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Issues and Challenges of Moving and Maintaining *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*

Ryan P. Semmes and John F. Marszalek

In December 2008 two large moving vans arrived at the Mitchell Memorial Library at Mississippi State University, Starkville, containing over ninety filing cabinets and hundreds of boxes of materials belonging to The Ulysses S. Grant Association (USGA), formerly housed at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC). These materials represented over forty-six years of work by the late John Y. Simon and *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant* project.

The Civil War Centennial Commissions of Illinois, New York, and Ohio founded the USGA in 1962 and named a then young Harvard Ph.D., John Y. Simon, to be the managing editor. The Association's office was established at The Ohio Historical Society, then on the campus of Ohio State University, but did not remain there long. In 1964, when Simon joined the History faculty of SIUC, the USGA moved into the Morris Library located on that campus. Over the next forty-four years, Simon and teams of assistant editors located Grant manuscripts from around the world and made photocopies of each of them. The result is the greatest source of information on General and President Grant available anywhere. Some originals are included in the collection, but acquiring originals was not the main purpose of the effort. The USGA, instead, collected copies of letters for the editors' use in preparing and publishing volumes of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*. Simon was always extremely generous in providing aid to researchers, but he did not open the collection to general use by scholars. He regularly answered questions from authors: forwarding opinions on historical topics, and mailing, faxing, or emailing needed data, but the Grant collection existed primarily for the massive publication project.

The first volume of the *Papers* appeared in 1967, published by Southern Illinois University Press. Other volumes followed until Simon's death in 2008. By that time, he had shepherded thirty volumes into publication and had nearly completed volume 31, which appeared in the fall of 2009. He and his editors had also begun work on a supplementary volume and a scholarly edition of the famed Grant *Memoirs*. The published Grant volumes are universally considered to be outstanding examples of the documentary editor's skills, and Simon was

renowned as a leader in the documentary-editing profession and dean among the members of the Association for Documentary Editing, which he played a major role in creating.

John Y. Simon's documentary editing accomplishments were not the only important contributions he made to his profession. He took the Grant papers into both the academic and the public marketplaces. He presented papers to learned societies, he spoke to Civil War Round Tables, he appeared as an expert commentator on television, and he published on a wide variety of Civil War topics, Grant included, of course. The result of all his work was a host of awards: Gettysburg College's Lincoln Prize, the Lincoln Forum's Richard N. Current Award, and ADE's Julian P. Boyd Award, each for lifetime achievement. No one who ever heard his melodious voice extolling documentary editing, the Civil War in general, and Ulysses S. Grant in particular, went away unimpressed. This giant of a man was a giant in his field and an invaluable friend.

In the early part of 2008, disagreements developed between the Morris Library, SIUC, and the USGA causing the Board of Directors of the USGA to decide to move their Grant Papers to another academic host institution. In July 2008, Simon died. In August, the Board of Directors of the USGA, on the recommendation of its president, former Rhode Island Chief Justice Frank J. Williams, voted to name as its new managing editor John F. Marszalek, Mississippi State University Giles Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History and author of many Civil War publications. The USGA, in the fall, through its counsel, Jim Williams, filed an action of replevin to confirm its ownership of the Grant collection. SIUC and USGA agreed to an out-of-court settlement. The USGA Board had considered several institutions interested in becoming the new home of the Grant collection and chose the Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University. A "handshake agreement" between the administrators of MSU and the USGA Board resulted in the move of the collection to Mississippi in December 2008. Demonstrating the good relationship which had developed between MSU and USGA, the official agreement, although completed in December, was not formally signed until January 31, 2009, almost two months after the move had been accomplished.

Once the legal settlement between SIUC and the USGA was complete and with negotiations between MSU and USGA ongoing, at the handshake stage, SIUC, MSU, and the USGA scheduled the move. MSU secured a moving company which provided a large van and skilled and extremely careful workmen; officials for SIUC, MSU, and USGA worked out the logistical details; attorneys for SIUC and the USGA were present during the move to ensure that all was legally done. The Collection then consisted of over ninety legal-size file cabinets, assorted memorabilia, and books, some 15,000 linear feet in all. This material

had always been housed in the Morris Library, but at that time was temporarily relocated to an annex while renovations were being made to the library.

Original plans called for the Grant material to be transferred from SIUC file cabinets to manuscript boxes before being placed in the van. Instead, an on-site agreement was reached between SIUC and MSU to keep the material in the file cabinets for the move to Mississippi. Once it arrived at MSU, the plan called for the material to be transferred to manuscript boxes, and the file cabinets returned to SIUC. After the material's arrival at MSU, however, SIUC and MSU agreed to MSU's purchase of the cabinets. Marszalek and SIUC Associate Provost Susan Logue worked together to accomplish the task. This agreement saved a great deal of work and prevented possible damage and disarray during the wholesale transfer from cabinets to manuscript boxes. Importantly, too, keeping the Collection in its original file cabinets allowed the editorial and archival processes to proceed expeditiously.

As noted above, the collection includes photocopies of Grant letters and a variety of memorabilia. Of particular interest to the parties were the 4,000–5,000 volumes (1,200 plus titles) of books found within the collection's offices. Some clearly belonged to SIUC's Morris Library, while others were part of the USGA's collection. In the case of some others, ownership was unclear. Several weeks before the December move, representatives of the SIUC Library and the USGA had met and determined ownership of all but approximately two hundred books. The day of the move, the attorneys, Associate Provost Logue, and Marszalek settled on an equitable method of decision—simply a coin toss and then back-and-forth selection based on the result of the toss. There was thought given to bringing in a history faculty member to provide expertise for SIUC, but after further discussion, it was decided that doing this would delay the move. Provost Logue suggested that Marszalek make selections both for the USGA and SIUC. Her comment that she thought that Marszalek was “an honest man” and would “be fair to both sides” is perhaps the best indication of the cooperative spirit demonstrated throughout the move. As it developed, both SIUC and the USGA were pleased with the result of the book cartel. Later, it was discovered that, in error, the USGA had moved microfilm that belonged to SIUC, and SIUC found material that belonged to the USGA. MSU sent a van to Carbondale and made the exchange to everyone's satisfaction.

Meanwhile, the announcement that the Grant materials were to be transferred from SIUC to the MSU library was not made to the Mitchell Memorial Library staff until late 2008. Maintenance personnel spent the early fall finding open space in the closed stacks for library expansion. They moved older equipment to offsite storage. Shelving was constructed in open areas that had once been occupied by neglected signage and old card-catalog cabinets. The

archivists and librarians at MSU were pleased to note the new overflow shelving and wondered aloud what large collection would take up so much newly acquired space. By the end of the fall 2008 semester, the answer was revealed. It would be the Grant Papers project.

As part of the MSU-USGA agreement, the bulk of the collection would be housed in the already-existing Congressional and Political Research Center (CPRC) reading room and office area. There was open space there that was often used for processing University Archives collections, as well as a few rows of shelving previously used for temporary storage when new collections were being inventoried. A conference room was converted into an office for Marszalek. The processing area became the place for the storage of the Grant file cabinets and books. Because of the confidential nature of the ongoing negotiations between USGA and MSU, CPRC staff did not know the extent of the collection and had not accompanied other MSU Library representatives to Carbondale for the move. When the Grant Collection arrived on campus, its size overwhelmed the staff. Immediately, the MSU Library cataloging staff began processing the books in the collection and adding them to the Library's online catalog. Boxes of USGA business materials were shelved and given low priority in the early days, as CPRC staff focused on the intellectual arrangement of the editorial project materials and devising a plan for the physical arrangement of the cases. One problem was the method that the movers had to utilize when moving the collection. Because of rain and cold temperatures, the movers were logically most interested in safely getting the material on and off what proved to be two large moving vans. In the following weeks, MSU Library stacks maintenance staff physically arranged the file cabinets based on archival assessments of the materials.

It is important to know that *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant* project was transferred to an established work area whose primary focus was on the preservation, arrangement, and description of archival materials and on making these materials available for research. Dean of Libraries at MSU, Frances N. Coleman, Marszalek, and Coordinator of the CPRC, Michael B. Ballard, in conjunction with the USGA Board of Directors led by Chief Justice Williams, decided that it would make sense and fulfill the USGA's and Library's missions to make the research files available to qualified researchers even as the publication project continued toward completion. This would require a reassessment of the materials' organization.

The CPRC staff is made up of the University Archivist, an Assistant Archivist, a Senior Library Associate, a Library Associate, and four student workers. The staff is experienced in the arrangement of large collections. For example, long-time United States Senator John C. Stennis' collection has been housed at MSU since 1969 and consists of over 4,000 boxes of correspondence,

political documents, photographs, and memorabilia detailing the Senator's forty plus years in the Senate. This collection, which is divided into over fifty subject series and is utilized daily by students and historical researchers, is one of sixteen such twentieth-century political collections housed at the CPRC. The Grant material added a prestigious nineteenth-century collection. University Archivist Michael B. Ballard is a published Civil War author and Ryan P. Semmes, Assistant Archivist, is experienced in the organization of large collections. Their skill and the expertise of the rest of the CPRC staff meant that the transition from SIUC to MSU and from collection types went smoothly. The faculty and staff of the CPRC began arrangement and description of the Grant collection as soon as the two moving vans unloaded in the MSU Library. (In the end, one van could not handle the weight of the Grant material.)

The new staff of the USGA moved into the CPRC in early January 2009. At first, this staff consisted of Marszalek as Managing Editor and Ballard, as Associate Editor who served the project on a halftime basis. By July 2009, the USGA staff grew with the addition of Library Associate, Elizabeth Coggins, a *magna cum laude* MSU graduate with a joint major in History and English. The addition of two student workers and the January 2010 hiring of Assistant Editor Aaron Crawford, a veteran of *The Correspondence of James K. Polk* and *The Papers of Andrew Jackson*, both at the University of Tennessee, completed the staff for the USGA. In essence, the USGA and CPRC staffs work closely together, but they have separate responsibilities. The USGA is responsible for the administrative and editorial decisions regarding the *Papers*, whereas the CPRC is responsible for implementing the arrangement, description, and dissemination of the intellectual content of the materials to qualified researchers. In truth, the two often interconnect, and many decisions on the physical arrangement of the materials require the input of the USGA and CPRC to expedite the editorial process.

While work was being done on evaluating the collection and arranging it for its new dual purposes, the editorial process continued, as did the other work of the USGA. The death of John Y. Simon and the appointment of his replacement without the benefit of an orderly transition meant that a great deal of information had to be absorbed "on the job." USGA President Frank J. Williams, a fifteen-year veteran in his post, and John Y. Simon's widow, Harriet F. Simon, an experienced documentary editor in her own right and closely involved in the Grant Project since its onset, were both enormously helpful to Marszalek. Experienced documentary editors at other projects offered their help, too. The leadership of the Southern Illinois University Press, the publishers of the first thirty volumes of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, sought out Marszalek, the day after his appointment and while he was in Carbondale to attend the memorial service for Simon, offering their advice and their willingness to

complete the publication of all future Grant volumes. Similarly, professionals in the Mitchell Memorial Library, led by its Dean, went out of their way to provide expertise. (The assistant editors in place at SIUC at the time of Simon's death had each moved to other positions, so they were not available during the transition.) Helpful as all of this was, however, none of it was a substitute for the insight Simon would have provided, had he lived.

Some of the immediate work had little to do with editing. Even before the arrival of the papers at MSU, Marszalek became aware that a number of legal forms required by offices in the state of Illinois, the Internal Revenue Service, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), all due at various times during Simon's illness, had not been filed. This required a search of USGA records and the aid of SIUC and a Carbondale bank to find the financial data necessary to file such reports. An Illinois attorney and friend of the project, Daniel Myers, and Marszalek's accountant son, Jamie S. Marszalek, provided expert advice. Over several months in the fall and after the papers had arrived at MSU, Marszalek had to juggle such legal responsibilities with the continuation of the editorial work and the arrangement of the Grant Papers.

After years of support, NHPRC and NEH were unwilling to fund the 2008–2009 grant period because of the uncertainty of the Papers' future and the selection of a permanent location. One of the most important tasks for Marszalek and the president of the Association was to make contact with these agencies and submit grant proposals for the 2009–2010 period. The professionals at both agencies were extremely helpful in the filing of tardy forms and the applications for new funding. A number of documentary editors offered wise counsel by email, on the phone, and later during the 2009 ADE meeting in Springfield, Illinois. Fortunately, all forms were filed and accepted, and, in June 2009, both NHPRC and NEH sent word that the USGA's proposals for support had been funded.

At the time of Simon's death, he and his editors had already completed work on volume 31 of the *Papers*, bringing them to 1885 and the death of Ulysses S. Grant. The manuscript was already in the proof stage, but it had not been read against the original typescript. The index existed in raw form but had not been completed. The decision was made to dedicate the volume to John Y. Simon, include a photograph of him, a eulogy by Williams, and a foreword by Marszalek. The latter tasks were done quickly, but the proofreading and completion of the index proved more complicated. At this time, Marszalek was the only staff member of the USGA, so he asked his wife, Jeanne A. Marszalek, a veteran research assistant, to work with him on the proofreading. At the same time, the USGA hired Dr. David Slay, a National Park Service historian with

long research experience, to complete the index. Dr. Slay accomplished his task expeditiously and well. Volume 31 appeared in October 2009, later than would have been the case had Simon lived to complete the task, but more quickly than might have been expected.

Work also continued on a supplementary volume and a scholarly edition of the *Grant Memoirs*. On the day of the move of the Papers from SIUC to MSU, Harriet Simon had marked the file drawers that contained the documents set aside over the years for inclusion in the supplementary and memoirs volumes. These were immediately separated from the main body of Grant materials and placed in file cabinets in Marszalek's office. In addition, new Grant letters continued to appear in a variety of places, and numbers of others were received on computer disks from interested parties around the nation. In between his other tasks, Marszalek began reading through this mass of material and making preliminary decisions as to what would appear in the supplementary volume. After studying in detail the earlier volumes that Simon had edited for publication, and reading earlier grant proposals and other writings Simon had composed about his ideas for this volume, it became clear that Simon had determined to cut down the amount of annotation he would provide for the letters published in this supplementary volume, and the new director saw the wisdom of this plan.

As might be expected, a great deal of time had to be spent doing administrative tasks. Since the USGA annual meeting was scheduled for May 2009 at MSU, that meeting had to be organized, and the membership had to be alerted. This meant finding an accurate membership list. Because of Simon's illness and the departure of USGA staff at SIUC, little had been done on keeping this list updated for over a year, so the original 2009 mailing resulted in many returned envelopes which then had to be traced as to whether there was a change of address or a deceased member. Early on, too, an updated brochure and Web site were required to reflect the new location of the project, the new dual nature of the Collection, and the fact that the USGA had established up to five travel grants a year for visiting scholars. The published volumes, for a reason to be seen, as well as fragile items in the collection, had to be digitized. Fortunately, professionals in the library came to the rescue. In continuation of the team effort which had guided the move to MSU, all these tasks were accomplished.

Another important task for Marszalek was to publicize the arrival of the USGA to MSU and the changed nature of the Grant collection. The USGA particularly sought to publicize the availability of the Grant collection for research. In cooperation with MSU's University Relations, press releases were sent to national news outlets, and open-house exhibitions of the collection were held for the library, the university, and the general public. The irony of the

papers of the leading Union general coming to the heart of the old Confederacy, particularly Mississippi, was not lost on the media. It provided the basic question Marszalek was asked in his many interviews with such outlets as the Associated Press, *USA Today*, *National Public Radio*, and *Civil War Times* magazine. He facetiously said that without Grant's victory at Vicksburg, in Mississippi, there would not have been a Grant. More seriously he spoke about the quality of the professionals at MSU and their ability to work in concert to acquire the *Papers*. Marszalek also presented lectures around the country discussing the new home for the project and the availability of the materials for research. In addition to new brochures, the MSU Library Instructional Media Center staff created various items to publicize the collection, as well as creating handouts and brochures for the USGA's annual meeting held at MSU in May 2009. Such publicity, as well as the Web site, has resulted in regular e-mails and telephone calls requesting information on Ulysses S. Grant, offering copies of Grant letters, scheduling visits, and often expressing excitement about the direction of the project.

As Marszalek and later the five staffers worked at this variety of tasks, keeping their special focus on the editorial part of the work, the organization of the papers continued. After forty-six years of uninterrupted editorial use, the files in the Grant collection were in excellent order and required little-to-no rearrangement. For archivists, this was a great relief. The materials in the collection make up almost 15,000 linear feet, consisting of subject files used by the editorial staff, the research files of historians Lloyd Lewis and Bruce Catton, thousands of books, articles, book chapters, secondary sources relating to Grant and his era, and over ninety cabinets containing copies of Grant documents found at libraries, archives, and other repositories around the world.

The first challenge archivists faced with the materials was their physical arrangement. The files arrived at MSU in filing cabinets, each with a designated letter and number (for example: A2, B12, etc.), yet there was no explanation as to their unusual order. Various series of files, such as those containing unpublished materials, were housed in cabinets with multiple letters identifying them. Placing the cabinets in letter and number order would have meant a disorganized collection. Therefore, CPRC and USGA staff took time to identify the materials in each cabinet. They created drawer-level (or box-level) inventories for the entire collection, and then the cabinets were relocated based on a newly determined organization of the materials. The original format of the materials was based on what was best for the editors' needs when compiling data for the publication. While this layout was well maintained, it required further explanation and planning to be beneficial to historical researchers. This was the most significant challenge: how best to arrange the materials so as to maintain the original

purpose of the collection, yet also make sense to the researcher and simplify access to the materials.

The staff determined that it would be best to break the collection down into a number of specific groups (series), that is, general subject headings describing similar materials. The collection was broken down into ten such groupings, some with many different sub-series. Items were then arranged according to the original order of the collection. These ten series were: Source Cards, Subject Files, Unpublished Materials, Published Materials-Typescripts, Books, Memorabilia, Memoirs, John Y. Simon's Files (personal files-currently closed), USGA Files (organizational files-currently closed), and the diaries of Grant's Adjutant Orville E. Babcock

The first series consists of hundreds of thousands of index cards, created for each document in the collection. These source cards are first organized chronologically by date of document creation, next alphabetically by originator and recipient, then by an accession number that is assigned to every document, and finally by the location of the repository in which the original document is found. This series allows both the patrons and the archivists to locate any document that is in the Grant collection. With just one source of information, they should be able to find the folder that contains the copy of any document. Also included in this series is a collection of newspaper source cards. These cards provide a listing of references to Grant in various newspapers, mostly during Grant's presidency, from across the United States. Organized by newspaper title and date, these cards provide the researcher with a page number, column number, and a brief description of every article. Use of these cards will help researchers to find quickly many nineteenth-century newspaper articles on microfilm and online. The decision was made that these source files would be made available to the patrons in the reading room, while the remainder of the material would be stored in a closed area or in closed stacks. By making the source cards readily available to the patrons, the staff provides a non-electronic access point to the materials in the collection and demonstrates the collecting procedures of the editorial project.

The second series is the Subject files, broken into three sub-series: Vertical files, Research files, and Lloyd Lewis Notes. These files are all similar in the types of documents, as well as in their organization. The vertical files contain articles, newspaper clippings, copies of documents, and pamphlets arranged alphabetically by general subject headings relating to Grant. The Research files contain articles, pamphlets, and book chapters about Grant specifically. The Lloyd Lewis Notes contain the original notes and research files of Lloyd Lewis and Bruce Catton, used in the writing of their volumes on Ulysses S. Grant. The reason for including these historians' files with the other research files is that the materials

are all similar in type, organization, and information. These files are arranged alphabetically by subject heading and contain general subject information on topics relating to Grant-era history. Later added to the Lloyd Lewis sub-series are the research notes that Marszalek used in writing his biographies of generals William T. Sherman and Henry W. Halleck and donated to the Grant collection. These materials mirror the files of both Lewis and Catton in organization and in material type. They were included in the second series of the Grant Collection in the Spring of 2009 after the collection was already located at MSU.

The third and fourth series in the collection make up the largest amount of material. Facetiously titled “Rejects,” the third series files are newly titled, though less humorously, “Unpublished Materials.” The files in this series are arranged chronologically and contain copies of documents relating to Grant and his era which were not chosen for publication in *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*. There are 125 drawers of such items, with each drawer averaging over 700 folders. Providing access to these materials has been the major description work undertaken to this point. Each folder is described by the name of the originator and the name of the recipient of the document, and the type of document if other than correspondence. All folders are being arranged in chronological order. The materials in the fourth series, “Published Materials-Typescripts,” are arranged in the same way as the unpublished materials; however, the files in this series contain much more information. Specifically, they contain a copy of the original document, a typescript of the document with corrections or deletions, as well as copies of any supporting documents and secondary source information that made up the rather extensive notes accompanying each such item in the *Papers*. Staff has discovered that not every document in these folders appears in the *Papers*. Unpublished letters exist in larger numbers than originally believed and provide researchers with material beyond what appears in the published volumes. These include but are not limited to Special Orders, Field Orders, telegrams, the personal correspondence of Grant’s assistants, and other non-Grant correspondence. Thus this part of the collection is more valuable to researchers than originally believed.

With more than 270 total drawers and an average of 700 folders per drawer in series three and four, establishing accurate access to the materials is important to the description process. However, the staff feels that maintaining the original descriptive techniques of John Y. Simon’s project is also important. Therefore, the decision was made to maintain the practice of labeling Grant’s frequent contacts by using just their initials, rather than their full names. Consequently, many of the folders in these series are labeled thusly: *JAR to HWH, August 13, 1863*. Thanks to a key that came with the collection, we are able to interpret the above label as: *John A. Rawlins to Henry W. Halleck, August 13, 1863*.

With a simple key of frequent contacts, the patron and the archivist are able to find any folder in a small amount of time.

Presently, a team of staff and student workers at Mitchell Memorial Library is adding the folder-level descriptions of these materials into an online database that is open and available free for public use at http://library.msstate.edu/usgrant/finding_aid.asp. The frequent-contact key is also available for consultation online, as is an originally produced video tutorial that instructs the user on how to search through the research collection. The online database is a folder-level searching mechanism that was created in-house by Library Computer Technology staff for use with all CPRC collections.

The Grant Collection's organizational structure, while beneficial to the editorial process, provided a few problems when adjusting to the online database. The editors of the *Papers* organized the materials so that all supplemental correspondence, secondary sources, and reports that refer to an initial letter were filed with said letter. In order to expedite the processing of the Unpublished materials, CPRC staff chose to enter the information of the initial letter only. The supplemental files were numbered along with the initial folder (for example, if Folder 1 has three folders of supplemental materials, the four folders are labeled as Folder 1a, 1b, 1c, and 1d) and a total count of folders was added to each title in the database (*Folder 1 HWH to USG, August 12, 1863* [4 folders]). This occurs far less in the Unpublished series than it does in the Published series as the editors tended not to provide supplemental information to letters that were not chosen for publication.

The USGA website (<http://library.msstate.edu/usgrant>) also provides researchers with a list of book, chapter, article, and pamphlet titles related to Grant, a variety of photographs of Grant and his family, a link to internet resources on Grant including MSU Library's digital collection of the Grant collection's sheet music and political cartoons, and the digitized version of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*. This newly added digital collection of the thirty-one volumes of the *Papers* provides full-text searching of the entire publication for free. Researchers will also be able to access cataloging information for the impressive collection of books and journals acquired by the editors over the life of the project. Thanks to the Mitchell Memorial Library's talented cataloging staff, in a short amount of time, the CPRC has been able to provide access through the Library's online catalog to over 1,100 titles of books and journals, encompassing over 4,000 volumes that make up the secondary source materials (Series five) for this research collection.

Handling these materials in terms of a research collection as opposed to a manuscript collection requires the assessment of the materials in a different light. For instance, the materials in the collection will never be weeded. The

collection will not decrease in size nor remain static. On the contrary, because the publication of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant* continues and as new Grant documents are found and new books published, it is clear that the collection will grow in size. Most manuscript collections, after arrangement and description is completed, generally end up smaller due to weeding and other factors. This ongoing Grant collection requires the reevaluation of the organization as more materials are added; however, its staff believes that the organizational structure of the collection will allow for additional materials to be added with ease and the editorial project to continue expeditiously.

Although the collection is generally a research collection, there are also archival and historic object materials included. Series six of the collection includes the hundreds of memorabilia items that were either donated to USGA or collected by John Y. Simon. This series contains sheet music of marches in Grant's honor, paintings, drawings and photographs of Grant, busts and statues (including a reproduction of a Grant death mask), broadsides, newspapers, various Grant collectibles, and family scrapbooks maintained by Grant's wife Julia, Grant's son, Frederick Dent Grant, and his grandson, Major General Ulysses S. Grant, III.

While the bulk of the collection is made up of photocopies, there are original documents in the collection as well. Among these are correspondence to Grant from generals William T. Sherman, John M. Schofield, and Philip H. Sheridan, correspondence between Grant and his sons, letters from Grant's wife to family members, and other original documents relating to the Grant family. Also included in the collection is a group of archival records and memorabilia belonging to General Orville E. Babcock, Grant's personal secretary. These materials include Babcock's diaries from the Civil War, his journals from his trips to Santo Domingo in the early days of Grant's presidency, and pieces of his dress uniform including a bi-fold hat, sash, and various epaulettes. These materials are described and arranged as Series ten. The decision was made to include these items in the overall collection arrangement due to their affiliation with Grant, and because they were specifically donated to USGA. There is also a large number of photographs included in this collection, most of which are copied from originals in other repositories. The photographs have been organized, have been assigned designated numbers, and are available to researchers.

Arriving with the materials that make up the Ulysses S. Grant papers was the USGA collection. Over 150 manuscript boxes of correspondence, financial records, newsletters, and speeches explain the forty-six year history of the USGA. These materials were re-housed in acid-free boxes and placed in the CPRC's closed-stacks storage. A preliminary inventory of the files allows USGA staff members to gain access to these materials. The decision was made to delay full

processing of the collection because these papers are closed to the public and used only by the USGA staff.

The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant's move from SIUC to MSU and its transition from publication project alone to research collection as well, was smooth with only a few minor problems or issues. The inability of the archival staff to examine the collection prior to the move, coupled with an urgency not only to unload the materials into the Library but also to have access as soon as possible for editorial needs, meant that staff members had to place all other projects on hold until the Grant collection was fully situated. (Still, volume 31 was published, and a digitized edition of volumes 1–31 was completed and placed on the Association Web site for free public use.) Other archives which may acquire the collections of major publication projects should consider these issues at the beginning of the process. What materials will you be receiving, what is the extent of the physical materials, who will work on the collection, where will they be housed, and how will the physical arrangement affect the retrieval of materials for patron use? The addition of this distinguished research collection to the Congressional and Political Research Center at MSU has been a major task but an exciting challenge. Researchers now have “one-stop shopping” for the study of General-President Grant, and much information as well on the Civil War and other important aspects of the nineteenth century. The move of the USGA to MSU, the opening of the collection to researchers, and the digitization of the 31 volumes and placement for free use on the USGA website has allowed the USGA to expand its goals, stated in the By-Laws it adopted in 1962, i.e., “conducting research into the life and writings of Ulysses S. Grant.”