



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE of the HISTORIAN

Upcoming Events

“FRUS In The World, Part One: New Research on the *Foreign Relations of the United States* series, The Long Nineteenth Century”



[\(http://www.shafr.org/conferences/annual/2011-annual-meeting/\)](http://www.shafr.org/conferences/annual/2011-annual-meeting/)

[\(http://www.shafr.org/conferences/annual/2011-annual-meeting/\)](http://www.shafr.org/conferences/annual/2011-annual-meeting/)

A PANEL AT THE SOCIETY FOR HISTORIANS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS ANNUAL MEETING
 JUNE 24, 2011

- Chair
 - William B. McAllister, Ph.D. Special Projects Director, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State
- Presenters
 - Aaron Marrs, Ph.D., Research Historian, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State
 - Peter Cozzens, Special Assistant to The Historian, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State
- Commentators
 - Howard Jones, Ph.D., University of Alabama
 - J.C.A Stagg, Ph.D, University of Virginia

As part of the sesquicentennial commemoration of the FRUS series, the Office of the Historian has launched a major research initiative to examine numerous questions about the series that have remained unexamined for 150 years. The most significant results of this research will be revealed in the two sessions we propose to present at the 2011 SHAFR annual meeting. Why was the series launched in 1861, and how was it shaped by previous public releases of foreign policy documents? Why did the series continue after its ostensible reason for publication, the Civil War, ended? What controversies surrounded the compilation and publication of the series in the later 19th century? This panel will shed important new light on multiple aspects of 19th century U.S. history and historiography, including relations between the legislative and executive branches, conceptions about “openness in government” in a nineteenth-century context, issues of professional expertise and politicization involved in producing FRUS volumes, and important foreign policy issues of the era. In order to explore this topic thoroughly, we anticipate that each presenter will speak for 30 minutes, followed by substantial remarks from the two commentators, with sufficient time reserved for the audience to participate in a larger discussion of the issues raised.

“Publicizing Foreign Relations in Time of War: The Foundation of the Foreign Relations of the United States Series”

Aaron W. Marrs

An examination of early Foreign Relations of the United States volumes gives us an opportunity to investigate how the federal government presented its foreign policy to the American people, and how the populace reacted to foreign policy. Using the volumes themselves, Department of State documents, and private papers, this paper will demonstrate that FRUS was composed for a domestic (not international) audience and constitutes an example of the federal balance of powers. This paper will shed light on FRUS’s early history, contrast the volumes with the ad hoc publications which preceded them, and explore the contemporary implications of its publication.

“Charming Volumes for Summer Outings”: FRUS and the Transformation of American Foreign Policy, 1870-1900

Peter Cozzens

This paper will examine the role the FRUS series played during the transformative years of American Foreign Policy from 1870-1900. It will place especial emphasis on Congressional, public, and foreign reception of the series and the series’ impact on American foreign policy and transparency in government. Also examined will be the quality and completeness of the volumes, particularly with respect to salient policy issues and crises. The paper will be based on research principally in government documents, private papers, and period newspapers.

“FRUS In The World, Part Two: New Research on the Foreign Relations of the United States series, The Twentieth Century in Comparative Perspective”



[\(http://www.shafr.org/conferences/annual/2011-annual-meeting/\)](http://www.shafr.org/conferences/annual/2011-annual-meeting/)

[\(http://www.shafr.org/conferences/annual/2011-annual-meeting/\)](http://www.shafr.org/conferences/annual/2011-annual-meeting/)

A PANEL AT THE SOCIETY FOR HISTORIANS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 24, 2011

- Chair
 - Michael Hogan, Ph.D., President of the University of Illinois
- Presenters
 - Joshua Botts, Ph.D., Research Historian, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State
 - Sacha Zala Ph.D., Director, Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland, Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Commentators
 - Richard Immerman, Ph.D., Temple University

- Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman, Ph.D., San Diego State University

As part of the sesquicentennial commemoration of the FRUS series, the Office of the Historian has launched a major research initiative to examine numerous questions about the series that have remained unexamined for 150 years. The most significant results of this research will be revealed in the two sessions we propose to present at the 2011 SHAFR annual meeting. This panel will shed important new light on multiple aspects of 20th century U.S. history, including the growing professionalization of both the historical profession and the Foreign Service, the tension between the rising status of the United States in world affairs and the desire to promote informed public debate through release of foreign policy documents, the international ramifications of revelations that impact other governments, and political factors that can shape the compilation and publication of FRUS volumes. This panel will also feature an important international comparative perspective by including the prominent Swiss scholar Sacha Zala, who has examined how several European governments have dealt with many of these same issues. In order to explore this topic thoroughly, we anticipate that each presenter will speak for 30 minutes, followed by substantial remarks from the two commentators, with sufficient time reserved for the audience to participate in a larger discussion of the issues raised.

“A Pandora’s Box Has Been Opened”: The Politics of the Yalta FRUS

Joshua Botts

This paper examines the origins, compilation, reception, and consequences of the Yalta FRUS volume. The Yalta volume was notable for several reasons. It not only sparked intense public controversy upon its 1955 release, but it also represented the culmination of the professionalization of FRUS that began in the 1920s and introduced methodological changes that transformed the compilation and scope of the FRUS series during the postwar period. The paper uses Department of State and Congressional records, personal manuscript collections, and newspapers to examine issues of domestic and bureaucratic politics, diplomacy, and national security as FRUS entered the Cold War era.

“The War of Documents” and the Professionalization of the Editor’s Work: A Comparative View

Sacha Zala

This paper will place the FRUS series in comparative international perspective by examining similar issues that have arisen in European official publications of foreign policy documents. Topics will include how the FRUS series impacted, and was impacted by, the “War Guilt Controversy” of the 1920s; controversies surrounding the publication of FRUS volumes on the Paris Peace Conferences; the use of captured German records as a Cold War propaganda tool; and general observations about developing professional standards for historians and government employees surrounding the use and release of sensitive foreign policy documents.

Recent Events

[“Crisis and Change in the Foreign Relations of the United States Series, 1861-2011”](http://shfg.org/shfg/feature-archive/conference-registration/)



[\(http://shfg.org/shfg/feature-archive/conference-registration/\)](http://shfg.org/shfg/feature-archive/conference-registration/)

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[archive/conference-registration/](#)

A PANEL AT THE SOCIETY FOR HISTORY IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 31, 2011

- Chair
 - William B. McAllister, Ph.D. Special Projects Director, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State
- Presenters
 - Aaron Marrs, Ph.D., Research Historian, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State
 - Peter Cozzens, Special Assistant to The Historian, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State
 - Joshua Botts, Ph.D., Research Historian, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State

The *Foreign Relations of the United States* (FRUS) series, the official documentary record of U.S. foreign policy, enters its 150th year of continuous publication in 2011. The Department of State's Office of the Historian, which publishes the FRUS series, is conducting significant new research about the historical development of the series. To commemorate the FRUS sesquicentennial, we propose to share the most significant early results of this research at the 2011 SHFG Annual Conference. This panel will shed important new light on multiple aspects of 18th through 20th century history and historiography, including pre-1861 releases of foreign policy documents, relations between the legislative and executive branches, conceptions about "openness in government" in a 19th century context, the growing professionalization of both historians and the Foreign Service, the tension between the rising status of the United States in world affairs and the desire to promote informed public debate through release of foreign policy documents, the international ramifications of revelations that have an impact on other governments, and evolving political factors that have shaped and continue to shape the compilation and publication of FRUS volumes. We also envision allotting sufficient time after the presentations to engage in question-and-answer and general discussion with the audience about issues of interest to them.
