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ADE Member Awards

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At its annual meeting in Denver, the Association for Documentary Editing announced co-winners of the 2005 Boydston Award. Named after Jo Ann Boydston, editor of the multi-volume edition of the *Papers of John Dewey* and president of ADE in 1984–85, the prize honors the best essay or review published anywhere during the previous two years, the primary focus of which is the editing of a volume of works or documents.

The Association named as winners Professor Paul Eggert, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Australian Defense Force Academy, and Professor Tim William Machan, Marquette University.

The Boydston Committee said of Professor Eggert’s work: “Paul Eggert’s review of Greetham’s *Theories of the Text*, though not a review of a scholarly edition, is nonetheless a critical text for anyone working in our discipline. Greetham’s *Theories* may be the single most important synthesis and analysis of the modernist and post-modernist theoretical positions and their relevance to textual criticism, editing theory, and scholarly editing of our time. Eggert’s penetrating review of Greetham’s ‘brilliant, restless, and endlessly curious’ book is itself brilliant, restless, and endlessly curious. It demonstrates the capacity of a review to influence the future of our discipline by analyzing the ever-contingent ‘textual condition’.

The Committee said of Professor Machan’s work: “Machan’s review of the Piers Plowman Electronic Archive offers not only a rigorous analysis of this particular electronic edition and its place in interpreting the relation between the historical William Langland’s writings, the extant manuscripts, and the ontology of the poem, but, also, a powerful analysis of the ‘central and thorny issues’ embedded in the electronic medium itself. Machan’s question, ‘Do editors, hundreds of years after the fact and on the basis of their own time’s critical taste, decide what literary works were and how they existed, or do such meanings emerge (to the extent that historical methods allow) from the context and manner in which they were transmitted and meant?’ is a central question for our discipline—and one that will continue to inspire debate in the foreseeable future.”
The Association for Documentary Editing presents its Distinguished Service Award to a "young" editor who has compiled a record of service to the ADE that leaves even us "oldsters" shaking our heads in awe.

She began as a National Historical Publications and Records Commission fellow and a co-worker on the Henry Laurens Papers project recalls that she was a model for how that program should work. She finished "Camp Edit," joined the Laurens Papers, and immediately became a valued contributor.

The same could be said of her career in ADE. From the beginning she was an active and valued member of our editing community. In the interest of time, I will highlight just a few of the many services she has rendered this organization.

In 1996–97 she helped create, distribute, collect, and collate a survey of younger editors that gave ADE a better sense of the joys and frustrations experienced by our "junior" editors.

She then served as chair of the publications committee, leaving that position to take over as moderator for Sedit-L, the on-line forum of the editing community, which has become an invaluable tool in promoting the exchange of ideas and information on editing and for rallying the "troops" to rebuff the latest attempts by Washington bureaucrats and politicians to divert funds away from editing to yet another unneeded pork-barrel project.

At the same time, she took over as chair of the Travel Funds Committee, which allows young editors to attend these proceedings and in the process promotes and preserves ADE.
Finally, and maybe most importantly, she is a genuinely nice and kind person who brings to ADE meetings a caring, generous spirit and an infectious charm that considerably brightens our proceedings.

The ADE, therefore, is pleased to present its Distinguished Service Award to Martha J. King.

**South Carolina’s Order of the Palmetto**  
**Presented by the Office of Governor Mark Sanford**

David Chesnutt's remarks reprinted with permission from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History Web Site

Friends and Colleagues . . .

To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln's comments on major-generalships, awards like this "are not as plenty as blackberries." While I am deeply moved by the recognition accorded by the Order of the Palmetto, I am equally aware that many of you in this room, as well as many others, were partners in the achievements cited here this afternoon.

George C. Rogers Jr., and Philip Hamer laid the foundation for the Laurens Papers. Jim Taylor and Peggy Clark played pivotal roles in preparing the manuscripts and documents for publication—as did a number of Fellows and graduate students who worked with us over the years. In short, the completion of the editorial work on the Laurens Papers is really the culmination of the efforts of many. Today, we are in the final stages of preparing a cumulative index to those 16 volumes—a task led by Peggy Clark and Connie Schulz with the assistance of Tom Downey, Mary Inkrot, Mary Sherrer, Martha King, Betty Nuxoll, and Mary Gallagher as well as a number graduate students in the Public History program at USC. The index contains more than a quarter of a million page references and touches on every aspect of South Carolina history. Needless to say, the computer-assisted indexing system we created with the help of the college computer lab in the mid-1970s played an essential role in creating the index.

The USC History Department provided both facilities and financial support for the forty-odd year duration of the project—a tradition begun when Bob Ochs was chair and continued through a succession of chairs down to Pat Maney today. Given the ups and downs of our state budget, this is indeed remarkable. Moreover, the project benefited from the support of many of our colleagues in the department like Walter Edgar, Rob Weir, Ed Beardsley, Clyde Wilson, and others.
The USC Press has been equally important to our success—a commitment begun by Bob King and continued through a series of directors down to Curtis Clark today. Electronic manuscripts are commonplace today, but we got into the game in the 70s when most publishers were simply talking about the process personified by word processing systems which used 8-inch floppy disks. With funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Laurens Papers became the first documentary edition in the U.S. to adopt the new technology and to develop the precursors to today’s electronic publishing systems. We could not have done it without the willingness of the Press to accommodate our experiments in electronic publishing. I should also mention that I was able to test some of those experiments with the help of Jimmy Kohn, a local printer, who has handled the printing of a journal I have edited since the early 1980s. Jimmy and his assistant Shelley Ivester are still handling the journal today, even though I’m now in Baton Rouge. I either FTP the journal or FedEx it to them on a CD.

Beyond the efficiencies in publishing, technology enabled us to create published texts which showed changes that Laurens and others made when they wrote letters or drafted documents. Within a decade most of the old-line projects like the Jefferson Papers and the Franklin Papers had adopted new textual policies. In short, Laurens became a sort of national model in the field of documentary editing.

The documentary editing community is small but it played an important role for the Laurens Papers over the years. The conferences and publications of the Association for Documentary Editing gave us a forum for the changes we were undertaking. Moreover, the ADE gave us the opportunity to sit down with editors from across the country who provided insights and feedback. The ADE’s interdisciplinary nature meant that we had access not only to leading historians like Arthur Link, but to leading literary editors like Fredson Bowers. It’s something of an irony, but the ADE led to one of my closest relationships with the English Department at USC—Joel Myerson. Joel in turn introduced me to many of his colleagues like Joe McElreth, Peter Shillingsburg, and Leo Lemay.

But back to South Carolina and the Laurens Papers. The Caroliniana Library and the Caroliniana Society provided us immeasurable assistance as we tried to sort out the hundreds South Carolinians mentioned in HL’s correspondence—a tradition begun by Les Inabinet and continued through Allen Stokes—down to today by Herb Hartsook. Their staffs could not have been more helpful. The same is true for the South Carolina Historical Society.
whose line of directors included Mary Elizabeth Prior, Gene Waddell and David Moltke-Hansen down to Eric Emerson today. The Historical Society’s own Laurens Collection became the nucleus for the letters and documents published in the Laurens Papers. Like USC, the Historical Society has been one of the major sponsors of the Laurens project.

In many ways Charles Lee, South Carolina’s archivist in the 1970s is responsible for the creation of the State Historical Records Advisory Board—a board charged with preserving the records of South Carolina’s heritage. Charles liked to style himself as a cultural politician and that he was. His was the genius that added the R in NHPRC. Initially organized as the National Historical Publications Commission in the 1930s, the commission was expanded in the mid-1970s to include the preservation of nationally significant historical records—hence the name change to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. In an effort to help individual states come to grips with preservation issues, the NHPRC funded the establishment of advisory boards. These boards were charged with surveying the states’ needs and developing a series of priorities for further funding.

Under the leadership of Charles Lee and his successors like Rodger Stroup and Roy Tryon, the South Carolina SHRAB has raised or endorsed projects that brought in $1.25 million in support of preserving the state’s important historical records. Serving on the board has been a rewarding and learning experience because of the diversity of its representation and the dedication of my fellow board members. The board’s purview has ranged from the state archives itself down to the very critical issues facing cities and counties as they seek to preserve not only the records of historical importance but the everyday records which affect all our lives. Institutions like the Caroliniana Library and the South Carolina Historical Society have also benefited from the Board’s support.

Preserving and publishing South Carolina’s heritage have been wonderful aspects in my life. I could never have imagined in 1970 that I would spend my career reading other people’s mail and preserving and publishing it. It’s been a grand ride. Thank you.