

Commission Recommends Grants Totaling \$3,819,431, Changes Schedule of Future Meetings

At its meeting on February 24, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission recommended that the Archivist of the United States make grants totaling \$3,819,431 for 62 projects and changed the schedule of its future meetings. NHPRC Chairman John W. Carlin noted that the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2000 includes \$6 million for NHPRC grants, the same amount as in fiscal year 1999. Chairman Carlin also welcomed new Commissioner Mary Maples Dunn, Director of Radcliffe College's Schlesinger Library, representing the American Historical Association, to her first Commission meeting, and announced that the American Association for State and Local History has named Brent D. Glass, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, as its new representative on the Commission.

With the implementation of the Commission's new strategic plan and application deadlines, no proposals will be eligible for review at a June 1999 meeting. The Commission consequently resolved not to hold a meeting this June. It further resolved that, beginning in fiscal year 2000, the Commission will meet twice, in November and in May. The November meetings will last two days, in order to allow the Commission time for policy deliberations. At its November 1999 meeting, the Commission will approve one-time bridge grants for ongoing documentary publication projects affected by the schedule change. For the present, deadlines for proposals remain as listed in NHPRC's Guidelines: June 1 for consideration at the November meeting, and October 1 for consideration at the May meeting.

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The World War II Letters of American Women Project

by Judy Barrett Litoff and David C. Smith

Most historians are voyeurs who like nothing better than to read other people's mail. Fortunately, the taboo about private life being sacrosanct is discarded when historic mail is concerned. In recent years, in fact, historians have adeptly used private correspondence to reveal new realms of knowledge about life and society in America.

We certainly plead guilty to the charge of reading other people's mail. For more than a decade, we have been involved in a nationwide search to locate letters written by American women during World War II. Our collection now consists of some 30,000 letters written by 1,500 women representing diverse social, economic, ethnic, and geographic circumstances. We have letters written by mothers, daughters, sisters, cousins, aunts, grandmothers, stepmothers, wives, sweethearts, and friends on the home front. Complementing these letters is the correspondence of many pioneering women who served in the military both at home and abroad. A sociologist colleague assayed our collection and found it to be representative of the population of the United States during the 1940s.

Locating and obtaining our cache of mail originally occurred as an act of serendipity. It began in the early 1980s as we conducted research for a book, *Miss You: The World War II Letters of Barbara Wooddall Taylor and Charles E. Taylor* (1990), which was based on thousands of pages of correspondence between a young war bride and her soldier husband. Their letters dramatically told the story of the vicissitudes of their war: courtship by mail, marriage on the move, traveling cross country with a baby, life on the

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U.S. Army Signal Corps photograph

The Executive Director's Column

They have been called the Greatest Generation, the men and women who in their youth weathered the privations of the Great Depression and then as young adults fought and won World War II. They then returned home, married with astonishing speed, sired the Baby Boom generation, worked hard, and retired. Too many now have left us.

As a group, they were notable for their reticence, their lack of inclination to dwell upon their experiences in the war. This certainly was true of my own father, who served in the China-Burma-India theater as a glider pilot with an Army Air Corps group known as the First Air Commandoes. I knew that he had won the Distinguished Flying Cross—several times—but such was his attitude toward this that I formed the impression that it was a common



achievement. I knew that, at the time, the First Air Commandoes were famous: that they were the basis of a comic strip called “Terry and the Pirates.” Yet it wasn’t until 1994, when I went with him to Coventry, England, for a reunion of the “Chindits”, the combined British and American Force in Burma, that I learned the full extent of his and his compatriots’ persistent bravery.

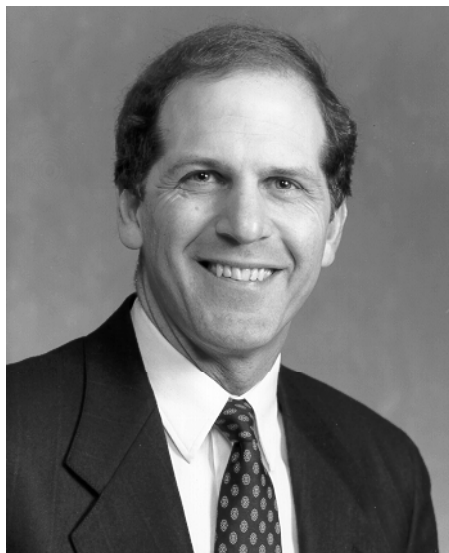
Upon my arrival at NHPRC, it was a source of great satisfaction to me to learn that there were several projects focusing upon this period, this generation. And it is a source of great satisfaction to present this issue of *Annotation*. Sadly, my father will not see it, for he died this past Christmas Eve. But I hope you will read and enjoy it. And visit these projects; research the documents; read the editions. And remember the Greatest Generation.

Brent D. Glass Joins Commission

The American Association for State and Local History has chosen Brent D. Glass, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, to be its representative on the the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Dr. Glass will join the Commission at its November 1999 meeting. He succeeds David H. Hooper, Arizona State Archivist, who served three four-year terms as a member of the Commission.

Dr. Glass, who has held his current position since 1987, also serves as Pennsylvania’s State Historic Preservation Officer. He previously worked for several public and non-profit organizations in the fields of historic preservation, neighborhood revitalization, and humanities education.

He received his B.A. degree from Lafayette College, his M.A. from New York University, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Glass has written several books, book reviews, and articles on a wide range of topics, including industrial history, historic preservation, and public history policy.



In Memoriam: Mr. Justice Blackmun

NHPRC members and staff were saddened to learn of the passing of Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun, a longtime member of the Commission. He had great respect for the Commission, he said many times, and the NHPRC benefited immensely from his active and influential participation.

Of quiet dignity and a sharp sense of humor, much of it self-deprecatory, Justice Blackmun was a man of numerous interests, many of them related to history, the sifting of evidence, the uncertainty of truth, and the excitement of discovery.

In 1997, DreamWorks released Steven Spielberg’s film *Amistad*. Based loosely on an actual historical event, the film portrays a slave revolt on a Spanish ship. Captured off the coast of Connecticut when their desperate attempt to sail home failed, 53 Africans were forced to stand trial for murdering the crew that had held them prisoner. In their fight for freedom, the Africans were aided by abolitionists and former president John Quincy Adams, who took their battle all the way to the U.S.

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Editing the Wartime Papers of General George C. Marshall

by Larry I. Bland

The George C. Marshall papers project originated in the late 1970s as a result of the NHPRC's decision to encourage editing projects for "second tier" historical figures. The Marshall Foundation of Lexington, Virginia, decided to do a project, and the NHPRC held a place open at Camp Edit that year for the person chosen to be the project's editor. It turned out to be me. (Associate editor Sharon Ritenour Stevens later would also make the pilgrimage to Madison, Wisconsin.) Johns Hopkins University press agreed to publish the volumes.

I quickly discovered that, due to the massive number of records involved, it would be impossible to organize the whole project more than superficially prior to the start of serious editing. General Marshall's papers at the Marshall Library were already organized, but the World War II period occupied only about one hundred Hollinger boxes. Marshall did not believe in saving documents for future self-justification or lucrative memoir writing. Those hundred boxes represented only "personal" papers: generally speaking, these were materials his secretaries thought essential to running his post-retirement office, plus his correspondence with friends, colleagues, and superiors.

"Official" papers—about half of the potentially publishable Marshall documents—were retained in various agencies' files. Unfortunately, the line between personal and official materials was rather fuzzy, causing us to spend a good bit of time searching for incoming documents, replies, and ancillary papers generated by the enormous military and civilian bureaucracies. Moreover, as head of the Army and Army Air Forces and first among equals on the Joint and Combined Chiefs of Staff, Marshall concerned himself with nearly every aspect of the war effort, international diplomacy, and, after 1943, postwar planning.

The amount of World War II records is daunting. The crucial National Archives Record Group 165 (War Department General and Special Staffs) contains over ten thousand cubic feet of textual records. In addition, there are a dozen other important military record groups (#18, Army Air Forces; #38, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations; #107, Office of the Secretary of War; #218 Joint Chiefs of Staff, etc.), and at least a score of other civilian and military agencies with which General Marshall routinely dealt (#147, Selective Service System; #208, Office of War Information; #211, War Manpower Commission; #253, Petroleum Administrator for War; and #457, National Security Agency, to name but a few). In addition, there are important

collections at the Library of Congress and the Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, and MacArthur Libraries.

Four things have saved the project from drowning in this sea of paper. First, Marshall's official biographer, Forrest Pogue, had an office and a small staff in the stacks of what is now Archives I; for nearly two decades Pogue located, copied, and indexed documents. By the time the Marshall Papers project began, Pogue and his staff had collected about one million pages. Second, the Marshall Foundation had assembled a collection of published materials on the U.S. Army and World War II. Third, the Center of Military History and its predecessors had published scores of volumes on all aspects of World War II; particularly valuable was its eighty-odd-volume "green series," the "U.S. Army in World War II." Based almost entirely on documents, green series books are one of the few secondary sources that we cite in Marshall Papers annotation. Fourth, the wartime volumes of the *Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower* have eased our research efforts.

What years should the Marshall volumes cover? One might begin with Pearl Harbor, which is when most Americans think the war began. This was clearly too late, since it skipped the 27-month mobilization period between September 1939 and December 1941, when the framework of America's participation in the war was constructed and basic decisions made (e.g., the need for a large ground army and a Germany-first strategy). The mobilization period was one of Marshall's, although not the nation's, finest hours.

Alternatively, one could begin with September 1, 1939, the day Germany invaded Poland and the day General Marshall was sworn in as U.S. Army Chief of Staff. But Marshall was fifty-eight years old then, and many of his key military and managerial ideas and values had already been established, particularly as a result of his long experience with the National Guard and the Reserves and the lessons he had learned during World War I. Consequently, the first Marshall volume covers his military career between 1901 and 1939, and the second the mobilization period. Pearl Harbor opens volume three.

Editorial decisions made for the first two volumes were retained for the war years. These included rarely publishing incoming correspondence, vigilant efforts to contain the quantity of annotation, generally limiting our annotation citations to primary sources, and including lots of illustrations. Of these decisions, the most difficult standard to maintain is the one on



General Marshall was always pleased to meet troops in the field. Here he is shaking hands with men at the Normandy beachhead on June 12, 1944. Photo courtesy of the George C. Marshall Foundation.

From World War II to the U-2: Editing Eisenhower's Papers

by Daun van Ee

The heroes of World War II continue to fascinate us. The recent popularity of such cinematic efforts as Stephen Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan* and Terence Malick's *The Thin Red Line* has Americans once again talking about The Last Good War, and those who fought in it are receiving some much-deserved, if belated, recognition. Interest began to swell in June of 1994, when the media focused attention upon the aging veterans of D-Day on the occasion of the great invasion's 50th anniversary. Last January NBC television news anchor Tom Brokaw presented a prime-time special tribute to remind us of the warriors who had saved democracy from the Axis powers. Today shopping-mall bookstores across the country feature shelves filled with histories of the war, including a number of bestsellers by Stephen E. Ambrose.

One of the war's best-known figures, however, has never been forgotten by the American public. The multi-volume selective edition of *The Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower*, a project of The Johns Hopkins University supported by the NHPRC, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Eisenhower World Affairs Institute, has helped sustain that interest and has carried the Eisenhower story forward to his remarkably eventful presidency. Today the project is close to finishing a task begun 35 years ago.

Eisenhower, a supremely confident man who from boyhood had a strong interest in military history, believed in making available the fullest possible historical record as soon as possible. He had been dismayed at the one-sided, opinionated accounts of the war that had appeared after 1945. Many of these books and memoirs, he felt, were inaccurate and served little purpose beyond safeguarding reputation and venting spleen. With the goal of an accurate historical record in mind, Eisenhower carefully had saved his own wartime papers and had told his own story (in *Crusade in Europe*) by relying on documentation rather than memory. When the Johns Hopkins history department proposed a scholarly edition of his papers, Eisenhower readily agreed and worked to get both the U.S. government and his wartime associates to assist in the effort. He met with the first editors, Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., and Stephen Ambrose, and made available his comprehensive collection of personal correspondence. Once the endeavor was fairly underway, Eisenhower carefully read the selected documents and draft annotations.

His occasional comments on the events and personalities of the war were often helpful. In 1966, for example, Eisenhower read the notes to a document concerning Market-Garden, the

controversial airborne operation designed to seize bridgeheads across the Lower Rhine. Our annotation indicated that Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery had proposed the assault, and that Eisenhower and his headquarters simply acquiesced. The General disagreed: "I not only *approved* Market Garden, I insisted upon it. What we needed was a *bridgehead* over the Rhine. If that could be accomplished I was quite willing to wait on all other operations." (One wonders whether the editors of other historical editions have ever envied us the ability to consult our subject about such matters. What would the historians editing George Washington's papers make of an opportunity to ask him about Alexander Hamilton or his motivations in the Yorktown campaign?)

Unfortunately, Eisenhower did not live to see the results of our efforts; the first five-volume set of papers, entitled *The War Years* and published by the Johns Hopkins University Press, appeared in 1970, one year after his death. Although no startling or "smoking gun" surprises came to light, the overall impression that remained with readers was somewhat novel. Political economist John Kenneth Galbraith, certainly no friend of Eisenhower's conservative political philosophy, was surprised to find the documents "irresistible," in part because they were, in his

opinion, "firmly and unpretentiously literate." In a *Washington Post* review he took the opportunity to contrast Eisenhower with Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, who, Galbraith felt, had not demonstrated the requisite Eisenhowerian qualities in their conduct of the then-raging Vietnam War. He and other reviewers observed that the published papers revealed a personal leadership style that emphasized teamwork rather than intimidation, as well as an awareness of political realities and the constraints under which every commander, even the most powerful, must operate. It was also noted that the volumes demonstrated the degree to which Eisenhower involved himself in selecting courses of action from the range of available strategic options. Eisenhower's letters were not the product of a mere "chairman of the board," as some critics had charged.

Work on the next books in the series (*Occupation 1945* and *The Chief of Staff*, volumes 6-9) continued throughout much of the 1970s under the direction of Dr. Chandler's successors, Louis Galambos, Daun van Ee, and Elizabeth S. Hughes. The editors discovered that covering the postwar era was at least as difficult as documenting World War II. Few secondary sources dealt with the pre-Korean War military, and the amount of material to be screened in search of usable material was almost as large. Many



General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold, Commander in Chief, U.S. Army Air Forces, chats with General Eisenhower during their visit to the U.S. Seventh Army command post, April 5, 1945. Photo courtesy of NARA.

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home front and the western front, and, thankfully, a safe and loving reunion. As we read their correspondence, we were especially caught up in the strength and power exhibited by the letters of Barbara Taylor and what they told us about being a young woman who “grew up” during the wartime years.

Where were the letters of other American wartime women? What would they tell us? Why hadn't they been published? These were just a few of the perplexing matters we began to ponder. As we completed our work on *Miss You*, we searched for answers to these questions and launched our quest for the “missing letters.”

With the support of our universities, we undertook a nationwide search for women's wartime correspondence. A careful scrutiny of the vast World War II literature produced only a scattering of missives. We then moved beyond traditional academic venues and, in the spring of 1988, devised a brief author's query that we sent to every daily newspaper in the country asking for information about women's wartime correspondence. Much to our delight, hundreds of these requests were published on the letters to the editor page. We broadened our scope by sending letters of inquiry to magazines and newsletters that specialized in issues of concern to women, veterans, and minorities. We dispatched a special appeal to 500 predominately black churches around the nation. In total, we sent out over 2,500 requests.

Within days of the publication of the first author's query, letters began to pour into our offices. Individual collections ranged in size from one post card to over 3,000 letters. We even received a collection of letters in a World War II ammunition box.

As we marveled at our treasure trove, we continued our pursuit of the “missing letters” by traveling to distant archives, airing appeals on radio and television, writing feature articles about the project, delivering scholarly papers, and never turning down a speaking request. To keep in touch with our many new friends, we began publishing a “V-Mail” newsletter.

The vast majority of the 30,000 letters in our collection came to us from the writers, the recipients, or their heirs. These donors wanted their letters preserved because they felt that the experience of war for America's women had not been adequately conveyed. Our reading of these letters suggests that the donors were correct. We are convinced that women's wartime

correspondence captures the complexity and essence of the experience of war for women better than any available source.

Women's wartime letters are honest accounts written “at the scene” for a limited audience and with little idea that historians would one day be interested in their content. This voluminous correspondence takes on even greater significance when we remember that letter writing is rapidly becoming a lost art. New information technologies have largely supplanted the need for pen and paper—even in wartime.

During the early stages of our work, the NHPRC encouraged us to produce a microfilm edition of all of the letters in our collection. In the spring of 1990, we signed a contract with Scholarly Resources, Inc., to assemble such an edition. The following spring, 1991, the NHPRC officially endorsed our project. In the meantime, we began to seek funding for the microfilm edition. While our universities had been munificent in supporting our work with course releases, summer stipends, and clerical help, the substantial costs of publishing a microfilm edition of such magnitude was beyond their capabilities.

By this time, the 50th anniversary commemorations of the Second World War were well underway, and we were in great demand as speakers and authors. An unexpected public role had been thrust upon us, and we did not want to lose the opportunity

to tell the stories of ordinary women as recorded in their wartime letters to a wider audience. So, for five years we literally “took to the road.”

With the letters as our framework, we published four books and more than twenty articles on American women and their experience of war. One article received the 1994 James Madison Prize of The Society for History in the Federal Government. Currently, we are preparing a fifth book on women and postwar planning.

We have been heartened by the overwhelming response to our work from the public and the academic community. In recent years, we have had the opportunity to share our findings with audiences in England, Canada, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Estonia.

The 1991 endorsement and counsel of the NHPRC continues to serve the women and letter writing project well. World War II provided a crucible in which American women were brought to a test that they passed superlatively. These letters are a precious legacy from that world.



This War Department Bureau of Public Relations photograph, taken June 4, 1945, shows Private First Class Neven R. George of San Bernardino, California, taking a break from his duties with a 60mm mortar as he reads a letter from home. George was serving with the 307th Regiment, 77th Infantry Division, on Okinawa at the time. Photo courtesy of NARA.



Wartime V-Mail advertisement, from the authors' collection.

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- University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC: A grant of \$25,464 for *Race, Slavery and Free Blacks: Petitions to Southern Legislatures and County Courts, 1776-1867*.

- Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA: A grant of \$10,513 for *The Papers of Joseph Trimble Rothrock, M.D.*

- University of Arizona, Arizona State Museum, Tucson, AZ: A grant of up to \$50,383 for *Documentary Relations of the Southwest: Civil/Military*.

- Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ: A grant for \$43,000 for *The Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony*.

- Kent State University, Kent, OH: A grant of up to \$39,396 for *The Robert A. Taft Papers*.

- Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA: A grant of up to \$62,937 for *The Howard Thurman Papers*.

- The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM: A grant of up to \$41,511 for *The Journals of don Diego de Vargas*.

- East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, PA: A conditional grant of \$105,000 for *The Papers of the War Department, 1784-1800*.

- Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ: A subvention grant of \$10,000 for *The Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Antony, Vol. 2*.

- University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC: A subvention grant of \$10,000 for *The Papers of John Marshall, Vol. 10*.

- University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago, IL: A subvention grant of \$10,000 for *The Samuel Gompers Papers, Vol. 8*.

- University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA: A subvention grant of \$10,000 for *The Papers of George Washington: Diaries Abridgement, 1 vol.*

Projects to Improve Documentary Editing

- Wisconsin History Foundation, Inc., Madison, WI: A grant of \$23,200 to support the 28th Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents.

Records Access Projects

- The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC: A 22-month grant of \$54,112 to arrange, describe, undertake conservation work on, and prepare guides for five collections which document the labor movement and religious activism in the New Deal era.

- The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL: An 18-month grant of \$37,500, contingent upon the availability of FY 99 funds, to process the records of architect Bruce Goff (1904-1982).

- Maine Historical Society, Portland, ME: A 2-year grant of \$82,536 for a project to gain physical and intellectual control over three collections of architectural records.

- William Woods University, Fulton, MO: A six-month grant of up to \$5,850 for an archival consultancy to help the University, Westminster College, and the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library develop plans to manage historically significant materials and to establish archival and records management programs.

- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC: A two-year grant of \$91,425 for a project to arrange and describe the University's African-American archival and

manuscript holdings and those of North Carolina Central University.

- New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, NJ: A two-year grant of up to \$188,220 to arrange, describe, and catalog 435 manuscript collections documenting the state's economic and social transformation, 1750-1860.

- Clerk's Office, County of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM: A six-month grant of \$9,157 to microfilm 73 deed books dating from the American occupation in 1847 to around 1893.

- The Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn, NY: A 15-month grant of \$57,308 for a project to prepare more detailed descriptive information for five collections, create a trial finding aid for one of the collections using Encoded Archival Description, and develop a pilot curriculum package for high school students based on another of the collections.

- Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY: A one-year grant of \$43,308, contingent upon the availability of FY 99 funds, for a project to rehouse and provide access to over 27,000 images in three collections, create descriptive tools, and scan 5,500 campus views for placement on 55 CD ROMs.

- The Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH: A one-year grant of \$30,940 for a project to establish an archival program.

- Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Perkins, OK: A one-year grant of \$49,011 for a project to arrange and describe records relating to the Iowa Tribal Business Committee.

- Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Pawnee, OK: A one-year grant of \$14,422 for a project to conduct a repository survey to identify photographs relating to the Pawnee Nation, obtain copies of appropriate photographs, and arrange and describe them for use at the nation's archival facility.

- The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA: A two-year grant of up to \$77,873 for a project to arrange, describe, rehouse, and catalog the records of Coxe Mining Company, an independent coal producer that played a key role in the development of anthracite mining in the state.

- The African American Museum of Dallas, Dallas, TX: A 16-month grant of \$24,507 (\$10,000 matching) for a project to arrange, describe, and provide housing for five Dallas-area photographic and manuscript collections.

- Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, St. Johnsbury, VT: A three-year grant of \$143,191 for a project to arrange, describe, and catalog the documentary holdings of the Fairbanks Museum, the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, the Town of St. Johnsbury, St. Johnsbury Academy, and St. Johnsbury Historical Society.

- The Museum of Flight, Seattle, WA: A six-month grant of up to \$13,076 for a project to preserve and make available a collection of Douglas Aircraft Company drawings that date from the company's founding.

Congressionally Directed Grant

- The Center for Jewish History, New York, NY: A one-year grant of \$199,900 for a collaborative planning project to develop a management and operational plan for the Center that maximizes public services and the preservation of collections, and to develop a detailed plan for the Center's Integrated Collections Access and Management System.

Visions of World War II in the Wild Blue Yonder

by Frances Morgan

In July 1998, the Central Arkansas Library System (CALs) completed a one-year project grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The grant provided partial funding for the processing of photographs, transparencies, and negatives from the Jay Miller Aviation History Collection.

The Miller Collection consists of approximately 21 tons of information-laden material, the primary focus of which is aircraft identification. Its various components include books, journals, newspapers, photographs, broadsides, technical drawings, blueprints, scrapbooks, postcards, videos, audio recordings, film, microfiche, pamphlets, manuscripts, and regalia. Among the more significant items are a complete original first-edition set of *Jane's All the World's Aircraft* (1909 to the present); a number of pre-Wright Brothers (1903) titles, such as the very rare St. Fond volume (1784) describing the first balloon experiments of the Montgolfier brothers; a first edition of *Astra Castra* (1865); a large philatelic collection of aeronautical items from most of the countries of the world; complete runs of many of the world's most important aviation periodicals, including the only complete set of *Air Pictorial* known to exist in the United States; space memorabilia, including Soyuz-related materials; original artwork and photographs signed by virtually every significant aviation personality of the twentieth century; and full-scale hardware, examples of which are a Convair B-58 encapsulated ejection seat, a Norden bombsight, and the exhaust nozzle and combustion chamber of the Thiokol XLR99 rocket engine from the North American X-15.

The photograph portion of the Miller Collection contains prints, transparencies, and/or negatives of commercial, military, and civil aircraft; missiles and spacecraft; experimental aircraft; helicopters; vertical take-off and landing craft; home-built aircraft; and restored historic aircraft. It also includes images of air museums, air crashes, and aviators. By the close of the grant period, airframes from over 500 aircraft manufacturers had been identified and processed. Since that time, the number of manufacturers identified has risen to over 520!

Jay Niessen Miller of Arlington, Texas, began collecting information and artifacts relating to airplanes and aviation over 40 years ago. A Christmas gift given to him by his father was the catalyst; the gift was a 1957 edition of *The Observer's Book of Aircraft*. Miller's interest in the field grew, and ultimately resulted in his becoming an aviation author of some repute. He

has published over 30 books and some 1,000 aviation magazine and newspaper articles for a number of noteworthy aerospace publications. Early on, he realized that photographs were part and parcel of a good aviation monograph, and so became a competent aviation photographer as well. Cooperative efforts with other aviation writers, photographers, and enthusiasts worked in his favor, and his collection grew rapidly. As his reputation as an aviation writer spread, his ability to access aircraft for photography increased dramatically. Military aircraft in particular, historically more difficult to access than aircraft in the civilian sector, became not difficult to access at all.

Eventually Miller was given the opportunity to acquire some of the world's finest aviation photograph collections, including those of David Anderton, Erwin "Pete" Bulban, Joseph Nieto (who had assembled one of the world's finest collections of World War I images), and numerous others. These collections he combined with his own, and they became the photographic component of the Jay Miller Aviation History Collection. The total photographic collection now consists of approximately 300,000 images, of which approximately 20% are World War II aircraft representing all of the major combatants.

In 1992, Miller decided that his collection had outgrown his physical and financial resources, and contacted potential buyers.

Serious interest in purchasing the Miller Collection came from as far away as Tokyo and as near as Little Rock, Arkansas. Miller sold to the first group that offered him a check. The collection was bought by the Arkansas Aviation Historical Society, and became the reference library of the Aerospace Education Center (AEC) in Little Rock. A contingent circumstance of keeping the collection so close to Texas is that Miller is easily able to add materials to it, and is available to CALs and AEC for consultation when necessary. For instance, he served as a coordinating board member, ex-officio, for the NHPRC grant.

The collaboration of CALs and AEC regarding the ownership, administration, and management of the Jay Miller Aviation History Collection has made it possible for the collection to be used by local patrons and by any researcher who has Internet and/or OCLC access. Neither agency has money enough to both purchase supplies and maintain staff to properly process the collection, but together the two agencies can and do both.

CALs is a city-county agency which operates a full-service public library that serves seventeen counties in central Arkansas.



The Supermarine Spitfire, one of the most famous aircraft of World War II. With the Hawker Hurricane and the Spitfire, assisted by early radar technology, RAF pilots defeated their counterparts in the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain in 1940. Photo from the Miller Collection.

Documenting Lutherans' Response to World War II

by Ellen D. Swain

"The Christian front is not broken. War has surged against its outposts in Asia and Africa, swirled about its congregations and homes in Europe and America, and dislodged many of its members from security. But the work of the church goes on.... The Church is rising to the occasion in a manner worthy of its ideals" [Lutheran World Action (LWA) promotional brochure, 1942, found in LWA Correspondence Files, 1939-1978, 1980 (NLC 4/2, Box 18, "Publicity Material, 1939-1943")].

Assuring American Lutherans of the Church's steadfastness in the turmoil of war, the National Lutheran Council (NLC), through its fund-raising program Lutheran World Action (LWA), appealed to American Lutherans to support the Council's relief efforts at home and abroad. The NLC, an inter-Lutheran American agency mandated to direct and support Lutheran domestic and international programs, responded to World War II (WWII) devastation and needs in strong measure through a number of initiatives. These relief efforts continued long after the war's end in the form of an ambitious refugee resettlement program and financial support for Lutheran orphaned missions and churches around the world.

Specifically, the NLC established a Service Commission to minister to the spiritual needs of American Lutheran servicemen overseas; administered a Temporary Communities program to provide spiritual care to U.S. communities formed by WWII production; and, in cooperation with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, founded the Lutheran Commission for Prisoners of War to minister to prisoners of war in the United States. To finance these endeavors, LWA and Lutheran World Relief (LWR), established in 1945 as a material aid companion program to LWA, appealed to American Lutheran congregations for support. These monies also allowed NLC leaders, serving as the American Section of the Lutheran World Convention, an international, ecumenical Lutheran body formed in 1923, to support orphaned missions previously administered by the Lutheran churches in Nazi Germany.

After the armistice, the NLC devoted its efforts to reconstruction and resettlement of war torn countries, again through LWA and LWR appeals. The NLC's Lutheran Resettlement Service (LRS), established to assist refugees coming to the United States under the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, became the forerunner of a number of inter-Lutheran resettlement agencies, including Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, founded in 1967 and currently in operation.

By 1964, NLC Archivist Helen M. Knubel, with the assistance of an archives consultant, began the task of arranging and describing these organizations' records, collectively referred to as the Archives of Cooperative Lutheranism. Transferred in 1967 to the NLC's successor, Lutheran Council in the USA (LCUSA), the Archives, by 1987, comprised over 730 cubic feet of agency records documenting inter-Lutheran work in refugee and emergency war relief, church-state relations, immigration services, European-American church relations, global missions, ecumenical and inter-religious dialogues, churches in the third world, and social welfare in the twentieth century.

After the closure of LCUSA in 1987, the Archives was transferred again to the newly established Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a merger church formed by inter-Lutheran agency participants, with the exception of the LCMS. As a condition of this transfer, the ELCA agreed to microfilm certain LCUSA records in the collection for the LCMS, who had participated in a number of NLC programs and was a partner in LCUSA. However, although records produced before 1967 had received some archival attention, those produced after this time, including the LCUSA files, were not arranged or inventoried, and as a result, were difficult to access. Therefore, before a microfilming project could begin, the records first needed to be arranged and described.

In 1995, NHPRC generously funded the Helen M. Knubel Archives of Cooperative Lutheranism Project, a two-year project to arrange, describe, and catalog the records in the Archives of Cooperative Lutheranism, renamed for Knubel after her death in 1992. The grant

provided for a project archivist and secretary who would process the records under the direction of ELCA Director for Archives and Chief Archivist Elisabeth Wittman and in cooperation with other ELCA Archives staff members.

Initiated in July 1996, the project involved an estimated 650 cubic feet of records from the following agencies: National Lutheran Commission for Soldiers' and Sailors' Welfare (1917-1922), the National Lutheran Council (1918-1966), the Lutheran World Convention (1923-1947), the U.S.A. National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation (1947-1976), Lutheran World Ministries (1977-1987), and Lutheran Council in the USA (1966-1987). Smaller agencies and organizations under the Knubel Archives purview and all audiovisual material were eliminated from the scope of the project due to the two-year time constraint.

The first nine months of the grant were devoted to records of the oldest organizations in the Knubel Archives. Because these



Lutheran World Action, begun in 1940, was the funding arm of the National Lutheran Council (NLC) for overseas relief. The arm-and-cross symbol was familiar to American Lutherans during the war. Here it is superimposed on a photograph of a ruined church to represent the devastation caused by war. From NLC News Bureau photo files.

World War II Refugees and the Unitarian Service Committee

by Timothy Driscoll

News of refugee crises caused by early Nazi imperialism prompted numerous modern missionary movements in the mid-to late 1930s. By 1938, in an effort to aid European missions undertaken by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and other organizations, American Unitarian Association (AUA) ministers, including Robert Dexter, Waitstill Sharp, Martha Sharp, and AUA president Frederick May Eliot, informally constructed a network of volunteers and supporters to provide assistance to refugees in Czechoslovakia's Sudeten province. The Sharps agreed in early 1938 to undertake a fact-finding mission to Czechoslovakia, while Eliot, Dexter, and an emerging

educational, and medical aid projects to help rebuild dozens of cities and regions left devastated by Nazi occupation and Allied liberation efforts. The work was urgent and complex, and the dynamics of the institution changed often, according to the attention required to oversee continuing and new projects and specific cases.

The Unitarian and the Universalist denominations merged in 1964 to become the Unitarian Universalists. The Universalists also had a wartime service committee, and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) was the successor of the two earlier committees. The Unitarian Universalists



The city of Bremen after wartime air raids had reduced it to rubble. National Lutheran Council News Bureau photo.

group of ministers and lay volunteers formed an exploratory commission to seek funding for aid programs that would provide refuge, shelter, clothing, food, and community for the uprooted population.

In May 1939, after the AUA Board of Directors voted to fund the Czech project, and while Czech relief continued and fact-finding missions to Poland and other European nations were undertaken, the Unitarian Service Committee (USC) was formed as an agency independent from AUA governance. Throughout World War II and in its aftermath, the Unitarian Service Committee acted to counter the ravaging effects of the war throughout Europe, Asia, and North Africa. The USC implemented emigration, sanitation, economic, agricultural,

eventually donated the records of all three committees to Harvard Divinity School.

The UUSC archives contain a rich and comprehensive collection of case files and project files relating to the USC's early role in refugee assistance. The records document the formation and development of the USC as one agency among dozens working independently and cooperatively during World War II to rescue and help repair millions of lives destabilized by the war.

This summary of the refugee records is a selective description of the vast body of case files and project files in the UUSC archives. It is an archivist's attempt to shed light on the contents of a collection, and it is by no means an attempt to

resistance and subsequently disappeared. The case appears to have been matched by USC staff with an letter from an American citizen expressing interest in helping “a family of three with a small daughter under two years....” Documentation of USC staff efforts to connect the need with volunteer interest exists in correspondence between the USC Boston and Toulouse offices, and finally in an exchange of letters between the USC and the donor describing the situation of the fatherless family and the donor’s affirmative response, asking for clarification about the gender of the children so that the proper clothes might be donated.

The amount of, and level of detail in, correspondence required to connect one American family with one refugee family, among the tens of thousands of pages documenting similar situations during World War II and the postwar era is impressive. The energy and efficiency of this handful of people in the USC offices in America and in Europe, tracking and attempting to connect war victims with people who were able to provide some sort of aid, is as impressive as any of the singular stories within the archives.

Many of the case files include anonymous third-person narratives of the situation of the refugee(s). The purpose of the narratives is unclear, but one can imagine them being used for raising funds, for general USC operations, and for other specific purposes. The story of a young German couple forced into a refugee camp in Ericeira, Portugal, is powerfully descriptive. The first document begins with an invitation to imagine a photograph of the family in front of their house. The narrative then focuses on the present life of the family and describes their paths to Ericeira. After escaping imprisonment for his role in the Spanish Republican war effort, the man met his future wife, then a war-widow, in Lisbon. They eventually married. The man’s past soon was exposed, and husband and wife, then with two children, were held incommunicado in prison. After a month in prison, she attempted suicide.

The narrative then switches perspectives to describe the USC’s role in caring for the couple’s children while they were imprisoned. USC staff members acted as observers during the mother’s incarceration and subsequent medical treatment, and played a part in her ultimate return to Ericeira and her children. The narrative ends with the story of the husband, who was finally released in 1946, after spending months in solitary confinement and years in various prisons. The couple remained separated and their future uncertain. Like many of the cases documented in the USC archives, this story ends without resolution or conclusion.

Other case files reveal the financial considerations central to USC operations. Cases required sponsors, but even with sponsors, it was very expensive to adequately resolve a case. One example is the plight of a man transported from Lisbon to his homeland in

Mexico. The file includes correspondence with the man’s brother in Philadelphia, asking for an additional two hundred dollars to defray the transportation costs. When the brother wrote USC staff that he could not afford to reimburse the agency for the costs, USC staff worked out an arrangement with another aid agency to cover the expenses. Despite the constant financial shortcomings in an operation as vast as this, it is clear from these files that the USC worked under the premise that missions were the primary focus, and that the expenses associated with the work were a secondary consideration.

Financial problems were significant and occasionally decisive, however. Some of the USC case files are organized more as project files. These files detail cases from the broader perspective of the administration of various field offices in Europe. One crisis in the Paris field office was dramatically documented in correspondence, reports, and narratives. The liquidation in 1946 of the National War Fund, a primary financial resource for USC operations, set the stage for a decision at USC headquarters in Boston to close the Paris office and remove the director of European operations. The correspondence from the European side indicated clear symptoms of stress and fatigue within the Paris office that resulted in inefficiency and low morale. The correspondence and operational reports are supplemented by detailed accounting and budget records that delineate the expenditures of all Paris operations, including all aid project costs and operational overhead. The most compelling documentation is found in the final exchange between Boston and the European director. These letters balance the USC officers’ appreciation for the work of the field staff with their practical realism in determining the need to close the Paris office and reorganize the entire European operation.

To date, there are no comprehensive histories of this aspect of the USC’s history and work. The complicated arrangement of the collection begs for intensive and long-term research projects. Since processing and cataloging were completed in 1995, the collection has been used primarily by individuals tracing the role of the USC and its allied agencies in aiding them and/or their relatives. Research was also recently undertaken to prepare an overview of the collection as part of a larger project to document the work of relief organizations during World War II. As contemporary cultural interest in the World War II era continues to grow, these Service Committee records may serve as a major resource documenting the human tragedy of World War II, the heroism and bravery of its victims, and the efforts of those who worked to repair the damaged lives and populations.

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