

Editing Historical Documents: a Handbook of Practice

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caucuses to the cooperation and collusion of state parties, presidential candidates, and the national and local media. Winebrenner clearly shows that success in the Iowa caucuses does not bring success in other states, but his line of argument falls short of proving the collusion of state parties, candidates, and the media in the preservation of the Iowa caucuses as a national event. This book, however, should be read by students and scholars interested in the process of candidate selection and its most unique forum, the Iowa caucuses.

Editing Historical Documents: A Handbook of Practice, by Michael E. Stevens and Steven B. Burg. Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 1997. 264 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$49.00 cloth, \$24.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY WILLIAM M. FERRARO, ULYSSES S. GRANT ASSOCIATION

This handbook provides a wealth of practical advice for all documentary editors, especially those new to the field or just starting a project. It defines terms such as audience, selection, transcription, annotation, emendation, proofreading, and indexing, and suggests appropriate methods for carrying out each task. Concepts can be grasped quite readily because the handbook reproduces useful examples from published documentary editions, microforms, books, and newsletters. Important considerations facing all editors, such as understanding copyright restrictions, working within the constraints of available monetary resources and time, establishing clear and explicit standards of presentation, and being consistent, unify the nine substantive chapters devoted to editorial procedures.

This work admirably fulfills its stated goal to give examples of usage to guide both experienced and prospective editors. It should also be a valuable resource for members of historical societies and individuals considering the publication of documents in their possession. In their effort to be even-handed and thorough, however, the authors consciously limit normative judgments. Some sense of what really seems to work well, without necessarily denigrating other approaches or methods, would have been desirable. Also, the emphasis is almost entirely on historical documents published in print or on microfilm. There is little here to assist those interested in editing short stories, poems, or other creative pieces, and those seeking to disseminate documents via the Internet or some other electronic medium must refer to home pages (helpfully indicated in the text) where such issues are under investigation.

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