Humanities

A Portrait in Fifty-One Colors

The idea was a good one. To find 51 writers who could fascinate Americans with an interpretive history of each of the states and the District of Columbia.

The execution of the idea has been brilliant.

Several years ago, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Association for State and Local History, which is based in Nashville, Tennessee, talked about sponsoring a bicentennial project that would have meaning far beyond the celebration year.

William Alderson, head of the AASLH, suggested a series of books of personal interpretations of the states. They would be written by people who had an understanding of history as well as the ability to write in a fashion that could appeal to students and teachers, tourists and residents alike. The volumes would be neither comprehensive histories nor textbooks, but rather portraits of the states that together would give Americans an unusual portrait of their nation.

After receiving NEH approval for the project, Alderson put together an editorial board, which includes leading editors, authors, and historians, and asked Gerald George, a reporter and writer, to manage the project, which would eventually have 54 authors (counting three husband-wife teams), 13 photographers, four staff editors, some assistants, and a prize-winning graphics designer, Gary Gore. After competitive bidding among commercial and university presses, W. W. Norton and Company, Inc. agreed to publish the series, which will be completed by the end of 1977. (Each hardbound book will eventually appear also in paperback.)

The rest is history. Or histories. In short order, George and his board lined up some of the most impressive names in American history-writing—Bruce Catton of Michigan, Louis B. Wright of South Carolina, David Lavender of California, and others—to write about their states. These authors served as magnets to attract some lesser-known but equally capable young writers, people such as Marc Simmons in New Mexico, Virginia V. Hamilton in Alabama, John Alexander in West Virginia, and Steven A. Channing in Kentucky. Two poets, Carl Bode of Maryland and John R. Milton of South Dakota, are among the authors.

To find out about these writer-historians and how they view their states, I set out to visit a few of them. Here is my report.

TENNESSEE: Wilma Dykeman

Highway 411 in eastern Tennessee came to an end smack in the center of Newport, just across the Pigeon River, leaving me to choose between Route 25 South on my left and Route 25 North on my right. Since I was in the south and enjoying it, I decided to continue in that direction, and accordingly turned left. A few hundred yards brought me to the big stone building that houses the Cocke County Chamber of Commerce.

A smile added wrinkles to the 67-year-old face of the woman behind the desk in the Chamber of Commerce office when I told her I was in Newport to see Wilma Dykeman, author of *Tennessee, a Bicentennial History*. "Aw, honey," she said, "just get Wilma Dykeman on her feet. That's when she's really great." She told me that Wilma Dykeman is "always" giving talks about Tennessee, leading me to wonder when the author has had the time to write three novels and nine nonfiction books, all of them about Tennessee and the south.

Montana
Colorado
New Hampshire
Vermont
Utah
West Virginia
Nebraska
Idaho
California
Texas
Arizona
Florida
Louisiana
South Carolina
Michigan
Tennessee

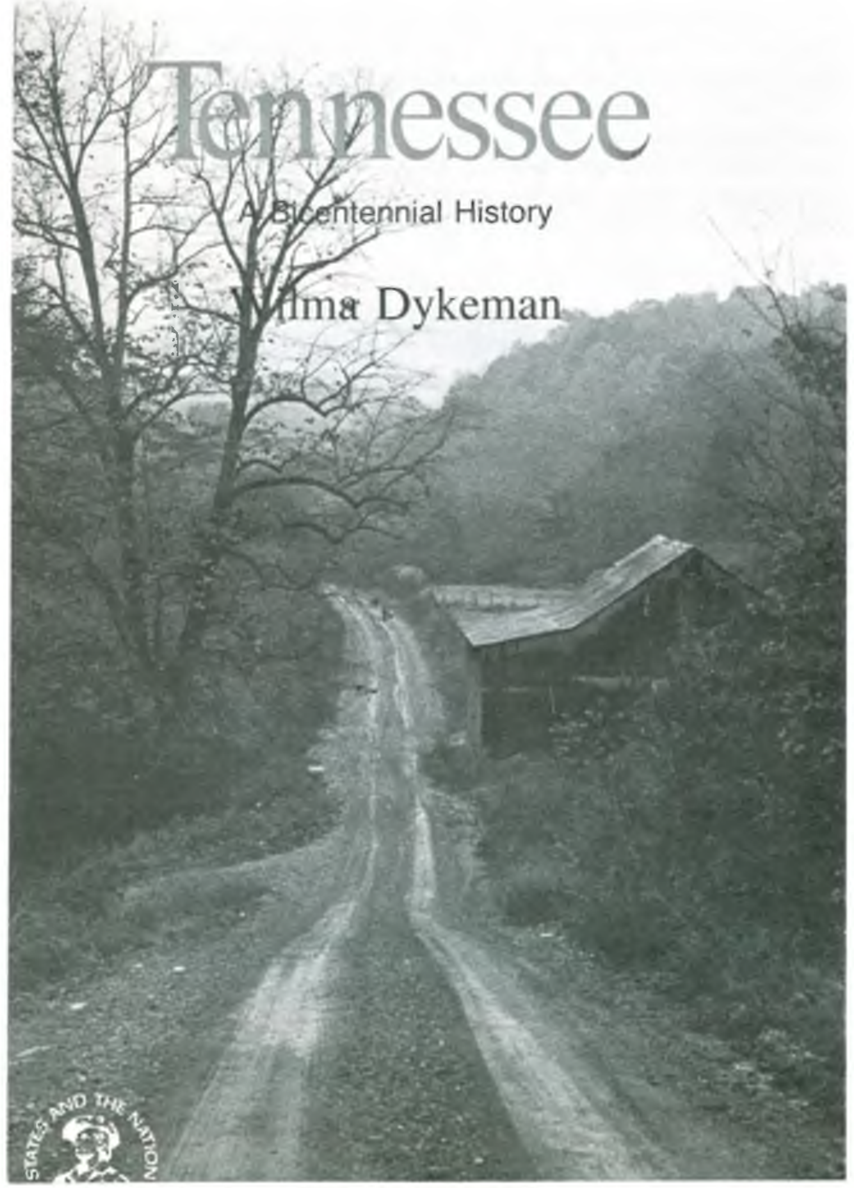
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES ☐ VOLUME VI ☐ NUMBER 5 ☐ AUTUMN 1976

I found out that Wilma Dykeman does more than write books and give talks. She also writes book reviews and a twice-weekly column for the Knoxville *News-Sentinel*, takes care of a large house, and still finds time to be kind to writers who want to abduct her for a day of driving through the Great Smoky Mountains to talk about Tennessee. She seems to know everything that has gone on and is going on, and much that probably will go on, in her adopted state.

Wilma Dykeman's New York father moved to his wife's hometown of Asheville, North Carolina, and Wilma Dykeman was raised there. She chose to attend Northwestern University, she told me, because she had never been to Chicago and knew no one there. She majored in speech and drama.

Western North Carolina is not unlike eastern Tennessee, where the author has lived for about 30 years. They share a geography that has produced the ruggedly independent Great Smokies as well as an atmosphere that has created a ruggedly independent people. Wilma Dykeman said she suspects that the unspoken motto of the east Tennessean is "my land, my gun, my hound dog."

What makes Tennessee different from the rest of America, I learned, is its frontier spirit. Tennessee feistiness is as alive today as it was when the Scotch-Irish, and a few other hardy migrants, made their way from Philadelphia to Tennessee, where they established the contradictions of character that are the hallmark of the state and its people—"the tension and suspicion, humor and individuality, tenacity and vitality," wrote Wilma Dykeman in her book, introducing the reader to her state.



Geography was and still is a principal determinant of the state's economy and politics. Slave labor was the foundation on which the economy in the flat, cotton-producing western region was based. The east, where survival depended on individual efforts, produced the nation's first abolitionist newspapers. Hence, the political Mason-Dixon line cut right through Tennessee: While east Tennesseans fought with the north in the Civil War to help shore up the unity of "we, the people," west Tennesseans fought earnestly for secession.

With its large-spirited people, the spread of industry, and a reasonable system of highways, Tennessee has an unusual opportunity to draw up a blueprint for its own future without making the mistakes lumped under the term "progress" that have been made elsewhere. However, said Wilma Dykeman, true to their contrariness, Tennesseans seem to want to control their own future without at the same time making a plan and developing a leadership. To their dismay, they have found others ready to do their planning for them. Whole mountains have been purchased by speculators, stripmining has destroyed some of the land, and there is talk about building more highways on the theory that if one is good, two or three will be even better.

Wilma Dykeman concluded her book by reminding the reader that "the frontier is not *'out there,'* has not been for a long time, but is *here.* It is a frontier of mind and purpose and will . . .

"Finally, it might be tonic to remember an old saying common among East Tennesseans: 'That lawsuit may be settled at the courthouse, but it's not been settled up the holler yet.'

"That's where our answers will be determined eventually: up the hollow, alley, street and lane, thoroughfare, and skyway, in each individual memory and character and commitment."

Wilma Dykeman knows Tennessee better than most people know their own families. Still, when she was asked to write the state's bicentennial history, she told me, she immediately wrote a letter of refusal. That letter stayed in her typewriter for two days, and then she wrote another, accepting the assignment. "I wanted to be the one to write about Tennessee," in spite of time constraints, she said. "I was afraid someone else would not write it with the knowledge and love for it that I have. I felt that a subjective bicentennial history would be difficult to do and that the people of Tennessee deserve a book that would tell their story fairly and, I hope, well."

COLORADO: Marshall Sprague

In the 1940s, one was supposed to go to the Rockies to cure tuberculosis. So Marshall Sprague, who wrote feature articles for the *New York Times,* moved his family to Colorado Springs and himself to a nearby sanitorium. When Sprague was finally pronounced fit, his family had been calling Colorado their home for nine years. And Marshall Sprague, transplanted easterner, had already begun a new career as a regional author who would, over the course of the next three decades, write 11 popular books about Colorado and the west.

Sprague is still writing about the charm and the toughness that are the state that joined the Union in the year of the national centennial. *Colorado, a Bicentennial History,* is his contribution to the series.

Colorado's environment is unique in the American experience, Sprague told me when I visited him, because Colorado is the highest state. It is also constantly troubled by a short supply of water in critical areas, particularly in the high plains east of Denver, where the land is used primarily for cattle-grazing.

"According to *me,*" Sprague laughed, "the people here like the clarity, and they like the air, and they like the weather, which is mild most of the time. But when the weather isn't mild, it's very exciting. When we have a blizzard, we have a *blizzard."* Thunderstorms are also dramatic, because the air is thin and their effect is heightened by the atmosphere. "People have an incentive to make Colorado work," said Sprague; "they can enjoy it as well as make a living. That's why I think a lot of people like Colorado. That's why I like it."

Today's air or ground traveler from the east to Denver is met by a sight that must have awed early explorers just as it does newer settlers and visitors. Suddenly, impressively, the Rocky Mountains appear, standing due north and south, barring east from west.

In the 18th century, the Ute Indians, who exchanged deer and elk skins for Spanish horses, used mountain streams and rivers as trails through the Rockies. In the 1840s, explorers John and Jessie Frémont traveled the same trails. They were searching for "better, shorter, more exciting routes," than had been mapped earlier, explained Sprague, "through the granite core of the Colorado Rockies instead of around it."

The discovery of gold in California, and soon after in Colorado, led "millions of otherwise normal people," Sprague wrote in his book, "to dream of becoming filthy rich overnight by finding gold or by speculation in gold stocks back East." Colorado was developed because of both the glittering promises of the mines and the more solid attractions of agriculture.

People have always brought the east with them. The old houses one sees in Denver were copied from fanciful houses that went up in the 1880s in places like Chicago, Sprague said. But architectural mimicry has been offset, to some extent, by the need to take local climatic conditions into account. For example, along the base of the eastern slope of the mountains, some houses have been built with flat roofs because snowfalls are usually light in the area.

The spirit of excitement and exploration that brought early settlers to Colorado continues in its contemporary population, albeit in modern translation. Today's Coloradans try to solve the problems created by an environment that can make water as elusive as it can make mountains abundant. Within the last 10 years, for example, underground streams have been tapped in the high plains and enormous swirling sprinklers installed to promote agriculture. Sprague rotated his arm in a circle to show how each sprinkler can irrigate 160 acres of wheat or corn.

Coloradans are also experimenting with solar heating and shale oil production in attempts to harness unused sources of natural energy. Environmental and monetary concerns, however, have caused people to temper this tinkering with nature with the caution that is born of experience. In Colorado, Sprague told me, the environment is the basis of the economy.

Unhappily for many settlers in Colorado, some towns are beginning to bulge with humanity, creating the problems of congested cities everywhere. In 1940, the population of Colorado Springs, for instance, was 36,000. By 1970, it had jumped to 135,000, having almost doubled in the decade between 1960 and 1970 alone.

Although Colorado, like every state, has problems, the Rockies promise an escape that can leave Colo-

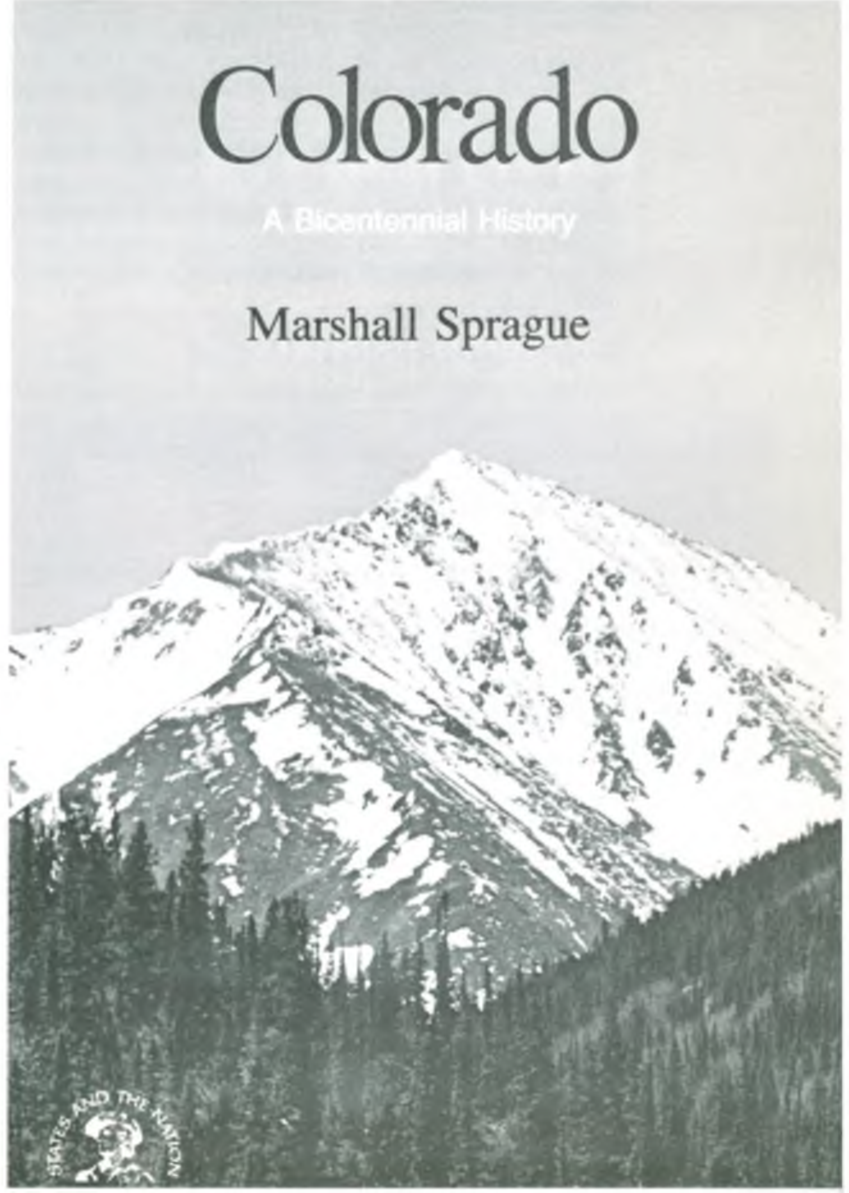
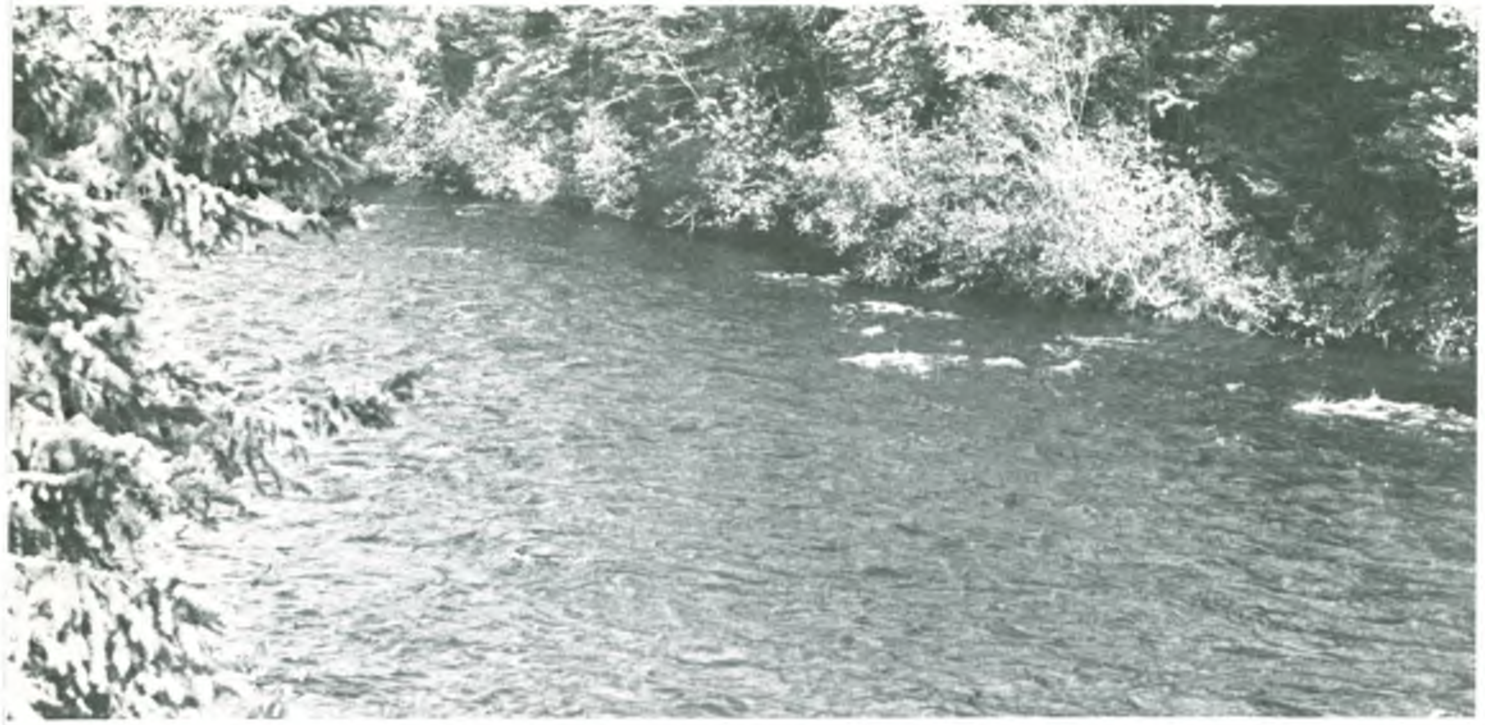


Photo Jeanne Paul



"The 'County of Coos' was therefore established in March 1805. The name was derived from the Indian words _Cohos_, for a confederacy of tribes in northern New England, and _coo-ash_, meaning pines. The new county, with about 1 million acres of mountainous land—at that time mostly uncharted wilderness and primeval forest—was also the source of the Connecticut River." From _New Hampshire, a Bicentennial History_.

radans refreshed. Marshall Sprague's book ends with the people of Colorado looking ahead "with confidence that their enduring mountains and plains would protect them from the evils of affluence and bestow blessings on them, spiritual and material. And they would keep on hoping, as Coloradans had always hoped, that they could preserve their paradise and prosper by developing its riches too."

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Elizabeth Forbes Morison and Elting E. Morison

In Peterborough, New Hampshire, in the oldest local house still standing, I talked about the qualities of the New Hampshire character with Elizabeth Forbes Morison and Elting E. Morison, the authors of _New Hampshire, a Bicentennial History_.

They told me that many people in New Hampshire are as cosmopolitan and as well-traveled as people elsewhere.

But, said Elting Morison, who teaches history at M.I.T., "if you live here and you get a man to come and work for you—a plumber, a bulldozer operator, a carpenter—he is quite likely to be someone you know, someone who is proud of his work." The Morisons' plumber knows the position of every pipe in a hundred houses in Peterborough. "He remembers the pipes' problems as though they were people."

There is a sense of equality in New Hampshire that is born of self-respect. The carpenter cares as much about the structures he builds as the Morisons do about their writing and teaching. There is also an intimacy that stems from the conditions of life.

A young man once came to do some bulldozing on the Morison farm. In the course of the week, the Morisons learned a little about the man's history, including the fact that his wife "makes the best apple pie in the United States of America."

"We have an apple farm here," Elting Morison told me, "so I gave him a bushel of apples. The next morning at a quarter of six—a bang on the door and the man was delivering an apple pie. Now, this doesn't happen in the ordinary world of bulldozing where they are building a condominium. This is largely a product of people being close enough together, with an assumption that you're both human beings. This goes on here still."

I asked if the New Hampshirite is as laconic and humorless as outsiders seem to believe.

Elizabeth Morison answered with a delightful story: "Once we were calling to give our grocery order and we got the phone numbers switched. We gave the list of groceries to the plumber instead of to the grocer. The plumber took the order down very quietly and then gave it to the grocer. He never let on who he was.

"A year later, we were talking to the plumber about some work that needed to be done and he said, 'Can I get your groceries for you while I'm at it?' He had been getting a laugh out of our mistake all that time."

Physically, New Hampshire is not always the pretty, 19th-century agrarian state one might imagine, although some towns and villages do have an abundance of New England tidiness and charm. "I'm always surprised," said Elizabeth Morison, "when I cross the Connecticut River into Vermont, to see the differences in look between the two states. New Hampshire looks beat and tired and bedraggled in places, while Vermont is neat and well-tended." She has never found a satisfactory reason for such striking differences.

Perhaps, theorized Elting Morison, the differences result in part from the influence that Massachusetts has exerted on New Hampshire, particularly in industrial development, which is lacking in most of Vermont. The industrial atmosphere spawns "shops, filling stations, houses that need paint, old farming equipment rotting out in the fields, and wasted farmland." New Hampshire is also plagued by swamplands.

Tired of seeing land wasted in New Hampshire, the Morisons have begun clearing four acres behind their house for hay fields. As we talked, we could see through the window three people—a German who arrived in America only two or three years ago, an Italian whose stonecutting family has been in New Hampshire for several generations, and a local teenager earning money to spend at prep school—digging boulders out of the ground to prepare the fields.

Population shifts are bringing new sets of problems to the state. Northern towns like Berlin, a paper-factory city on the winding Androscoggin River, began losing people when the lumber mills moved away. On the other hand, the southern part of the state is developing rapidly in a rather careless way. The populations of villages, such as Amherst, that are within commuting distance of the Massachusetts industrial area, have increased several hundredfold in the last two decades. Some retirees and summer people have built tacky lakeside cottages; others have bought and restored beautiful old farmhouses, but have let the land lie unused.

In their book, the Morisons described some of the kinds of people who live in New Hampshire and their conflicting interests. Some people, they wrote, have sought to retain the lovely village atmosphere, while others are interested in efficiency regardless of cost. Some want to restore bygone modes of living, some simply wish to take advantage of whatever attractive offerings come along without making a contribution of their own, and some dream of investing in cheap housing projects that promise a fortune in return. There are dangers for the future, the Morisons conclude, yet "the future of New Hampshire may well be more in its own hands than it has been for 150 years. The state has more human energy, more varieties of competence, more sources of economic vitality, more sense of the need to think of future possibilities than ever before in its history . . .

"From the very beginning, New Hampshire has been a society of small communities in which people set store by the local, the particular, and the personal. Throughout its history, this has been one of its principal attractions for those beyond its borders, and it is a special attraction today when the progress of the technological is toward the universal, the general, and the systematic. There is no reason why the indispensable and inevitable development of technology in the state . . . cannot be fitted suitably and attractively into the historical scheme . . .

"All that is required is a community determined to make it happen."

POSTSCRIPT

The Americans I met on my journey through the three states covered by these volumes in the States and the Nation series were warm, kind, and helpful. Even the New Hampshire gas station proprietor who answered three involved questions with two nods and one "no" managed to provide me with the information I sought.

If all of the volumes in the series succeed in conveying, with as much insight, clarity, and warmth, the history and personality of this country and its people, then the NEH-AASLH bicentennial project will indeed have meaning far beyond the celebration year.

—Jeanne Paul

The author is a freelance writer in Washington, D.C.

BICENTENNIAL STATE HISTORIES

Alabama: _Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton_
*Alaska: _William R. Hunt_
*Arizona: _Lawrence Clark Powell_
Arkansas: _Harry S. Ashmore_
*California: _David S. Lavender_
*Colorado: _Marshall Sprague_
Connecticut: _David M. Roth_
Delaware: _Carol E. Hoffecker_
*District of Columbia: _David L. Lewis_
*Florida: _Gloria Jahoda_
Georgia: _Harold H. Martin_
Hawaii: _Ruth M. Tabrah_
*Idaho: _F. Ross Peterson_
Illinois: _Richard J. Jensen_
Indiana: _Howard H. Peckham_
Iowa: _Joseph Frazier Wall_
*Kansas: _Kenneth S. Davis_
Kentucky: _Steven A. Channing_
*Louisiana: _Joe Gray Taylor_
Maine: _Charles E. Clark_
Maryland: _Carl Bode_
Massachusetts: _Richard D. Brown_
*Michigan: _Bruce Catton_
Minnesota: _William E. Lass_
Mississippi: _John Ray Skates_
Missouri: _Paul C. Nagel_
Montana: _Clark C. Spence_
Nebraska: _Dorothy Weyer Creigh_
Nevada: _Robert Laxalt_
*New Hampshire: _Elizabeth Forbes Morison_ and _Elting E. Morison_
New Jersey: _Thomas Fleming_
New Mexico: _Marc Simmons_
New York: _David Maldwyn Ellis_
North Carolina: _William S. Powell_
North Dakota: _Robert P. Wilkins_ and _Wynona H. Wilkins_
*Ohio: _Walter Havighurst_
Oklahoma: _H. Wayne Morgan_ and _Anne Hodges Morgan_
Oregon: _Gordon B. Dodds_
Pennsylvania: _Thomas C. Cochran_
Rhode Island: _William G. McLoughlin_
*South Carolina: _Louis B. Wright_
South Dakota: _John R. Milton_
*Tennessee: _Wilma Dykeman_
*Texas: _Joe B. Frantz_
Utah: _Charles S. Peterson_
Vermont: _Charles T. Morrissey_
Virginia: _Louis D. Rubin, Jr._
*Washington: _Norman H. Clark_
*West Virginia: _John Alexander Williams_
Wisconsin: _Richard Nelson Current_
Wyoming: _T. A. Larson_

*_Published by the end of 1976_

NEH Notes

Gifts to the Endowment in Fiscal 1976

During the 15-month period comprising fiscal year 1976 and the Transition Quarter, the Endowment received $7.7 million in private gifts which released an equal amount of Treasury funds. These funds will support over 160 projects recommended by the National Council on the Humanities. Among the major recent donations are the following:

- A gift of $179,775 from the Rockefeller Foundation for an Ethnic Encyclopedia being prepared at Harvard University;
- A gift of $200,000 from Exxon Corporation for the four-part color film adaptation of Dickens' *Hard Times* being produced by WNET/13 and Granada Television of Great Britain;
- A gift of $100,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the acquisition, reproduction, and distribution of Chinese research materials through the Center for Chinese Research Materials;
- A gift of $197,200 from the Carnegie Corporation for a project to be conducted by the Research Libraries Group and the Library of Congress to improve library network access to holdings in the Library of Congress.

In addition to these dramatic gifts, the list of donations to the Endowment in FY 1976 is broad and long, from large foundation and corporate gifts to those of individuals concerned with more modest projects in their own communities. The dollar amount ranges from $5 from an individual to $1 million from the Ford Foundation to support the exchange of scholars between the United States on the one hand, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union on the other, through the sponsorship of the International Research and Exchanges Board of the American Council of Learned Societies.

Gifts to NEH are used for projects of many different kinds, from archaeology to oral history; from biographical research on the lives and times of American scholars, writers, artists, and statesmen to preservation of ethnic heritages by locating and cataloguing family and business records of immigrants to this country over the past hundred years; from programs to discuss and consider local needs and moral decisions in each of the 50 states to films that will be shown to nationwide audiences of millions and museum exhibitions attracting visitors in the hundreds of thousands. Besides making possible programs that could otherwise not be funded, these donors are helping to broaden the base of support for humanistic work and to make this work—and the need for private contributions—known to millions of Americans. The Endowment is grateful for their help.

Treasures of Tutankhamun

The name of "King Tut" fired the imagination of much of the western world over 50 years ago when his tomb was discovered and opened by British archaeologist Howard Carter in 1922. Now, for the first time, the American public will have the opportunity to witness in retrospect the opening of the tomb through photographs recording the event at the time. Original negatives of these photographs are in the possession of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, which has been chosen by a consortium of participating museums to manage the funds of an NEH matching grant exceeding $500,000 for the *Treasures of Tutankhamun* exhibition to be shown in six cities of the United States over the next three years. Opening on November 15, 1976, in Washington, D. C., the treasures will also be shown in Chicago, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Seattle and New York City.

Not only will this event be presented as history, both modern and ancient, it will also show 55 of the most beautiful and representative of the treasures from the tomb of the 18th Dynasty Egyptian King (1361-1352 B. C.), who took the throne at the age of nine and died at the age of eighteen. The splendor of his short reign is exemplified by the 450-pound solid gold mask of Tutankhamun, beaten and burnished, inlaid with carnelian, lapis lazuli, colored glass and quartz.

Gifts to release matching Treasury funds have been received from Exxon Corporation ($150,000) and the Robert Wood Johnson, Jr., Charitable Trust ($100,000). Loan of the exhibition was negotiated between the Egyptian and United States governments in 1974. The schedule of the nationwide exhibition is as follows:

National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
November 15, 1976—March 15, 1977
Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Ill.
April 15, 1977—August 15, 1977
New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, La.
September 15, 1977—January 15, 1978
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, Calif.
February 15, 1978—June 15, 1978
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Wash.
July 15, 1978—November 15, 1978
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, N.Y.
December 15, 1978—April 15, 1979

Grant Profiles

This Land Was Their Land

You'd guess everyone in and around Longview, Washington, knew the story of the Cowlitz Indians. The tribe's name is everywhere thereabouts, on businesses, roads and buildings. Longview—in Cowlitz County on the Cowlitz River downstream from Cowlitz Glacier—seems steeped in remembrances of her local Native American tribe. But truth is, only a year ago the Cowlitz' story was by and large unknown.

In 1973, during a year-long Humanities Festival at Longview's Lower Columbia College, Judith W. Irwin, an English instructor and playwright with special interest in Native American studies, offered an independent study for students interested in learning about the Cowlitz, the tribe whose area the college serves.

Irwin's group, to its surprise, found few ready sources of information other than a ten-year-old ethnographic study. Almost nothing had been published on the tribe.

Local Cowlitz, when interviewed, worried that their tribal history, traditions and cultural integrity might be irreparably compromised. For, having little in modern "civilization" to identify with as Cowlitz Indians—no reservation, no buildings, no cultural base—most of the tribe had succumbed to pressures to disperse, assimilate and forget the richness of their Indian heritage. With their cultural identity on the line, the Cowlitz were anxious to "retain their identity as a people that they may have self-respect and appreciation by others."

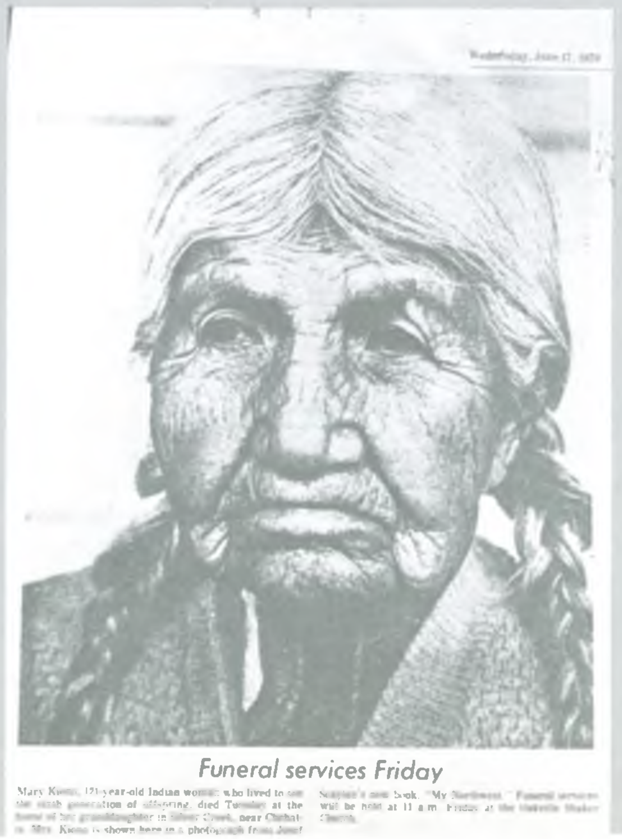
Irwin's group, having begun what seemed an ordinary research project, found itself face to face with a major cultural retrieval. And the Cowlitz Tribal Council was supportive.

An NEH Fellowship in 1975 allowed Irwin to take time from teaching for seven months' intensive work-study on the project, which she had expanded to include a projected full-scale book and a procedural handbook promoting the use of multi-media methods in the "preservation" of Indian cultures. Her previous work researching the Cayuse and Nez Perce Indians suggested that "tape recording, photographing and writing in combination seemed to produce a more authentic account (of the Indian heritage and point of view) . . . because Indian cultures are more ear and image oriented than just eye (or written word) oriented."

Throughout the Fellowship period, Irwin and five student assistants amassed the data that would tell the Cowlitz' story. Hard research in government, newspaper and the University of Washington archives supplemented the collection of maps, photographs, drawings, medicinal herbs and tape recordings of tribal meetings, gambling songs, dance music, individual reminiscences of legends and family histories, and discussions of the modern transition-years.

The Cowlitz emerge as a tribe of negotiators, traders, hunters and horsebreeders. Unlike other western Washington tribes who stayed close to the sea and the salmon, the Cowlitz lived inland, spread over four million acres of plains, hills and mountains. Prosperous, stable and creative, the tribe was one of the area's most cohesive until the arrival of the "Whiteman" in the early 1800s. Almost immediately, eighty percent of the tribe died, victim to incoming diseases. By 1855, when the first U.S. Territorial governor arrived to set up reservations and make treaties, only 350 to 500 Cowlitz remained. Ironically, the governor failed to establish a treaty with this tribe known for

Mary Kiona, Cowlitz, saw white settlers come to her part of Washington state. She died in 1970 at age 121.



Funeral services Friday

Judith Irwin, with the assistance of her students and the cooperation of the Tribal Council, has brought the heritage of the Cowlitz Indians back into public awareness.

peaceable negotiation before the other tribes declared war. So, in subsequent years, the Cowlitz, sans treaty and thus sans recognition, were stripped of their lands, livelihood and good fortune. Despite a 1973 U.S. court decision earmarking $1.5 million to the Cowlitz in compensation for tribal lands unlawfully seized by the United States in 1863, the tribe is still "unrecognized" by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

While Irwin continues work on her project, the impact of the study is already quite evident. Many Cowlitz now do their own research throughout the state. Lower Columbia College is designing a new Native American curriculum and reports a substantial increase in the enrollment of minority students. Local fourth graders have viewed Irwin's multi-media presentation on the tribe, as have numerous church and civic groups. And, breaking a twenty-five year stand-off on Cowlitz feature stories, the Longview daily newspaper recently devoted its weekend magazine to features on the tribe and Judith Irwin's efforts. Sequel articles are scheduled.

Today in Longview the Cowlitz name evokes the "respect and appreciation by others" desired by the tribe, and you can be sure, if you guess most everyone thereabouts knows the Cowlitz story, you guess right. It's a story that ought not to be forgotten.

Sheldon Peck Has Arrived

Before daguerreotype, Brownie and Instamatic cameras made tradition of family snapshots and photo albums, American families "looked sweet" upon their painted portraits. Portraiture was a popular luxury for many early Americans. In the Old World, as a rule, only aristocrats commissioned artistic sittings. Not so in the New. Here anyone who could hold a pose and pay the artist's fee could see his face in paint.

And so, a man might make a living painting portraits in young America. Indeed many did.

Top-notch traditionalists such as Thomas Sully, John Vanderlind, Gilbert Stuart and John Singleton Copley made big names for themselves painting famous portraits of rich and famous people. Other artists called "limners" traveled America's rural and frontier regions painting stern-faced farmers and shopkeepers in primitive styles unencumbered by academic training. Unlike the society painters, most 18th- and 19th-century limners are "unknowns" today, their too often unsigned paintings abandoned in dusty corners and attics by later, less appreciative generations.

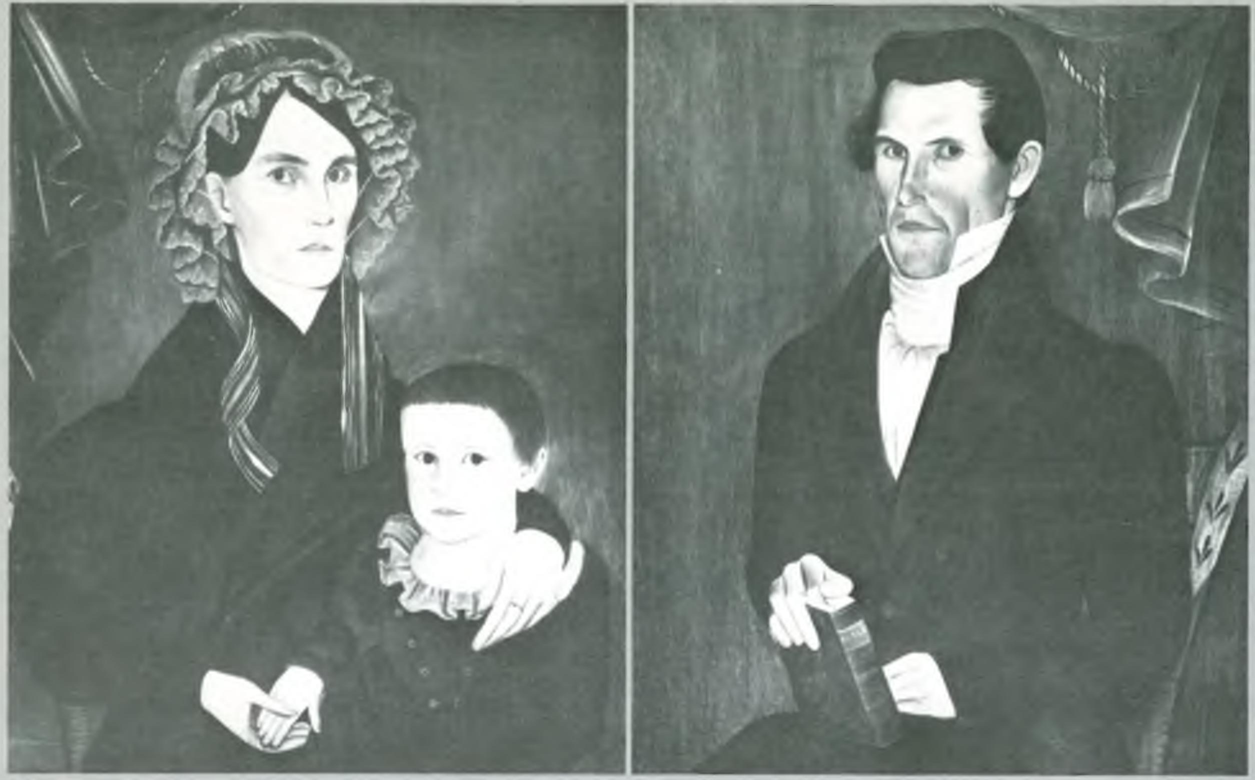
One such artist was Sheldon Peck, a self-taught 19th-century American itinerant portraitist distinguished by his oddly Byzantine style.

Not long ago, Peck was just another unstudied frontier primitivist—one of many despite zealous research by art historians since the emergence of the American folk art movement in the 1950s.

Then, in 1972, along came Marianne Balazs, a twenty-two-year-old undergraduate student in an independent study program at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. Acting on a tip from museum curator Jean Lipman (who "at the time knew only a few examples of Peck's work but thought them as exciting as those of any of the now well-known portrait painters"), Marianne tackled the first systematic study of the hitherto "undiscovered" Sheldon Peck.

In 1973, on the basis of this preliminary study, Marianne was awarded an NEH "Youthgrant in the Humanities" to complete her research and design a major traveling exhibition and accompanying catalogue on Peck. Her Youthgrant project presents a model of imaginative research for art historians in cases where only the artist's name and occasional works are known. No lead was too small for this amateur sleuth; her sources included archives, attics, antique shops and smalltown museums—even her documentation of the "sitters" in Sheldon Peck's paintings. Finally she established the trail of the frontier artist, following him (a century later) from Vermont across upstate New York into Illinois. The man left few clues. Of the 35 portraits she was able to locate and attribute to Peck on the basis of style and historical evidence, not one was signed by the elusive artist.

Though Peck's talent was uncommon, Marianne feels his life was typical of the 19th century limners, soon outmoded by photography. "Unlike artists who flocked to the cities to compete for the patronage of wealthier merchants and manufacturers, Peck chose his (simple, unworldly) style and went to the frontier where he would find people to appreciate it."



Sheldon Peck portraits: *Mother and Son* and *Man Holding Bible*, c. 1830. Oil on wood panels. Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, New York.

And new generations are now appreciating Peck as Ms. Balazs' work, translated into a major traveling exhibition, has appeared during the past year at the Whitney and other selected museums: the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection, Williamsburg, Virginia; Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, New York; Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan; and the Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois.

Lexicographer Mines Gold

Jonathan Lighter talks pretty straight for a person awarded an NEH Youthgrant in the Humanities to conduct "An Historical Study of American Slang: 1865-1900." The exclamatory "out of sight" he utters harkens not to late 1960s freak-chic but to popular slang of the 1890s as captured by Stephen Crane in "Maggie, a Girl of the Streets."

The young lexicographer has a strict working definition of slang: "nonstandard words and phrases having more than nonce currency in a speech community and used more or less consciously to imply the speaker's special knowledge of and consequent lack of conventional respect for the referent." Yet he delights in the irreverent nature of his work. He spins the cocky phrasing of 19th-century wags freely off his head. "That mud crusher scratched gravel for the tarantula juice!" is a probable latter 1800s description of an infantry soldier hurrying to a Western bar for a bracing shot of whiskey. Money then was known commonly as "spondulix," or sometimes "rhino," while non-existent profits were known, not unaffectionately, as "Irish dividends." Lighter's discovery of "fink" (meaning then, as now, a no-good) in an 1894 book by Chicagoman George Ade caught him by surprise, but in fact he found most slang associated with 1930s gangsters in use by the 1890s.

Lighter wasn't always so "absotutely Able Sugar" (gone haywire) over American slang. It's something that crept up on him in 1968. Then a New York University sophomore studying English, he began to collect colorful words and dialogue for what seemed a practical reason: he wanted to write fiction.

The slang collection began simply in a notebook labelled "wordlist." Lighter scoured the few, generally inadequate, American slang reference works available—unlike Britain, America has no long-standing slang dictionary tradition—then proceeded to novels, periodicals and popular speech to plump up his growing collection. Time passed and Lighter noted, "After a few years of indulging this somewhat eccentric hobby (in between the normal indulgences of a college career) I found myself with thousands upon thousands of dated citations illustrating the use of slang in America . . . something had to be done."

In fact, Lighter had collected over 50,000 dated quotations supporting more than 20,000 slang expressions used in various periods of American history. Scribbled on 100 pounds of index cards stuffed into

(Continued on back page)

PROGRAMS OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1977

The Endowment supports a variety of activities in the humanities, principally through "open application" programs, although certain specialized grants are by invitation only. Programs providing support this fiscal year are listed below. The funding shown is for outright grants. Most of the programs also support a large number of projects through gifts and matching Treasury funds as well as through a combination of outright and gift and Treasury funds. A fuller description of Endowment programs is contained in the NEH Program Announcement available on request from the Public Information Office.

Program description	Estimated range of funding and number of awards FY 1977	Eligible applicants	For further information write
PUBLIC PROGRAMS—to benefit the general adult public by using the resources of the humanities to provide insight, information and perspective on value-choices and decisions and on the history and culture of American and foreign societies.			Division of Public Programs
Media Grants—to encourage and support the highest quality film, radio and television production for national and regional broadcast and distribution to a broad adult audience; must involve direct collaboration between outstanding humanities scholars and top technical professionals.	Grants may range from $5,000 to $1,000,000; there will probably be no more than 35 awards.	Non-profit institutions and groups.	Assistant Director, Media Program
Museums and Historical Organizations Program—to develop an interpretive historical overview using cultural and historical objects and drawing upon the past for insight and perspective in presentations to the general public.	Museum grants vary from $5,000 to $200,000, with number of awards between 100 and 120.	Museums, historical societies, and non-profit organizations and institutions that have collections.	Assistant Director, Museums and Historical Organizations Program
State-Based Program—for projects developing the humanities in ways useful to people in each state and applying humanistic knowledge to important public concerns; operated through volunteer citizens' committees for the humanities in each of the 50 states.	Each state group receives a minimum of $200,000 a year.	State-based committees; local groups apply to the committee in their state.	Assistant Director, State-based Program
Program Development—for experimental projects relating humanistic knowledge to the interests and needs of the general adult public, especially through public libraries and national organizations.	Awards range from $6,500 to $650,000 and will probably fund 20-25 projects.	Non-profit institutions and groups.	Assistant Director, Program Development
EDUCATION PROGRAMS			
Institutional Grants—to support the design, testing, implementation, and evaluation of curricular programs to strengthen humanities in individual colleges and universities.		Colleges and universities	Assistant Director, Institutional Grants
a) Consultants Grants—to provide assistance from noted teachers and administrators in developing and evaluating humanities curricula.	Grants of $800 to $6,000 for up to 150 awards.		Program Officer, Consultants Grants
b) Pilot Grants—to enable institutions to test and evaluate new curricula on a pilot basis.	From $25,000 to $50,000 for 25-30 grants.		Program Officer, Pilot Grants
c) Development Grants—to introduce a new, or make extensive revisions in an existing, humanities program in the curriculum.	Grants vary from $60,000 to $500,000, supporting about 20 awards.		Program Officer, Development
d) College Library Grants—awarded jointly by NEH and the Council on Library Resources to colleges and universities to develop stronger ties between humanities offerings and library services.	Grants of $50,000 for 8 or more awards.		Program Officer, College Library Grants
Higher Education Projects Grants—to promote the development, testing, and dissemination of imaginative approaches to humanities education.		Colleges and universities	Assistant Director, Higher Education Projects
a) Humanities Institutes Grants—to enable faculty from various institutions to collaborate in developing humanities curricula on particular topics.	Up to 12 awards of $50,000 to $500,000.		Program Officer, Humanities Institutes
b) Curriculum Materials Grants—to support the development, testing, and dissemination of exemplary curriculum materials in the humanities.	Grants ranging from $1,000 to $1,000,000 for 35-40 awards.		Program Officer, Higher Education Projects
c) General Projects in Higher Education—to support other model projects.	Grants ranging from $1,000 to $1,000,000 for 25-30 awards.		
Elementary and Secondary Education Grants—to improve curriculum materials; to draw on recent humanistic scholarship or the resources of museums and libraries; to provide training for elementary and secondary teachers focusing on substance of humanities; to support design and testing of new programs in neglected fields, and to aid school systems in strengthening their humanities programs.	Grants of $1,000 to $1,000,000 for 50-60 awards.	Elementary and secondary schools and school systems, colleges and universities, and other education organizations.	Assistant Director, Elementary and Secondary Education
Cultural Institutions Grants—to provide formal and systematic education programs in libraries and museums for students and the general public.	From $200,000 to $400,000 for each of up to 4 awards.	Libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions.	Program Officer, Cultural Institutions
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS			Division of Fellowships
Fellowships for Independent Study and Research—for scholars, teachers, writers and others who have produced, or demonstrated promise of producing, significant contributions to humanistic knowledge.	The range of fellowships is $5,000 to $20,000 and awards will be made to approximately 180 fellows.	Individuals	
Fellowships in Residence for College Teachers—for teachers at undergraduate and 2-year colleges, primarily concerned with increasing their knowledge and understanding of the subjects they teach, to study at universities with distinguished faculties and libraries suitable for advanced study.	There will be 16 seminars for approximately 150 fellows awarded up to $15,000 each.	Individuals	
Summer Stipends—for college and university teachers and other humanists to spend two consecutive months in full-time study or research.	$2,500 stipends for 200 teachers and other humanists.	Nomination by institution or apply to NEH if not affiliated.	
Summer Seminars for College Teachers—for teachers at undergraduate and 2-year colleges to work during the summer with distinguished scholars at institutions with libraries suitable for advanced study.	There will be approximately 105 seminars enrolling approximately 1,260 teachers with stipends of $2,000.	Institutions; individuals apply to grantee institution.	
Fellowships and Seminars for the Professions—for professionals outside teaching to study humanistic dimensions of their professional interests; offered to journalists, law teachers, practicing lawyers, medical practitioners, school and public administrators; other professions being added.	Fellowships for 24 professional journalists will be awarded at 2 selected institutions; 25 seminars will enroll 300 to 375 participants.	Institutions; individuals apply to grantee institutions.	
Fellowship Support to Centers for Advanced Study—for scholars in the humanities to attend centers for study and research in their own fields and for interchange of ideas with scholars in other fields.	Support level varies, providing stipends for from 1 to 7 fellows at a small number of centers.	Independent centers for advanced study.	
RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMS			Division of Research Grants
Centers of Research—to support making research collections at national, state and local levels more accessible; to support large-scale collaborative research programs to utilize resources at centers; to support development of automated systems to make library and archival materials more accessible.	Support ranging from $1,500 to $75,000 per year will assist 40 or more projects.	Institutions	
Research Materials—to support the creation of major reference works for humanistic research: e.g., atlases, dictionaries, bibliographies, catalogs and guides; to collect and edit historical, literary or philosophical works.	Research tools grants from $15,000 to $75,000 to support over 90 projects; grants of $65,000 or so for 40 or more editing projects.	Institutions or individuals	
General Research—to support other large-scale, long-range or collaborative research efforts; to support the narrative writing of regional, state and local history; to support innovative research projects.	Grants of $30,000 and up to 100 or so projects; for history, from $10,000 up for 15-30 awards.	Institutions, associations and individuals	
YOUTH PROGRAMS			
Youthgrants in the Humanities—to support humanities projects developed and conducted by students and other young people: educational projects, humanistic research, media presentations, and community programs.	Small awards from $500 to $10,000 will be made to as many as 75 projects.	Institutions or individuals	Youthgrants in the Humanities
Special Youth Projects—to support experimental out-of-school humanities projects for large groups of young people under the direction of experienced professionals in the humanities.	Grants ranging from $20,000 to $250,000 may support up to 15 projects.	Institutions, organizations, and individuals	Special Youth Projects

(PROFILES, continued from page 9)

six orange crates, Lighter's collection—particularly his glossary of U. S. military slang of World War I—was found to be among the best ever assembled. At the suggestion of several of his professors at NYU, he submitted a sampling of his material to the journal *American Speech* and was astonished to have it accepted for publication. "I figured that someone else was sure to be working on something similar, but I was wrong, I was all alone on it." Lighter's conclusions were borne out by reviewers and staff appraising his application for a grant from the Endowment.

But if Lighter's work was extensive, it was still largely incomplete. Most of his collection was 20th-century slang; if he were to fulfill his new-found goal of compiling the first reliable historical dictionary of American slang, he must research the preceding years.

His 1974 Youthgrant in the Humanities made possible a special eight-month study of original sources from the period 1865-1900. Supplied with 15,000 index cards, five notebooks, fifteen typewriter ribbons and some secretarial assistance, Lighter worked full time at the New York Public Library. His reading list, narrowed to 638 titles, produced a staggering 10,000 new citations—reputedly the largest body of slang from that period yet assembled.

Currently in school as a Ph.D. candidate in English at the University of Tennessee, Lighter continues work on his, now, 200-pound "baby." He expects we'll see the dictionary in print by 1980.

Profiles in this issue were written by Sally Ferguson.

NEH Note

ATLAS OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY: The Revolutionary Era, 1760-1790

With research funded largely by the National Endowment for the Humanities, this *Atlas* has been published by Princeton University Press for The Newberry Library of Chicago and the Institute of Early American History and Culture of Williamsburg, Virginia.

Requiring over ten years in development, the *Atlas* is a major Bicentennial project, with Dr. Lester J. Cappon serving as Editor-in-Chief, and involving a research team of more than twenty scholars. It contains 286 new maps enhanced by text and bibliography designed to augment the reader's understanding of the Revolutionary Era. Among the subjects covered are cultural characteristics, military history, politics, demography, manufacturing, and commerce.

NOTICE: Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget on June 17, 1976.

National Endowment for the Humanities
Washington, D. C. 20506

Official Business

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