



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

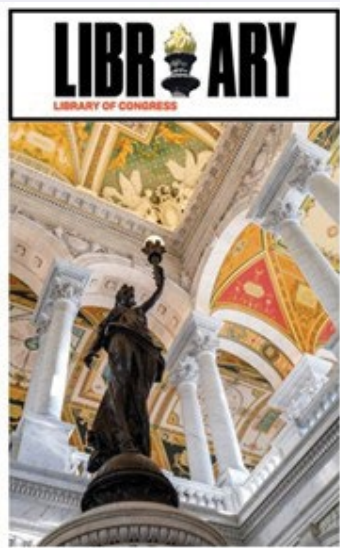
Second Series | Number 79
Winter 2024

SHFG
www.shfg.org

SHFG'S 2024 ANNUAL MEETING SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, May 30 –
Friday, May 31, 2024

Library of Congress
James Madison Memorial
Building
101 Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20540



National VA History Center update: December 2023

There have been significant changes to the early plans for the National VA History Center (NVAHC) during the last year. Additional engineering inspections of the Old Headquarters (Building 116) revealed previously undiscovered issues, including additional deterioration from water leaks and a determination that the floor load is inadequate for museum exhibits. An emergency contract was awarded to limit additional water damage, and numerous planning sessions followed. In consultation with campus leadership, our NVAHC Foundation partners, and VA stakeholders, we developed a revised approach to the physical spaces needed for our archives, exhibits, storage, and administrative spaces. Our new road-map includes these changes and additions:

- **NVAHC archive/research facility.** Putnam Library (building 120) will now serve as our public-facing research archive. The building is currently on track for VA scheduled renovations that are planned for completion in late 2025. Follow-on improvements will take place to complete its transition to an archival research space. This will be the first public space for NVAHC.
- **Artifact and archival storage facility.** In late May 2023, the NVAHC moved from its temporary storage site in building 401 to a permanent archive and artifact storage site. The Warehouse (building 126) is equipped with loading docks, a freight elevator, and reinforced concrete floors that make it well-suited for this new pur-



Building 116, the Old Headquarters. One of the buildings which is part of the on-going National VA History Center project.

pose. NVAHC will initially be one of several tenants in the building. Upgrades will be made to climate controls, security, and other systems required for the storage of historic materials.

- **Museum.** Leadership is now pursuing a new construction option for the museum space of NVAHC. A site adjacent to Putnam Library has been identified for this purpose and preliminary assessments are underway. The recognition that none of the historic buildings are structurally sufficient for a museum was significant but has opened the door to purpose-built new construction that will allow for integration of state-of-the-art technology at a comparatively lower cost than renovation of an existing structure. Designs for the space will incorporate the concepts described in the recently completed [Interpretive Master Plan](#).
- **Visitor center/conference site.** The Old Headquarters (building 116) will now serve as the visitor center, symposium space, and offices for NVAHC. VA awarded a contract for infrastruc-

See "National VA History Center" cont'd on page 3

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The **FEDERALIST**

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Published Quarterly

The Society is a national professional organization open to all who are interested in federal history programs. Annual membership is \$55, \$35 students, and \$100 for institutions and includes a subscription to *The Federalist*, *Federal History* journal, and other periodic publications. Contributors are encouraged to submit articles, news listings, and photographs to the editors.

Current and back issues are available to members at www.shfg.org.

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of *The Federalist*, the SHFG, or the agencies or organizations where the authors are employed.

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The **FEDERALIST**

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President's Message

Julie I. Prieto

This issue of *The Federalist* represents a momentous shift for SHFG. As the first digital only issue, it marks the beginning of a full embrace of technology and its value in building community. I admit that I will miss the paper version of our newsletter. Nothing can replace the feel of paper in your hand and the look of ink on a crisp, white background with no artificial lights. But the digital format provides advantages that paper just cannot match. It is flexible and forgiving. It allows us to include accessibility features unavailable in physical forms. Most importantly, it gives us the opportunity to reach many more people and share our common professional interests and concerns.

In some sense, this is the culmination of a process that began at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. As the world shut down and offices closed, the Executive Council began meeting remotely. Instead of sitting around a conference room at Archives I, we met in the virtual space, mostly each in our own homes a few miles apart in the Washington D.C. area. While it was distressing to not be together, since then, we have elected people to sit on our council and on our committees who live in other areas of the country and the world. This has made SHFG a stronger organization. Moving *The Federalist* online will hopefully represent a similar positive change.

At the same time that we have embraced the digital, we are well underway planning the Society's in-person 2024 Annual Meeting at the Library of Congress. We accepted proposals in keeping with the theme "Making History Accessible," which will allow us to discuss a



wide range of issues related to expanding the audiences for federal history. Panels, roundtables, and structured discussions will address a variety of platforms, both traditional and non-traditional, types of products, and forms of public engagement. As usual, the conference also presents us with a valuable block of time to see friends and colleagues and talk about history. Registration is open, and I hope that many of you will join us.

In addition to the in-person meeting, we will have several other ways to get involved this Spring. The Oral History working group continues to be active in meeting to exchange ideas and best practices. We have also scheduled a tour to visit the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center's exhibitions on 1 March at 3:30 pm.

I look forward to seeing many of you on our tour of the U.S. Capitol, the Annual Meeting at the Library of Congress on May 30-31, and online.

Julie I. Prieto
julieprieto@gmail.com

FEATURE YOUR PROJECT!

Want to spread the word about your work? *The Federalist* newsletter prints information about federal history projects and issues affecting federal history programs.

If you or your organization have news items related to federal history that you would like printed in *The Federalist*, or if

you have a press release, feature article, or profile you would like to contribute, email the editor at shfgfederalist@gmail.com.

The Federalist welcomes contributors with information highlighting news of the profession, or who are willing to describe their projects for the SHFG audience!

Editors' Note

Welcome to issue 79 of *The Federalist*! We're ending the paper version and slightly reformatting the newsletter.

This issue is heavy on announcements and reminders. SHFG members are busy. See notices about the SHFG annual conference scheduled for late May at the Library of Congress. There are many ways you can get involved. SHFG is looking for your input to the SHFG History Project Questionnaire, which is part of the larger effort to document our group's history. The Nominating Committee is seeking the next generation of SHFG leaders. A recent change to the SHFG bylaws means that the Membership Committee has been revitalized. *The Federalist* has information on how you can join this committee.

Work on the National VA History Center in Dayton, Virginia, continues. The issue of *The Federalist* contains an

introduction to the project and an update.

Declassification is a problem many SHFG members face in their work. This issue offers a few resources and a recent letter from the Public Interest Declassification Board on possible revisions to Executive Order 13245 (Classified National Security Information), the key document governing classification and declassification. If President Biden does update the Executive Order, *The Federalist* will provide an update.

This issue contains some information and links related to Women's History Month. As usual, *The Federalist* concludes with announcements (Making History), Recent Publications, and the Calendar of upcoming conferences.

Above all, we need your help—send us articles or announcements.

“National VA History Center” from page 1

ture renovation in September 2023 that will make the building ready for Foundation-funded final restoration for its new use.

- **Technical training.** With the selection of the Warehouse as a more suitable space for artifact and archive storage, the Clubhouse (building 129) will now serve as a training and education site for preservation and restoration practices. VA infrastructure renovation for the Clubhouse is forecasted for completion in late 2025.
- **Campus experience.** The NVAHC team is currently researching Augmented Reality (A/R) technologies and developing wayside interpretive signage to enhance the walking tour of the many historic locations on the campus (grotto, chapels, funeral tunnel, etc.). The current [walking tour](#) guidebook (pioneered by American Veterans Heritage Center) is our starting point for this project.

With the 100th anniversary of the modern VA less than seven years away (July 2030), the VA History Office and our Foundation partners continue the push to open the first public space in 2027.

Located on the Dayton VA Medical Center campus, the National VA History Center (NVAHC) will include multiple historic buildings: the Old Headquarters (building 116), the Clubhouse (building 129) and the Putnam Library (building 120). These buildings are some of the oldest on the 450-acre campus, dating to 1871, 1881 and 1880, respectively. Initial work to stabilize and prepare the buildings has started and will ultimately allow the structures to be fully renovated to recognized standards for archival use (appropriate humidity control, reduced natural light exposure, security and fire systems, etc.). A new construction option for the VA's national museum is also being pursued as part of the History Center campus.

The cost of the final phase build out of the NVAHC will be

provided through fundraising by the VA History Center Foundation, established in 2017 as part of an agreement between VA and Dayton community leaders. Based on the pace of private fundraising by the Foundation, receipt of grants, or other dedicated funding partnerships, the NVAHC first public space is forecasted to open in 2027.

Once complete, the NVAHC will be the central location for seminal artifacts and archives of historic significance from across hundreds of VA locations. The site will provide storage, preservation, and access to these materials, as well as a museum and education center. The project will include a robust online access to digitized materials for researchers, writers, and scholars, and virtual museum [exhibits](#) available to the public.

The unique Dayton campus was founded as one of the original branches of the [National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers](#) to serve Union Civil War Veterans. The campus includes numerous historical sites, including the Dayton National Cemetery, the 1870 [Protestant Chapel](#), and the restored [grotto gardens](#). The chapel and the grotto were built by the Veterans who resided on the campus in the late 19th century. The Dayton National Cemetery is the final resting place for Veterans whose services date from the Revolutionary War to the present. A unique Victorian-era [funeral tunnel](#) once linked the National Home to the Cemetery, and the entrance of the tunnel is another of the Dayton campus sites of historic interest.

As the National VA History Center's collection increases, the Curator and Senior Archivist will write blog posts to get behind the scenes on our [Curator Corner](#).

For more information on possible designs and displays in the future museum, check out the [Interpretive Master Plan](#) completed in 2022.

Declassification and Executive Order 13526

Declassification is a perennial issue for historians. Here's some of the latest news.

February 202 *Washington Post* editorial: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2024/02/20/fixing-national-classification-system/>

NARA's National Declassification Center:
<https://www.archives.gov/declassification/ndc>

See also letters from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations and the National Coalition for History here: <https://historycoalition.org/2023/05/02/nch-endorses-shafr-statement-on-federal-records-declassification-reform/>.

See AHA Perspectives article about using machine learning for declassification: <https://www.historians.org/research-and-publications/perspectives-on-history/october-2023/improving-declassification-applying-machine-learning-to-diplomatic-cable-review>.

NARA's Public Interest Declassification Board has written a letter to President Biden about efforts to revise EO 13526. The EO is available at <https://www.archives.gov/isoo/policy-documents/cnsi-eo.html>. The full letter to President Biden is below.

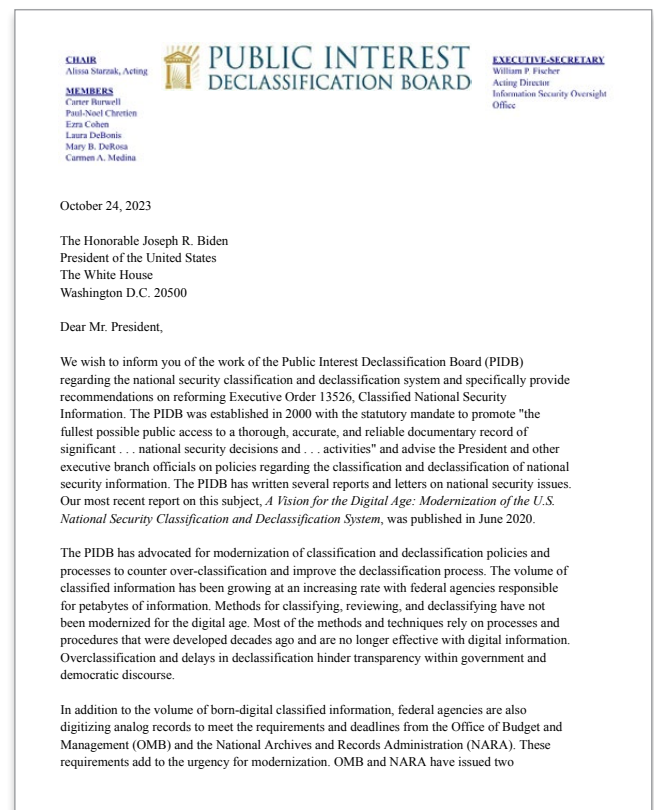
October 24, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We wish to inform you of the work of the Public Interest Declassification Board (PIDB) regarding the national security classification and declassification system and specifically provide recommendations on reforming Executive Order 13526, Classified National Security Information. The PIDB was established in 2000 with the statutory mandate to promote “the fullest possible public access to a thorough, accurate, and reliable documentary record of significant . . . national security decisions and . . . activities” and advise the President and other executive branch officials on policies regarding the classification and declassification of national security information. The PIDB has written several reports and letters on national security issues. Our most recent report on this subject, *A Vision for the Digital Age: Modernization of the U.S. National Security Classification and Declassification System*, was published in June 2020.

The PIDB has advocated for modernization of classification and declassification policies and processes to counter over-classification and improve the declassification process. The volume of classified information has been growing at an increasing rate with federal agencies responsible for petabytes of information. Methods for classifying, reviewing, and declassifying have not been modernized for the digital age. Most of the methods and techniques rely on processes and procedures that were developed decades ago and are no longer effective with digital information. Overclassification and delays in declassification hinder transparency within government and democratic discourse.



In addition to the volume of born-digital classified information, federal agencies are also digitizing analog records to meet the requirements and deadlines from the Office of Budget and Management (OMB) and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). These requirements add to the urgency for modernization. OMB and NARA have issued two memorandums, M19-21, Transition to Electronic Records and M23-07, Update to Transition to Electronic Records, requiring federal agencies to move to a fully electronic environment. Permanent analog records, including classified records, still in the custody of the agencies after June 30, 2024 must be digitized prior to transfer to NARA. Digitized and born-digital records require modern tools and methods, standardization, and the agencies storing them sufficient appropriations to manage classified information.

The PIDB believes that changes to Executive Order 13526 would help put the U.S. government on a path toward modernization of our system for classification and declassification of records. Based on the PIDB's work, including briefings with entities responsible for agency classification and declassification policies, this letter provides a number of specific areas for focus and possible reform.

Consolidation and improvement of security classification guides

Security classification guides are fundamental to a well-functioning system for classification and declassification, and critical to the long-term use of technology to assist with declassification. An effective security guide not only documents the basis for an original classification authority's classification decision, enabling both consistency and better derivative classification, but also provides information about what can be said about the subject in an unclassified way, encouraging less classified reporting. Proper use of security classification guides can also expedite declassification, serving as a means to identify information that no longer needs to be classified.

Executive branch agencies, however, often fail to adequately maintain, update, and consolidate their security classification guides, resulting in a lack of clear guidance on what information is properly classified, why it is classified, and how it might be addressed in an unclassified way. Overlapping security guides—both within an agency and across the government—expand confusion, increasing the likelihood of overclassification.

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) developed a program that can serve as a model for other agencies seeking to improve their security classification guides. NGA developed the Consolidated NGA Security Classification Guide, whose purpose is to consolidate all of the individual NGA classification guides into a single source which is searchable and allows more efficient and accurate classification. The goal of this project was to reduce redundancy, improve the utility of the guide, and modernize the process. NGA consolidated 65 individual classification guides into one guide with an updated and modernized list of information. Additionally, NGA deployed an online searchable version.

While the NGA's project was focused exclusively on the security classification guides, rather than how those same guides could be incorporated into broader record-keeping and declassification efforts or use of machine learning or artificial intelligence, it could serve as the basis for further research in the automation of classification and declassification. The PIDB would recommend that a revised executive order recognize the importance of updating and consolidating security guides.

Expanded use of technology

Previous PIDB reports, including most recently *A Vision for the Digital Age*, have provided information on the increase of digital assets transferred to NARA from past presidential administrations and have called for deploying technology for classifying and declassifying information. Although the US government does not yet have comprehensive technology to address declassification, in the last few years several agencies have undertaken projects and pilots using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies to assist with records review for declassification.

Most agencies that the PIDB has spoken with agree with the observation in the Defense Department's 2021 report to Congress on the declassification backlog¹ that there is currently no technological solution to replicate a human reviewer for declassification. Although there are a number of research projects on technology reviews and potential solutions underway, there are concerns that using any application or tool will not result in 100 percent certainty of the accuracy in the determinations. While the desire for this level of certainty is understandable, it may be difficult to achieve through technological applications,

¹ Department of Defense. Office of Prepublication and Security Review. Reducing the Backlog in Legally Required Historical Declassification Obligations of the Department of Defense. Report to Congress, March 2021, available at: <https://media.defense.gov/2021/Oct/22/2002878432/-1/-1/1/REDUCING-THE-BACKLOG-IN-LEGALLY-REQUIRED-HISTORICAL-DECLASSIFICATION-OBLIGATIONS-OF-THE-DOD.PDF>, accessed January 10, 2022.

especially in the near term. Until the tools and applications achieve 100 percent accuracy, agencies will have to combine them with human classifiers and reviewers. Whether or not it is possible, or even desirable, to replace human decision making entirely, there is widespread recognition that technology can aid in the process and increase efficiency.

The PIDB met with representatives from the NGA, the Department of State, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) to discuss their initiatives in developing artificial intelligence and machine learning tools for declassification. These projects demonstrate that using these tools can result in improved accuracy and efficiency, although we are still not at a point where tools can replace human reviewers. The PIDB is aware that there are other pilots in development at the Department of Energy and the intelligence agencies and will continue discussions and coordinate briefings with those agencies as well.

The State Department's pilot tested AI tools on classified cables from 1995 to 1997. Cables traditionally have been manually reviewed by a team of reviewers and it takes the team about a year to review each year of cables; however, with the sharp increase in the number of cables created, this method has become unsustainable. The pilot used previously reviewed cables from 1995 and 1996 to recreate declassification decisions made in 2020 and 2021. The pilot included over 300,000 classified cables, took three months, and five data scientists to develop and train a model that replicates human declassification review. The budget for this three-month pilot was \$400,000. The performance was impressive, with a high accuracy rate of over 97 percent, a low error rate of about one percent, and saved months of work by reducing the manual workload by 65 percent. Future expansion of the pilot will require constantly updating the data, algorithms, and models, and consulting with historians, bureaus, and other agencies. Each new year brings new terms, changing world events and sensitivities that need to be considered in the records. The State Department will also need to examine how to use these tools against other types of records beyond cables. The State Department's pilot uses AI to augment the reviewers' work who still validate and provide oversight of the declassification decisions.

OSD has been working with the Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence and Security (ARLIS) at the University of Maryland to develop declassification tools that operationalize the declassification guides. Similar to the State Department's effort, the intent is for these tools to assist humans with the process. The Department of Defense has 26 different operations; the goal of this project is to create a holistic approach throughout DoD for classification and declassification of records. The project uses artificial intelligence and natural language processing techniques along with human-centered systems engineering for declassification review. Additionally, OSD has been developing the Electronic Records and Declassification System (eRADS) to transition to an electronic records environment. The system will support automatic and mandatory declassification reviews and records management functions.

As an increasing number of agencies validate the use of AI or ML in declassification programs and expand their tools, there is an urgent need to coordinate on the use of tools and systems across the executive branch, to ensure they remain interoperable. Revised guidance and centralized oversight can play an important role in ensuring new systems coming online are not inappropriately siloed. We would strongly encourage the designation of an entity to monitor and coordinate activities around the development and roll out of new technology aimed to aid in classification and declassification across the executive branch.

Governance of new technology

In the past few years, the White House issued two executive orders on artificial intelligence. The 2019 Executive Order 13859, Maintaining American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence, called for federal agencies to focus on promoting the research of AI systems for scientific, technological, and economic advancements. Executive Order 13960, Promoting the Use of Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence in the Federal Government, was issued in 2020 and encouraged agencies to use AI to benefit the American people. Agencies were directed to design, develop, acquire, and use AI and to ensure that privacy, civil rights, civil liberties, and American values were protected and were consistent with applicable laws. Additionally, agencies are required to publicly post inventories of AI non-classified and non-sensitive use cases.

As part of the effort to promote the development and manage risks associated with AI, the National Institute of Standards and Technology released in January 2023 the AI Risk Management Framework. The framework, designed through a collaborative process with government agencies, industry, academia, civil society organizations, and the public, is voluntary. The intent of the framework is to incorporate trustworthiness into the design, development, deployment of AI products, services, and systems.

The projects the PIDB has reviewed show promise and are already leading to efficiencies and improvements in managing classified information. While not explicitly stated in Executive Orders 13859 and 13960, federal agencies should leverage these orders to explore solutions for the challenges facing modernizing processes for classifying and declassifying information. This will require dedicated on-going funding to support the research, pilots, and implementation of a government-wide national security classification and declassification system. Reforms to Executive Order 13526 must ensure new policies enable the use of technological applications to support classification and improve declassification; agency classification guides are supported by technology and classification assigned with the eventual declassification taken into account; and practices and processes are aligned government-wide.

Increasing support for executive branch policy-making on classification and declassification

As the PIDB highlighted in our *A Vision for the Digital Age* report, transforming our classification system requires White House endorsement and leadership. That report recommended the designation of an executive agent and executive committee with authorities and responsibilities for designing and implementing a transformed security classification system. Unfortunately, there has been no significant movement on executive branch oversight since the PIDB issued the report in 2020. We reiterate the need for leadership to design and implement needed reforms, and to coordinate on new technologies.

We would also observe that existing structures to develop policy and oversight of the security classification system are increasingly under strain. The Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) at NARA is responsible for developing, coordinating and issuing directives regarding the executive orders governing classification policy and oversight of the government-wide security classification system, the government-wide system for controlled unclassified information and the National Industrial Security Program, in addition to providing support for the PIDB. Unfortunately, as we flagged earlier this year in our report to Congress, ISOO's budget has not kept pace with the demands, straining its ability to complete its core mission and support the PIDB. Given the pressing need for reforms and oversight of the classification system, we would encourage the development of a budget that recognizes the critical role played by ISOO and the PIDB.

Additional recommendations

Previous PIDB reports, including most recently *A Vision for the Digital Age*, have included a series of recommendations for policies and practices that have not yet been implemented, and could be incorporated into a revised executive order. We reiterate these recommendations, which include:

- Directing the Secretaries of Defense and Energy and the Director of National Intelligence to develop a unified or joint plan and assist the Archivist of the United States in modernizing the systems in use across agencies for the management of classified analog and electronic records.
- Deploying advanced technology, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, to support classification and declassification processes.
- Implementing secure information technology connectivity between and among all agencies managing classified information, specifically including NARA, which manages the National Declassification Center (NDC).
- Empowering the NDC to design and implement a process to solicit, evaluate, prioritize, and sponsor topics for declassification government-wide, in consultation with the public and government agencies.
- Simplifying and streamlining the classification system and adopting a two-tiered classification system.

Thank you for your continued support of the Board's mission of advocating for increased public transparency and access to the historical record.

Sincerely,

Alissa Starzak
Acting Chair
Public Interest Declassification Board

Women's History Month

Start with the Women's History Month website to find key information, including the introduction below:

<https://womenshistorymonth.gov/index.html>

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history.

About Women's History Month

Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week." In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month." These proclamations celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields.

Executive and Legislative Documents

The Law Library of Congress has compiled guides to commemorative observations, including a comprehensive inventory of the [Public Laws, Presidential Proclamations and congressional resolutions](#) related to Women's History Month.

Background of Women's History Month: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month>.

National Archives

<https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/womens-history>.

Library of Congress

Resources at the Library of Congress:

<https://guides.loc.gov/american-women>

Made at the Library: Eliza Scidmore, Trailblazing Journalist, with Diana P. Parsell

Date and Location

- When: Tuesday, March 5, 2024
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST

[Add to calendar](#)

- This event will be livestreamed on zoomgov.com [External](#). It will be available for viewing afterwards in the Library's [Event Videos](#) collection.
- Where: Online Only

Part of [Made at the Library](#)

Request ADA accommodations five business days in advance at (202) 707-6362 or ADA@loc.gov.

In celebration of Women's History Month, join author Diana P. Parsell as she discusses her recent book *Eliza Scidmore: The Trailblazing Journalist Behind Washington's Cherry Trees* with Manuscript Division historian Elizabeth A. Novara and Prints and Photographs Division curator Mari Nakahara.

Parsell, a Washington-area writer and former journalist, will discuss how her research journey began at the Library of Congress and led to the first biography of a historically significant American woman whose life story had been overlooked for more than a century.

The discussion will demonstrate how researchers search for and discover relevant materials at the Library of Congress on women's history, journalism, geography, and historic travel.

Made at the Library is an event series highlighting works inspired by and emerging from research at the Library of Congress. Featuring authors, artists, and other creators in conversation with Library experts, this series takes a deep dive into the process of working with Library's collections.

Truman Library

Bringing Home the White House: The Hidden History of the Women who Shaped the Presidency in the 20th Century

- Harry S. Truman Presidential Library
- Online
- Monday, March 18, 2024
6:00-7:30 p.m. CST

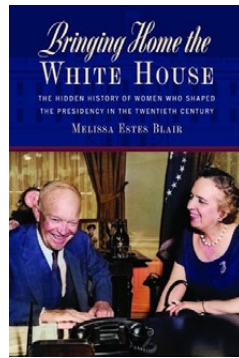


Women's History Month virtual event. "Bringing Home the White House: The Hidden History of the Women who Shaped the Presidency in the 20th Century," by Melissa Estes Blair. The book focuses on the period from 1932-1960, and much of the research was conducted at the Truman Library in 2018. Please email Azalea Michel-Whitley to RSVP and for more information at azalea.michelwhitley@nara.gov. You will receive a confirmation email with a link to the live conversation with the author.

National Archives

Remember the First Ladies

- William G. McGowan Theater
- Washington, DC
- Monday, March 4, 2024
7:00-8:30 p.m. EST
- In person and online



In celebration of Women's History Month, please join Archivist of the United States Dr. Colleen Shogan, who will moderate a program featuring Diana Carlin, Anita McBride, and Nancy Kegan Smith, co-authors of a new book, *Remember the First Ladies: The Legacies of America's History-Making Women*. The book illustrates First Ladies' unique position to influence American society, policy, diplomacy, and life in the White House and illuminates how many of them broke barriers to make a mark on our country and, at times, the world. A book signing will follow the program.

Women's History programming is made possible in part by the National Archives Foundation through the generous support of Denise Gwyn Ferguson.

Department of Defense

<https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/Womens-History-Month/spotlight-resources/>

Smithsonian Institution

Events and resources:

<https://www.si.edu/events/womens-history-month>

Department of State

<https://www.state.gov/state-department-celebrates-heritage-and-history-months/#womens-history-month>

Department of Defense

<https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/womens-history-month/>

Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian American Women's History Museum has announced an exciting lineup



of new initiatives for Women's History Month March 2024 that will further the museum's mission to make women's history more visible. These initiatives mark an important step as the museum enters the next phase of research and programming that will eventually inform the collection and a physical site in Washington, D.C.

The museum's headline program for Women's History Month will be "Becoming Visible," an interactive digital exhibition launching March 8 on International Women's Day. The exhibition will invite audiences into the work of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum that spotlights how women's histories have been recorded, remembered, lost and recovered.

Five remarkable stories of women from the past will come to life through objects from the Smithsonian's collection, archival records, recorded interviews and original illustrations and animations. Curators will narrate each of the five stories, alongside an introduction narrated by actress, designer and producer Rosario Dawson, who serves on the museum's advisory council. The exhibition will demonstrate how women's history is often obscured or forgotten—and the critical need to uncover these stories to create a more accurate and inclusive record of American history.

The lack of women's representation in major databases is another key obstacle to ensuring women's history is not lost as less than 20% of biographies on English-language Wikipedia are about women. To confront this issue, the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum will host a Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon March 27 where attendees will edit and create Wikipedia articles about the women represented in "Becoming Visible," among others.

"This Women's History Month we are excited to introduce audiences to the future of what will truly be the first national museum to honor American women's history," said Melanie Adams, interim director of the museum. "While our museum is still in its early stages, we are already activating our digital platforms, championing new research and engaging the wider Smithsonian community to begin the critical work of making women's history fully visible. We invite everyone, from all backgrounds and walks of life, to collaborate with us as we build a museum that will inspire generations to come."

The museum's other initiatives throughout Women's History Month include the launch of the Spotlight Program that will invite filmmakers to collaborate with the museum to share women's stories from their communities and a charter membership program for the public to get involved with the museum as it is built from the ground up. Further details on the Women's History Month initiatives are included below.

- Charter Membership Program | Launching March 1: With this inaugural membership program, the public can help make history by becoming some of the first supporters of the museum's mission. Charter Members will get early access to events and programs and be the first to know about the museum's progress. Learn more on the [museum's website](#).
- Digital Exhibition: "Becoming Visible" | Launching March 8: Available on the museum's website, the 10-minute digital experience created by the woman-led digital design firm Forum One will take audiences on a visual and emotional journey through five women's lives, including Elizabeth Keckly, a memoirist and formerly enslaved woman who became a lauded seamstress and dressmaker to Mary Todd Lincoln; Margaret Knight, a 19th-century inventor who automated the production of flat-bottomed paper bags; Hisako Hibi, a Japanese American artist who lost much of her work after spending over three years in government detention during World War II;

"Women's History Month" cont'd page 8

The SHFG History Project is Making Headway, But We Need Your Survey Responses

By Mike Reis, Chair, SHFG History Project Committee

The SHFG History Project Committee is making serious progress, *but we want and need your responses to our Questionnaire.*

If you haven't filled out the Questionnaire – and many thanks to those who have – please do so at your earliest convenience. The link to the Questionnaire is found at <https://www.survey-monkey.com/r/SMBWZKJ>. We're eager to hear your thoughts on SHFG and we especially seek stories you can share about your SHFG member participation, your attendance at SHFG events, and any other SHFG efforts. If you served as an officer of SHFG or on an SHFG committee, we would also like to learn more about that individual and collective experience and the challenges and satisfactions it presented.

Please also consider including your contact information in the Questionnaire. We realize that a simple survey might not give you enough scope to share longer stories or observations, and we would be happy to follow-up with you to talk about your memories of SHFG. We are focused on key themes – The Society's Origins, Community Building, Principles and Standards, Oral History, and Advocacy for Federal History, as well as “The Three Pillars” consisting of Newsletter, Directory, and Annual Meeting – but we are also greatly interested in learning about what SHFG has meant to you.

The Questionnaire of course is a key part of our larger SHFG History effort, which is gaining momentum. As of this writing, we have nearly 200 entries prepared for the detailed chronology we are writing as both a “living resource” and a bridge to 75-page book we will produce, and our “chron team” is busy adding more entries. We've concentrated initially on the range of benchmark sources already in hand – the excellent “From the Archives” articles by Chas Downs in *The Federalist*, the full run of *The Federalist* itself, from 1980-2001 and 2004-to-date, and the



Mike Reis

“Roth History,” drafted for the 10-year anniversary of the Society. We plan to have a History Project table at the SHFG Annual Meeting at the end of May, where we will share the “chron” as it then stands; we expect it will be extensive. We will also include copies of key documents we've collected. Further research in the SHFG Records held at American University Library is planned, and we are working with SHFG leadership to add the entire run of Executive Council minutes to our trove of benchmark documents and to the “chron.”

As always, we welcome additional volunteers to our History Project ranks. If you'd like to become part of the chron writing or research cadre, or to serve later as editors of the chron, or as writers or editors of the book we intend to produce, please feel free to contact the committee at shfghistory123@gmail.com.

Thanks again for responding to the Questionnaire and for considering stepping up to volunteer for the project!

“Women's History Month” from page 7

Isabel Morgan, a scientist who was instrumental in the development of the polio vaccine; and Hazel Fellows, a seamstress who worked on the Apollo space suits. A virtual inside look into the exhibition with Smithsonian curators will take place March 14 at 3 p.m. ET. Learn more on the [museum's website](#).

- Spotlight Program | Launching March 18: The museum will invite up and coming filmmakers from communities across the country to develop short videos that document important histories of women and girls who have been underrecognized in the historical record. This program will be the first of several co-creation projects that will engage artists from a variety of

backgrounds and disciplines to collaborate with the museum to tell women's stories.

- Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon | Launching March 27: Less than 20% of biographies in English-language Wikipedia are about women. The Smithsonian American Women's History Museum is helping to change this with a Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon during Women's History Month. Attendees will edit and create Wikipedia articles about American women represented in the museum's digital exhibition, “Becoming Visible,” among others. New editors who have never contributed to Wikipedia before will receive on-site training. This event is presented with support from Wikimedia DC.

Federal History in the News

September 2023

Interior Department Launches Effort to Preserve Federal Indian Boarding School Oral History

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-launches-effort-preserve-federal-indian-boarding-school-oral>

October 2023

Nobody knows the White House's stories like its curators

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/home/2023/10/27/white-house-curators-behind-scenes/>

November 2023

From the Collection: More historic Thanksgiving menus

<https://department.va.gov/history/curator-corner/010-thanksgiving-menus/>

Divers find dog tags and a ring in the wreck of a WWII bomber at sea

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2023/11/11/wwii-bomber-dive-dog-tag/>

December 2023

Recent National Historic Landmarks Designations Announced

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/recent-nhl-designations.htm>

Navy Medal of Honor Recipient Laid to Rest at Arlington

<https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/Press-Releases/display-pressreleases/Article/3623928/navy-medal-of-honor-recipient-laid-to-rest-at-arlington/>

January 2024

Library of Congress launches covid oral history project

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2024/01/25/library-congress-covid-oral-history/>

France gets ready to say 'merci' to World War II veterans for D-Day's 80th anniversary this year

<https://apnews.com/article/france-d-day-80th-anniversary-wwii-veterans-d389652bcae744fe1a551bffb88c283c>

Leading Museums Remove Native Displays Amid New Federal Rules

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/26/arts/design/american-museum-of-natural-history-nagpra.html>

Government Historians and Engagement with Classified Information

<https://warontherocks.com/2024/01/government-historians-and-engagement-with-classified-information/>

Smithsonian Curators to Collect 2024 Presidential Campaign Memorabilia

<https://www.si.edu/newsdesk/releases/smithsonian-curators-collect-2024-presidential-campaign-memorabilia>

February 2024

British recover ship's bell from U.S. destroyer sunk by U-boat in World War I

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2024/02/20/bell-ship-sunk-u-boat-recovered-british/>

First to serve, first to fight, and first to sacrifice – African Americans in the U.S. Coast Guard

<https://www.mycg.uscg.mil/News/Article/3664598/first-to-serve-first-to-fight-and-first-to-sacrifice-african-americans-in-the-u/>

More SHFG Announcements!

Starting in February, the Nominating Committee will begin doing its most important work. The committee is responsible for reviewing open positions on the Executive Council and on our various committees and recommending people to fill vacancies. This ensures that the Society has leadership in place to keep it active and strong going into the next year. If you would like to volunteer for any of our committees or to help out at the 2024 Annual Meeting at the Library of Congress, email us at shfg.primary@gmail.com.

During the Business Meeting at last year's annual meeting, we voted to amend SHFG's bylaws to revitalize the

Membership Committee. This body will manage the membership rolls and aid in recruiting and retaining members. Reforming the committee allows more volunteers to help in assisting us in this project and ensure that the Society will continue to reflect the composition of the larger federal history community. In order to become effective, the change was put up to the membership to vote on January 11th. I am pleased to announce that the change passed, and SHFG will officially re-form the Membership Committee. If you are interested in serving or have any ideas, please email us at shfg.primary@gmail.com.

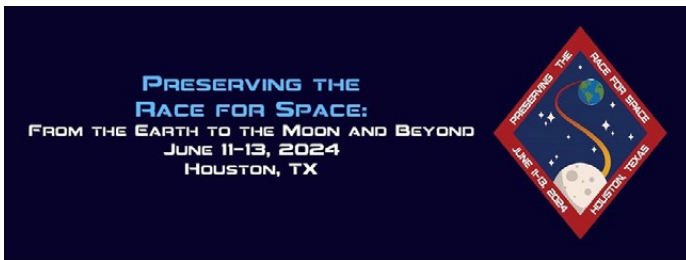
Making History

NASA

NASA History News & Notes, Volume 40, Number 4, Winter 2023 is out. The newly released [Winter 2023 issue of NASA History News & Notes](#) looks at the history of NASA's international partnerships to further science, development, and technology in air, space, and here on Earth. With the expectation of international collaboration written into NASA's founding charter, NASA has undertaken a variety of projects with nations around the world over the decades. Articles in this quarter's newsletter discuss a sampling of these international projects and partnerships.

National Park Service

Upcoming conference: Preserving the Race for Space 2024: From the Earth to the Moon and Beyond



Join us in Houston, Texas for a symposium on preservation of Space Exploration Resources! The NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) is partnering with Cane River National Heritage Area, NASA, and Space Center Houston to host a three-day symposium, which will bring together professionals with a stake in preserving what space exploration has left and is leaving behind. The symposium will feature talks held at the University of Houston, Clear Lake, in Houston, TX, and tours of Johnson Space Center. You can get more information here: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/preserving-the-race-for-space-2024-from-the-earth-to-the-moon-and-beyond.htm>.

National Archives and Records Administration

Archivist of the United States Dr. Colleen Shogan announced the appointment of Dawn Hammatt as the new Director of the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, TX, effective December 31.

In making the announcement, Shogan said, “Ms. Hammatt’s extensive leadership experience at museums and libraries nationwide, including six years leading the Eisenhower Presidential Library, will be a tremendous asset for the George Bush Library and the National Archives’ Presidential Library system.”

Hammatt was named Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, KS, in May 2017, and has led the library through a multimillion dollar museum

renovation, restoration of the Boyhood Home, and planning for campus-wide improvements. She also served as Acting Director at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in 2022–23 during a leadership transition. Hammatt’s experience leading museums, managing historic collections, and overseeing educational programming will bolster the George Bush Library at a critical time as it prepares for the opening of an adjacent event facility set for June 2024.

“The George and Barbara Bush Foundation is thrilled to welcome Dawn Hammatt as Director at the George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M,” said Hap Ellis, president of the George & Barbara Bush Foundation. “Her extensive experience in museum planning, knowledge of the Presidential Library system, and commitment to civics education make her a great partner for the Foundation in our collaborative work with NARA, with other presidential libraries, and with the A&M community.”

Hammatt has served in museums for her entire career. In South Carolina, she was managing director for a local history museum and on the governing board for the South Carolina Archival Association. In New Orleans, she was the Director of Curatorial Services for the Louisiana State Museum, a statewide system of nine museums. There, she oversaw the exhibits, collections management, curatorial, and education departments for the state.

She joined the National Archives in 2017 from the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience in Meridian, MS, where she managed the design and fabrication of a new 22,000-square-foot exhibition. She has also been active in the Southeastern Museums Conference.

Hammatt holds a bachelor of arts degree from Louisiana State University, a master of liberal studies with museum emphasis from the University of Oklahoma, and a certificate in non-profit administration from the University of Montana.

Hammatt will continue to serve as Acting Director at the Eisenhower Library until a new Director is appointed.

The George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum is one of 15 libraries in the Presidential Library system administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. The Presidential Libraries house the records of Presidents Herbert Hoover through Donald Trump and preserve and provide access to historical materials, support research, and create interactive programs and exhibits that educate and inspire.

National Endowment for the Humanities



The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) today announced [\\$33.8 million in grants for 260 humanities projects across the country](#). Among these are grants to support research for a cultural, political, and legal history of cancer in America that focuses on the Ames test for carcinogens; create a baccalaureate degree program in Native American studies at Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College; and expand the North American Climate History Project, a digital resource of weather and climate records from the colonial and early American Republic period.

“It is my great pleasure to announce NEH grant awards to support 260 exemplary humanities projects undertaken by scholars, higher education institutions, and organizations of every size,” said NEH Chair Shelly C. Lowe (Navajo). “This funding will help preserve and expand access to community histories, strengthen the ability of small museums and archives to serve the public, and provide resources and educational opportunities for students to engage with history, literature, languages, and cultures.”

This funding cycle includes the first round of awards made under NEH’s new Public Impact Projects at Smaller Organizations grant program. Developed as part of the agency’s [American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future](#) initiative, these grants assist small and mid-sized cultural organizations—particularly those in underserved communities—in strengthening public humanities programming. Twenty-eight new Public Impact Projects grants will support a range of capacity-building projects at small museums, historical societies, and heritage sites, including development of a new museum interpretive plan on the history of Arthurdale, West Virginia, the nation’s first New Deal community; expansion of the “Invisible Ground” series of heritage markers and audiovisual materials exploring marginalized community histories in southeast Ohio; and an initiative to assist 20 small museums in Oklahoma located along Route 66 in improving their interpretive capacities.

Eighteen new awards under the *American Tapestry* program, Cultural and Community Resilience grants, will support

community-based efforts to preserve cultural heritage in the wake of climate change and COVID-19. Awards in this category include a project to collect oral histories on the impact of the pandemic in Spanish-speaking and Indigenous communities in Kansas; the documentation of Gullah Geechee cultural heritage sites and their histories; the collection and curation of oral histories from Apsáalooke (Crow) elders about the coal economy and Montana’s Crow Indian Reservation over the past fifty years; and documentation of the cultural heritage of Islote, Puerto Rico, a small, historical fishing village endangered by climate change.

Grants awarded today also make significant investments in the fields of conservation science research and training to help find better ways to preserve materials and collections of critical importance to the nation’s cultural heritage. A project at the Northeast Document Conservation Center will develop open-source software and workflows to preserve recordings stored on Digital Audio Tape (DAT), an especially at-risk format widely used by oral historians, journalists, local radio stations, and other broadcast environments between 1987 and 2005. Additional grants will underwrite a survey of the capacity and unique heritage needs of archives and libraries of over 500 minority-serving institutions across the United States, and a convening of museum professionals and scholars to create data standards and protocols for provenance research on art and artifacts from the ancient Mediterranean to help curb the trade in illegal antiquities.

Several projects apply new technologies and digital methods to innovative humanities public programs and research, such as an interactive documentary website about the 1951 student movement to desegregate Moton High School in Farmville, Virginia, led by the sixteen-year-old civil rights activist Barbara Johns, and the development of machine learning techniques to enhance access to large newspaper photograph collections, using the Boston Globe’s historic photo morgue as a test case. Other grants will enable production of a curated narrative website of postcards published and mailed during the Nazis’ Siege of Leningrad and help researchers refine large-scale text analysis tools to distinguish paratext from main text in books digitized by the HathiTrust Digital Library.

Thirty new NEH Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants, which leverage federal funds to spur nonfederal support for cultural institutions, will support ADA-compliant improvements to facilities at the Ford Piquette Plant Museum, a National Historic Landmark in Detroit at Henry Ford’s first purpose-built factory, and enable construction of a new learning center to support revitalization of the Keres language and cultural heritage on the Pueblo de Cochiti in New Mexico. Additional funding will help underwrite the new Memphis Brooks Museum of Art in downtown Memphis, support a new museum at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh to increase understanding of anti-Semitism, and provide for the replacement of a damaged roof and installation of solar panels at the Meeteetse Museum in Meeteetse, Wyoming.

[A full list of grants by geographic location is available here.](#)

In addition to these direct grant awards, NEH provides operating support to the agency's humanities council partners, which make NEH-funded grants throughout the year in every U.S. state and territory.

National Archives and Records Administration

The [Moving Image and Sound Branch](#) of the National Archives doesn't just hold motion pictures. It's also home to over 300,000 sound recordings. Recently, the Motion Picture Branch made digitized sound recordings of the Supreme Court available in the Catalog.

The Supreme Court began recording its proceedings in 1955, but the court's opinions were not recorded until the 1980's. The recordings are organized chronologically. Since cases are often argued over multiple days, cases can be split up between different recordings.

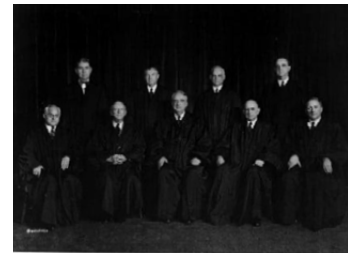
An interesting example is *Time, Inc. v. Hill* in 1966. The Hill family, who had been victims of a sensational crime where escaped convicts broke into the family home, sued Life Magazine for an article about a play which fictionalized the family's experience. At the Supreme Court in 1966, their case was argued by former vice-president and future president Richard Nixon. You can hear Nixon argue at about 51:30 in this [recording](#).

The Hill case references the famous case of *New York Times v. Sullivan*, which ruled that in order to prove libel, a public official must show that what was said against them was made with actual malice.

Other important cases you can find include:

- *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015 required states to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The recordings are divided into three parts: [question one](#), [question two](#), and the [opinion](#).
- [Engel v. Vitale](#) in 1962 decided that school-initiated prayer in public schools violated the First Amendment.
- [Gideon v. Wainwright](#) from 1963 declared that indigent defendants must be provided legal representation without charge.
- Perhaps the best known Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade* was argued over two dates: [December 1971](#) and [October 1972](#). The court declared abortion to be a constitutional right.
- [Loving et ux. v. Virginia](#) struck down state laws that banned interracial marriage in 1967.

The recordings are part of Record Group 267: Records of the Supreme Court of the United States, and they're divided into 3 series [Sound Recordings of Oral Arguments – Black Series, October 1955–December 1972](#), [Sound Recordings of Oral Arguments – Red Series, December 1972–June 27, 2005](#), and [Sound Recordings of Oral Arguments – Gold Series, October 3, 2005–June 30, 2023](#). The National Archives receives annual additions to the series from the Supreme Court.



Clockwise from upper left: Swearing-In of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, [National Archives Identifier 12165919](#); Supreme Court Justices, [National Archives Identifier 337952344](#); Supreme Court Justices Pose with President Ronald Reagan in The Supreme Court Conference Room, [National Archives Identifier 75855509](#); President Barack Obama Greets Justice Sonia Sotomayor [National Archives Identifier 118817965](#)



People Celebrate the Supreme Court Ruling on Same-Sex Marriage Outside the White House, [National Archives Identifier 138925688](#)

More audio recordings can be found in the [National Archives Catalog](#) using keywords such as the name of the case or the docket number.

Association for Documentary Editing

The Lyman H. Butterfield Award Committee seeks nominations for the award to be given in 2024. Since 1985, the Association for Documentary Editing has presented the Butterfield Award annually to recognize recent contributions in the areas of documentary publication, teaching, and service. Both senior and early-career scholars are eligible, as are projects and institutions. Recipients need not be members of the ADE, and the award may be given posthumously.

The award is granted in memoriam of Lyman Henry

Butterfield, whose editing career included contributions to *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, the editing of the Adams Family Papers, and publishing *The Letters of Benjamin Rush*. For a list of previous recipients, [click this link](#).

The award is intended for individuals, projects, and institutions who have excelled in one or more of the following criteria:

1. Outstanding and sustained service to the profession through active participation, advocacy, or leadership in Association for Documentary Editing or related organizations.
2. Outstanding and sustained service to the practice of documentary publication in a manner consistent with the highest standards of the field. These standards may be met in a variety of ways, including activity which involves exceptional creativity, innovation, intellectual or moral courage, leadership, or scholarship.
3. Outstanding research and/or publication in any media or format that contributes to the further understanding and development of documentary editing.
4. Outstanding and sustained performance in teaching in the field of documentary editing or a closely related field.
5. Outstanding work in diversity, equity, inclusion, and/or social justice that contributes to the development of documentary editing or a closely related field.

Nominations should be submitted by email. All unsuccessful nominations will remain active for a period of three years from

the time of their nomination and will be reconsidered for the award during those years without having to be renominated. After this period, they may be resubmitted for nomination. Supporting letters from members of the ADE are encouraged. All materials should reach the committee chair, Victoria Sciancalepore (vscianca@ramapo.edu), by May 1st, 2024.

National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives wants your feedback on the [Catalog!](#)

The National Archives wants to know about our members' experience with the Catalog, including suggestions for improvements. Both positive and negative feedback is welcomed. Please consider filling out the [National Archives Catalog Feedback Survey](#) and sharing the survey with your colleagues and friends. (The survey link can also be found on the Catalog homepage at <https://catalog.archives.gov/>). There is no deadline for the survey as it is part of an ongoing effort to create a baseline of responses. The National Archives continues to refine the Catalog through an agile development process, and your suggestions could be included in future Catalog enhancements. Feedback continues to be incorporated into Catalog development, with new features and fixes being rolled out every few weeks. To keep up with the latest news about the Catalog, sign up for the Catalog Newsletter and see past editions online at <https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/newsletter>.

Recent Publications

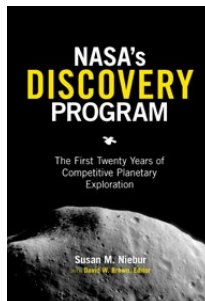
NASA

NASA's Discovery Program: The First Twenty Years of Competitive Planetary Exploration (NASA SP-2023-4238), edited by Susan M. Niebur with David W. Brown, is available online. It can be found at <https://www.nasa.gov/history/nasas-discovery-program-book/>.

When it started in the early 1990s, [NASA's Discovery Program](#) represented a breakthrough in the way NASA explores space. Providing opportunities for low-cost planetary science missions, the Discovery Program has funded a series of relatively small, focused, and innovative missions to investigate the planets and small bodies of our solar system.

For over 30 years, Discovery has given scientists a chance to dig deep into their imaginations and find inventive ways to unlock the mysteries of our solar system and beyond. As a complement to NASA's larger "flagship" planetary science explorations, Discovery's continuing goal is to achieve outstanding results by launching more, smaller missions using fewer resources and shorter development times.

This book draws on [interviews with program managers, engineers, and scientists](#) from Discovery's early missions. It takes



an in-depth look at the management techniques they used to design creative and cost-effective spacecraft that continue to yield ground-breaking scientific data, drive new technology innovations, and achieve what has never been done before.

International Boundary and Water Commission

In the Summer 2023 edition of *The Social Studies Texan*, an article by SHFG member Mark L. Howe of the International Boundary and Water Commission in El Paso, Texas discussed the Rio Grande River and the border. Titled "The Banco Monuments and the Rio Grande When the River and the Border Merged," discusses the Banco Monuments along the Rio Grande, the importance and the new border when the river shifted. As the river naturally migrated due to floods, hurricanes or nature, the border had to change because from El Paso to the Gulf of Mexico—the river is the border. Each time a new Banco was marked, concrete and brass caps were installed to mark the new border. This article gives a synopsis of these Bancos on the Rio Grande and how the 1970 Treaty rectified the border to what we see today.

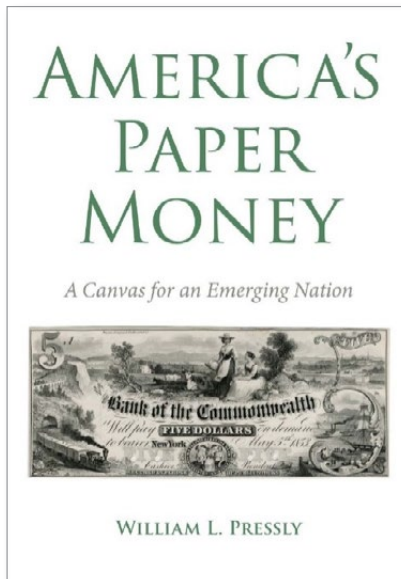




Smithsonian Institution
Scholarly Press

America's Paper Money: A Canvas for an Emerging Nation

By William L. Pressly



PUBLICATION DATE: 12/20/2023

PAGE COUNT: 363

ISBN (ONLINE): 978-1-944466-66-4

CATEGORIES: Art history; North American history; American history; American paper currency; Numismatics

SERIES: Open Monographs

For more information or if you have any questions, please email Sarah Fannon at FannonS@si.edu.

America's Paper Money is the first in-depth study of the imagery on the country's paper currency before 1900. Because paper money circulated everywhere, it was the country's most widely distributed iconography. Art historian William L. Pressly examines how for two centuries American creativity and technical ingenuity generated images that helped establish and enhance the nation's imagined self.

In 1690, when the Massachusetts Bay Colony became the first government in the Western world to issue paper money, it initiated this indigenous American art form of remarkable dynamism and originality. After the Revolutionary War, disillusioned by how quickly its promiscuous printing of Continental currency had led to hyperinflation, the U.S. government left it to private institutions, such as state-chartered banks, to carry on this artistic tradition. In 1861, in response to the Civil War, the federal government began taking charge of the paper-money supply, achieving its finest designs in the 1896 "Educational Series." *America's Paper Money* celebrates this distinctive American art form, one that has for too long been overlooked or misunderstood.

WILLIAM L. PRESSLY taught at Yale University, Duke University, and the University of Maryland, where he served as chair of the Department of Art History and Archaeology. He is a member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, New Jersey. Pressly received a Morse Fellowship from Yale University, a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, a Mellon Senior Fellowship from the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, a Residency Fellowship at the Yale Center for British Art, and was a Smithsonian Institution Senior Fellow. His book *James Barry's Murals at the Royal Society of Arts: Envisioning a New Public Art* won the 2015 William M.D. Berger Prize for British Art History.

AVAILABLE FOR FREE ON THE SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTION SCHOLARLY PRESS WEBSITE:

<https://doi.org/10.5479/si.24871410>

Federalist Calendar

Mar 7-9, 2024. National Council for History Education. Cleveland, OH. <https://ncheteach.org/conference/>

Mar 8-9, 2024. African American Intellectual History Society. Charlottesville, VA. <https://www.aaihs.org/conference-2024-info/>

Apr 3-7, 2024. American Society for Environmental History. Denver, CO. <https://aseh.org>

Apr 10-13, 2024. National Council on Public History. Annual Conference. Salt Lake City, UT. ncph.org/future-meetings

Apr 11-14, 2024. Organization of American Historians. Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA. www.oah.org/meetings-events/future-annual-meetings

Apr 18-21, 2024. Society for Military History. Annual Conference. Arlington, VA. smh-hq.org/conf/futuremeetings.html

May 9-12, 2024. American Association for the History of Medicine. Kansas City, KS. <https://www.histmed.org/meetings>

May 30-31, 2024. Society for History in the Federal Government. Washington, DC. <https://shfg.wildapricot.org/Annual-Meeting>

Jun 6-8, 2024. Agricultural History Society. “Borderlands, Marginal Spaces, and Agriculture in Between.” Las Cruces, NM. <https://www.aghistorysociety.org/2024-meeting>

Jun 13-15, 2024. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. Toronto, Canada. <https://members.shafr.org/annual-meetings>

Jun 19-22, 2024. Society for Civil War Historians. Raleigh, NC. <https://scwh.memberclicks.net>

Jun 20-22, 2024. Association for Documentary Editing. https://www.documentaryediting.org/wordpress/?page_id=7353

Jun 27-30, 2024. World History Association. San Francisco, CA. <https://www.thewha.org>

Jun 27-Jul 2, 2024. American Library Association. San Diego, CA. <https://2024.alaannual.org/>

Jul 9-14, 2024. Society for the History of Technology. VinadeMar, Chile. <https://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual-meeting/>

Jul 18-21, 2024. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. Philadelphia, PA. www.shear.org/future-conferences

Aug 1-4, 2024. Society of American Archivists. Chicago, IL. <https://www2.archivists.org/am2024>

Sep 11-14, 2024. American Association for State and Local History. Mobile, AL. <https://www.aaslh.org/annualconference/2024-annual-conference>

Oct 24-27, 2024. South History Society and Western History Society. Cincinnati, OH. <https://oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/>

SHFG Reminders

SHFG History Project Questionnaire

Greetings! The SHFG History Project Committee is eagerly looking for your good stories and memories from the 40-year-plus history of SHFG. Don't think your experience is too small—we want to hear from you—career federal history professionals including historians, archivists, curators, etc., as well as students, teachers—everyone!

If you can take a moment to open, fill out, and hit send on our members' questionnaire at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMBWZKJ> that would be terrific and so much appreciated. Please be sure to indicate as well if you would be interested and available for further contact, by way of an email, call or interview, to share more information and/or any documents about SHFG's history you might still have.

Many thanks for your welcome participation in making the SHFG History Project a success—we look forward to hearing from you soon!

Warm regards,
The SHFG History Project Committee