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2011

## Julian P. Boyd Award Presented to John P. Kaminski

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Oberg, Barbara, "Julian P. Boyd Award Presented to John P. Kaminski" (2011). *Documentary Editing: Journal of the Association for Documentary Editing (1979-2011)*. Paper 20.

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# Julian P. Boyd Award Presented to John P. Kaminski

Barbara Oberg



Rich Leffler presents the Julian P. Boyd Award to John Kaminski. Photo by Ray Smock.

The Julian P. Boyd Award is the highest award presented by the ADE. It was established in 1980 through the contribution of an anonymous donor. The award commemorates Boyd's commitment to excellence and the breadth of his scholarly interests. First presented in 1981, the Boyd Award is now given every three years to a senior scholar in honor of a distinguished contribution to the study of American history and culture.

Barbara Oberg of the Julian P. Boyd Award Committee was unable to attend the banquet to read her remarks on behalf of her colleagues on the Committee (David Chesnutt, chair; Gary Moulton; and Barbara Oberg). Her remarks were read by Richard Leffler:

The recipient of the 2010 Julian P. Boyd Award can come as a surprise to no one in this room tonight, and the Committee was unanimous and wildly enthusiastic in its choice. A member of the documentary editing community

for forty years, an effective and eloquent advocate for the work that editors “do,” and a tireless communicator with other scholars, journalists, secondary and grade school teachers and their students, and the world-at-large of early American history, the newest Boyd award recipient simply has *no equal*. Whether in an interview on National Public Radio earlier this year or in remarks to a public audience on a recent book tour (in Princeton, New Jersey), wisdom, wit, and patience abound. The title of a talk delivered at an ADE meeting in 1989, “Everything and the Kitchen Sink: The ‘Extracurricular Activities’ of Documentary Editors” only begins to describe this year’s winner.

Oh, and did I fail to mention one particular outside audience that this year’s winner has enlightened over the years: legal historians, lawyers, and judges? Surely by now you have realized that I am talking about John P. Kaminski, who has contributed to the scholarly and public study of American history and culture as documentary editor extraordinaire, scholar, teacher, and mentor—“Everything and the Kitchen Sink,” as he said. As a distinguished historian and editor/project director of the *Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, he richly deserves the ADE’s highest award. But John’s contributions to scholarly documentary editing extend far beyond the *Ratification* volumes. His fourteen-page CV also includes numerous related books and articles, educational programs, the founding of the Center for the Study of the American Constitution, and presenting the personalities and character of the Founding Mothers and Fathers to the general public. When I was at Fort Clatsop, Oregon, two weeks ago and was introduced to the head of their gift shop as the Editor of the *Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, she rushed me over to look at their titles. She handed me a copy of John’s *Quotable Jefferson*, proudly announcing it was one of their “best sellers.” This is a sign of how far his work and fame have spread—across the country and across the great divide between scholars and “others.”

The Association for Documentary Editing has benefited in ways too numerous to mention from John’s boundless knowledge, energy, and devotion to the Association and to the wider historical community. Having trained under one of the “editorial founding fathers,” Merrill Jensen, and having served for the last thirty-three years as a leader and energizer of the NHPRC’s Editing Institute in Madison, Wisconsin, to train and inspire new editors, I like to think of John as the connector between our past, present, and future.

Previous recipient of the ADE’s Distinguished Service Award (1990), the Lyman H. Butterfield Award for the Ratification Project (1993), and the Life Service Award (2007), John Kaminski now adds to his list of deserved honors the 2010 Julian P. Boyd Award. It is with delight and our hearty congratulations that we present this award tonight.

As Richard Leffler concluded his reading of Barbara Oberg’s remarks, he added this comment: “I should note that since John received the Life

Service Award in 2007, he has authored or edited six books, written fourteen encyclopedia articles, delivered fourteen papers, conducted multiple teacher institutes throughout the United States, produced two programs for the University of Wisconsin radio station (with accompanying CDs), conducted numerous judicial seminars and other programs for state and federal judges nationally, and was guest curator for an exhibition on New York's ratification of the Constitution for the New-York Historical Society. So let me just say that the ADE has done itself proud by honoring John Kaminski—one of the great and productive scholars of our time—with the 2010 Julian P. Boyd Award.”