

# In Memoriam

---

WAYNE C. GROVER  
1906–1970

Although it is an act of devotion to a cherished friend and an opportunity to emphasize the merits of the principal archivist of the mid-20th century, it is still a heavy responsibility to write about Wayne C. Grover. The premature loss of this man of integrity, ideas, and determination is a grievous one.

Dr. Grover joined the staff of the National Archives in its first year, before its new building was completed, and proved to be an industrious, studious, and quiet worker. He was one of several who transferred to other agencies during and after World War II and returned to the National Archives with broadened competence. In the War Department he became its principal staff officer for records management, administered the records work of the Adjutant General's office, and initiated the system of Army records centers. He attained the rank of lieutenant colonel, and his accomplishments were recognized by his Legion of Merit citation.

He became Archivist of the United States in 1948, a year after his return to the Archives. The loss of the agency's independent status was then inevitable. Had it not been for Wayne Grover the professional character of the Archives would have been subordinated to a management concept, rather than vice versa. Although there is still disagreement concerning the proper placement of the archival function within the Federal Government, it is a tribute to Grover that there is almost unanimity on the importance of having an Archivist at its head who meets the professional standards he exemplified.

In 1949 the Archivist became the head of a major "service" within the new General Services Administration, and Grover held his post under five successive Administrators, winning the support of each for the Archives. This not only attested to his prestige but added to it, for during that time the occupant of every other major position in the agency was changed several times.

Among the first notable achievements of his administration was completion of centralizing in the National Archives the valuable official records of all the principal agencies of the Government. That process culminated in the transfer of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and related documents in 1952 from the Library of Congress. The Federal Records Act, for which he was largely responsible, recognized the cooperative roles of archivists and records managers; it stated for the first time the duty of administrators to keep informative records; and it clarified the role of archivists in preserving historical materials and making them available to scholars.

Using his wartime experience Grover brought about the systems of records management guidance to other agencies and of Federal records centers. By planning the placement of some Federal archives in the centers and the distribution of microcopies of some National Archives records among the centers and many nongovernment repositories, he achieved National Archives presence in all parts of the country. This became the basis of greater cooperation with State archives and educational institutions.

At the same time the National Historical Publications Commission was

brought to life and compiled an impressive record of sponsorship of documentary publication series throughout the country. Under his supervision the Federal Register launched a new series, *Public Papers of the Presidents*. Annual volumes for the Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and part of the Johnson administrations were published while Grover was Archivist.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library began opening papers to research just after he became Archivist. Under his supervision a unique system of reviewing and making materials available to scholars was developed, and as a result most of the Roosevelt papers were opened for study far sooner than the papers of any previous President.

Grover dealt personally with five Presidents of the United States in regard to their papers. The pattern of the Roosevelt Library was closely followed at the Truman Library, especially in the prompt opening of the majority of the papers. Grover guided the planning and growth of this Library in considerable detail from its inception in 1950 until his retirement in 1965. In varying degrees he supervised the planning and development of the Eisenhower and Hoover Libraries and the initial planning for the Kennedy and Johnson Libraries. After his retirement he served as a consultant in the development of the last one.

In all the operations that have been cited Grover had officials in charge to whom he delegated effectively and to whom he gave confidence. But the ideas were often his, and he always had the final responsibility. He inspired not by oratory or by pompous charges but by earnest expression and conviction of feasibility.

Outside his own agency, he contributed notably both by professional leadership and by the stimulus of thought. The Society of American Archivists and the International Council on Archives felt his influence significantly, and both elected him to high office. Grover's presidential address given to the Society in 1954 should be required reading for all American archivists, as should the papers he read at the American Historical Association meetings in 1950 and 1953. He was called on countless times for advice from State and local archival and historical agencies, in this country and abroad. To all he evoked the principles expressed in the "Archivist's Code," for which he was largely responsible. He worked with and was recognized by the scholars who use archival materials. Perhaps his most successful effort to establish a body that would bring the advice of scholars to bear on archival affairs was the Harry S. Truman Library Institute, a nongovernmental group that resulted from Grover's planning. Perhaps his greatest recognition came in the award of honorary degrees by three universities and colleges.

Dr. Grover's qualities as an administrator were well stated by another high Federal official who said he "runs a tight shop, produces the goods, presents very few problems, is exceptionally well informed on his agency's programs, is an excellent advocate before the Budget Bureau, [and] has excellent public and Congressional relations . . ." Recognition in this field came in 1962 when he was given 1 of the 10 Career Service Awards by the National Civil Service League.

But he was more than a good administrator; he was a man of high principles and personal sensibility. Always fairminded, he expressed firm belief in equal opportunity for all in his official actions and in his personal life. From those who worked under his supervision he expected devotion to their jobs,

diligence, clarity of thought and expression, and thorough honesty. He was severe about these obligations when necessary but never unkind. His earnest concern about the work to be done was always tempered by a friendly manner, his writings and statements by a genial wit.

Wayne Grover chose to be an archivist and always had faith in the profession. In his retirement letter to the Archives employees' association he spoke on archivists' varied missions:

These missions, as I have repeated many times, are important. They are at the center of man's effort to preserve and carry forward civilization itself. "The written word endures"—at least such portions of the word as we archivists decide are worth preserving! It is a worrisome and responsible task, but I can't think of a nobler one in this rather uncivilized era we find ourselves.

He signed that letter "Affectionately yours."

Dr. Grover was always thoughtful of the families of those he worked with. His colleagues express their warm regards and extend their sympathy to his family.

PHILIP C. BROOKS  
Harry S. Truman Library

THOMAS T. McAVOY  
1903–1969

Thomas T. McAvoy, archivist and educator at Notre Dame University, South Bend, Ind., died suddenly on July 5, 1969. Since 1929 when he was ordained priest, he had been Archivist at Notre Dame where he had received a bachelor's degree in 1925 and in 1930 a master of arts diploma. His Ph. D. was awarded by Columbia University in 1940.

Father McAvoy's first book, *The Catholic Church in North America, 1785–1834*, published in 1940, pointed the direction of his subsequent research, teaching, and writing. Some of his major works are *The Great Crisis in American Catholic History, 1895–1900* (1957); *Father O'Hara of Notre Dame, the Cardinal Archbishop of Philadelphia* (1967); and *A History of the Catholic Church in the United States* (1969). From 1939 to 1960 he was chairman of the department where he attained the rank of professor in 1950. In 1958 he was elected vice president of the American Catholic Historical Association. He just missed being a charter member of the Society of American Archivists. He paid his initial dues in 1937. His seminars in Catholic Church history and historical method whetted the curiosity and encouraged the objectivity of many graduates, who have made McAvoy's name well known, either by publishing under his editorial guidance or by dedicating their books to him. From 1942 to 1969 he served as acting editor or managing editor for the *Review of Politics*, a periodical published by the Notre Dame University Press.

With all the related activities undertaken by Father McAvoy, his genius for organization enabled him to build the manuscript collections and the archives of Notre Dame University into one of the best known documentary depositories in the Middle West. Born at Tipton, Ind., September 12, 1903, he was still a very active scholar until the time of his death.

RAPHAEL N. HAMILTON, S.J.  
Marquette University

THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST