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1998 Julian Boyd Award

The Association for Documentary Editing confers the Julian P. Boyd Award on a senior scholar who has made a major contribution to American history and culture through documentary editing. The highest honor the Association bestows, the Boyd Award is unique in its recognition of lifetime achievement in the field of documentary editing. It is awarded every third year.

The 1998 recipient of the Julian P. Boyd Award is John Y. Simon.

The scholarship and the creativity reflected in John Simon's editing of the *Papers of Ulysses S. Grant* stand as a landmark—not only in this community but in the broader realm of the historical profession as a whole. From the publication of Volume 1 in 1967 to the publication of Volumes 21 and 22 in 1998, John Simon has steadfastly held to a course which has brought more than ten thousand documents into sharp relief.

Like Grant himself, John Y. Simon has proved himself a worthy general in marshaling support for the edition through the organization of the Ulysses S. Grant Association and his own participation in the Civil War roundtables from their earliest inception. As a measure of his research and scholarship, he has received seven public awards ranging from the Award of Merit given by the Illinois State Historical Society to the Nevins-Freeman Award given by the Chicago Civil War Round Table.

Nor should we overlook his other publications, which include *The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant* and more than a hundred articles and essays in professional journals, published collections, and books. Few scholars have the depth of understanding that John Y. Simon has of the complexities of Ulysses S. Grant and his milieu.

Scholars are sometimes great teachers. Such is the case with John Y. Simon, who has taken his rare combination of knowledge, erudition, and wry humor into undergraduate and graduate classes at the University of Southern Illinois and elsewhere. At SIU he has given unselfishly of his time to young scholars, directing between fifty and sixty theses and dissertations. He has shared those same skills with the documentary editing community through his participation at the Association's annual meetings and his teachings at "Camp Edit," the NHPRC Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents. Few will forget John Simon's lively debate with Jesse Lemisch or wry comments on the editing of seamen's diaries. In a more serious vein, he has taught us about the canons of selection as well as almost every subject one might find in the new edition of the *Guide to Documentary Editing*.

Great as are John Y. Simon's accomplishments as a scholar and teacher, we honor him also for his contributions to the profession at large. His has been a voice which commanded respect for scholarly editing—both among his peers in the historical profession and in the halls of the nation's capital. As an articulate and forceful advocate for the values of traditional scholarship and research embodied in scholarly editing, John Y. Simon has few peers.

Finally, we honor him for his contributions to this Association. John Y. Simon played a seminal role in the founding of the ADE, and he raised the Association to new heights of professionalism as its president. Even now, we frequently profit by his wise counsel and quiet leadership. John Y. Simon personifies the best of what we as editors are about—as scholar, as teacher, as friend.



John Y. Simon receives the Boyd Award, presented by David Chesnutt. Helm Photography, Springfield, Illinois.



Ann Gordon presents the Butterfield Award to Joseph McElrath, Jr. Helm Photography, Springfield, Illinois.

1998 Lyman H. Butterfield Award

The Lyman H. Butterfield Award is presented annually to an individual, project, or institution for contributions in the areas of documentary publication, teaching, and service. The Association for Documentary Editing awards the 1998 Butterfield prize to Joseph R. McElrath, Jr., in recognition of his achievements in textual and bibliographic studies and editing and his generosity in service to the profession.

A longtime member of this Association, Joe McElrath excels at the crafts that define our common interest in texts and those that distinguish work in literary studies. Moreover, his co-workers attest that they “never worked with anyone who is easier to get along with, more receptive to the ideas of others, or more generous to his collaborators than Joe.”

McElrath’s scholarly accomplishments would be impressive if merely enumerated: eleven books (with more under way), a dozen chapters in books, nearly seventy articles and notes, nearly forty presentations at scholarly meetings, and numerous book reviews and sessions chaired at scholarly conferences. But numbers alone merely hint at the importance of his work.

He has made significant contributions to scholarship in American literary naturalism, on the one hand, and in textual and bibliographical studies, on the other. Under the former heading, he is recognized as an excellent critic, and he is the authority on the life and works of Frank Norris. Without slighting these achievements,

it is appropriate for this Association to focus on the latter heading. His articles on the textual work of the Princeton Edition of Thoreau’s writings have been cited in the scholarly literature since their publication in 1975. Other articles cover a wide range of topics. “Reflections on Teaching Textual and Bibliographical Studies” (1976) provides a vade mecum to instructors of this basic course in the graduate curriculum. “The Deconstruction of a Bibliography: The Frank Norris Canon” (1988) articulates the role that bibliographical scholarship plays in the new critical approaches to literature. *Frank Norris and The Wave: A Bibliography* (1988), which attributes hundreds of unsigned newspaper pieces to Norris, represents a major work of textual investigation. He also authored “The ADE Guidelines for Reviewers of Editions.” This practical guide to editors’ decisions has served not only people engaged to review edited works, but as well reviewers in tenure/promotion decisions.

McElrath complements his applied and theoretical writings about textual bibliography with actual editing. His edition of *The Complete Works of Anne Bradstreet* (1981) was designated by *Choice* as an “Academic Book of the Year.” Over many years he has laid the groundwork for a complete edition of Frank Norris’s writings; the first title, *The Apprenticeship Writings of Frank Norris, 1896–1898* (1996), received the American Philosophical Society’s John Frederick Lewis Award, which honors the best publication of the Society in that year—the first time an editor received this prestigious award. He has also co-edited *“To Be an Author”: Letters of Charles W. Chesnut, 1889–1905* (1997).

Joe’s contributions to editing go beyond his publications. His professional involvement is exemplary. In this Association he has served on our Education, Nominating, Program, and Information committees and our Executive Council. He has shown similar diligence in the Society for Textual Scholarship and in the Modern Language Association, where he worked too as an inspector for the Committee on Scholarly Editions. He has been a constant, unselfish resource for his students and colleagues, and an affable, understated, and effective force in all of his professional undertakings. Through his own work, his work with graduate students, and his generous readings of other people’s manuscripts, Joe McElrath has advanced the causes of editorial practice and textual and bibliographical scholarship within a discipline that often seems no longer to recognize the importance of the work that all of us in this Association do.