join them for the presentation by Erin O'Meara of the University of Oregon and Sharmila Bhatia of NARA.

Having worked up a good appetite with all of that vigorous discussion, we'll once again be partaking of great food and atmosphere in one of San Francisco's distinctive restaurants, getting to know each other better and sharing experiences. If you haven't contacted me about joining us for dinner, please do so ASAP so that I can be sure we reserve adequate space.

I hope you're looking forward to our annual meeting as much as I am. See you there!

## H. Con. Res 307, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Passes *(cont. from page 1)*

The Congressional Papers Roundtable had been exploring various issues related to congressional documentation since 1984. At a forum held in 2001, the Roundtable emphasized the value of concentrating these collections at institutions that specialize in congressional documentation. The economies of doing so were noted as well as the fact that it would be an incredible boon for researchers to have sources concentrated in several large research centers rather than scattered about the nation in numerous isolated institutions.

The Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (established 2003) also reviewed the present state of preservation and access to congressional collections. As a result, the John H. Brademas Center for the Study of Congress at New York University hosted a symposium on October 25, 2005 on the history of the 1974 Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation Act, its role today, and current policy options and obstacles in archiving the papers of government officials. Representative John Brademas (D-IN, 1959-1981) was responsible for the legislation that resulted in the Presidential Records Act of 1978. In opening remarks at the symposium, he commented that the time has come "to fashion a more rational, orderly public policy for dealing with the papers of senators and congressmen."

The final panel of the day was on the topic of "Can We Create a Policy for the Papers of Public Officials?" In his report of the symposium, Bruce Craig ("Symposium Raises Concerns Over Disposition of Congressional Papers," *American Historical Association Perspectives*, January 2006, 23) recounted that John Constance, then director of congressional affairs at the National Archives expressed his doubts that Congress would ever embrace legislation that would turn congressional records (now viewed as personal property) into public property. He stated that members would not allow a law to standardize access, the cost of preserving the collections is prohibitive, and all collections are not equally good. Craig then went on to report that Karen Paul's "upbeat" presentation suggested that the problems relating to creating a public policy were not as overwhelming as they seemed in the past. Paul pointed out that to an extent we already have a policy for the papers of public officials in place. Both houses had devised records disposition guidelines for their members. Retiring members generally do select a repository for their papers, and access to these collections is spelled out in deeds of gift and deposit agreements that tend to parallel the access rules for the official committee records of each body. The Congressional Papers Roundtable has helped to further standardize the appraisal and processing of congressional

collections. She said that the one item lacking was a written policy.

The symposium report called for a congressional discussion of the issues and recommended that the presidential library system, characterized by its ease of use and centralization of resources and funding opportunities, be used as a model for congressional papers, in terms of how to define them and how to provide access to them. The report emphasized that access to these records is just as important as access to presidential papers. (Preserving and Expanding Public Access to Public Papers, The John Brademas Center, [www.nyu.edu/ofp/brademascenter/events.html](http://www.nyu.edu/ofp/brademascenter/events.html), 27 March 2006).

The Brademas conference provided the inspiration for a congressional resolution regarding preservation of papers. By September 2006, a draft resolution for the Senate was created but conditions were not conducive to moving it in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, there simply was not enough time. With the substantial changes brought by the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, it was not until January 2008, that it was raised again with the Secretary of the Senate in preparation for a meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress. The resolution was thoroughly discussed at the January 28<sup>th</sup> committee meeting and unanimously endorsed.

The Clerk of the House, Lorraine Miller, “embraced” the resolution and immediately proposed it to the Committee on House Administration whose staff also liked the idea. By February 6 a discussion draft was produced. Over two days at the end of February, Farar Elliot, Chief of the House Office of History and Preservation, attended at least one three-hour meeting, and Senate Historian Richard Baker and I (via e-mail) discussed finer points of wording in the resolution with the House Legislative Counsel. Finally the language was shaped to their satisfaction. The phrase “official papers of members of Congress” was changed to

“Members’ Congressional papers” having been through several iterations including at one point “historically significant congressional office papers.” Also in the preamble, the phrase “must be properly maintained” was changed to “should be properly maintained.” Representatives Robert Brady (D-PA) and Vernon Ehlers (R-MI) introduced the measure and spoke eloquently in its favor. (See below)

On March 6, *Roll Call* reported that “The House passed a concurrent resolution by voice vote on Wednesday (the 5<sup>th</sup>) reminding Members that their Congressional papers *must* be properly maintained and encouraging them to “take all necessary measures to manage and preserve these papers.” (So much for fine tuning of the wording as reported by the press.)

As Richard Baker said in his keynote address to the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress later in May, “Karen Paul and I have never danced before...” That same day, March 6<sup>th</sup>, it was received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. On March 28<sup>th</sup> it was referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security so that the subcommittee could exercise its jurisdiction. With committee archivist Elizabeth Butler’s timely assistance to the Staff Director, and “talking points” prepared by Richard Baker and myself, the committee ordered it to be reported favorably on April 10<sup>th</sup>. On the twenty second, Senator Lieberman reported it and it was placed on the Legislative Calendar.

On June 19 at 14:40:22, the Republican Cloakroom “Hotlined” the resolution with the notation, “Call up and pass.” And it did on the next day, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:47 P.M.

H. Con. Res. 307 expresses the sense of Congress regarding the importance of preserving members’ collections. While it does not define the contents- that is left to archivists- it does state the members’ common belief in their value and in the

importance of preserving them. Over time, it will grow in stature as it is used over and over again in remarks, in written guidance, and as a constant reminder. This written “policy” provides congressional archivists inside and outside the Congress with a persuasive and useful tool for demonstrating the documentary importance of

the materials that result from the members’ service. Service in Congress is a high public trust and the records of that service are invaluable. It now is up to all of us to use this new found tool to the best of our abilities.

*Karen Paul*

**The enrolled text follows:**

H.Con.Res.307

Agreed to June 20, 2008

*One Hundred Tenth Congress  
of the  
United States of America  
AT THE SECOND SESSION*

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Thursday, the third day of January, two thousand and eight  
Concurrent Resolution

Whereas Members' Congressional papers (including papers of Delegates and Resident Commissioners to the Congress) serve as indispensable sources for the study of American representative democracy;

Whereas these papers document vital national, regional, and local public policy issues;

Whereas these papers are crucial to the public's understanding of the role of Congress in making the Nation's laws and responding to the needs of its citizens;

Whereas because these papers serve as essential primary sources for the history of Congress, the study of these papers will illuminate the careers of individual Members;

Whereas by custom, these papers are considered the personal property of the Member who receives and creates them, and it is therefore the Member who is responsible to decide on their ultimate disposition; and

Whereas resources are available through the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate to assist Members with the professional and cost-effective management and preservation of these papers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that--*

- (1) Members' Congressional papers (including papers of Delegates and Resident Commissioners to the Congress) should be properly maintained;
- (2) each Member of Congress should take all necessary measures to manage and preserve the Member's own Congressional papers; and
- (3) each Member of Congress should be encouraged to arrange for the deposit or donation of the Member's own noncurrent Congressional papers with a research institution that is properly equipped to care for them, and to make these papers available for educational purposes at a time the Member considers appropriate.

Attest:

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate.

**Below is the *Congressional Record* and introductory remarks from Representatives Robert Brady (D-PA) and Vernon Ehlers (R-MI)**

**EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT MEMBERS' CONGRESSIONAL PAPERS SHOULD BE PROPERLY MAINTAINED -- (House of Representatives - March 05, 2008)**

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 307) expressing the sense of Congress that Members' Congressional papers should be properly maintained and encouraging Members to take all necessary measures to manage and preserve these papers.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. Con. Res. 307

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Whereas these papers are crucial to the public's understanding of the role of Congress in making the Nation's laws and responding to the needs of its citizens;

Whereas because these papers serve as essential primary sources for the history of Congress, the study of these papers will illuminate the careers of individual Members;

Whereas by custom, these papers are considered the personal property of the Member who receives and creates them, and it is therefore the Member who is responsible to decide on their ultimate disposition; and

Whereas resources are available through the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate to assist Members with the professional and cost-effective management and preservation of these papers: Now, therefore, be it

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(3) each Member of Congress should be encouraged to arrange for the deposit or donation of the Member's own noncurrent Congressional papers with a research institution that is properly equipped to care for them, and to make these papers available for educational purposes at a time the Member considers appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. *Brady*) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. *Ehlers*) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks in the *Record* on H. Con. Res. 307.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is very easy for Members to get caught up in the day-to-day responsibilities of their job. In between regular correspondence, speeches, and vote recommendations, Members accumulate a lot of paper. Most will not give consideration to the importance of this paper until the end or middle of their careers.

The papers generated by Members while in office reflect the issues of the day and are of historical benefit to students, scholars, and citizens in understanding the role of the House of Representatives in the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 307 is a concurrent resolution that reminds Members of the importance of maintaining and archiving their papers so that future leaders and citizens of history may learn and understand the decisions that we have made. I urge passage of H. Con. Res. 307.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 307, which expresses the sense of the Congress that congressional papers should be properly maintained and encourages Members to take all necessary measures to manage and preserve these papers.

This is a very important issue, and one that I am also delinquent on, as I suspect most Members are. At various times I have encouraged my staff to be certain that we take proper care of papers, that we maintain them, and that they are available for archiving once we leave office. But yet, it is a very difficult task to do this on a day-to-day basis and remember to do it.

Let me also bemoan the fact that the executive branch has been subjected to lawsuits on this issue, and the courts have declared they must save every little piece of paper, every message, and they are open to scrutiny and subpoena at any time in the future. The net effect of this is that the White House puts hardly anything down on paper, a practice that was developed in the previous administration as well. That is unfortunate. We should have the freedom to express our thoughts freely and make certain that they are preserved in a fashion that prevents them from being used improperly in future times.

As Members of Congress, we are routinely faced with an abundance of notes, letters, and other papers that cross our desk each day. For each of us, there is a temptation to rid ourselves of today's notes and papers and begin each day anew, free from the scourge of clutter. And I know my office certainly should be more free of clutter. It would be easiest to discard these items along with rest of the day's castoffs, but as history has shown us, it is often these mundane items that have painted the most accurate and detailed picture of our Nation's history.

These papers and their contents separately may tell us very little about the place and time in which they were created, but they are threads that, when woven together, create the fabric of our democracy.

While congressional papers are the property and responsibility of the Member, the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate stand ready to assist Members of Congress in the disposition and handling of these materials. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in the effort to retain congressional documents, and in doing so, preserve a piece of history for the sake of our individual and collective posterity.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I thank the ranking member, Mr. *Ehlers*, for your cooperation. It is a pleasure working with you from day to day.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

**The SPEAKER pro tempore.** The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. *Brady*) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 307.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.



# INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

## University at Albany, SUNY

The finding aid for Congressman James J. Delaney Papers is complete and available online. Elected as a Democrat to the Seventy-ninth United States Congress in November 1944, Delaney was an unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1946. Delaney's hiatus from politics was short-lived as he was elected again in November 1948 and remained in Congress until his retirement in December 1978. Delaney is noted for his campaign to have cancer-causing agents banned from food, drugs and cosmetics. Passed in 1958, the Delaney Amendment was a clause in the 1938 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act that outlawed cancer-causing additives in food and commenced the federal government's role in protecting the public from cancer. His amendment required the Food and Drug Administration to monitor for any chemical additives in food that were found to induce cancer in man or animals. Delaney became involved with this issue as chairman of the Select House Committee that conducted an investigation and study of the use of chemicals, pesticides, and insecticides in and with respect to food products in January 1949 and again in

January 1951. In the 1960s and 1970s, Delaney was frequently at odds with fellow Democrats over his votes against federal aid to education, support for public aid to parochial schools, school busing, and his support of the Vietnam War. As chairman of the New York City Congressional delegation in the mid-1970's, he played a key role in shaping the federal legislation that helped rescue the city from its financial crisis by securing a 2.4 billion dollar low-interest loan. His three decades in Washington catapulted him into the chairmanship of the powerful Committee on Rules in January 1977.

The Delaney Papers cover the years 1950-1978, and document Delaney's extensive tenure in Congress. The Papers contain 12 cubic feet of legislative files, correspondence, reports, speeches, statements, press releases, and news clippings. The finding aid is available at:

<http://library.albany.edu/speccoll/findaids/apap24.htm>

*Brian Keough*

## Russell Library, University of Georgia

*What Policy Decisions Today Can Get Us a Better Tomorrow?*

Georgia Deliberations Fall Forums 2008: Athens, Atlanta, Tifton, Albany

This fall, the [Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies](#) is partnering with the [Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum](#) to host a series of free public community issue forums in four locations in Georgia. These forums will encourage Georgians to come together, listen to one another, share perspectives, make informed judgments on key issues of today, and consider the implications of these policy decisions for tomorrow. The forum series is part of a nationwide initiative by the [National Issues Forums](#), Presidential Libraries, and other organizations to encourage civic engagement during this critical election season. The forums will emphasize a deliberative approach and encompass a broad spectrum of political perspectives.

When we get closer to the beginning of the forums series in September, we will share more information, but in the mean time, we hope that you will take a few minutes and complete the quick survey to help choose which issues we discuss at the forums in Athens. (You do not have to be an Athens resident to participate).

Here is the link for the online survey:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uwoJEHK\\_2b\\_2bm12AUASi16y5Q\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uwoJEHK_2b_2bm12AUASi16y5Q_3d_3d)

To learn more about the fall forums, please visit [www.libs.uga.edu/russell](http://www.libs.uga.edu/russell) and click the forum link on the center of the page, or contact Jill Severn at 706-542-5766 or [jsevern@uga.edu](mailto:jsevern@uga.edu)

*Jill Severn*

## University of Louisville

The University of Louisville Archives and Records Center is happy to report that the Romano L. Mazzoli Papers Project is now underway. Mazzoli (1932- ) served as the twelve-term congressman from the 3<sup>rd</sup> district of Kentucky, beginning with the 92<sup>nd</sup> Congress in 1971 to his retirement from office after the end of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress in January 1995. During his last year in office the congressman arranged to have his personal papers transferred to the University Archives and Records Center to be stored until funding for their arrangement and description was obtained.

Approximately 1158 record center boxes of material were transferred to the University from four locations (Washington D.C. office, Louisville office, NARA-Suitland, MD, and NARA-Atlanta, GA) in five separate shipments, the smallest being 11 boxes, the largest being almost 750 boxes. Within the largest shipment, there were twenty separate transmittal listings ranging from 4 to 89 boxes, and the boxes arrived on pallets in no particular order. They were shelved in our off-site warehouse and tracked by transmittal and box

numbers. A map grid was created to have an accurate location code for every box.

Fast forward twelve years – and it is time for the project to begin. The first step was working with the congressman and the university’s development office on fund-raising. Next came the hiring and training of a project assistant and a volunteer. Lastly was the coordination of the transfer of about 100 boxes at a time from the warehouse to the Archives main facility. The actual processing of papers was finally begun in Fall 2007 and using a plan based on More Product, Less Process, is about 20% complete at this time. By May 2008, about 460 boxes had been moved from the warehouse, using the library van and crew, in several shipments, as well as 20 boxes being added from Mazzoli’s home. Of those, 264 have been finished and reduced to 118 boxes. The Project Assistant is currently on an extended leave, but has over 200 boxes awaiting his return. The collection should be open to researchers by Fall 2009.

*Katherine Burger Johnson*

## Marquette University

Marquette University’s Department of Special Collections and University Archives has published a new digital collection, *Senator Joe McCarthy: Audio Excerpts, 1950-1954*. The collection provides access to 35 streaming audio files made from analog tape recordings in the Joseph R. McCarthy Papers. Varying in length from 22 seconds to over 10 minutes, the excerpts contain public remarks made by Senator McCarthy during his controversial campaign to remove communists and communist sympathizers from government. Listeners can hear about topics McCarthy commonly discussed in his speeches, such as his views about the United States and the war

against communism, and his denunciation of several prominent individuals.

Users may search the excerpts by keyword or browse by year. Users may also browse all excerpts (accompanied by a detailed description) and conduct advanced keyword searches in selected fields. A written transcript of each excerpt is available through the site, and these transcripts are searchable through the keyword search. The collection is available at <http://digitalmarquette.cdmhost.com/JRM/>.

*Bill Fliss*

## Minnesota Historical Society

The Minnesota Historical Society was awarded \$176,550 by the National Endowment for the Humanities under the “We the People” initiative.

The project, titled “The Walter Mondale Papers Project” is described as “arrangement and description of the papers of Walter F. Mondale, along with selected digitization of photographs and the creation of a dedicated web portal.”

Mondale served in various political roles throughout his career including representing Minnesota as Senator from 1964-1976 and serving a Vice-President under President Jimmy Carter. Preliminary inventories for parts of the collection are available through the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs: <http://www.politicsandgovernance.org/mondale.html>



## University of Mississippi

The University of Mississippi is pleased to announce that Roger F. Wicker (U.S. Representative 1995-2008, U.S. Senator 2008-current) has agreed to add his records to the holdings of the Modern Political Archives. In addition, the family of Thomas G. Abernethy (U.S. Representative 1943-1972) donated an accretion of books, photographs, scrapbooks, and memorabilia to their father's original collection (for the revised finding aid, see <http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00001/>).

In the past year, Modern Political Archives staff completed processing and posted online finding aids for several collections: the E.C. Walthall Collection (U.S. Senate 188501894, 1895-1898) at <http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00462/>; the Pat Harrison Collection (U.S. Representative 1911-1918, U.S. Senate 1919-1941) at <http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00222/>; the Carroll Gartin Collection (Mississippi Lieutenant Governor 1952-1960, and 1964-1966) at <http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00198/>; the Lily Thompson Collection (Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association and related material dating from 1897-1938) at <http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00446/>; the League of Women Voters of Mississippi Collection (local, state, and national material dating from 1946-2001) at <http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00261/>; and the Southern Women Legislators Collection (information on women in the state legislatures of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas,

and Virginia) at <http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00422/>. Processing continues on the James O. Eastland Collection (U.S. Senator 1941, 1943-1978) with hopes for opening unrestricted subseries in File Series 3: Constituent Records to researchers before the end of the year.

Two cases of political material appear in the current Special Collections exhibit "In Her Own Words: An Exhibition of Mississippi Women" and a separate exhibit showcases original cartoon drawings by C.K. Berryman that feature U.S. Senator Pat Harrison. To coincide with the September 26<sup>th</sup> Presidential Debate on the University of Mississippi campus, Special Collections will install "Hail to the Chief!: An Exhibit of Presidents and Mississippi in Presidential Elections." For articles on the Berryman and "Hail to the Chief!" exhibit, see [http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general\\_library/files/admin/gifts/keywords/keywords\\_debate.pdf](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general_library/files/admin/gifts/keywords/keywords_debate.pdf).

Since a number of departments have developed courses for the fall that will focus on the debate and the election, the Modern Political Archives created a Presidential Debate Subject Guide at [http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/subject\\_guide/debate/intro](http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/subject_guide/debate/intro) to facilitate research, and curators will also conduct presentations of related material to these classes. Several programs are planned for the general public, and the Modern Political Archives is working with university officials to create a 2008 Presidential Debate Collection which documents the event for future scholars.

*Leigh McWhite*

## South Carolina Political Collections

South Carolina Political Collections, University Libraries, the University of South Carolina, officially opened the papers of Ernest F. 'Fritz' Hollings on June 16, 2008, in conjunction with the publication of Hollings' new book, *Making Government Work*, by the USC Press. A book signing event at the University of South Carolina, complete with remarks by the Senator and an exhibit from his papers, marked the occasion.

The Hollings Collection is the largest collection of personal papers open to research in South Carolina and is extraordinary for its content, as it documents the long career of one of South Carolina's most

thoughtful and thought-provoking public figures. Approximately 860 linear feet of papers, audiovisual records, and memorabilia illuminate Hollings' life and public service as a member of the SC House of Representatives, 1949-54, Lt. Governor, 1955-59, Governor, 1959-63, and U.S. Senator, 1966-2005. Senator Hollings retired to Charleston, SC, in 2005 with his wife, Peatsy.

A detailed online finding aid and a searchable electronic exhibit showcasing the best of Hollings' memorable writings and speeches are planned for fall 2008.

*Lori Schwartz*

## Library of Congress

The Library of Congress Manuscript Division recently celebrated the completion of a 3½-year project to process the rich and voluminous papers of former Hawaii representative and Title IX advocate Patsy T. Mink (1927-2002), which had been donated to the Library in 2003 by Mink's husband and daughter. Congresswoman Mink was a vigorous and tireless champion of women's rights, an early and vocal opponent to the Vietnam War, and a leader on issues involving education, the environment, welfare, and civil rights. With her election in 1964, Mink became the first woman of color and the first Asian American woman to serve in Congress. She represented the people of Hawaii during two periods, the first from 1965 to 1977 and again from 1990 until her death in 2002. In between, she served in the Jimmy Carter administration as an assistant secretary of state for oceans and international, environmental, and scientific affairs (1977-78), was president of Americans for Democratic Action (1978-81), served on

the Honolulu City Council (1983-87), maintained a private law practice (1987-90), and founded the Public Reporter (1989-91), an organization that monitored and publicized the activities of the Hawaii state legislature.

The Mink collection, which numbers nearly 900,000 items, is arranged in 2,710 boxes and is described in a 700-plus-page finding aid. Senior archives specialist Margaret McAleer directed a team of two archivists, twelve archives technicians, and nine interns during the course of the project. The collection, which is available for research use, contains personal and professional correspondence, daily schedules, central legislative files, bills, issue mail, speeches, clippings, press releases, scrapbooks, photographs, and other papers covering all aspects of Mink's life and career.

*Janice Ruth*

## Missouri History Museum

The Missouri History Museum is proud to announce the opening of the Richard A. Gephardt Papers. This collection is fully processed and available for use at the museum's Library and Research Center.

In addition to the papers, Gephardt Papers web site has been launched which allows users to browse and search collection inventories and digitized materials. In addition, users may learn more about Congressman

Gephardt's life and career by using our interactive time line. The curriculum section of the website includes lesson plans for secondary school teachers interested in incorporating primary source documents in the classrooms.

The website can be reached at <http://gephardt.mohistory.org/>

*Morgan Davis*

## University of California, Berkeley

The papers of the late Tom Lantos of California, a leading champion of human rights and the only Holocaust survivor to serve in the U.S. Congress, are now part of the University of California, Berkeley's Bancroft Library.

The materials reflect how Lantos's lifelong dedication to human justice sprung from his remarkable early experience: the loss of his family to the Holocaust, his escape from a forced labor camp in his native Hungary during World War II; and his participation as a youth in the Nazi resistance. Years after emigrating from post-war Communist Hungary to the United States, he became known as an outspoken defender of 21<sup>st</sup> century human rights

around the globe, from Sudan and Tibet to Central Europe and the former Soviet Union.

On June 19 Lantos received the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award, the nation's highest civilian honor. In announcing the award, President Bush commended Lantos for "a lifetime of leadership, for his commitment to liberty, and for his devoted service to his adopted nation."

"Throughout my adult life, I have sought to be a voice for human rights, civil liberties and social justice, both at home and around the world," Lantos said in January when announcing that due to illness, he would not seek re-election.

Bancroft Library Director Charles Faulhaber said discussions with Lantos about the library acquiring

his archive started around that time. Faulhaber noted that the Lantos family also gave its support to the transfer after Lantos died of cancer on Feb. 11 at the age of 80. Materials from the former Democratic congressman's offices in Washington, D.C., and San Mateo, Calif., recently began to arrive at the library, where final shipments are expected in fall 2008.

The archive includes reports and briefing notebooks, Congressional Human Rights Caucus files for countries ranging from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, correspondence regarding legislation, campaign scrapbooks and memorabilia such as bumper stickers and political buttons, CDs, videotapes and photographs. Video of a Lantos memorial service held in the nation's capital also is in the archive, as well as original letters written in Hungarian by Lantos when he was a graduate student at the University of Washington.

Lantos was born in 1928 to a Jewish family in Budapest, Hungary. As a youth, he was involved with the resistance to the Nazi occupation of Hungary and found refuge in a safe house established by Swedish humanitarian and diplomat Raoul Wallenberg. Lantos immigrated to the United States in 1947 and attended the University of Washington and UC Berkeley, where he earned a Ph.D. in economics in 1953.

He spent 30 years working as an economics professor, business consultant and international affairs analyst and served as a senior advisor to several U.S. senators before making a successful bid for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1980. He was elected to 14 terms in Congress.

Bob King, Lantos's former chief of staff, said that as a Holocaust survivor and a self-described "American by choice," Lantos brought unique insights and perspectives to U.S. foreign policy.

Lantos grew up in an era "where the good guys and the bad guys were not Republicans or Democrats but Fascists and Communists" and he had a profound reverence for democracy and American governmental institutions, King said. "At 80 years old, he was still a kid when it came to the excitement of being a member of Congress in Washington," he added.

Lantos was elected chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in January 2007 and was a senior member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. He was the founding co-chair of the 24-year-old Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

"He was the premiere spokesman for human rights causes in Congress and was a spectacular orator," said Kathleen Moazed, director of federal governmental relations for UC Berkeley. A Capitol Hill veteran, Moazed met Lantos when he arrived in Washington, D.C., in 1980 and she was working for Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-Conn.).

She recalled his "shock of white hair, regal bearing and lovely, very refined accent," as well as his impressive ability to speak persuasively and often extemporaneously about sometimes unpopular issues. "Being a Holocaust survivor gave him that moral authority to stand up and speak," Moazed said.

While many congressional offices are frenetic, Moazed said, Lantos's office was known as the "salon." It lacked a desk and was adorned with Persian carpets, low lights, books, paintings and his grandchildren's artwork. Conversations there, such as one between Lantos and UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau last November, were often deep and philosophical, said Moazed.

While Lantos was an early supporter of the U.S. war in Iraq, he grew increasingly critical of how the war was being waged and became one of its sharpest critics. As chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, he held 20 oversight hearings on the war.

Lantos supported reforming the nation's health care system and reducing the federal budget deficit and national debt. He opposed privatizing Social Security, was adamantly pro-choice, supported same-sex marriage, advocated patients' access to marijuana for medical use and strongly supported gun control.

In April 2006 Lantos and four other Democratic members of Congress assembled in front of the Sudanese embassy in Washington, D.C., to protest the Sudanese government's role in the genocide in Darfur. He and his fellow protesters were arrested for refusing to leave the property.

As Lantos was handcuffed and arrested, King recalled observing "a resolve and a firmness in his demeanor. He felt very strongly about this."

Lantos was one of the five Hungarian Jews whose story is told in "The Last Days," the Academy Award-winning documentary about the impact of the Holocaust in Hungary. He also appeared in "A Moral Debt," a documentary about Filipino American veterans of World War II. The Tom Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice was established recently to carry on his legacy.

In addition to his papers, The Bancroft Library also houses the archives of the late U.S. Rep. Robert T. Matsui (D-Calif.), who was interned with his family during World War II at the Tule Lake War Relocation Center in Northern California. The Matsui archives include documentation of Japanese-American reparations, the North American Free Trade Agreement, U.S. military base closures and welfare reform.

Other high-ranking, now-deceased California officials whose papers are housed at the library

include California Gov. Edmund G. (Pat) Brown, Sen. William F. Knowland (R-Calif.), Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel (R-Calif.), Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) and Hiram Johnson, a former California governor and senator.

The library also has the second official archival set of records maintained by the War Relocation Authority that coordinated World War II relocation of people of Japanese heritage away from the Pacific Coast.

## Association of Centers for the Study of Congress Annual Meeting

*Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, May 14-16, 2008*

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The fifth annual meeting of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) was held May 14-16, 2008, at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Forty-seven people from twenty-six institutions attended, including multiple registrants from the historical offices of the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, and the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives and Records Administration where the official records of Congress are housed. Member repositories of ACSC range from established centers such as the Everett C. Dirksen Congressional Center in Pekin, Illinois, or the W. R. Poage Legislative Library Collection of Political Materials at Baylor University in Waco, Texas—both of which house numerous collections—to fairly new or emerging collections highlighting the personal papers of prominent politicians such as Congresswoman Barbara Jordan at Texas Southern University in Houston, or the Edward M. Kennedy Center for the Study of the Senate, to be established in a yet undisclosed location.

The fifth ACSC meeting was held, appropriately, at the Byrd Center, where several archivists first met to establish the association in 2003. This milestone meeting offered assessment of the association, plans for the future, and installation of the newly elected officials. Ray Smock, former House Historian, director of the Byrd Center, and founding president of ACSC, noted in his welcoming remarks that the broad, inclusive mission of ACSC was still relevant: “The Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) supports a wide range of programs designed

to inform and educate students, scholars, policy-makers, and members of the general public on the history of Congress, legislative process, and current issues facing Congress. The ACSC encourages the preservation of material that documents the work of Congress, including the papers of representatives and senators, and supports programs that make those materials available for educational and research use.”

The program began with “Reflections on the Modern History of Congressional History” by U.S. Senate Historian Richard A. Baker, who recapped a progression of conferences, legislation, and other significant developments since the mid-1970s that have raised the bar for archival initiatives and research in congressional resources. In the wake of the Watergate scandal, the question of who owned the papers of federal officials was posed by congressional investigative committees. A congressionally mandated Public Documents Commission, conveniently working through the historically-minded bicentennial period, added concerns about who owned the personal papers of members of Congress to the higher profile discussion of who owned the records of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches. Momentum to preserve personal papers of members as well as the official records of Congress accelerated with celebration of the 1989 Congressional Bicentennial, the advocacy of the Congressional Papers Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists, the establishment of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, and several other conferences and initiatives, including the first meeting of the ACSC in 2003.

Richard Hunt, Center for Legislative Archives, chaired “Looking Forward: The Future of the ACSC,” with presentations by outgoing president Ray Smock and Sheryl Vogt, Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia; and incoming ACSC president Alan Lowe, from the Howard Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Ray Smock cited the importance of the building blocks described in Dick Baker’s chronology and calls for “educational and research parity” for legislative study centers in league with the resources supporting preservation and study of records from the executive branch of government. He said ACSC needs to identify and pursue funding mechanisms for study centers, at the same time not overlooking the interests of smaller repositories with congressional collections. Smock recommended that the association raise its profile by “branding” — providing advice to new centers or consultations to members of Congress, or by sponsoring “products” such as manuals, oral histories, or publications. He pointed out that ACSC’s partnerships will be key to expanding resources and projects.

Vogt’s vision for the association also included collaboration, along with outreach initiatives via an expanded Web presence, staff training programs, and public programs raising awareness of Congress. With a balance of approximately \$30,000 in the treasury, it is now possible for ACSC to consider contracting a Web content management service that would support administrative functions and more content-rich sections, or even social software in support of the association’s needs. ACSC’s Web site is currently maintained and hosted by the Dirksen Center. Vogt also proposed cross-training and professional development opportunities for congressional archivists at member institutions, as well as educational programs to expand knowledge of Congress or understanding of how to process large, multi-media modern collections. She suggested that association members could share expertise in preparing grant proposals, support travel grants for scholars, and fund registration or travel grants for congressional archivists to attend conferences. This

last proposal was, in fact, adopted at the close of the fifth annual meeting with the announcement of the \$500 Raymond Smock Fellowship to support attendance at ACSC. This grant was established to honor Smock’s outstanding leadership for the association and to recognize his commitment to preservation of sources for congressional history and scholarship.

Vogt, drawing from successful experience with so many public programs at the Russell Library, also suggested that ACSC could develop institutions for teachers, teleconferences with congressional scholars as featured speakers, or congressional history events with over-arching themes such as “Women in Congress.” She proposed partners such as the Kettering Foundation to promote civic literacy through national issues forums, or state-based programs that would take forums to smaller towns. In support of all these ideas, Vogt advised that it was time for ACSC to begin development work with endowments and investments.

Incoming president Alan Lowe closed the panel with a review of how all these proposals fit the mission of the association, i.e. how they strengthen scholarship, stimulate use of sources, promote collaboration, and build understanding of Congress. He cited ACSC’s strength in numbers and partnerships to support projects for increased access to sources, spread publicity for programs and holdings, and share scholarly presentations. Lowe also acknowledged the role of technology in delivering projects and programs, from simulcast forums for distance learning to networked databases and expanded Web sites for access to finding aids. Lowe envisioned an ability to search for sources through one gateway, joint publication projects, small research grants, a major topical conference, teacher workshops, shared internships, and an active association committee structure to carry out these plans.

The forward-looking focus of the fifth annual meeting involved discussion of the Congressional Timeline, an interactive, online educational and outreach project designed to feature documentary

sources drawn from archival holdings at multiple ACSC member repositories. An expert team from the University of Texas, Austin, presented a Congressional Timeline prototype modeled on their own NEH-funded Presidential Timeline. <http://www.presidentialtimeline.org/> Afterwards, the presenters led three breakout sessions: Ken Tothoro, Learning Technology Center, University of Texas, Austin, led the functionality discussion; Mary K. Knill, Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, led the content discussion; and development expert Jennifer Gorenstein, Learning Technology Center, University of Texas, Austin, led the grant funding discussion. The Congressional Timeline was conceived as a strong collaborative project to bring visibility to the educational mission of ACSC and to promote awareness of archival holdings at member institutions. At the business meeting the next day, ACSC members voted to propose the Congressional Timeline as a “We The People” collaborative project to be funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The new steering committee reporting to Alan Lowe immediately began planning the grant proposal for this project with special committees for content, functionality, and assessment.

The final presentation on Friday was a report from several members of the Congressional Papers Roundtable (CPR, Society of American Archivists) on the status of a new Guidelines for Managing Congressional Collections. Current chair Kate Cruikshank, Indiana University Libraries, moderated the session. Jeff Thomas, John Glenn Archivist at Ohio State University, gave a history of the guidelines project, which grew from a call for standards at the Congressional Papers Forum held in Washington, D.C. in 2003. Rebecca Johnson Melvin, University of Delaware Library, described the process of applying for a grant from the National Historical Records and Publications Commission, a proposal supported by many members of ACSC. Notably, the 2008 guidelines project fulfills a plan first proposed in a 1986 Congressional Papers Project Report (the Harpers Ferry report), also funded by NHPRC. Cynthia Pease Miller, longtime congressional papers expert and the contracted author for the guidelines, gave an overview of *Managing Congressional Collections* and answered questions about its contents. The guidelines are scheduled to be published and available by the time of SAA’s annual meeting in August 2008; an online version of the guidelines will be available via SAA’s Website.

*Rebecca Johnson Melvin*



## In the News:

### **Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress**

Representative John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, has appointed Jeff Thomas, Archivist of the Ohio Congressional Archives at The Ohio State University, to serve on the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.



## Mark Your Calendar!

### Congressional Papers Roundtable Pre-Conference Program Wednesday, August 27, 2008 SAA Meeting, San Francisco, CA

#### Morning session:

- 10-11:30 "Congressional Collections: The User's Perspective,"  
**Sean Kelly and Scott Frisch, California State University-Channel Islands**,  
authors of *Committee Assignment Politics in the U.S. House of Representatives* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2006) and *Jimmy Carter and the Water Wars: Presidential Influence and the Politics of Pork* (Cambria Press, 2008)

#### Afternoon sessions:

- 1:00-3:00 Congressional Papers Roundtable Business Meeting AND:  
"Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Restrictions and Privacy Issues in  
Congressional Papers Collections,"  
**Dorothy Hazelrigg, Curator, South Carolina Political Collections**  
**Leigh McWhite, Political Papers Archivist, University of Mississippi**  
**Jan Zastrow, Congressional Papers Archivist, University of Hawaii at Manoa**

#### Related event:

- 3:15-5:15 Privacy and Confidentiality Roundtable Business Meeting, followed by:  
"Issues Surrounding Privacy and Confidentiality in Electronic Records"  
Erin O'Meara, University of Oregon  
Sharmila Bhatia, National Archives and Records Administration

- 6:30-9:00 Dinner at a wonderful restaurant, still being determined

#### Thursday, August 28:

- 7 - 9:30 p.m. Steering Committee meeting

So mark your calendars for a day of good discussions and camaraderie (and food)!



## Forthcoming Publication

*Jimmy Carter and the Water Wars: Presidential Influence and the Politics of Pork*

Scott A. Frisch and Sean Q. Kelly

With a Foreword by Les Francis and an Afterword by Jim Free

Cambria Press, August 2008, \$99.95, ISBN: 978-1-934043-89-9

*In many respects, the modern Congress is like the proverbial, stubborn jackass...you have to hit it between the eyes with a 2 x 4 to get its attention. Your best (some say only) 2 x 4 is the power to veto.*

-- Frank Moore and Les Francis  
(Memo to President Carter June 5, 1978)

On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter sent a letter to all members of Congress explaining his veto of the Fiscal Year 1979 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. The Energy and Water Appropriations Bill is popular with many members of Congress as a vehicle for delivering significant benefits—dams, navigation projects, flood control projects, and the like—to their districts. Like the proverbial 2 x 4, the veto did indeed successfully capture the attention of Congress.

Vetoing this bill was a conscious choice aimed at generating public support for Carter and gaining dominance over Congress with regard to budgetary matters. With public approval for Carter on the decline in late 1977 and early 1978, administration advisers suggested that Carter's relationship with Congress might be a significant source of the decline.

Viewed in historical perspective (and combined with the extant congressional context), authors Scott Frisch and Sean Kelly argue that the act of vetoing this bill defined the relationship between Congress and the Carter Administration for the remainder of his presidency. Carter's veto of the Fiscal Year 1979 appropriations bill is an interesting case. Vetoes are fairly rare under conditions of united party government. In choosing to veto an appropriations bill, especially one known to be well larded with benefits for members of Congress, Carter was challenging the way the Congress typically did business in a very provocative manner. His veto also challenged the foundation of the relationship between Congress and the Executive by seeking to exercise more authority within the appropriations process. The veto foreshadowed the development of congressional-executive relations with regard to appropriations and pork barrel politics in the ensuing decades.

Presidents Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton all sought (in differing degrees) to expand presidential power over the appropriations process by attacking Congress as spendthrifts and seeking to minimize the ability of Congress to engage in pork barreling. Carter's veto was the "first shot across the bow," indicating that Carter, and subsequent presidents, would seek greater control over spending priorities. Which branch "should" exercise greater control over government spending?

In this extraordinarily well-written and documented book, Professors Frisch and Kelly utilize qualitative and quantitative data to provide substantial new insight into how presidents attempt to influence votes in Congress by lobbying members, and how members lobby within Congress—against the president—to achieve their own goals. Given the unique nature of this unprecedented data analysis, the Carter veto provides unique insight into his relations with Congress and into congressional-executive relations more generally.

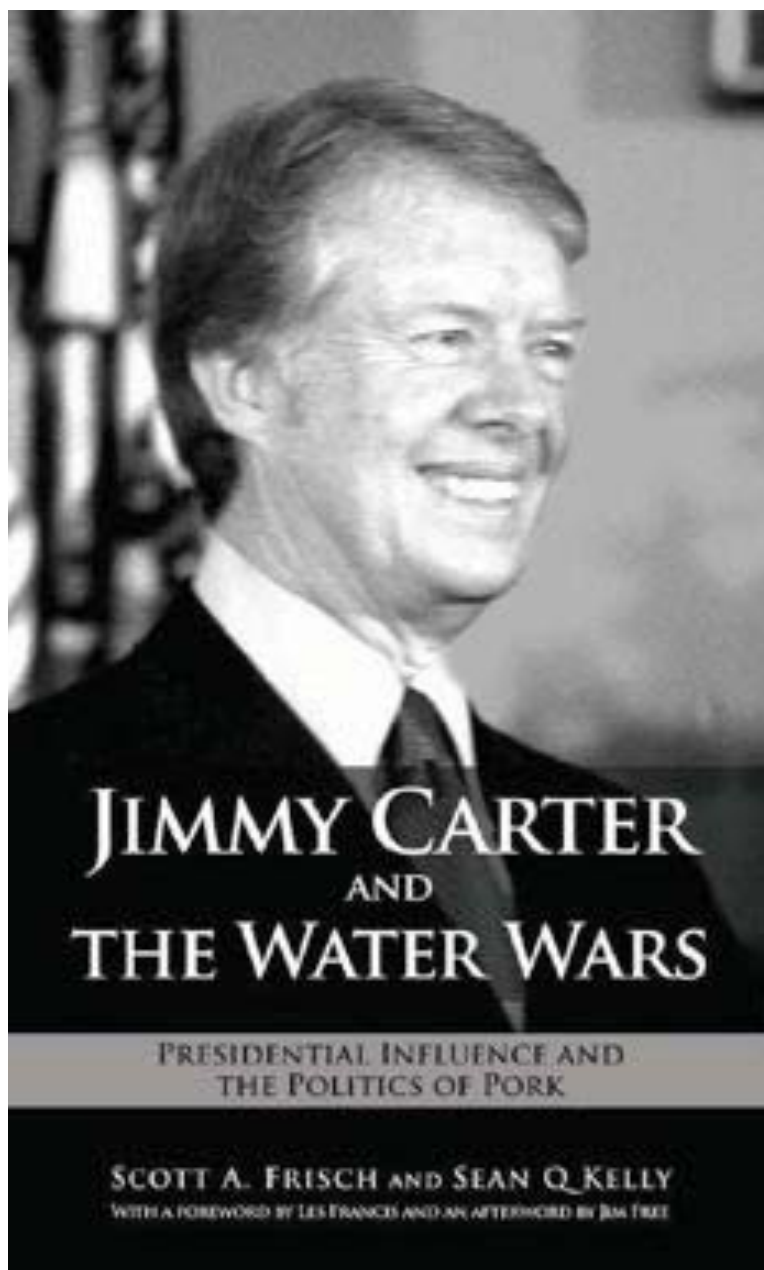
This landmark volume represents a leap forward in our understanding of the dynamics of congressional-presidential relations. It brings data, both qualitative and quantitative, to an age-old question: Can presidents



influence votes in Congress? Using data collected from the archived papers of President Jimmy Carter, the authors identify the members of Congress that Carter targeted and what he said to them. Using roll call data, they also identify which of these members sided with the president and which did not.

This book is also a significant leap forward in our understanding of pork barrel politics. Pork barrel projects are expenditures included in congressional appropriations (spending) bills that are aimed at funding projects in the districts of House members (and states of Senators) that demonstrate a member's concern for the "folks back home." It is typically assumed that such projects help members of Congress to get reelected. Presidents—especially in recent years—have complained that these projects represent "wasteful government spending," and they have sought to gain control over the appropriations process by limiting such expenditures. This tension between the branches, most recently evident in battles over congressional earmarks, has important implications for how Congress spends money and how budgets are determined in a democratic context: Should the popularly elected representatives control spending priorities in their districts and states, or should the executive?

*Jimmy Carter and the Water Wars* takes the reader into the maelstrom created by the framers of the constitution who awarded the "power of the purse" to the Congress, but granted the veto power to the president. This book is an absolute must for all students and scholars of political science and American studies.



## Two Presentations Consider the Research Value of Congressional Papers

*Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University*

The research value of congressional papers was the focus of two presentations made on separate occasions in New Jersey this past spring. One presentation, conducted by the attorney, author and public policy historian James A. Wooten, described how congressional and other archival material informed his research. The other presentation, conducted by me, a project archivist for the papers of Harrison A. Williams, Jr. at Rutgers University, emphasized the usefulness of congressional papers for researchers of local history. Following is a summary of these two presentations.

### ***“Tracking history in the making: The research value of political papers,” presented by James Wooten***

James A. Wooten is on the faculty of the University at Buffalo Law School, The State University of New York, and is the author of the 2004 monograph *The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974: A Political History*. In conducting research for his book, Dr. Wooten drew on the papers of Senators Mike Mansfield, Russell Long, Jacob Javits, and Harrison Williams and Congressmen Carl Albert and John Erlenborn, along with those of presidents, businesses, labor unions, and former executive branch officials. Dr. Wooten was invited by Rutgers University Libraries to give the 2008 Louis Faguères Bishop III Lecture, an annual series dedicated to topics relating to the collection and research use of rare books, manuscripts, and archival records. Held on April 8, the theme of Dr. Wooten’s lecture was “Tracking history in the making: The research value of political papers.” His audience included students, faculty, staff, donors, and family and friends of the late Senator Williams, Chairman of the Senate committee that drove private pension regulatory legislation in the early 1970s. Blending telling quotations from archival sources, a narrative line from his history of ERISA, and reflections on how his analysis was informed by political papers, Dr. Wooten’s presentation was well received.

Dr. Wooten identified three categories of material found in political papers that are important in public policy research: published material, public but unpublished material (e.g., press releases, speeches to trade associations), and unpublished “private” documents (e.g., memos, meeting summaries, correspondence, strategy proposals). While acknowledging the storage space constraints that archivists face, and the non-unique nature of published material, Dr. Wooten argued for retaining published material in political collections because a) it provides insight into, and evidence of, the influences and reference points of the legislative players and b) it provides guideposts to the researcher for important sources outside the archives. For example, finding the *Journal of Commerce* in many of the collections he used not only brought the resource to Dr. Wooten’s attention, but also indicated its importance as part of the legislative backdrop. (At lunch with me, Dr. Wooten agreed that, short of retaining all published material, keeping at least some record in the file of removed items, such as retaining only the cover page, would be helpful along these lines.)

Unquestionably, the most useful documents are the unpublished items such as correspondence, staff notes, and the like intended for a limited, “private” audience. These are useful for public policy research in a number of ways. First, they illuminate the “hidden transcript” underlying the “public transcript” as found in the *Congressional Record* or other public statements. (Dr. Wooten cited the work of political scientist James Scott, particularly *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*, in this analysis.) Dr. Wooten used a number of examples from his archival research to make this point: labor unions were severely divided in private over pension reform, a split not publicly obvious; a 1970 Senate pension study ostensibly designed to gather actuarial-quality statistics was actually intended to identify dramatic failures in order to attract the attention of the popular media and general public; pension reform bills were not initiated in the early 1960s in reaction to the

Studebaker Corporation plan bankruptcy as commonly perceived, but were introduced when the bankruptcy, anticipated by labor unions and their supporters, created a window of opportunity for desired and pre-planned action.

Political papers also provide insight into the source of ideas in legislation or government reports, or into understanding the forces influencing the process by which these were prepared and published. For example, archival sources illustrated that the preparation process and timing of the release of a watershed 1965 Department of Labor report on pension funding was driven, in part, by efforts to avoid confronting opposition business interests. The plethora of political papers and related collections, rather than redundant, is an asset in this regard as they provide the opportunity to view events and interpretations of events from the perspectives of a variety of players. Private pension legislation in the form of ERISA eventually passed by overwhelming votes in 1974 despite the intense opposition of major interest groups, the huge financial stakes for businesses, and the complexity of the issue. Dr. Wooten concluded that the archival record across many collections supported his overall conclusion that legislators were not captives of powerful special interests, but rather were motivated principally by the desire to achieve a good policy goal for the public.

*“Reference Use of Congressional Papers for Local History Research,” presented by Larry Weimer*

I delivered my presentation on May 1 at the New Jersey Library Association’s annual conference in Long Branch, NJ. The objective of my talk was to inform the audience, comprised principally of reference librarians, of the usefulness to their patrons of congressional papers located at New Jersey institutions for *local* history research. Emphasis was placed on examples of narratives that could be told using these archival sources: the efforts in the early 1960s of a community to have a proposed interstate highway redirected from passing *over* a mountaintop

(and through their backyards) to tunneling *through* the mountain, thereby allowing the road to have a secondary purpose as a nuclear bomb fallout shelter for the town; the competing local interests—landowners, developers, environmentalists, town planning board—fighting or encouraging the Federal government’s effort to expand a bird refuge; and so forth.

I noted that members of the state’s Congressional delegation are commonly requested to lend their active support to their constituents’ attempts to gain regulatory approvals, government contracts, grants, public works, and the like. In the communications concerning these matters, the member is often given reports, maps, blueprints, financial statements, product brochures, and much more that ends up in the office files, much of which is useful in local history. For example, a file concerning a bank looking for regulatory approval for a new branch included a consultant’s report to the bank that had a rich description, demographic analysis, and even an aerial photograph of the target town.

Given the complexity of using congressional collections, I offered suggestions on the highest priority series for local research (e.g., projects, grants and contracts, departmental files). The papers of Harrison Williams, with over 130 cubic feet of project files and an on-line finding aid incorporating descriptive techniques aimed specifically at historians of New Jersey, were highlighted. Nevertheless, all collections of papers of New Jersey Federal legislators accessible at New Jersey repositories were identified, with images of example on-line finding aids included in the presentation.

Materials from my presentation, including the “fact sheet” style handout and speaker script, can be found at the conference’s website:

<http://njlaconference.pbwiki.com/Congressional+Papers>.

*Larry Weimer*

## Should the CPR Start Using On-line Ballots?

In April of this year Brian Doyle of the SAA sent out an announcement concerning the capability of the SAA membership database to conduct section and roundtable elections on-line. Using input from section and roundtable steering committees, SAA staff can create an on-line ballot that members access via a link and vote on once they have logged in using their SAA identification. The system verifies a person's eligibility to vote, ensures ballots are not cast more than once, and generates a report of the tallied results.

The CPR Steering Committee proposes making use of this on-line balloting option for all CPR elections commencing in 2009. Use of an on-line election will save time during the annual meeting and cut down on the need for absentee ballots. Use of the system does require SAA membership, so CPR members who are not a member of SAA or any other CPR member unable to vote using the on-line system will still be able to vote utilizing an absentee ballot available from the Nominating Committee.

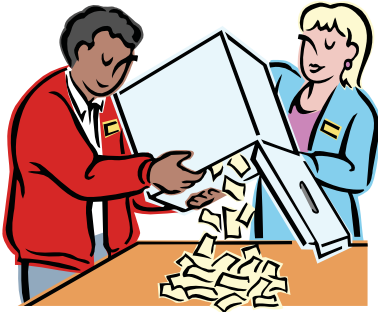
To implement on-line elections the following changes need to be made to the wording of our by-laws.

The Nominating Committee solicits candidates for the next year's leadership, using a notice in the newsletter and on the roundtable's listserv (if any) and receiving the names of volunteers of persons recommended, and prepares an appropriate slate for the elected roundtable positions from those nominees agreeing to place their names in nomination. The committee ensures that there is at least one nominee and no more than two nominees for vice-chair/chair-elect and that the number of nominees for Steering Committee is not less than the number of positions to be filled. All candidates for election must be individual members of SAA and the roundtable. **The committee submits the slate of candidates to the newsletter editor(s) no later than June 1 for publication in the newsletter issued preceding the annual meeting. The committee also submits the ballot to the Society of American Archivists no later than six weeks prior to the SAA annual meeting. The Society of American Archivists conducts the election on-line through the services available from its membership database. at the annual roundtable meeting.** Only members of the roundtable may vote. Any member of the roundtable who is unable to ~~attend the annual meeting~~ vote **using the on-line ballot** may request an absentee ballot from the committee chair; absentee ballots must be returned to the committee chair prior to the annual meeting. Voting ~~at the annual meeting~~ shall be by secret ballot if there are more candidates than can be elected for any position. Candidates with the highest number of votes shall be elected. New leadership assumes office at the conclusion of the annual meeting of the roundtable.

Per the CPR by-laws, any amendment to the by-laws must be approved by two-thirds of the membership. Therefore the paper ballot for the 2008 CPR election will contain the following question.

Should the CPR make the proposed amendments to the by-laws and implement on-line elections starting in 2009?  
Yes or No.

Please contact Jeff Thomas with any questions. Jeff Thomas, The Ohio State University Archives, 2700 Kenny Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210, or [thomas.1082@osu.edu](mailto:thomas.1082@osu.edu).



## CPR Steering Committee Candidates

Listed below is the slate of candidates for the Congressional Papers Roundtable. Voting will take place at the Roundtable business meeting on August 27, 2008. We will still accept write-in candidates for any of these positions if anyone wishes to volunteer or put forward the name of someone willing to be nominated. All members of the Roundtable may vote, and any member of the Roundtable who is unable to attend the annual meeting may request an absentee ballot from the committee chair. The ballot below may be used as an absentee ballot. Please return these ballots to me either by regular mail (to arrive before August 22) or copy the ballot into an email mail message to send electronically. The postal address is Jeff Thomas, The Ohio State University Archives, 2700 Kenny Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210. For email, please send to <thomas.1082@osu.edu>.

Jeff Thomas, Chair, Nominating Committee, Immediate Past Chair, Congressional Papers Roundtable

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### For Vice Chair/Chair Elect

**Brian Keough**, has been Head of the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives, University at Albany Libraries since 2001. He is responsible for the leadership, development, and management of the department, supervises seven FTE and ten student assistants, manages the operational budget and endowments, acquires new collections, secures donations and grants, oversees user services, coordinates cataloging, processing, and finding-aid creation, and serves as spokesperson to advance the status of the department. The department holds more than 40,000 volumes from 1510 to the present and more than 7,000 cubic feet of manuscript collections including the papers of twenty-five former Congress members from New York State. Prior to his current position, he has held archivist positions at the University at Albany, Chicago Public Library, and the Schenectady Museum's General Electric Archive. Over the last twelve years, Mr. Keough has completed more than a dozen records management consulting projects. He has a BA in history from West Chester University (Pennsylvania), an MLS from the University at Albany, and an MA in history from the University at Albany.

### For Steering Committee – 2008-2010 (three positions)

**Chris Burns** is Curator of Manuscripts at Special Collections, Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont. He has a B.A. from the University of Vermont, and an M.L.S. from Simmons College. He joined the University of Vermont in 2001. The University of Vermont (UVM) is a major repository for Vermont Congressional papers, holding the records of over 30 Members of Congress from 1791 to the present. Burns has served as a CPR Newsletter Co-Editor since 2005, and has also served on the Steering

Committee of the SAA Description Section and as a member and chair of the SAA C.F.W. Coker Award committee. He has also been serving as Vice-President, President, and Immediate Past President of the New England Archivists since 2006. For the last couple of years, his congressional papers activities have included building UVM's Congressional Papers digital collection which can be found at <http://cdi.uvm.edu/>.

**Julia Collins** is director of the Moakley Institute and University Archivist at Suffolk University in Boston, MA. Collins joined Suffolk University as the assistant archivist in 2002, serving a variety of roles in the development of the archival program at Suffolk University that includes the political papers of Congressman Joe Moakley. Before joining the Moakley Archive staff, Collins worked in the Harvard Theatre Collection and Widener Library at Harvard University. She holds a bachelor of science in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a master's degree in Library Science from Simmons College. Her memberships include: SAA, CPR and ACSC.

**Leigh McWhite** received her B.A. from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee and her M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Mississippi. She began working in the latter's Archives and Special Collections as a student assistant for several years before taking a full time position. In 2004, McWhite served as the interim director of the department's new Modern Political Archives prior to accepting an appointment as Political Papers Archivist & Assistant Professor. In addition to processing collections, providing reference service, and installing exhibits, McWhite is currently occupied with coordinating archival and library activities to coincide with the September 26<sup>th</sup> Presidential Debate on the campus of the University of Mississippi.