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PROPOSAL FOR INTERNAL FUNDING
SUMMER RESEARCH PROJECT, 2010
NEW ENGLAND, OLD ENGLAND, AND THE CIVIL WAR

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Prologue: Last summer I spent one week working at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. on the project that is described below. During that time I was able to gather from nineteenth-century, Civil War era newspapers that were published in Union states a significant amount of information relating to my project. (A complete report is on file at the Research Office.) The purpose of the present proposal is to seek funding to continue this work in the summer of 2010. In the past, I have gathered and analyzed a good deal of relevant published materials, largely in the form of articles and other items from contemporary newspapers and journals. In the summer of 2010, I would like to move on to examine unpublished, archival materials that relate to the Civil War and Confederate attitudes towards Great Britain. The largest repository of such materials is **The Southern Historical Collection** of the Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This collection is the largest of its type in the United States, as the library's website indicates: *Long at the center of inquiry into the history and culture of the American South, the Southern Historical Collection (SHC) is a vast collection of distinct archival collections. These collections are comprised of unique primary documents, such as diaries, journals, letters, correspondence, photographs,*

maps, drawings, ledgers, oral histories, moving images, albums, scrapbooks, and literary manuscripts.

My **methodology** will be to examine relevant diaries, journals, and correspondence of prominent southerners during the Civil War period, 1860-1865. An evaluation of the Southern Historical Collection using the electronic search facility available on the UNC library web site reveals that several elements of the collection relate to my project. These include the papers and correspondence of prominent Southern officers of the Confederacy as well as diplomats, businessmen, and other prominent citizens who represented and/or reflected upon Confederate interests in Great Britain. My particular focus is on Confederate efforts, both public and private, to influence British sympathy during the war. I am also interested in their view of the influence of Northern intellectuals and writers in England as this “cultural warfare” developed.

The role of Great Britain, it should be stressed, was critical during the war. It was the constant hope of the Confederates that England would eventually enter the war in order to force a cessation of hostilities between the warring factions. This would, de facto, establish the independence of the Confederacy. Britain’s primary reason for doing this would be to insure a steady supply of cotton from the South that was necessary to keep their lucrative textile trade from suffering a cataclysmic collapse. With the Union navy blockading southern ports early in the war, virtually all cotton shipments ceased. Additionally, because many in the British ruling class considered democracy a threatening ideology, they believed that the failure of the “Model Republic” would serve as a timely warning to British reformers that America’s liberal democracy, which they so admired, was misguided and dangerous.

The **result** that I anticipate from this project is that it will add substantially to my already extensive research on this topic. In the long run, I hope to complete a book-length study. In the meantime, I have published five articles that relate to this subject. I have also made several presentations.

Previous Research Funding/Results: As noted above, in the summer of 2009, I received funding (\$2000.00) to travel to the Library of Congress to pursue this project. This and other independent research, has contributed both directly and indirectly to the publications and presentations that have been generated by my research in this area over the past several years. These will eventually be incorporated into my book-length study. (See details below.) I also incorporated a great deal of this primary material into my Senior Seminar, ENLT 490, “Cultural Warfare: England, America, and the Civil War,”

- - - "Fortune of the Republic," in Critical Companion to Ralph Waldo Emerson, ed. Tiffany Wayne (Infobase Publishing, forthcoming, 2010).

- - - "Emerson and the Re-Invention of Democracy: A Lesson for the Twenty-First Century" in New Morning: Emerson in the Twenty-First Century, eds. Michael Brodrick and Arthur Lothstein (State University of New York Press, 2008).

- - - "Victorian Culture and the Rise of American Liberalism," Nineteenth-Century Prose 35 (2) 2008. pp. 205-221.

--- Emerson & Eros: The Making of a Cultural Hero (May 2007, State University of New York Press, 268 pp.).

--- "On The Education of Henry Adams," in American Literature in Historical Context, 1870-1926, eds. Gary Scharnhorst & Tom Quirk (Charles Scribner's Sons, 2006).

--- "Boston and Concord: 1870-1926," in American Literature in Historical Context, 1870-1926, eds. Gary Scharnhorst & Tom Quirk (Charles Scribner's Sons, 2006).

--- "Emerson, Moorfield Storey, and the NAACP: Emersonian Idealism and the Civil Rights Movement," in Emerson Bicentennial Essays, eds. Ronald Bosco and Joel Myerson (University of Virginia Press and the Massachusetts Historical Society, 2006)

--- "Emerson and Great Britain: Challenging the Limits of Liberty," REAL – Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature. Vol., "Liberty Ltd.: Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, and Literature," ed. Brook Thomas (Berlin: Gunter Narr Verlag Tübingen, 2006), pp. 179-213.

--- "Emerson, Whitman, and Eros," Walt Whitman Quarterly Review, 23 (3) 2006. pp. 127-147.

--- "Looking Backwards: Emerson in 1903," in Ralph Waldo Emerson: Bicentenary Appraisals, ed. Barry Tharaud (Trier: WVT Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 2006), pp. 43-61.

PRESENTATIONS

. "Transcendental Abolition," Concord School of Philosophy, Orchard House, Concord, MA, 13 July 2009.

. "Thoreau's Civil War," Thoreau Society Annual Gathering, Concord, MA, 9-12 July 2009.

. "Douglass, Thoreau, Emerson, and Abolition," presentation at the Live and Learn Workshop at Dickinson University, 9 May 2009, sponsored by the Cultural and Heritage Program of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

. "Emerson, Lincoln, and Transcendental Democracy," The Schemel Forum, University of Scranton, September 6, 2008.

. “Emersonian Reform and the Rise of Liberal Democracy,” The Thoreau Society Annual Gathering, Concord, MA. July 10-13, 2008.

--- “‘Only Justice Satisfies All’: Transcendentalism and the Rhetoric of War,” Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. December 27-30, 2006.

--- “Emerson and the Re-Invention of Democracy,” Middle-Atlantic American Studies Association Conference, Harrisburg, PA March 31-April 1, 2006.

--- “Cultural Warfare: Emerson, the British, and Democracy,” Transatlanticism in American Literature: Emerson, Hawthorne, Poe.” Oxford University, Oxford England, July 13-16, 2006.

Finally, I would also like to note here that in July of 2008 I was honored to receive the

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ABSTRACT

The American Civil War was clearly an event of profound importance in the history of the American nation, but it was also a defining moment in Western civilization itself. The world's most liberal democracy was in the process of self-destructing while conservative critics throughout Europe, especially in Great Britain, pointed to the event as proof positive of the failure of that liberal ideology. For them, liberal democracy was a flawed and threatening ideology that failed to recognize the fact that in this world there are people who are born to rule, and others who are born to be ruled. The former are what Matthew Arnold called the "saving remnant," the cultural elite who are depended upon to provide leadership through strong institutions. The latter were everyone else, especially workingmen and, in America, Negro slaves. This attitude, as well as other factors, caused a "cultural conflict" to erupt between New England writers like Emerson, Lowell, Holmes, Longfellow, and others and their British "cousins." This conflict would eventually have a defining influence on the evolution of American literature and life. This project seeks to further research on this question by examining archival documents of the Civil War period in the University of North Carolina's Southern Historical Collection, located in the Wilson Library at Chapel Hill.