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Editors and Their Work--May 1980

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Editors and Their Work

News of the death of JULIAN PARKS BOYD on 28 May 1980, at the Medical Center at Princeton, reached us as this issue went to press. He was emeritus professor of history at Princeton University, where he had begun editing the *Papers of Thomas Jefferson* in the 1940s. Among many other offices and honors that marked his distinguished career were the presidency of the American Historical Association in 1964 and of the American Philosophical Society from 1973 to 1976.

JOHN P. KAMINSKI and GASPARE J. SALADINO have been named co-editors of the Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution project. GORDON R. DENBOER is appointed editor of the First Federal Elections project. ROBERT MARK WARREN, director of the Michigan Historical Collection and professor of history and of library science at the University of Michigan, will be sworn as Archivist of the United States on 15 July 1980.

WILMARTH S. LEWIS, editor of the Yale edition of the correspondence of Horace Walpole, died on 7 October 1979. As William B. Willcox noted, Lewis's editorship provided "the model for a new school of modern American historiography." Lewis's innovations, precise scholarship, and dedication point the way for editors, and few projects have not felt the impact of his work. The Yale edition of the Walpole correspondence — now reaching completion after more than four decades — is the first place a beginning editor should consult as he looks for models, and thus it becomes a living memorial for "Lefty."
— ROBERT A. RUTLAND

The death of MERRILL JENSEN on 30 January 1980 has saddened his numerous students and friends. He was one of the leading historians of our era, for many years Vilas Professor at the University of Wisconsin, a president of the Organization of American Historians, a high level consultant of the federal government on educational exchanges with Japan, and in decades of teaching the sponsor of an extraordinary number of students who became scholars, continuing to do research and to publish. Jensen's own scholarly work, steadily produced over a long career, was large in volume and distinguished by its uniform excellence and commitment to high professional standards. He is usually thought of as in the Progressive tradition, associated with such figures as Carl Becker and Charles A. Beard; indeed his emphasis, like theirs, was on socio-economic determinants of historical process. Nevertheless, his deepest commitment was always to scientific objectivity, to inductive method in the search for truth, and he believed that truth could be found. This is

what inspired his training of graduate students and informs the content of his work, and what will extend its effective life-span beyond that of current modes of interpretation. In assessing his contributions, historical editing is sometimes overlooked. The colonial documents he published as volume nine of Oxford University's *English Historical Documents* are expertly edited, and the book in its later sections is a dramatic rendering of the confrontation with Britain. At his death, Jensen was head of two major projects in historical publication: the Documentary History of the First Federal Elections, and the Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution.
— E. JAMES FERGUSON

The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau project at Princeton University is accepting applications for a full-time, one-year editorial position beginning 1 September 1980; renewal for up to three years is possible. Experience in textual editing is essential, and applicants must have completed the PhD. Although one's dissertation topic need not have been Thoreau, knowledge of Thoreau's life and work is required. Salary commensurate with experience; send dossier, or vita with names and addresses of three references, to Elizabeth Witherell, Acting Editor in Chief, The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau, 2-13-E Firestone Library, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08540. Princeton University is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer M/F.

The Thoreau Edition began in 1966 as one of a group of projects designed by the Center for Editions of American Authors, a committee of the Modern Language Association, to provide new, carefully researched, definitive editions of classic American authors. Now funded directly by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Edition continues with that goal. When complete, it will consist of twenty eight volumes: eleven volumes of material Thoreau prepared or intended for publication will include *Cape Cod, Excursions*, and his poems and translations, and two volumes of essays he worked on between the publication of *Walden* in 1954 and his death in 1862, a period of his life generally regarded as artistically unproductive. His correspondence will be printed in two volumes. Fifteen volumes of his journal, edited from manuscript, will present this major work in its original form for the first time.

The Thoreau Edition seeks an editor to work primarily on the *Journal*, although he or she would also help with collations, proofreading, and research on other volumes from time to time.
— ELIZABETH WITHERELL