

## *Editors' Note*

This issue of *Federal History* provides a fascinating view of the diversity of research topics in federal history studies. The articles range from an examination of custodial policies for our national parks to the challenges facing medical research and the frontiers of intelligence work in World War II. That diversity testifies to the ever-increasing complexity of U.S. federal history, the government's wide-ranging interconnectedness to societal development, and the need for continual exploration of those historical connections.

Elizabeth Almlie explores the development of National Park Service policies for the protection and interpretation of Congaree Swamp National Monument in South Carolina and urges, as a model for all parks, a "full understanding" of the park's past that preserves not only the natural environment but the human history of the setting. Eric Boyle examines the recent history of research into alternative medicines at the National Institutes of Health and the tensions between Congress and scientists in government. David Grua has researched the development of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights' position on Indian Rights, noting that by 1981, the Commission had shifted "leftward," concentrating on the broader area of treaty rights and not solely civil rights. Timothy Mucklow examines in detail the understudied story of intelligence work in a Navy tunnel on Corregidor in the Philippines. That story not only touches on inter-branch relations, but on the technical aspects of intelligence work and its role against the Japanese during World War II. Chin Jou explores the consequential 1924 Immigration Act but from another perspective: that of a congressional delegation's opposition to it. In so doing, she draws out arguments that allow a fuller discussion of the immigration debate. Christopher Young explains the use and content of Presidential proclamations in the early years of the republic, and stresses their research value for historians of that period.

We also feature the 2010 Roger R. Trask Lecture delivered by Historian Emeritus of the U.S. Senate Richard Baker. Asking "Is the Senate Obsolete—Again?" he examines several key points in the Senate's history, finding a "cyclical pattern within the Senate's operations" as reforms changed the institution in those eras.

Thank you for your interest in *Federal History*, and we welcome your comments.

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