

Association News

Project 87

On January 5, the Council approved the first stage (three years) of an interdisciplinary study of the United States Constitution. The design calls for a wide-ranging program of constitutional studies and centers on a scholarly program that includes provision for research grants, residential fellowships, conferences, and seminars.

The ideas for Project 87 grew out of conversations between James MacGregor Burns and Richard B. Morris, who were Presidents, respectively, of the American Political Science Association and the American Historical Association, during the bicentennial year of 1976. Professors Burns and Morris were convinced that political scientists and historians had an important contribution to make to the bicentennial of the Constitution's framing and ratification, and that the effective discharge of this professional responsibility depended upon timely preparation and adequate support.

In response to this vision, the Councils of the two Associations appointed a Joint Committee on the Bicentennial Era. Preliminary discussions were held in 1976 and 1977, and in September 1977, a systematic canvass of the two disciplines, and of the faculties of law schools, was undertaken to determine what work on constitutional studies was in progress and what scholars would propose to do if additional support could be generated. On the basis of the response to this solicitation, and through its own detailed deliberations, the Joint Committee prepared the design that was submitted to the Councils of the two Associations. The AHA Council voted its approval on December 28, 1977, and the APSA Council added its assent a week later.

The design as approved calls for three years of scholarly research and discussion on topics relating to the framing and ratification of the Constitution, the evolution of constitutional form through the years, the analysis of political behavior within the constitutional framework, the reputation and impact of the Constitution as a model at home and abroad, and the assessment of its prospects under modern conditions. It calls also for the development of plans for conveying the fruits of these academic labors to a broader public during the bicentennial decade, through television programs, curricular materials for the schools, community forums, and other modes of popular education.

In addition to Professors Burns and Morris, the Joint Committee included the following mem-

bers: Representing APSA: Kenneth Prewitt, University of Chicago; Heinz Eulau, Stanford University; Harvey Mansfield, Jr., Harvard University; Walter Murphy, Princeton University; Austin Ranney, American Enterprise Institute; Martin Shapiro, University of California, Berkeley; John Wahlke, University of Iowa; and Evron Kirkpatrick, Executive Director of APSA. Representing AHA: Michael Kammen, Cornell University; Patricia Bonomi, New York University; Harold Hyman, Rice University; Herbert Johnson, University of South Carolina; Paul Murphy, University of Minnesota; and Mack Thompson, Executive Director of AHA.

Since September, Professor Donald Allen Robinson, Smith College, has been serving as Project Director.

Pursuant to the action of the two Councils, formal application for financial support will now be made to several private foundations, and to the National Endowment of the Humanities. As soon as sufficient funds are assured, announcement will be made of competitions for research grants and fellowships. It is hoped that these announcements can be made in the Spring of 1978.

James Madison Award

The Council has established a James Madison Award to be given to a living American political scientist who, during his or her career as a whole, has made a distinguished scholarly contribution to political science. The award, to be given no more frequently than every three years, will carry an honorarium of \$1,500, and provides for the winner to present an address on the occasion of receiving the award at the Annual Meeting. The Madison Award has been endowed through the generosity of Ernest Griffith, former Director of the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress and Dean Emeritus of the American University School of International Service. Dr. Griffith also served as Chairman in the late 1940s of the Association's Research Committee, which initiated the development of Association awards for professional recognition.

The first James Madison award will be presented at the 1978 Annual Meeting. Members of the Award Selection Committee are Ernest Griffith, American University, Emeritus, Chairperson; Richard Fenno, University of Rochester; and Samuel C. Patterson, University of Iowa. Nominations from individuals and depart-

ments for the award are welcome. Letters of nomination should be forwarded to the Chairperson of the Committee in care of the APSA at the National Office.

James Madison's Political Science

Ann Stuart Diamond
American Enterprise Institute

The *Philosopher, the Statesman, and the Patriot*, says John Quincy Adams of James Madison in his 1836 eulogy. Appropriately the last Founder to die, Madison was also the political scientist *par excellence*. Thus an account written of him in 1789 describes him as "well-versed in public life, was bred to it, and has no other profession" yet politics "is rather a science than a business, with him." Madison sought to understand the science of man and society in the spirit of the Scottish Enlightenment. Like Newton with the physical world, these thinkers believed that laws of human nature could be discovered and applied to human affairs.

Combining a study of history with theory, Madison excelled in the new science of politics. The surest examples of this genius are *Federalist Papers* Numbers 10 and 51. Madison was always the scholar-statesman: he would "state a principle and deduce the consequences, with clearness and simplicity," he was "a studious man, devoted to public business, and a thorough master of every public question that can arise, or he will spare no pains to become so, if he happens to be in want of information."

Even before the Federal Convention of 1787 Madison had mastered all the known literature on ancient and modern federal republics, and he arrived in Philadelphia with two detailed memoranda, "Notes of Ancient and Modern Confederacies" and "Vices of the Political System of the United States." There he put them to remarkable use. These researches and his own theorizing persuaded Madison that a republic was possible in a large territory. We can only marvel at the clear-eyed courage and conviction with which he convinced a majority of fellow delegates to embark on an experiment in government hitherto unknown on this earth. "His theory, embodied in the structure of the American Union, was to prove . . . the greatest triumph in practical application of the [Scottish] Enlightenment's ideal of scientific political research," wrote Douglass Adair.

As the statesman, one of Madison's greatest—yet least known—achievements was to put himself at the head of a "potentially dangerous" opposition which arose in the early 1790's in response to Hamilton's policies. By so doing he ensured it would remain a loyal opposition. In speeches, articles, and letters Madison attacked the conduct of individuals, emphasizing that the Constitution, the structure of the

union, was not at fault. Before Jefferson came to lead what is known as the Jeffersonian Republicans, Madison had established the "principles of the opposition" in the spirit of a higher loyalty: to Constitutional principles. So the American tradition of vigorous political disagreements, both sides appealing to Constitutional principles, was born, in a form that preserves and invigorates the constitutional order James Madison did so much to create.

Throughout his long life Madison studied, taught, and practiced the science of politics in its highest sense. There is no more fitting example of the honorable calling of political scientist.



James Madison

Ethnic and Cultural Pluralism Award

An annual Ethnic and Cultural Pluralism Award has been established by the Council to recognize the best scholarly work in political science published within the previous five years exploring the phenomenon of ethnic and cultural pluralism. The Council, at the suggestion of Matthew Holden, has authorized efforts to endow the new award and tax deductible contributions to support a permanent fund will be welcome. Checks should be made out to the APSA Ethnic and Cultural Pluralism Award Fund.

Nominations for the award, the first of which will be made at the 1978 Annual Meeting, are made by publishers. Members of the Selection Committee are C. Vernon Gray, Morgan State University, Chairperson; Ralph Guzman, University of California, Santa Cruz; and Victor A. Olorunsola, Iowa State University.