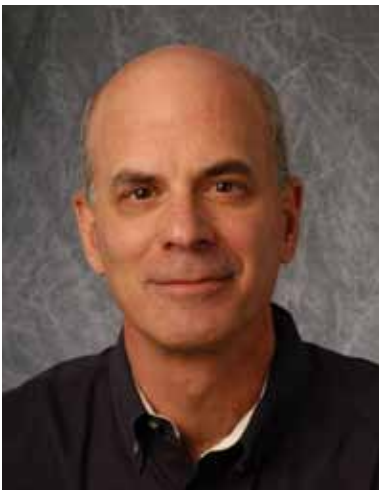


Clio



among the media

Newsletter of the History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication • www.aejmchistory.org



Notes from the Chair

Elliot King
Chair
Loyola of Maryland

At the beginning of the year, many of us start the annual cycle of preparing research for presentations at conferences such as the Joint Journalism Historians Conference in March in New York City and, of course, the August AEJMC convention in Denver.

Peer-review is the critical part of the process for getting a paper accepted for presentation. Unfortunately, we spend very little time discussing what the peer-review process should be and what constitutes a good peer review. In fact, this year, as many of you know, I served as the research chair

for the AEJMC History Division, so I was in the position to manage the review process for research competition. Many of the reviews were outstanding. Others were not.

So what constitutes a good peer review? In my view, the peer review process, particularly for paper competitions but this holds true for article submissions to journals as well, serves two purposes. The first is to insure that the finite amount of time that can be devoted to paper presentation is filled by the very best papers. For the AEJMC History Division, this means that the top 50 percent of the submissions find their way onto the program. In some sense, the submissions are being graded on a scale. The absolute quality of the research is not the issue but where each paper is ranked in

Continued on p. 2

Our Citation Style Matters

Jane Marcellus
PF&R Chair
Middle Tennessee State University

Does it matter what citation style media historians use when writing research papers?

Does style play a role in what we say and how we say it?

If we draft a paper in one citation style—say Chicago—does the paper change fundamentally if we convert it to APA or Harvard to send it

to a particular journal?

Moreover, how does citation style affect our identity in relation to the larger fields of media studies and history?

The issue came up at the Division's business meeting in 2008 when Kathy Brittain Richardson, new

Continued on p. 13

Issue Highlights

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Breaking Stones..... | 5 |
| Kathy Roberts Forde | |
| Book Excerpt: Pulitzer..... | 6 |
| James McGrath Morris | |
| History Division Minutes..... | 7 |
| Ann Thorne | |
| History Division Goals..... | 8 |
| KTA at 99..... | 9 |
| Karen K. List | |
| Visiting Archives..... | 10 & 11 |
| John Coward | |
| Joseph Hayden | |

Notes

Continued from p. 1

relationship to the others.

The process by which we rank papers, however, is very troubling. The AEJMC reviewer form which we use gives equal weight to each of eight criteria, which are to be graded on a scale of one to five. Consequently, “review of the literature” counts as much “makes a contribution to the field.” There are at least two criteria that seem to relate mainly to how the paper is written, i.e. “evidence is presented clearly,” and “writing and organization.” One criterion asks for a judgment on the appropriateness of the “research method” although my sense is that what is generally evaluated is the appropriateness of the data collection on which the paper is based. The responses to these criteria are then statistically analyzed and each paper is given a Z score, which is supposed to smooth over the proclivities of individual reviewers with the reviews of the group as a whole, insuring that one person does not luck out and get a set of easy graders while somebody else is stuck with tough ones.

There are many problems with this approach. First, it is not clear that the criteria should be given equal weight. If a piece of research represents a significant contribution to the field, isn't that more important than how extensive the review of the literature is? Secondly, in some ways it seems that the criteria privilege a certain formula for research papers—

i.e. introduction, literature review, hypothesis, data collection, discussion, conclusion-- that may not always be appropriate for history papers. Third, there is no evidence that there is widespread agreement among us of what constitutes an adequate literature review or an appropriate method for historical research. Some people believe that reading old newspapers from New York is adequate data collection for some questions. On principle, others disagree with that. Some call for more attention to non-New York papers. Others disagree. And some people believe that reading old newspapers isn't enough. And so on.

The second part of the evaluation process calls for reviewers to make an overall judgment to accept or reject and reject a paper and provides room for comments. This part of the process is also problematic. Not infrequently this past year at least, a paper with a high Z score received two “rejects” in the overall evaluation, while papers with three “accepts” had lower Z scores. While the instructions called for research chairs to rely on the Z scores, that did not seem appropriate. Why should a flawed statistical analysis outweigh an overall judgment? To address that issue, at the Division business meeting this year, at the suggestion of the executive committee, the members agreed that in future years, a paper must receive at least two out of three “accepts” before the Z scores

will be used for rankings.

The final issue is with the comments section. In addition to ranking papers, the judging process is an opportunity for submitters to receive feedback on their work. This past year, too often reviewers made no comments at all, therefore not helping the submitter improve the paper. Even if a reviewer loves a paper, a constructive comment could be useful. On the flip side of the coin, sometimes comments are so harsh and withering that they are very damaging. In my view, even if a paper has serious problems, generally a reviewer can find at least one nice thing to say about it and the criticism can be offered in a way that will lead to the paper being improved. The anonymity offered by blind peer review should not be an excuse for uncivil or destructive behavior.

After the discussion about this issue at the business meeting, our own Carolyn Kitch (ckitch@temple.edu) mentioned that in her capacity as research chair of the entire organization, she is looking at the whole evaluation process. So if you have thoughts on this issue, you may want to contact her. And I know that Ann Thorne (thorne@missouriwestern.edu), our research chair, would welcome your input concerning the instructions sent to reviewers. And, of course, you can touch base with me as well at eking@loyola.edu

History Division Call for Panel Proposals

The deadline for panel proposals for the History Division for the 2010 AEJMC Conference is Friday, October 10. The 2010 AEJMC conference will be held in Denver.

Please include the following information in your proposal:

- Summary of the session
- Possible co-sponsoring divisions

- Possible speakers (you do not need specific names or commitments, just ideas)
- Estimated cost if any
- Your contact information

Please send all proposals to Elliot King, Program Chair, eking@loyola.edu or eking212@gmail.com

Send PF&R panel proposals to Jane Marcellus, Middle Tennessee

State University, PF&R Chair, jmarcell@mtsu.edu or Elliot King

Send teaching panel proposals to: Joe Hayden, University of Memphis, Teaching Chair, jhayden@memphis.edu or Elliot King

If you have any questions, please contact Elliot King at eking@loyola.edu

“KTA at 99”: The Panel

Karen K. List

UMass

Interdisciplinary and imaginative scholarship that answers the big questions was the focus of an AEJMC panel sponsored jointly by the History Division and the Council of Affiliates at this year’s Boston convention. The panel was an early celebration of Kappa Tau Alpha’s 100th birthday in 2010.

Five distinguished scholars fulfilled a sweeping and ambitious mandate: exploring the rich and evolving state of scholarship in journalism and mass communication since the founding in 1910 of KTA, the national journalism/mass communication honor society. KTA is the seventh oldest honor society and the one with the highest admissions standards.

The widely published panelists discussing “KTA at 99: Promoting Scholarship from 1910 into the 21st Century,” were: Jeff Smith ((Wisconsin-Milwaukee), W. Joseph Campbell (American), Janice Hume (Georgia), Phil Glende (Wisconsin-Madison) and Kathy Forde (South Carolina).

Smith, this year’s winner of the History Division’s Covert Award, began by talking about prehistory or “what prefigured what we now think of as scholarly work, particularly the moral criticism of the press.” He explored the roots of critical thinking about press performance in the 18th and 19th centuries, much of it coming from college presidents. Harvard’s Charles Eliot, for example, wrote in *The Happy Life* (1896) that “newspapers were serious obstacles to contentment because their stories concentrated on abnormal evils rather than normal joys.”

While journalism was first a topic of criticism, it eventually became part of formal education and research as thought leaders in the early 20th century recognized its importance in a

democracy, according to Smith.

Wisconsin’s pioneering journalism professor Willard Bleyer became the leading advocate of research, ethics and a liberal arts focus for journalism education. And Fred Siebert (Illinois and Michigan State) later became the torch bearer for academic research in the field, followed by Frank Luther Mott (Missouri), KTA’s first executive director.

“I think we could use more research on how the media are suffused with moral standards, high or low,” Smith said. “Universities once did ponder the big questions. The opportunities are out there.”

Campbell, this year’s winner of the KTA Taft Outstanding Advisor Award, discussed enduring themes in mass communication research. A decade after KTA’s founding, he said, there were already 200 schools teaching journalism and presumably journalism professors doing research.

“What does a quick trip down memory lane tell us about research in our field?” Campbell asked. His answer:

- the descriptive tradition, lacking an analytical patina, runs deep;
- complacency in methodology is far too common, and
- early recurring—and predictable—themes included larger-than-life figures, the Civil War press and the role and status of women in the field, while more recent topics have included civic journalism blogging and framing.

Campbell recommended that 21st century research should break out of these predictable patterns, experiment with fresh topics and imaginative methodologies, shun fads and address

the big questions. “‘So what?’ must be answered,” he said.

Hume, co-winner of the 2008 Covert Award, talked about the evolution of scholarship in media and collective memory, a field first mined by sociologists, then historians. She defined collective memory as “that body of beliefs about the past that inform a social group, community, region, or nation’s present and future.”

Memory sites can include museums, monuments, markers folksongs and film, but most people, she said, understand the past largely through mass media: “Journalism is a cultural memory site.”

George Washington, for example, was remembered as a heroic god in the early republic, Hume explained, but during the Depression it was his inventiveness that was recalled. “Washington is dead and buried and hasn’t changed a wit,” she said, “so the question becomes: how do we need to remember him?”

Hume cited a growing body of work on identity, reputation and memory distortion. “There is much work to be done,” she said. “What about digital memory? How are new media shaping our contemporary remembrance culture?”

Glende, 2007 winner of the Warren Price Award for the History Division’s best student paper and this year’s Moroney Award for postal history scholarship, focused on research on the human dimensions of media production.

“Too often, in early scholarship, the personal backgrounds and attitudes of reporters were written off as unimportant because reporters were guided by ‘objectivity’ or, more recently, bound by institutional hegemony,” he said.

Continued on p. 4

Clio

Among the Media

Editor & Designer:

Tim P. Vos
University of Missouri

Layout:

Emma Heidorn

Webmaster:

Kittrell Rushing
*University of Tennessee-
Chattanooga*

Clio logo:

Nat Newsome
Augusta State University

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For information, contact Vos at 573.882.0665, or the e-mail address above.

Recent issues of *Clio* may be accessed at:
www.utc.edu/Outreach/AEJMC-HistoryDivision/histpub.html

KTA

Continued from p. 3

Many of the earliest works on reporting fell into one of four categories: memoir, collections of published works, how-to books or how-not-to critiques. But “personal stories of individual reporters are part of the fabric of the news report” and must be studied as well.

Journalism historians, Glende argued, should look at the backgrounds of reporters, editors and publishers. Sacred cows, deadlines, production expectations and multi-tasking must be considered, as well as the fact that reporters are affected by their work environments, cultural norms, economic imperatives, personal backgrounds, professional expectations and the audience.

“The most promising research on news content embraces ambiguity and draws from multiple disciplines,” he said, “such as psychology, sociology, quantitative and qualitative studies, political economy and a host of other fields that place media work within an ecological environment.”

Finally, Forde, winner of the 2006 Nafziger-White dissertation award and this year’s KTA-Mott Book Award and History Division Book Award for Literary Journalism on Trial, talked about her primary research focus: libel law and freedom of speech in a democracy.

Thinking on libel law, Ford argued, has had a profound effect on “how democracy works and should be shaped.” Early 20th century discussion of the relationship among democracy, the courts and the media show that “scholarship matters profoundly,” she said.

Ford noted Zechariah Chafee’s influence on Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes who argued in his Abrams dissent for a “free trade in ideas” and talked of the power of speech to get itself accepted in the marketplace. That dissent established the groundwork for the Supreme Court in the 1964 case *NY Times v. Sullivan* to repudiate the notion of seditious libel and clear the way for “uninhibited, robust and wide open” debate on which democracy depends.

Scholars must be prepared for their work to be contested, she argued, because “ideas matter,” as shown by the wide ranging scholarship supported and recognized by KTA through its 99 years.

Hume captured the panelists enthusiasm for continuing the first-rate work for which all of them are known and encouraging the same high quality work from others:

“There will be lots of fun—and important—studies out there in KTA’s next century.”

Covert Award Nominations

The History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication announces the 26th annual competition for the Covert Award in Mass Communication History.

The \$500 award will be presented to the author of the best mass communication history article or essay published in 2009. Book chapters in edited collections also may be nominated.

The award was endowed by the late Catherine L. Covert, professor of public communications at Syracuse University and former head of the His-

tory Division.

Nominations, including seven copies of the article nominated, should be sent by March 1, 2010, to Karen K. List, Journalism, 108 Bartlett Hall, UMass, Amherst, MA, 01003.

For further information, contact:

Karen K. List, Chair
Covert Award Committee
Journalism
108 Bartlett Hall
UMass
Amherst, MA 01003
klist@journ.umass.edu

Breaking Stones and Writing History

Kathy Roberts Forde

University of South Carolina

Kathy Roberts Forde's book Literary Journalism on Trial: Masson v. New Yorker and the First Amendment (University of Massachusetts Press, 2008) won the AEJMC History Division book award and the Frank Luther Mott-KTA book award at the AEJMC National Convention in Boston this past August.

Writing is exhilarating, engrossing, and intellectually stimulating work. Some days it's even fun. Most days, though, it's just plain hard work.

In "Adam's Curse," Yeats suggests that writing poetry is harder work than manual labor. "Better go down upon your marrow-bones/ And scrub a kitchen pavement, or break stones/Like an old pauper," the speaker muses, than wrangle out a single line of poetry. Perhaps he goes too far, but I know what he means. Writing history can feel like breaking stones, too.

That's why, as a historian, it is important to have not only a strong understanding of what you are writing about, and why, but also a strategy for *how* to write about your subject. Having a strategy makes the writing at least a little easier. There's no "correct" strategy, of course, but *Clio* editor Tim Vos asked me to write about my own strategy for writing history—or at least what it has been so far.

My friends and close colleagues know that I have a long-standing interest in literary, or narrative, journalism, both as an object of historical study and a staple in my reading life. I like stories, and I'm committed to telling interesting stories in my own historical scholarship. But as important as narrative is in the crafting of history, a good story does not by itself make good history.

Historians are committed to representing events, people, and processes of the past—that is, to representing what happened. We are committed to recovering the factual record through primary documents. We obsess over these records and artifacts and residue from the past, all of which help us reconstruct, in Ranke's familiar formulation, "what really happened."

Narrative is a powerful tool in representing the past. We historians think of the historical figures we're writing about as characters and the historical events in which they were involved as plot. We sometimes think of historical processes in terms of conflict and rising action and denouement. We think of our historical periods and places as setting. We even think about continuity and change over time as plotline. For example, in my book *Literary Journalism on Trial*, I tell the story of a well-known libel case replete with colorful and compelling characters, surprising plot twists, and plenty of conflict. But as interesting as I think the story of *Masson v. New Yorker* is, it does not stand on its own as good history.

Historians represent the past, but they also necessarily interpret the past. They tell what happened, but they also explain why and how it happened and why and how it mattered—and perhaps continues to matter. The narrative mode of writing can only go so far toward fulfilling these critical concerns of professional history. What is needed are other modes of writing—the analytical, the descriptive, the explanatory. What is needed is argument.

In my book, I needed to describe and explain, among other things, the complex development of

libel doctrine in the United States. I needed to identify and explain the various historical forces that gave rise to an explosion of high profile libel cases in the 1980s, including the case that concerned me. I needed to explore why the facts and issues of the case provoked such deep interest, and in some cases outrage, in intellectual, legal, and journalistic circles. And I needed to analyze the legal and journalistic consequences of the case. I needed, in other words, to write compelling historical arguments, and to do so I concentrated on moving as seamlessly as possible among narrative and analytical and descriptive and explanatory modes of writing.

But before I wrote, I planned my book chapters (which actually began their life as dissertation chapters—a story for another time). When I was planning, I read a wonderful book titled *Thinking Like Your Editor: How to Write Great Serious Nonfiction—and Get It Published* by Susan Rabiner and Alfred Fortunato. Although not written expressly for academic writers, this book has much to teach historians and other scholars about writing, particularly book-length projects. I found the entire book imminently useful and inspiring, but I want to focus on the authors' discussion of three kinds of chapters often found in good nonfiction books: 1) chapters that provide the narrative and argument; 2) chapters that provide important context or background; and 3) break-narrative chapters, which interrupt the story to provide reflections on the main topic or to discuss related topics. Each of these types of chapters, I suggest, requires different blends of and emphases on narrative, analytical,

Continued on p. 9

BOOK EXCERPT

Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, & Power

James McGrath Morris

Three years before his death, Joseph Pulitzer, blind, suffering from real and imagined ailments, and living primarily as a recluse on a magnificent yacht, made his final visit to the Pulitzer building on Park Row. Towering 345 feet above the sidewalk, the building was capped with an 850,000-pound gilded dome reaching higher into the sky than even the Statue of Liberty's raised torch. When the sun struck the dome, it reflected a shimmering light that could be seen forty miles out at sea. The first sight of the New World for immigrants entering New York was not a building of commerce, banking, or industry. Rather, it was a temple of America's new mass media.

On a Sunday morning in July 1908, the *New York World's* editor Arthur Clarke was silently sorting papers at his desk on the dais in the twelfth floor newsroom when the telegraph editor came running in.

"Arthur, Joseph Pulitzer is in the reception room!" he exclaimed.

Clarke smiled but said nothing. Since the opening of the Pulitzer Building in 1890, its owner had been there only twice. If there was to be an apparition, Sunday morning was an unlikely time.

"Arthur, I'm not kidding you," the editor begged. "Joseph Pulitzer is outside. I saw him when I got off the elevator. He's resting on the couch. Seitz, Lyman, Arthur Billings, and a swarm of secretaries are with him. In one minute the whole crowd will be in here."

Clarke remained unmoved, ignoring the frantic excitement of the editor. Then he heard Pulitzer's unmistakable voice. "I'll go to Van Hamm's office, if you say so, but I won't go any damned roundabout way." He looked up and in came Pulitzer, inappropriately dressed for the summer in a tightly buttoned dark suit and with his eyes hidden by his usual goggle-like dark lenses. The publisher was crossing the cavernous newsroom, a maze of desks normally filled with reporters, editors, and copy boys running between them. Being guided

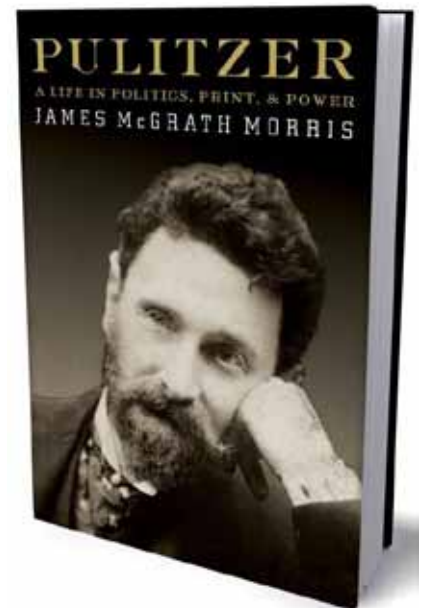
by a secretary just barely prevented Pulitzer from striking a phone booth but cost the secretary a bruise as he, instead of his boss, smacked into it. "Clumsy!" said Pulitzer when he heard the impact.

The group reached the empty office of Caleb Van Hamm, the managing editor. Sitting in Van Hamm's desk chair, Pulitzer asked Seitz how many windows there were in the room. "Three," Seitz replied. Then the party moved to the office of Robert Lyman, the night editor. Pulitzer now asked how far it was from the copy desk. When he was told that fifty feet separated the two, he became agitated. "Idiotic," he said. "Why not put it over in City Hall Park? The night editor must be near the copy desk. No nonsense about it. Swear you will change it!" All took an oath, but as with most of Pulitzer's instructions of this sort, they ignored the directive later, when he was gone.

Pulitzer's irritation was exacerbated by an interview with George Carteret, the night editor. Running his hands over the head of the six foot-tall, 250-pound editor, Pulitzer exclaimed, "God, you have a bighead Mr. Carteret!"

"You are right, Mr. Pulitzer. I guess I have a big head," replied Carteret.

"You can't deny it. Now tell me, Mr. Carteret, what is in that big



head for tomorrow's paper?"

Unfortunately, the editor had come in late and hardly knew what was in that day's edition. "My God! Only half-past eleven! And you haven't read the morning papers! Great God! What kinds of editors are running this paper?" Angry, Pulitzer rose, and his entourage followed. He paused at the city desk before beginning his trek back across the newsroom to the elevators.

"I want to say a word to Arthur Clarke," said Pulitzer. The two men shook hands and, as was usual with Pulitzer, discussed their various health ailments.

"Now tell me, my boy, what are you preparing for tomorrow's morning paper?"

Clarke listed the various anticipated stories and the leads that reporters were following.

"There isn't a good, bright Monday morning feature on the whole schedule," said Pulitzer. Putting his

Continued on p. 9

Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting

Ann Thorne

Secretary

Missouri Western

John Coward called the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication History Division meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He asked that the members review the 2008 meeting minutes. There were no changes or corrections, and the minutes were approved.

Coward presented the Chair's report, beginning with a summary of this year's History Division's convention activities. We offered a pre-conference workshop, "State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda," as well as two off-site visits, one to the archives at Boston University and the other to the American Antiquarian Society. In addition, the Division offered a well-attended and thought-provoking teaching panel, as well as a number of additional panels offered jointly with other divisions.

In discussing last year's History Division goals, Coward noted that a committee had met to discuss the possibility of sponsoring a journal, but concluded that this would not be a good time because of the economic downturn. They also noted that to add a journal would increase the membership dues by approximately \$40 per member. He commented that we have made many connections to other divisions by offering a wide variety of panels. The partnerships include the Law and Policy Division, Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group, and the International Communication Division, as well as the Council of Affiliates. Coward added that he had attended a breakfast for new members, and had encouraged them to join the History Division. He then asked that members read the goals for 2009-2010, and these were

approved by the members.

In giving the budget report, Coward said that although there were some expenses for this convention, including the bus to AAS and some for the workshop, the Division funds are somewhat higher than last year. Since *Clio* is now online, there is no expense for mailings, and the membership fees are adequate for covering our convention expenses. At the same time, he added that our membership is declining. We have lost nearly a hundred members in the last ten years. There was some discussion about membership fees, but there was a consensus that we should neither raise nor lower our fees at this time.

Ann Thorne gave the *Clio* newsletter report. She said the issues ran from 13 – 16 pages. The first two *Clio*'s included an excellent two-part series by Hazel Dicken-Garcia on the past forty years of journalism history. Each newsletter also included column by the Division Chair, John Coward, a teaching column, and a summary of book reviews from JHistory provided by Donna Harrington-Leuker.

Elliot King presented the Research Chair report. He said that there were 85 papers submitted this year. Forty-three papers were faculty papers, while 42 were graduate student submissions. There was a 50% acceptance rate. King noted that there were some problems with the current evaluation method that will be taken up by the AEJMC Research Committee. Additional information about scoring and commentary for next year's papers will appear in *Clio*.

King reported that the participants and attendees both

considered this year's High Density session successful. Ten papers were presented. After the presentations, there were discussions at five different tables where a discussant and attendees could talk further with the presenters.

This year's History Division's Top Faculty Paper Award went to Kimberly Mangum, Utah, for her paper, "The Japanese 'Problem' During World War II and the Central Utah Relocation Center: Reaction and Response in *The Salt Lake Tribune*." The Warren Price Award for Top Student Paper went to Carolyn Edy, North Carolina, for her paper, "Juggernaut in Kid Gloves: Inez Callaway Robb, 1901 – 1979." Patrick File, Minnesota, received the Second Place Student Paper Award and Arielle Emmett, Maryland, received Third Place.

Kathy Roberts Forde received the History Division Book Award for her book, *Literary Journalism on Trial: Masson v. New Yorker and the First Amendment*. In making the award, Carolyn Kitch noted that there were 23 submissions, and all of the judges read all of the books.

The Hazel Dicken-Garcia & Emery Travel Award helped fund graduate students attending this convention, according to Coward. He added that the Covert Award had increased because of a significant donation by Terry Hynes, but that there is still a need for better funding.

David Mindich reported that there are more than 500 members of JHistory, which had a panel at the convention this year. He gave a special thanks to Donna Harrington-

Continued on p. 8

Minutes

Continued from p. 7

Leuker for editing and coordinating the book reviews.

The officers for 2009-2010 were introduced:

Elliot King, Head and Program Chair, Loyola University Maryland

Ann Thorne, Vice Head and Research Chair, Missouri Western State

Tim P. Vos, Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Missouri

Joe Hayden, Teaching Chair, Memphis

Jane Marcellus, PF&R Chair, Middle Tennessee State

John Ferré, Book Award Committee, Louisville

The board members were approved unanimously.

Under new business, Elliot King said that the Joint Journalism Historians Meeting, sponsored by both the History Division and American Journalism History Association, will be held at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism in March. Elliot said he has been acting as coordinator of this event, but would like to suggest that the

History Division and AJHA each establish a two-year position for coordinator, with each person acting as head in alternate years. After some discussion, it was moved, seconded, and approved by voice vote to establish this new coordinator position that will be appointed by the Division Head.

In further new business, David Mindich announced that the *Symposium on the 19th Century Press, Civil War, and Free Expression* will be held November 12 – 14 at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

History Division Goals for 2009-2010

1. **Revise** procedures for the research paper competition in order to make the process more rational and eliminate ambiguities in scoring and selection.
2. **Explore** the possibility of creating a new History Division officer position, in conjunction with the American Journalism Historians Association, to organize the annual Joint Northeastern Journalism Conference.
3. **Expand** the Division's on-line site, aejmchistory.org, to make it a more useful source of news and information related to journalism and mass communication history.
4. **Seek** new ways to support the Division's two endowment funds, which help fund the Covert Award in Mass Communication History and graduate student travel stipends.
5. **Encourage** active participation in Division activities by younger and newer members by soliciting their involvement as paper judges and contributors to the Division's quarterly newsletter, *Clio*.
6. **Emphasize** the importance of journalism and mass communication in graduate and undergraduate teaching through *Clio* articles and high quality convention sessions.
7. **Extend** the Division's tradition of organizing high-quality research, teaching, and PF&R panels for the 2010 convention.
8. **Maintain** the Division's traditional support for regional conferences such as the Southeast Regional Colloquium and the joint History Division/AJHA Northeast Regional Conference.
9. **Seek** new ways to build closer ties with historians in fields other than journalism history.
10. **Promote** collegial ties with the American Journalism Historians Association.

Breaking Stones

Continued from p. 5

descriptive, and explanatory writing.

Following Rabiner and Fortunato's lead, I thought long and hard about which of my chapters should focus on telling the story of the case and which should focus on discussing important related and contextual issues.

I decided that the first chapter after my introduction should tell the story of the first federal trial in the case—that is, I decided that this chapter should be mainly narrative. I chose a moment in the life of the case that introduced the major players and issues in the case and highlighted the important personal, social, and cultural conflicts animating the case. And this trial was fairly dramatic so it made a good story—and hopefully the story hooked the reader. The case had been in the federal court system for more than nine years before it went to trial, so I was beginning my story *in medias res*.

In subsequent chapters, I went back in time and told the rest of the story. But before I did that, in my second chapter (a background and context chapter) I provided a history of literary journalism in America and its role in the life of the *New Yorker* magazine. My third chapter was another back-

Pulitzer

Continued from p. 6

hands on Clarke's head, "What have you in there, Mr. Clarke? That is where your Monday morning feature should be. You must cudgel your brain all week for it." Clarke promised he would.

"I know you will have a good paper tomorrow, Mr. Clarke," finished Pulitzer, who then turned and was escorted from the room, never to return again.

James McGrath Morris is the author of The Rose Man of Sing

ground/context chapter, and chapter four was a break-narrative chapter providing a history of libel claims brought against the *New Yorker* magazine from its inception to the time of the *Masson* case (and this chapter was filled with stories, some actually quite humorous). It was not until chapter five that I returned to the story of the case in its early years.

These ideas can be adapted for article-length histories, too. Just think in terms of sections rather than chapters. The point is that, in most cases, to write purely narrative or descriptive history is to write insufficient history. Journalism and communication history—what most *Clio* readers write—needs argument. Journalism and communication need to be understood and explained as historical process, as continuity and change across time, and as part of the larger social, cultural, and intellectual fabric of period and place.

I'm working on a new book, and at the moment the writing feels like breaking stones. So I'm re-reading *Thinking Like Your Editor* and thinking about my own writing strategy and planning my chapters. I'm looking forward to a fun writing day soon.

Sing: A True Tale of Life, Murder, and Redemption, which was selected as a Washington Post Best Book of the Year for 2004. He is the editor of the monthly Biographer's Craft, and his writing has appeared in the Washington Post, the New York Observer, and the Baltimore Sun. He lives in New Mexico. Morris will be touring North America in the spring and may be available to speak at colleges and universities. See his website for details: <http://www.jamesmcgrathmorris.com>

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2009-2010

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Historians Explore Archives at Boston Convention

John Coward

Division Chair, 2008-09

Tulsa

An intrepid group of History Division members visited two major history collections as part of the Division's programming at the Boston convention in August.

Led by Boston University's Chris Daly, Division members took a Thursday afternoon walk from the convention hotel to BU's Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, which houses the papers of dozens of journalists including David Halberstam, Frances FitzGerald, Stewart Alsop, Dan Rather, and Oriana Fallaci.

Although the visit was interrupted by an errant fire alarm, Archive Director Vita Paladino welcomed the group and introduced the journalism archive to Division members, who were impressed with the collection and its research opportunities.

As Division members learned, the Gotlieb Archive is an outstanding resource for researchers, biographers and historians investigating the careers of twentieth-century journalists and their times.

Other journalists whose materials are in the Gotlieb Archive include Nat Hentoff, Martha Gellhorn, Craig Claiborne, Bud Collins, Gail Sheehy, and Philip Caputo. The collection also

includes the papers of Gloria Emerson, Alistair Cooke, Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, and many others.

Beyond journalists, the BU collection includes documents and materials from actors, musicians, and entertainers, including a wealth of materials on such figures as Bette Davis. Additional information about the archive can be found at www.bu.edu/archives.

On the convention's final day, History Division members ventured an hour west of Boston to Worcester, Mass., for a tour of the American Antiquarian Society, one of the oldest and most extensive collections of printed material from the colonial era to 1876.

The AAS was founded in 1812 by Isaiah Thomas, a colonial printer and newspaper publisher who was also an early historian of American journalism.

Paul Erickson, the director of academic programs, explained the AAS's mission and led Division members on a tour of the society's closed—and deliberately frigid—stacks. Erickson explained that the chilly temperatures help preserve the collection's many fragile documents.



Courtesy of Beverly G. Merrick

Erickson noted that the AAS has both short- and long-term fellowships for research, programs that can benefit journalism historians. Information on the fellowships is available at the AAS website, www.americanantiquarian.org.

Besides all types of printed material, the AAS collection includes many artifacts, including the printing press on which Isaiah Thomas's learned to print and a high chair that was used by both Increase and Cotton Mather.

Call for Entries: History of the U.S. Postal Service

The United States Postal Service sponsors two annual prizes for scholarly works on the history of the American postal system. Given the enormous scope of its operations and its importance as a federal agency, the post office has played a major role in American communication, business, politics, journalism, labor, popular culture, and social reform. Submissions dealing with these and other aspects of

the postal system are welcome.

Conference papers, theses, dissertations, or published works by students are eligible for a \$1,000 award; published works by faculty members, independent scholars, and public historians are eligible for a \$2,000 award.

The 2009 student award went to Philip Glende, a Ph.D. student at the University of Wisconsin School of

Journalism and Mass Communication. The deadline is Dec. 1, 2009.

For further details, see the web site for the Rita Lloyd Moroney Awards, <http://www.usps.com/postal-history/moroneyaward.htm>, or contact Richard B. Kielbowicz, kielbowi@u.washington.edu.

To the Archives!

Joseph Hayden

Teaching Chair

Memphis

“There is something about physical movement, as you well know, that stimulates mental movement.”

—Edward Price Bell, 1918

At the end of World War I Edward Price Bell, the London bureau chief for the *Chicago Daily News*, defended two foreign correspondents who, at that moment, were traipsing about Europe and Asia. Bell was echoing a long-held view that travel was not only good for the cerebral cortex but good for the soul. He was also hinting that it was necessary for business. The urge of journalists to travel, to see for themselves, to observe is a perennial one. They want to be where the action is.

Historians are the same way, and let’s face it: the most exciting action for our brand of scholarship is in the archives. It is with the primary sources, after all—original documents and other artifacts—that we experience a direct physical and mental brush with people long gone. What’s more thrilling than that?

I’d forgotten the particular pleasures of handling a dog-eared manuscript, holding a soft, yellowing newspaper, smelling a musty diary that hadn’t been opened in decades because I hadn’t been in an archive in a couple of years. But a trip to the American Antiquarian Society in August reminded me. It inspired me, too.

At the AEJMC convention in Boston I was unable to participate in a Saturday trip to Worcester. Nor could a colleague of mine, fellow Memphian and University of Alabama doctoral student Dianne Bragg. So we decided to make our own historical adventure. Unscheduled, unplanned, unan-

nounced, we dropped in at the library on Salisbury Street rather late in the day, almost 3:00 p.m., not knowing what to expect but hoping at least to have a look around in a place where our own mentors, David Nord and David Sloan, had once traveled to and done important work.

After a charming chat with the desk attendant, who welcomed us and provided a brief orientation, another staff member introduced himself and graciously offered to show us the reading room as well as the procedures for doing some research, which we then did. Dianne looked at an antebellum Alabama paper, while I perused the *Memphis Union Appeal*, a daily created in the vacuum of the *Memphis Appeal*, which at that time had skipped town and was hopskotchng around the South trying to avoid capture by General Sherman.

It was great fun reading references to families, landmarks, and neighborhoods that I recognize. I also enjoyed checking the sorts of goods and services that were being advertised in the 1860s. But the surprise for me was spotting the name Augustus Cazarán on one of the pages. For those of you not familiar with Civil War history, Cazarán was an ex-convict from Sing Sing Prison who worked as a war correspondent. He’s an excellent example of the eclectic background of the people who covered the war.

I had been mentioning him in my journalism history class for several years in that regard yet was totally unaware that he lived and worked right here in my own city. In fact, he was said by rival newspapers, including the outlaw *Memphis Appeal*, to be “running” or “directing” affairs at the

Union Appeal, causing its editor to downplay Cazarán’s role testily. So this routine trip to the archive led to an interesting discovery that hit close to home and immediately altered my teaching. You see, this journalist and colorful ex-con was a fellow Memphian, too.

The experience clinched in my mind the value of continuing to make these archival trips: you never know what you’ll find and how it’ll change your views about not only the past but about the present, sometimes even *your own* present. That’s the sort of self-discovery, of identity, found in Daniel Mendelsohn’s *The Lost* and even historical novels by Elizabeth Kostova and Iain Pears. Most of us fell in love with history because of such scholarly sleuthing. And it’s what we owe our students as well: a chance to walk physically into the past.

A short time later, we ventured up the stairs to see Isaiah Thomas’ printing press on the second floor and—more serendipity—were unexpectedly met by the president of the Antiquarian Society herself, Ellen Dunlap. She generously led us on a tour of the entire facility, pointing out the unique collections, the preservation efforts, the ongoing digitization. To top everything off she then took it upon herself to drive us back to the train station. So this travel to see original sources offered a rewarding intellectual retreat, to be sure; Bell was right. But even more than that, the passion and dedication of the Society’s very kind staff made our adventure to Worcester a moving and personal one.

Teachers, go to the archives!

Lisa Burns Named Conference Co-Chair

Lisa Burns has accepted the position as AEJMC co-chair of the Joint Journalism Historians Conference. The Conference is held each March in New York City and is co-sponsored by the History Division and the American Journalism Historians Association. Dr. Burns is an associate professor of media studies at Quinnipiac University and

received her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. Her book *First Ladies and the Fourth Estate: Press Framing of Presidential Wives* was published by Northern Illinois University Press in August 2008.

The position of conference chair for the Joint Journalism Historians Conference was approved at the History Division Business Meet-

ing in August. The term of office is two years and the AEJMC co-chair is appointed by the head of the History Division. Elliot King has served as conference chair of the Joint Journalism Historians Conference for the past 9 years.

Reviewers for the 2009 History Division Paper Competition

The History Division wishes to recognize the 77 colleagues listed below for reading and evaluating the research papers for possible presentation at the AEJMC convention in Boston. Many thanks to them for their support of research in the History Division.

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Andris Straumanis | Harlen Makemson | Meta G. Carstarphen |
| Ann Thorne | Harrell Allen | Michael McGill |
| Barbara Cloud | Jack Mooney | Michael Smith |
| Berkley Hudson | James Aucoin | Nancy Roberts |
| Carl Burrowes | Jane Marcellus | Nickieann Fleener |
| Carmen Manning-Miller | Janet Rice McCoy | Noah Arceneaux |
| Carol Sue Humphrey | Jim Eggenesperger | Norma Green |
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| Cathy Jackson | John Jenks | Paulette Kilmer |
| Chris Daly | Jon E. Bekken | Randall S. Sumpter |
| Claire Serant | Karla Gower | Randy Patnode |
| Dale Cressman | Katherine A Bradshaw | Reed Smith |
| Dale Edwards | Katrina Quinn | Richard Junger |
| Dale Zacher | Ken Sexton | Rick Popp |
| Dane S. Claussen | Kenneth Campbell | Ron McGee |
| Debra R. Van Tuyll | Kimberly Voss | Ronald Rogers |
| Diana Martinelli | Laurel Leff | Ross Collins |
| Donna Halper | Leonard Teel | Sally Turner |
| Donna Harrington-Lueker | Lillie Fears | Steve Ponder |
| Doug Cumming | Linda Lumsden | Susan Weill |
| Doug Ward | Lisa Burns | Theresa Lynch |
| Eileen Wirth | Lisa Parcell | Tim Meyer |
| Elliot King | Mary E. Beadle | Victoria Goff |
| Erika Pribanic-Smith | Meg Lamme | Wendy Swanberg |
| Gwyneth Mellinger | Melissa Meade | |

Citation

Continued from p. 1

editor of *Journalism & Communication Monographs*, stopped by to tell us about the journal's submission policies. Someone asked what citation style *Monographs* accepted. When Richardson said APA, some Division members objected because, like most historians, we use Chicago.

Since then, *Monographs* has changed its policy to accept Chicago, APA, or Harvard style. Richardson said in an e-mail that editors made the change "based on a request from some good colleagues in the History Division who were concerned that their scholarship really required use of Chicago. We were happy to accommodate the wide range of scholarship found within AEJMC."¹

The editors at *Monographs* are to be applauded. However, the questions about style, content, and professional identity remain critical. The issue may seem picayune, but as James W. Carey wisely noted, stylistic devices "are more than mere rules of communication. They are, like the methods of novelists, determiners of what can be written and in what way."²

It seems to me that citation style is a marker for professional community. In that regard, media history exists in a sort of liminal zone, with obvious ties to media studies but with implicit ties to the larger field of history, too. We need those ties, lest we remain what Theodore Peterson once called the "orphan, or at least the grubby little cousin"³ in departments of journalism.

Peterson's observation endures, as the need for recent joint efforts by AJHA and the History Division to promote historical study make clear. Meanwhile, the ties to history as a whole seem obvious, too. In modern times, human experience and media are too deeply imbricated to be separated with any sort of accuracy.

Simply put, Chicago style is important to us. It is precise and versatile, and it allows us to distinguish between

primary and secondary sources—a must for credible historical research.

We're not alone in our preference for Chicago. Dan Riffe, editor of *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, said that with Chicago "one gains a special degree of precision in citation, the ability to have multiple works cited for a single endnote, and a superior integration of 'content/comment' endnotes." Chicago is used throughout J&MCQ, which publishes many articles using social science methods one often associates with APA. "I personally think Chicago is better for readers of those articles," Riffe said.⁴ *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator* also uses Chicago.

Unfortunately, the interdisciplinarity of media studies is often subsumed by social science practices in other journals and in ways that go beyond citations styles. That makes it difficult not only for historians, but for those whose work is often more aligned with the humanities, such as critical-cultural studies.

Change is possible. After all, citation styles emerged in response to evolving ideas about truth and fiction as well as technology—certainly relevant issues in our own time. Oliver B. Pollak called citations "the scholar's stock in trade. . . the vital accessories to truth."⁵ They evolved gradually, with footnotes "part of the historian's toolbox" by the eighteenth century, when "new standards for precision gradually infected historical exposition."⁶

The Chicago Manual of Style appeared in 1906, one of a flurry of style manuals produced in response to changing technology in the late 19th century. It has evolved through fifteen editions, and was joined in the mid-twentieth century by manuals catering to various disciplines, notably MLA.⁷

While such proliferation may lead to discipline-specific identity, it creates difficulty for interdisciplinary fields. Can media studies as a whole have a

credible identity as a field if we don't all write the same way? Should we agree, in the spirit of academic multiculturalism, to be different? Riffe believes journals should be consistent. Mixing styles within an issue of a journal, he said, would "give us the appearance of an old-school 'proceedings' rather than a finished and coherent single style."⁸

In my own work, I have for the most part sent my work only to journals that use Chicago, such as J&MCQ, *Journalism History*, and *American Journalism*. Because my work is critical-cultural and feminist as well as historical, that feels limiting. This past summer, I revised an article previously written in Chicago for a journal that accepts only Harvard style. Much was lost in translation. My research centered on archived letters, notes, and drafts—all difficult to cite with any precision. Without precise documentation, my argument seemed weaker than I wanted it to be. Moreover, the parenthetical citations disrupted the flow of the writing.

Certainly, Harvard style was easier than Chicago, once I got the hang of it. And as language historians know, change occurs in the direction of what's easy. However, as Pollak said, "The footnote is no arcane fetish; it is the prophylactic against plagiarism."⁹ (Even a "Grammar Girl" podcast called Chicago style "indispensable."¹⁰) I think the whole field should use Chicago, but I know many would disagree. At the very least, we need to insist that there be a place for it in this most interdisciplinary of fields.

Endnotes

- 1 Kathy Brittain Richardson, e-mail message to author, September 3, 2009.
- 2 James W. Carey, "The Problem of Journalism History," *Journalism History* 1, no. 1 (1974), 5.
- 3 Theodore Peterson. Cited in Carey, "The Problem of Journalism History," 3.

Continued on p. 14

Call for Papers, Presentations, Panels and Participants

THE JOINT JOURNALISM HISTORIANS CONFERENCE

The American Journalism Historians Association and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication History Division joint spring meeting

When: Saturday, March 13, 2010

Time: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Place: CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, 219 w. 40th St., New York, NY (one block from Times Square)

Cost: \$45 (includes continental breakfast and lunch)

You are invited to submit abstracts (approximately 500 words) of completed papers, research in progress and proposals for panels for presentation at the Joint Journalism Historians Conference—the American Journalism Historians Association and the AEJMC History Division joint spring meeting. We are particularly interested in innovative research and ideas that will enliven this intimate, interdisciplinary, interesting academic gathering. Submissions from all areas of journalism and communication history from all time periods are welcome. Scholars from all

academic disciplines and stages of their academic careers are encouraged to participate. Abstracts should contain a compelling rationale why the research is of interest to an interdisciplinary community of scholars. (Electronic submissions only)

Accepted papers will also be archived in the new Journalism History Hub, an archive and social network funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities.

Are you willing to review submissions or moderate a panel? If so, please contact Elliot King eking@loyola.edu or eking212@gmail.com. Tel: 443-858-3731 (cell)

Send All Submissions by January 7, 2010 to Elliot King, Program Organizer, Department of Communication, Loyola College in Maryland, 4501 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210, E-Mail: eking@loyola.edu, Send Electronic Submissions to eking212@gmail.com with a copy to eking@loyola.edu. Cell: 443-858-3731 or 410-617-2819

Acceptance Notification Date: Feb 8, 2010

Citation

Continued from p. 13

- ⁴ Dan Riffe, e-mail message to author, September 17, 2009.
- ⁵ Oliver B. Pollak, "The Decline and Fall of Bottom Notes, op. cit., loc. cit., and a Century of the *Chicago Manual of Style*," *Journal of Scholarly Publishing* 38, no. 1 (October 2006), 15.
- ⁶ Andrew Grafton, *The Footnote: A Curious History* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1997), 221. Cited in Pollak, "The Decline and Fall," 15.

- ⁷ Pollak, "The Decline and Fall," 20.
- ⁸ Riffe, e-mail to author, September 17, 2009
- ⁹ Pollak, "The Decline and Fall," 24.
- ¹⁰ "Chicago Style," *Grammar Girl: Quick and Dirty Tips for Better Writing*. Podcast, episode 23, aired Nov. 2, 2006. Online. Available <http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/chicago-style.aspx>

Call for Entries: Best Journalism and Mass Com- munication History Book

The History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication is soliciting entries for its award for the best journalism and mass communication history book of 2009.

The award is given annually, and the winning author will receive a plaque and a cash prize at the August 2010 AEJMC conference in Denver, Colorado.

The competition is open to any author of a relevant history book regardless of whether he or she belongs to AEJMC or the History Division. Authorship is defined as the person or persons who wrote the book, not just edited it. Only those books with a 2009 publication (copyright) date will be accepted. Compilations, anthologies, articles, and monographs will be excluded because they qualify for the Covert Award, another AEJMC History Division competition.

Entries must be postmarked no later than February 5, 2010.

Four copies of each book must be submitted, along with the author's mailing address, telephone number, and email address, to:

John P. Ferré
AEJMC History Book Award Chair
Department of Communication
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292

Please contact Dr. Ferré at 502.852.2237 or ferre@louisville.edu with any questions.