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BY WILLIAM RYAN
If you have been watching TV or reading the news, you will have noticed that the Library of Congress has been very prominent in this year’s presidential inauguration welcoming President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

From hosting the new second gentleman of the United States, Douglas C. Emhoff, for a tutorial on the role of second spouse, to the National Guard bivouacking in the Madison Building, this year the Library has played an outsized role in kicking off the ceremony to welcome a new president to town.

The Library’s part in this began with the early realization that this would be the first-ever virtual inauguration, bringing an unprecedented need for programming content. Through a byzantine network of personal and professional ties, the Office of Communications made contact with the Presidential Inaugural Committee and the incoming White House staff. Similarly, the Congressional Relations Office reached out to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. It soon became apparent that there was a voracious appetite for material from the Library.

INAUGURATION, CONTINUED ON 6
DONATED TIME
The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Lisa Davis at lidav@loc.gov.
Paul Sayers Eric Wolfson

UPDATED COPYRIGHT COMPENDIUM RELEASED
The Copyright Office last week announced the release of an updated version of the Compendium of U.S. Copyright Office Practices, Third Edition. It is the administrative manual of the Register of Copyrights concerning the mandate and statutory duties of the Copyright Office under Title 17 of the U.S. Code.
The updated Compendium will be posted on the office’s website (www.copyright.gov) on Jan. 28, its effective date. The update will be the governing administrative manual for registrations and recordations issued by the Copyright Office on or after that date.

LESSONS FROM THE 1918 FLU
Jan. 27, 10 a.m.
The 1918 flu, the deadliest pandemic of the 20th century, has lessons to offer in our understanding of COVID–19. Jeffery K. Taubenberger of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and Marc Lipsitch of Harvard University will present their research and answer questions from participants.
Request ADA accommodations five business days in advance at (202) 7076362 or ADA@loc.gov.

COVID–19 UPDATE
The Health Services Division (HSD) continues to monitor Library staff members with symptoms, clinical diagnoses or positive test results associated with COVID–19. On Jan. 14, the division announced that eight employees reported symptoms of COVID–19 or confirmed cases in the previous week. Most employees reporting symptoms are not diagnosed with COVID–19, but, out of caution, the Library is monitoring all reports of symptoms.
HSD is communicating with all staff members who become ill. In cases in which ill individuals were present in Library buildings, HSD is also notifying their close work contacts and cleaning and disinfecting the areas affected. The same process is followed when contractors in Library buildings become ill.
More information on the Library’s pandemic response: https://go.usa.gov/xdtV5 (intranet) or https://go.usa.gov/xdtVQ (public-facing staff webpage)

JANUARY–FEBRUARY LCM
Books can be more than just words on a printed page; they can be works of art in their own right. This issue of LCM explores beautiful, innovative volumes found in the Library’s collections. Also, a newly acquired library offers stunning examples of book design and illustration, and a king–size scroll chronicles Commodore Perry’s voyage to Japan.
Fiscal 2021 Budget Increase to Advance Key Goals

BY TREY CARSON

The Library of Congress received a 4.4 percent budgetary increase in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, signed by the president on Dec. 27. The monies will advance information technology and physical modernization at the agency as well as personnel capacity to support the Library’s strategic objectives of greater access and improved customer service.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act combined $900 billion in stimulus relief for the COVID-19 pandemic with a $1.4 trillion fiscal 2021 omnibus spending bill (combining 12 separate annual appropriations bills).

The Library’s total budget authority for the fiscal year – just over $802 million – consists of four separate appropriations: Library of Congress salaries and expenses, which includes the office of the Librarian and other service units; Congressional Research Service (CRS) salaries and expenses; Copyright Office salaries and expenses; and National Library Service for Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) salaries and expenses.

The 4.4 percent fiscal 2021 budgetary increase represents about $32 million over the fiscal 2020 enacted budget.

New initiatives funded under Library of Congress salaries and expenses are an e-acquisition application ($1.38 million), which will modernize and automate the contracting process; cybersecurity enhancements ($3.93 million); and implementation and installation of “Quad B,” the third of four Law Library compact shelving quadrants ($4.37 million).

In addition, funding continued for the Library’s new visitor experience ($10 million); the Veterans History Project ($3.72 million); the Teaching with Primary Sources program ($9.42 million); the surplus books program ($250,000); and the Legislative Branch Financial Management System ($1.38 million). Monies were also committed for the phase-out of the Library’s mass deacidification program ($2.5 million) through Sept. 30, 2022.

The Copyright Office salaries and expenses appropriation received funding for staffing in support of implementation of the Music Modernization Act ($711,000) and additional case volume addressed by the Copyright Royalty Judges ($865,000).

CRS received new monies to increase its science and technology research capacity ($1.93 million), and NLS received an increase of $1 million in support of its programs.

Ten Years of Legislative Data Released Online

The U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) in partnership with the Library, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate last month released 10 additional years of bill status XML bulk data on govinfo, a GPO service that provides free public access to official U.S. government publications. Created by the Library and Congress, bill status information describes the activities and status steps for each legislative measure.

The new data, which includes bill status information from 2003 to 2012 (the 108th Congress to the 112th), has been populated on GPO’s govinfo bulk data repository and adds to previously available data from 2013 to 2020 (the 113th Congress to 116th).

“We share a deep dedication to making official government information as accessible to all Americans as possible,” Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said of the Library, GPO and the House and Senate. “We’re so grateful to GPO for this additional decade of historic legislative information Americans can now explore for themselves.”

“GPO is proud to work with the Library of Congress to continue to provide open and transparent government information for the American people,” Hugh Nathanial Halpern, GPO’s director, said.

Making government information available in XML permits data to be reused and repurposed for print output and for conversion into e-books, mobile web applications and other forms of content delivery, contributing to openness and transparency in government.

GPO ensures the authenticity of all information provided on govinfo, which includes making available digitally signed copies in PDF format representing official, authentic versions that match printed documents.

The original project started at the direction of the House Committee on Appropriations and supports the Legislative Branch Bulk Data Task Force.

View GPO’s bulk data repository: https://go.usa.gov/xAVby

More information about bulk data: https://go.usa.gov/xAVbj ■

HAVING TECHNICAL ISSUES

The Office of the Chief Information Officer’s service desk is staffed around the clock with technicians ready to help. Contact ocioservicedesk@loc.gov or (202) 707-7727.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GAZETTE 3
Library Shares Its Riches with Inaugural Committee

For the inauguration of President Joseph R. Biden Jr. this week, the Library shared hundreds of items from its collections related to past inaugurations and presidencies. Here are a handful of examples.

1. A page from George Washington’s April 30, 1789, inaugural address.  2. Grace Coolidge shows her pet raccoon, Rebecca, to children on April 18, 1927.  3. Abraham Lincoln purchased this jewelry set on April 28, 1862, for his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln. She wore it to his first inaugural ball.  4. Benjamin Harrison’s son, Russell, poses with Harrison’s grandchildren on the White House grounds with a pet dog and goat.  5. An invitation to the March 4, 1901, inauguration of William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt.  6. Warren G. Harding with his dog, Laddie Boy, at the White House in 1922.
Charles W. Calhoun

Charles W. Calhoun is the Thomas Harriot distinguished professor of history emeritus at East Carolina University, where he taught from 1989 to 2014. Here, in an excerpt from a Library of Congress blog post (https://go.usa.gov/xAyKV), he recounts hours spent immersed in the Manuscript Division’s collections of papers of U.S. presidents and other public figures. His discoveries have informed multiple books, including his most recent, “The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant.”

What first brought you to the Library?

I have long thought of the Library of Congress as my second home. My research in the Library’s Manuscript Division extends back more than 50 years. As an undergraduate at Yale University in the late 1960s, I wrote my senior essay on the political career of Walter Q. Gresham, a Civil War general, federal judge and cabinet officer. The Library holds a good-sized collection of Gresham’s papers, and I traveled by train from New Haven, Connecticut, to Washington, D.C., to examine them. I had previously used microfilm editions of the Manuscript Division’s collections of presidential papers, but now there I was, holding in my hands actual documents. I was hooked.

I can’t recall how many trips I made to the Library that year. I consulted not only Gresham’s papers but several other collections as well. Conducting this research and writing the essay was transformative for me. I switched my long-held career goal of becoming a lawyer to going to graduate school in history.

My specialty is late 19th-century American political history, a subject for which the Manuscript Division’s holdings are particularly rich. Whenever I am developing a new project, one of the first questions is always: What pertinent collections are in the Library of Congress?

Over the years, I have used other parts of the Library, including the general book collection, the Law Library and the Newspaper and Prints and Photographs reading rooms – all of them, of course, superb. But I have spent most of my time in the Manuscript Reading Room. Its staff is absolutely top-notch.

Which collections have you used?

They are too numerous to list by name. For my Grant presidency book alone, I read more than 40 manuscript collections at the Library. Many of the presidential papers collections are quite large. But others rival them, including the 600-plus bound volumes of the letters of John Sherman, the senator and cabinet secretary. Some collections are small, comprising only a folder or two, but even these can yield useful gems. In addition to the Library’s own holdings of manuscripts, the division houses many microform editions of collections held elsewhere.

What are some of your favorite discoveries?

The examples abound, so I’ll mention just a few.

I was struck by how many of the ideas that Benjamin Harrison expressed in his college papers informed the policies he later pursued as a senator and president. The understated prose of Hamilton Fish’s diary takes us behind the scenes during the Grant administration – he served as Grant’s secretary of state. He not only brings policymaking and political maneuvering to life, but he also offers numerous choice nuggets, such as Grant’s thoughts of resigning within a year of taking office.

In processing John Sherman’s papers, were the Library’s archivists dutifully preserving a manifestation of obsessive compulsion when they included a receipt Sherman kept for an umbrella he had left on a train?

And the tiny collection of Jacob William Schuckers, private secretary to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Salmon P. Chase, contains a marvelous memorandum describing Sen. Charles Sumner as “an extremely intolerant man; a species of Sir Anthony Absolute in politics; very easy to get along with if you always humbly agreed with him.”

Tell us about using the presidential collections online.

In the era of shrinking research budgets and dwindling travel funds, the Library’s decision to offer these indispensable resources online represents a tremendous boon to scholarship. The shutdown associated with the COVID-19 pandemic underscores the wisdom of that decision. I am delighted to see that additional collections are being made available even while the Library is closed.

Viewing the materials online is a bit more cumbersome than flipping pieces of paper, but the payoff is the same. And you can do it in the comfort of your own home any time of day or night, seven days a week.

What is next for you?

I am currently working on a project examining the presidential elections of 1868 and 1872 won by Grant. I am particularly interested in these campaigns and elections as critical steps in the reconstruction of the American political system after its profound disruption by the Civil War and its immediate aftermath. Once again, the Manuscript Division is the first stop in the journey.
We began by supplying both committees with a lengthy set of trivia questions and answers researched and curated by our experts in Library Services with the able coordination of events liaison Elizabeth Schreiber-Byers (my favorite: Q. Which superhero was elected president in 3004 A.D.? A. Wonder Woman). We also sent extensive online material related to inaugurations and the presidency, from George Washington’s handwritten inaugural speech to an image of the pearls Mary Todd Lincoln wore at her husband’s inauguration to a picture of Grace Coolidge with her family’s pet raccoon.

A call from the executive producer of the virtual inauguration, Lenore Cho, also led to the realization that the Presidential Inaugural Committee would be grateful for video. A lot of video. To home in on what the committee might want in particular, Cho visited the Library and perused a selection of material identified and presented by subject experts Helena Zinkham, Jeffrey Flannery, Lara Szypszak and Megan Halsband.

In the end, Cho wanted it all and asked our multimedia team to make several videos that were featured in the official inauguration day programming that covered everything from Washington’s and Lincoln’s inaugurations to presidential pets.

A video that particularly stands out features Emhoff, who visited the Library to speak with two of our historians, Michelle Krowl and Meg McAleer, to research the role of the second spouse. Our multimedia team and the inaugural committee’s video crew captured this visit in a video that started out on Emhoff’s Twitter feed and ended up on MSNBC.

This wasn’t the only media coverage of the Library — our online material was at the top of a Washington Post story about cultural institutions’ inauguration collections, and we were featured in the New York Times three days in a row. To cap this streak of media coverage, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden was featured in a Discovery Education Channel show alongside first lady Dr. Jill Biden and several other prominent public figures.

Also receiving extensive media coverage was inaugural poet Amanda Gorman for her widely praised recitation of her poem, “The Hill We Climb.” As National Youth Poet Laureate, she contributed to Library blogs and read a poem to open the 2017 inaugural ceremony for former U.S. poet laureate Tracy K. Smith.

But not all the activity at the Library was so public in nature. The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) supported inauguration activities with necessary IT in Library buildings, including computer and audiovisual equipment, extra wired-network connections, telephones and temporary expansion of cellular coverage.

OCIO also provided on-call IT service desk support and helped quickly clear Library space to accommodate the National Guard and other law enforcement operations supporting the inauguration.

As it has in the past, the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies this week used the Library’s Madison Building to stage military and law enforcement personnel required to ensure the safety of inaugural events.

Our Health Services Division and the Physician of the Capitol also helped to ensure that all Library staff who interacted with the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies were able to get the COVID-19 testing that the committee required.

The Librarian and her team are all grateful for these efforts. We know that this meant long hours, changing schedules, canceled leave plans and last-minute research and retrieval of collection items. Thank you all — we appreciate it and hope you share our feeling that the payoff was well worth it.