

VII. OUTREACH PROJECTS

A. Exhibits

Public exhibitions showcase the richness of congressional holdings and make these historical records accessible to communities around the country. Original congressional documents are frequently featured in exhibits in the National Archives Building, at NARA's presidential libraries, and at various archival institutions and museums nationwide. The Center for Legislative Archives uses facsimile document displays to reach beyond the traditional museum environment to bring congressional treasures to sites as varied as Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol Building and the Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

The historical value and modern relevance of congressional documents make them well suited for exhibits mounted in the National Archives' Rotunda. Congressional records have been displayed recently in "American Originals," a large, multi-year exhibit that showcased a changing selection of landmark documents from all of NARA's holdings and drew more than a million visitors each year. Congressional records have also been featured individually in short-term, Rotunda exhibits linked to significant anniversaries. Among these exhibits are the 1998 display of the Monroe Doctrine to commemorate the 175th anniversary of President James Monroe's annual message to Congress and the 1999 display of the page of the original House *Journal* that recorded the death of George Washington.

The current Rotunda exhibit, "Treasures of Congress," which opened on January 21, 2000, commemorates the 200th anniversary of the move of Congress to Washington, DC. "Treasures of Congress" is the first National Archives exhibit to draw almost exclusively from the records of Congress, and it will remain on exhibit at the National Archives Building through February 2001. In April 2000, the on-line version of "Treasures of Congress" was made available to the world on the NARA website in its "Online Exhibit Hall."

"Treasures of Congress" showcases the central role the House of Representatives and the Senate have played in U.S. history during some of the country's crucial turning points. Some of the central themes of the country's story are illustrated through the records of Congress: the struggle over slavery is documented in Rep. John Quincy Adams' opposition to the House "gag" rule against anti-slavery petitions and in the original resolution introduced in the

Senate that became the Thirteenth Amendment and abolished slavery in the United States. The steady expansion of civil rights and liberties comes to life with the documents that led to the direct election of senators, woman suffrage, and the addition of gender as one of the prohibited discriminatory categories in the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The exhibit catalog for "Treasures of Congress" reproduces all of the featured documents, many of them in color, with several illustrations that help to place these records in context. Associated public programs are being held throughout the life of the exhibit at the National Archives, including guest speakers and films relating to the history of Congress. Members of Congress have been introduced to "Treasures of Congress" through the catalog as well as through several events that were held at the National Archives Building.

The National Archives exhibit staff created "Treasures of Congress," with assistance from the Center. In addition, "Treasures of Congress" received important guidance from the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, and particularly the Senate Historical Office and the Senate Curator, from the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and from the Office of the Architect of the Capitol.

The National Archives, with the permission of the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate, occasionally loans congressional documents for exhibition in NARA facilities across the country, including presidential libraries, and at other archival institutions and museums. One such loan and exhibition occurred from August 1998 through January 1999 when an 1897 petition from the Hawaiian Patriotic League of the Hawaiian Islands was loaned to the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum: The State Museum of Natural and Cultural History in Honolulu, Hawaii. The 556-page petition protesting the annexation of Hawaii represented 21,169 individuals from all seven of the major islands and records the names of half the native Hawaiian population at the time. Photocopies of the complete petition were on display at the Bishop Museum and at the State Capitol Building. The arrival of the petition in Hawaii was marked by a ceremony held at the State Capitol Building with the Governor of Hawaii, and both the petition and NARA were featured in a recent documentary film and book about the annexation. The National Archives also prepared a microfilm version of the petition for distribution and sale. Document loans such as these demonstrate the extraordinary relevance of historic congressional documents to modern communities.

The Center's two traveling exhibitions of facsimile documents, *"A Splendid Misery": Challenges of Thomas Jefferson's Presidency* and

Our Mothers Before Us: Women and Democracy, 1789–1920, have continued to be displayed at sites around the country. The *Jefferson* exhibition, created in 1993 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Jefferson's birth, and *Our Mothers Before Us*, completed in 1995 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of woman suffrage, feature high-quality color facsimiles of original documents, photomurals, charts, reproductions of period art, and accompanying historical text. Both exhibits showcase the records of Congress and provide a visually stimulating setting and rich historical background for Congress's role in the great events and issues of our history.

Local media coverage, opening programs and receptions, and lecture and film series organized by institutions hosting *Jefferson* and *Our Mothers Before Us* have publicized the exhibits and have increased public awareness of NARA and the records of Congress. Recent displays of the *Jefferson* and *Our Mothers Before Us* exhibits have included the Harry S. Truman Library and Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Independence, Missouri, and Abilene, Kansas, respectively, and state universities such as the University of Georgia in Athens and the University of Mississippi in Oxford. A number of regional and state museums such as the Museum of the New South in Charlotte, North Carolina; the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans; the Florida State Archives in Tallahassee; and the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton have also hosted the exhibits. Additional venues have included the Baltimore-Washington International Airport, in Baltimore, Maryland, and the White House Visitors Center and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

The Center has also worked closely with Members of Congress and congressional officials to bring relevant document displays to Capitol Hill. In July 1998, the "Lincoln in Congress" exhibit commemorated the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's service in the House. The exhibit included a special one-day viewing of original documents in Statuary Hall followed by a one-month display of facsimiles. A facsimile exhibit highlighting the extraordinary career of John Quincy Adams, president and a member of the House for seventeen years, was displayed throughout February and March 2000. The Center has also assisted Members and committee offices that have expressed interest in featuring congressional documents on their web sites.

The creation of a Capitol Visitors Center may ultimately be the most important venue for making the records of Congress more accessible to the American people. With continued collaboration between the Center and the officers of the Senate and House, the proposed Capitol Visitors Center may provide extraordinary public

access to some of the most important documents in the records of Congress.

B. Educational Publications and Seminars

The Center's series of educational document publications makes the records of Congress available to the nation's middle school and high school teachers and students. *The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson*, first published in 1994, features realistic facsimiles of Thomas Jefferson's handwritten messages to Congress, together with innovative student-centered classroom activities, in order to explore the great issues and events of Jefferson's presidency. Jefferson's graceful prose and powerful use of language reach across two centuries to challenge students to explore important events in American history and give them the unique opportunity to study and interpret unpublished documents from the historical records of the House and Senate. With private-sector funding obtained by the Foundation for the National Archives, two print-runs of *The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson* have been distributed to every high school in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, Tennessee, Arizona, Oregon, Mississippi, and the District of Columbia and to every middle school in the State of Texas. The Center is currently working with the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, the caretaker of Monticello, to adapt the unit on the Lewis and Clark expedition into a poster display for schools, libraries, and other public venues.

The Center published its second educational document resource, *Our Mothers Before Us: Women and Democracy, 1789-1920*, in March 1998. *Our Mothers Before Us* features a unique collection of facsimile petitions to illustrate the important role women played in the civic life of the nation long before they won the right to vote. Teacher feedback has been very positive, with comments ranging from "excellent resource materials" to "exactly the type of educational resource teachers need to engage history students as active learners." As with *The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson*, *Our Mothers Before Us* was distributed using private-sector contributions to the Foundation for the National Archives. The first printing was distributed to more than 2,500 high schools in Texas, Tennessee, the Philadelphia metropolitan area, and Washington, DC. The Foundation for the National Archives is continuing its efforts to raise money for a second printing of *Our Mothers Before Us*. To date, funding has been received for high schools and community colleges in Mississippi and for high schools in Louisiana and the Cleveland, Ohio, metropolitan area.

Special events were held in Texas, Tennessee, and Mississippi to publicize the *Jefferson* and *Our Mothers Before Us* projects, express appreciation for the donors, and alert teachers to the availability of the Center's publications. The three events featured the participation of significant local, state, and national officials, including First Lady of Texas Laura Bush and Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Gore, as well as officials from the state departments of education.

The Center has begun work on its third educational publication, tentatively entitled "Congress and the Shaping of American History," a two-volume resource for history and civics teachers on the role of Congress in American history. Through strikingly realistic color reproductions of original documents, this resource promises to dramatize pivotal events and eras in American history and enliven the study of history while fostering a greater understanding of Congress as the central institution in our representative democracy. The resource will combine facsimile documents with maps, charts, and graphs; contemporary accounts of events from newspapers, memoirs, diaries, and oral histories; photographs and reproductions of period art; narrative histories of events and legislative processes; and a range of instructional materials for teachers. A prototype unit has been produced and reviewed by high school teachers and congressional scholars. The remaining five units in volume one are currently in production and will also undergo review before publication. Volume one of *Congress* is slated for publication and distribution to schools beginning in August 2001.

Staff also contributed to the Organization of American Historians' Summer 1998 issue of its *Magazine of History*. Edited by Richard Allan Baker, the Senate Historian, "Congressional History" provided information and teaching resources for teachers interested in the study of Congress.

The Center has also explored opportunities to provide on-line access to many of the resources contained in its print publications. All of the petitions from the *Our Mothers Before Us* publication and some of the documents from *The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson*, for example, are included as digitized images in NARA's on-line finding aid and data base, the National Archives Information Locator (NAIL). A State University of New York at Binghamton web site on "Women and Social Movements" features some of the petitions identified in the research that supported *Our Mothers Before Us*. Senator Byron Dorgan's web site, "Lewis and Clark in North Dakota," includes digitized images of documents from *The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson*.

For efficient use of the different media behind web-based publications, the Center is also exploring the redesign and reformatting

of its print publications as web-products. A private educational firm began this process and incorporated components from *The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson* in a CD-ROM and web-based multimedia educational software product. This prototype is currently undergoing testing in Department of Defense schools around the world, supported by a grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's Computer Assisted Education and Training Initiative (DARPA-CAETI). Our current educational publication, "Congress and the Shaping of American History," is being designed as a print publication but features a format that should easily translate to the web.

Center staff conducted a series of workshops to familiarize teachers with the use of congressional records in the classroom. Workshops in Austin, Dallas, and Houston, Texas, attended by more than 250 middle school and high school teachers and social studies supervisors explored the teaching strategies and materials included in the Center's two educational publications, *The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson* and *Our Mothers Before Us*. Staff also provided an overview of *Our Mothers Before Us* for teachers at the Texas Council for the Social Studies' annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, for teachers at the Tennessee Council for the Social Studies' annual meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and for local social studies supervisors at their monthly meeting in Washington, DC. In honor of the anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birthday in 1999 and to announce the distribution of *The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson* to Mississippi high schools, staff conducted an assembly on Jefferson at Meridian High School in Meridian, Mississippi. Staff also conducted a workshop on the educational uses of the records of Congress for the Dirksen Center's annual "Congress in the Classroom" gathering of history and civics teachers in Illinois.

Center staff also provide outreach to teachers and students through tours of the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. Staff provide behind-the-scenes tours of the legislative records and discuss how to conduct research in congressional records.

C. Partnership Opportunities

The Center for Legislative Archives has attempted to leverage its resources by forming partnerships with organizations and individuals outside the National Archives that share our interest in preserving and making available the records of Congress.

The Center's closest partners are the official record keepers of the House and Senate: the House Clerk's Office and the Legislative Resource Center and the Secretary of the Senate, Senate Historical

Office, and the Senate Curator's Office. The Center works closely with these groups to collaborate on the entire range of records issues, including records management, access, reference and outreach.

The Center's professional partnerships extend to the congressional papers community. The Center is represented in the Congressional Papers Roundtable, an organization within the Society of American Archivists composed of congressional record keepers. The group communicates, shares concerns, collaborates, and advances the cause of preservation and access to a wide range of congressional papers, both public and private. The Center works closely with the Dirksen Congressional Center in Illinois. Staff has participated in the Dirksen Center's annual "Congress in the Classroom" teacher-training program focused on teaching congressional history in the classroom. The Dirksen Center's program provides an opportunity for the Center to publicize its educational program, gain feedback on its publications, and extend its network of teachers.

The Center has established important ties with the congressional scholarly community. Leading congressional scholars serve as informal advisers who provide the Center with valuable guidance on archival and public educational outreach endeavors.

The Center has established partnerships with state education departments and individual teachers. The Texas Education Agency, for example, played a central role in the distribution of the Center's educational document resources, *The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson, 1801-1809* and *Our Mothers Before Us: Women and Democracy*, to Texas middle schools and high schools. The Texas Education Agency evaluated the products and supported the foundations' grant applications to state funders, identified master teachers to field test the material, participated in a public program in Austin to announce the publications' distribution, wrote a letter to all social studies chairs in Texas schools to inform them of the availability of the publications, and arranged for teacher workshops. The State Departments of Education in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Oregon and the Philadelphia Office of Curriculum Support played similar roles in their states. Teachers in a number of states, from as far away as Alaska, have volunteered to review the Center's educational resources and field test materials considered for educational products. They also provide valuable feedback about the Center's products currently in schools. The Center has also participated in several teacher workshops to demonstrate how its educational document resources may be effectively used.

For activities beyond core archival functions, the Center has secured funding for its public and educational outreach initiatives

through partnerships with foundations, corporations and individual donors. Special relationships have been formed with some of these funders so that they have become long-term friends and supporters of the Center and the National Archives. These close allies include the Phil Hardin Foundation, Thomas Jefferson University, Southwest Airlines, and Jeanette Rudy. Both the Center's exhibitions and its educational document resources received funds from these sources. Additional funds were received for state-by-state distribution of the educational document resources. These partnerships heightened both the Center's and the donor's visibility. Sustained partnerships and additional ventures will assist the Center in its quest to make congressional documents more widely available.

D. Internships

The Center for Legislative Archives has developed an active internship program to supplement its small outreach staff. By assisting Center staff in significant educational and research projects, interns expand staff's knowledge of the records and advance the Center's efforts to provide educational resources to the nation's classrooms. At the same time, the experience enables the interns to develop their research and writing abilities while gaining other valuable professional skills for future employment. The program helps interns identify their career goals and opportunities in today's job market.

The Center has developed partnerships with a number of universities and internship programs. These academic institutions attempt to locate qualified interns that will be well suited to the Center. Beginning in 1998, the Washington Center for Academic Internships began to regularly send the Center qualified candidates. The Washington programs at the University of California at Berkeley and Stanford University have become the Center's partners as well.

Participating universities and the National Archives receive significant rewards from the program. The interns' professors and academic departments gain a greater understanding of the records of Congress and their potential for scholarly research. Not only can the Archives benefit generally from stronger ties to colleges and universities, but specific educational programs and activities are also advanced.

The Center regularly hosts interns throughout the academic year and during the summer. Internships typically last for three months, although both shorter and longer periods have been explored. Interns have come to the Center from schools throughout the coun-

try, including Harvard University, Stanford University, Furman University, Eureka College, University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Davis, Pitzer College, Grove City College, Brigham Young University, Wesleyan University, Catholic University, Case Western Reserve University, University of Virginia, University of Alabama, St. Lawrence University, Barnard College, Marymount College, American University and Emory University. Other interns have come to the Center following graduation, including graduates of Wellesley College, the College of William and Mary, and George Mason University. The Center has also hosted interns from high schools in Maryland, Virginia, Washington, DC, and Tennessee.

Interns' work assignments depend on their skill level and knowledge. Interns have assisted in the development of exhibit scripts and teaching guides. Nearly 70 interns and volunteers worked on the Center's women's petition project, *Our Mothers Before Us: Women in Democracy*. These interns and volunteers searched through the records of Congress for petitions signed by women, and entered them into a data base. Approximately five interns and volunteers per year work on the Center's Clifford Berryman political cartoon project. They research individual cartoons to determine the date they were published in the *Washington Post* or *Evening Star* and provide descriptions. Interns have worked with the Center's historian to prepare histories and finding aids for the standing committees of Congress. They have also provided valuable research to support the development of the Center's current document resource, "Congress and the Shaping of American History."