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Awards--ADE Member Projects Honored

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ADE Member Projects Honored

Edison Papers Honored as the Outstanding History of Technology Reference Work of the Past Century

The Society for the History of Technology has awarded the Eugene S. Ferguson Prize to the Papers of Thomas A. Edison. This award honors the work of Reese V. Jenkins, Robert A. Rosenberg, and Paul B. Israel, takes cognizance of the project's microfilm, book, and online publications. This is a special one-time award, reflecting the society's belief that the Edison Papers has been the outstanding original reference work dealing with the history of technology published since the society was established in 1958.

In making this award, the society declared: "The papers themselves are masterfully edited and annotated. In them one finds extremely revealing information about Edison, his associates, their ideas and deliberations, their drawings and calculations, the machinery and products they made, and business and patent details they arranged. ...The editors are to be especially commended for the judicious introductions and headnotes that accompany major sections of the published volumes. Without imposing an explicit interpretation on the documents, those selected nonetheless reveal an interpretative thrust that revises the longstanding popular myth that Edison was the "wizard of Menlo Park," a solitary genius who spurned science for "cut-and-try" methods. Indeed, the Edison that emerges from these pages is an ambitious, complex, earthy, and, at times, flawed person who nonetheless accomplished great things, including the prototype industrial research laboratories he established at Menlo Park and, later, at West Orange, New Jersey.... The Papers of Thomas Edison constitute a milestone in the historiography of technology and a model of the craft of historical editing.

The American Historical Association Named the Charles Carroll of Carrollton Papers as the Recipient of the 2005 J. Franklin Jameson Award

The American Historical Association honored Ronald Hoffman, Sally D. Mason, and Eleanor S. Darcy, of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History, for their work on the three-volume subset, *Dear Papa, Dear Charley: The Peregrinations of a Revolutionary Aristocrat* (Maryland Historical Society, Maryland State Archives, and University of North Carolina Press for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, 2001). The AHA awards this prize, which is named for J. Franklin Jameson, every five years for outstanding achievement in the editing of historical sources.

The Jameson prize committee described the edition as “a rich collection of letters, an intimate family history that narrates the epochal changes that transformed Maryland and the Anglo-American world during the Revolutionary era. The superbly edited letters between a father and his son, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the only Roman Catholic signer of the *Declaration of Independence*, illuminate not simply their own private lives but also enduring central questions of religious beliefs, civil rights, and politics in the American republic.”

The following is a reprint of “Papa Dearest,” William C. diGiacomantonio’s review of *Dear Papa, Dear Charley: The Papers of Charles Carrol of Carrollton 1748-1782*, which appeared in the June 2002 issue of *Documentary Editing*.