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MAR 1 1971

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY  
APPLETON, WISCONSIN 54911

February 25, 1971

*Pres Smith*  
PRESIDENT

George Winchester Stone, Dean  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
New York University  
Washington Square  
New York, New York 10003

Dear Win,

Thanks for a copy of the letter to Mrs. Polard. I'd like very much to thank her, but I'm not sure whether some of the names in the first line of the address, "VenLennep Guggenheim Logan" were her names or the name of the compound or something where she is staying. Or is the whole thing the style in which she is addressed?

I guess the best way to find a date for our spring meeting would be to try one and see what happens. As far as I can discover, almost any early part of a week in the first part of April works all right on this end. Easter is the 11th. How about this?

Sunday, 4 April: arrive

Monday

morning: visit class in theatre, see officials  
lunch with theatre types

afternoon: board meeting, demo of information bank

Cocktails and dinner in honor of editors and publisher of  
LS and their wives

Tuesday, 6 April: depart

Project will underwrite transportation for board members; food and lodging for members and wives. It would cost about as much for Will and me to go to New York.

From March 5 to 15 the Schneiders can be reached at The Heatherbed, Aspen Highlands, Aspen, Colorado, where the long-awaited ski holiday has finally

*April 26*

*OK?*  
*Y.P.*  
*T.S.*

Dean George Winchester Stone - 2  
February 25, 1971

materialized.

Still trying to get a grasp of our new position. I feel a bit like Cortez staring with a wild surmise. When the view clarifies, I will present some plan for the next 5 months.

Sincerely yours,

Ben R. Schneider, Jr.

BRS:rl

Enc:

President Smith

422  
2:30pm

Here's the way it seems to have settled  
down - Ben

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APR 6 1971

PRESIDENT

Spring Meeting of London Stage Information Bank

Advisory Board

<sup>22</sup> 1971  
Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

2:30 PM Mr Stone has appointment with Mr Smith, President's office

3 PM Demonstration of information bank at computer center of  
Institute of Paper Chemistry

5 PM Reception for members of advisory board at 826 East Alton  
Street (Schneider home) Smiths invited

7 PM Dinner at Downer center, advisory board and theatre people

<sup>23</sup>  
Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

9:15 AM Tour of theatrical facilities Music-Drama Center

9:50 AM Meeting with drama students and faculty--Music Drama Center

11:00 AM Meeting of advisory board; Seminar room of Music Drama Center  
Seminar 138 Music Drama Center

12:30 PM Lunch with administrators, Downer Center, to discuss future  
of Information Bank at Lawrence (Headrick, Wroistad, Waring,  
chairmen of English and drama, Dana for computer  
committee)

1:30 PM Continuation of Advisory board meeting

2:30 PM End of spring meeting

Pres Smith  
Note corrections

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APR 6 1971

PRESIDENT

Spring Meeting of London Stage Information Bank

Advisory Board

Thursday, April 22nd

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- 5 PM Reception for members of advisory board at 826 East Alton Street (Schneider home)
- 7 PM Dinner at Downer center

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- 9:50 AM Meeting with drama students and faculty--Music Drama Center
- 11:00 AM Meeting of advisory board; Seminar room of Music Drama Center Seminar 138 Music Drama Center
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- 1:30 PM Continuation of Advisory board meeting
- 2:30 PM End of spring meeting

744  
Smith  
ym Smith

Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee  
Computerized Index for The London Stage

The Spring meeting of the Advisory Committee met on 22,23, April 1971 in Appleton, Wisconsin, enjoying the hospitality of Ben R. Schneider, Jr., and his colleagues at Lawrence University. Dean Stone, Mr. Sternberg, Professor Cecil Price, were joined by Dean John W. Robinson (Nebraska), Professor Schneider, and Mr. Will Daland. At a number of the sessions the following from Lawrence University were present: Vice President Marwin Wrolstad, Vice President Thomas Headrick, Dr. Sherwin Howard, Professor Herbert Tjossem, Dean Graham Waring, and Professor Joseph Hopfensperger.

Dean Stone met early on Thursday afternoon with President Thomas S. Smith of Lawrence, who seemed interested in the project as it is set up, at least in its pilot stage. This visit was followed by a visit of the Committee to the Computer Center for a study and demonstration of what has so far been accomplished. All were impressed by the progress that had been made in terms of developing a program for retrieval for a single year (1738-39). Professor Price requested the information available during that season for the actor/singer Reinhold. Within ten minutes a print-out was produced which gave date, play, afterpiece, role and actor, not only for Reinhold, but for all actors at all theatres that season. One interested in Mrs. Clive, for example, could tell quickly from the evidence that she played 38 parts in 35 plays, and acted 126 nights. Since the parts were all spelled out one could make a fine comparative study of her roles. The instrument seems fast and useful. The one thing necessary for a developed program is absolute accuracy of input. All agreed that as errors were found (which turn up visibly in the computer listings) a table of errata should be run off, sent to the surviving editors for entry later. Dean Stone was to find out what disposition had been made of Professor Avery's original slips, as a means for checking errata.



Professor Schneider and his wife held a large reception for the Committee and the Lawrence persons interested in the project, followed by a dinner for a number of others.

April 23 began with a tour of the theatre arts facilities at Lawrence, conducted by Professor Hopfensperger. This was followed by a panel session with the drama and theatre students at which the inception and accomplishments of The London Stage volumes were explained, and the usefulness of the retrieval information system was outlined. Students and faculty asked questions and the panelists responded.

A morning meeting of the Committee was held followed by an afternoon one. In between the Lawrence authorities lunched with the Committee members and discussed the possibility of further commitment of the University to completing the project. The Lawrence officials seemed favorably disposed to considering, at least, a proposal for continuation on a five year basis-- a proposal which would involve some part-time secretarial support, some space, and some released time for Professor Schneider. The analogy was drawn with University support of a scholarly journal, Lawrence would be contributing to international 18th-Century theatre and drama scholarship (plus the periphery of scholarship in social history included in the volumes of The London Stage) and would by such support be gaining some scholarly visibility for its English and Theatre departments. All felt it would be advisable, were this project undertaken, to issue a quarterly Newsletter to key members of the profession, in order to make known the facilities being developed in the project.

### The Committee Meetings

1. Complete text conversion. Professor Schneider noted that the present budget (the funds and matched funds, that is) would cover expenses for the pilot year extended to August 31, and that the unmatched funds would allow a surplus which might be well expended in converting the total 23 million characters to computer readable tapes. He presented comparative costs from six sources for doing this. They ranged from estimates of \$38,000 to \$8,700. After long discussion approval was given to contract with China Data Systems and Information Control, Inc. to do the whole LS for an estimated \$10,946. The contract to be drawn by Lawrence (with skillful aid of Vice President Wrolstad, after Mr. Stone had checked a bit further with China Data (Mr. David Shiu) in New York, the funds to be put in escrow until the tapes were received and checked. Professor Schneider is to color-code and make editorial preparation of copy for China Data. He hopes to do this in a three-month period, but extension may be necessary.

### 2. Specifications for Computer readable form:

- a. All parenthetical material in cast lists, in song, dance, music and entertainment sections, will be bracketed or otherwise set off but not discarded; that is, everything that is not a name, role, or title, including:

subtitles	lengthy descriptions
"first times..."	etc.
"with this and thats..."	

- b. '&c.' at end of dancer lists will be discarded.  
'// ' in cast list (Part 5) will be replaced with semicolon.  
Page numbers will be discarded, except for introductions.  
Mr will be discarded from all male names, but all other male and female forms of address will be kept, as will all initials and forenames appearing in the text.

'Cast not listed' will be discarded.  
Day of week will be dropped. (Can be assigned by  
mathematical formula if needed).

- c. Time notation for singing, dancing, music and entertainment will be kept.
- d. A performance entry normally contains information about what actually occurred at a specific time and place but the following non-standard variations occur, and must be dealt with.
  - i "see" references to previous casts when no cast is listed for a given date. In this case, we enter the previous cast with '?' after each actor's name.
  - ii Play advertised but not given will be indicated by symbol np (ie not performed).
  - iii Date, and/or theatre, and/or play not known. A system of special numbers and letters will handle this.
  - iv Play, and/or date, and/or theatre questionable. Another set of numbers and letters can be used to handle this.
- e. Double quotation marks will be used for italics: Quoted material need not be specified as such.

3. Proposed Schedule for Index. The academic year 1971-72 will be used for raising funds for the completion. Presumably we should (if Lawrence undertakes logistic support) have the index ready in a print-out or on tape by August 1973. This will require a budget of about \$40,000. Hopefully the NEH will make up half, if the other half can be matched. (Another \$20,000 will be needed if we incorporate the Low Bibliography). Professor Schneider will prepare this budget. The schedule is based upon the assumption that Mr. Golden (ACLS) will come through with his "Generalized Indexing Formatting System with Photo-composition Capability." This system with its documentation will allow anyone to program the material.

4. Proposals. Two proposals are necessary in the next phase of the work. Both will be prepared by Professor Schneider, with help from Dean Stone:

- a) a statement of need, accomplishment so far, cost, and plan as a basis for appealing for financial support to the NEH and other foundations;

- b) a proposal for logistic support from Lawrence for a five year term, including secretarial help, released time for Professor Schneider, and a photocopied Newsletter of modest proportions.

5. Enlargement of Advisory Committee. Dean John W. Robinson (Nebraska, and co-editor of the Low Bibliography of English Theatrical Literature, 1559-1900) was asked to join and accepted. Dean Stone was asked to augment the membership of distinguished English scholars by asking Professor William A. Armstrong (King's College, London) to be a member.

6. Publicity. It is hoped that a constant up-dating of information will be available at the Lawrence establishment, by our ultimately incorporating the Low Bibliography, the Stratman Restoration and 18th-Century Research, and the Highfill and Burnim Dictionary of Actors. The immediate target, however, is to store on discs the contents of The London Stage and to produce for the Southern Illinois University Press the material for the Index volumes. All projects will be made useful if we publicize. The PMLA note (March 71) has already brought forth a number of inquiries. Insertions will continue to be made to that Journal. The Newsletter (Schneider to prepare copy and submit to Sternberg for designing) could and should be sent to the editors of The Johnsonian Newsletter, the Scriblerian, and other likely journals. Professor Schneider is to make known the project at the Dartmouth Conference (22-24 June 1971), and Professor Price is to do the same at the 18th-Century Drama Symposium at Manchester (England) 10-12 July 1971.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

*Geo. Winchester Stone*

Geo. Winchester Stone, Jr.

26 April 1971





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10 Washington Place, Room 401  
New York, N.Y. 10003

1-11-73  
Schneider  
file

3 January 1973

Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee  
for the Computerized Index of  
The London Stage

On Friday 29 December 1972, during the sessions of the MLA Meeting, the following met for two hours to discuss the topics commented on below: Ben R. Schneider, Jr., John W. Robinson, Arthur H. Scouten, G.W. Stone, Jr., with guests Philip H. Highfill, Kalman Burnim, Edward A. Langhans, and Philip Hines (Old Dominion University Norfolk, Va.).

Mr. Stone noted that Cecil Price and Vernon Sternberg had sent regrets at not being able to attend.

1. Finances: Mr. Stone noted with pleasure the grant from the Mellon Foundation in the amount of \$40,000, which, added to that of Mr. William Bradford of \$2,500, would bring a matching grant of \$42,500 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This total sum makes the budget requested in the Proposal of June 3 1971, sent by the Lawrence University authorities to the NEH.

Mr. Stone noted that this was the last money he would be able to raise, that he had canvassed during the past two years 35 Foundations and 17 well-disposed individuals. All of these expressed some interest, but all have other priorities more pressing in the eyes of their Boards, than the London Stage.

Mr. Schneider noted that the budget had been carefully planned, and that it would carry the project to September 1974, with the completion of the items stated in the Proposal.

The thanks of all were extended to the donors.

2. Expansion of the data base: Considerable discussion was given to inclusions of other items-- Stage dictionaries, Actors Biographies and Stage history in the 19th-century. Mr. Stone wished to be sure that completion of the London Stage Index, the project basic to the whole operation, and for which he had solicited funds, would be made. He was assured that this would be done by March 1975 (a six-month delay due to delay in the funding schedule). He believed that concrete

evidence of the value of the computerized data bank would provide best grounds for eliciting future grants as the project expanded. Professor Schneider guaranteed to produce a print-out of the London Stage Index, (alphabetical by persons and titles mentioned, and keyed to chronology rather than to page numbers) by March 1975. (See below item 6).

It was the consensus that added items (bibliographies, etc.) would have to bring dollars with them to insure inclusion in the proper format in the data bank. The important matter for the scholarly community to be aware of is that projects underway and now being planned, which might conceivably be included, be printed from machine-readable tape, which itself could be turned over to Lawrence, and thus save many steps and much expense. Also any English Stage treatments branching into the 19th century should also follow the format of the London Stage for reasons both of economy of inclusion in the data bank, and for ease in future scholarly research. It seems foolish for scholars to have to adjust to a new system of calendaring -- by theatre, instead of by year, or by calendar rather than by theatrical season.

Mr. Highfill asked about composition by tapes for his Actor Dictionary, and was distressed to learn from Mr. Schneider's report of a letter from Mr. Sternberg that composition for the first two volumes, at least, had not been thus done. Mr. Stone was asked to find out why.

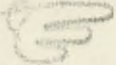
3. Self-sustaining support: It appeared that utilization of this magnificent instrument, flexible and comprehensive as it is, would have to be put on a self-sustaining basis. Mr. Schneider suggested that one way would be to have English Departments, both here, in England, and elsewhere subscribe annually (at a fee to be determined) for the service. The model of the University of Michigan in the Political Science Field with census data, etc. was suggested. Consensus was, however, that the model was unrealistic for English Department budgets throughout this country, where in large departments only a relatively few would be concerned with the 18th-century, and fewer still with theatrical and dramatic history in the period 1660-1800. It was felt that the services should be bought by those individually interested in the fields embraced by the contents of the Bank. If after a cost-study project it were determined that a \$50.00 fee was needed per inquiry, the individual scholar would have to find the sum from his pocket, or from his department or school research funds, or from private outside sources. Action: Mr. Schneider is to draw up a proposal or two, offering the most likely options that should be adopted for cost support. These to be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee.

4. Register of inquiries: Mr. Schneider was complimented on his progress thus far, and upon his Newsletter. He was asked to compile and keep current a register of all inquiries that come in, so that the Committee can assess the widespread (or narrow) usefulness of the bank. He was also asked to insert notices concerning the Bank into Nineteenth-Century Research, as well as the other computer oriented journals. Making all scholars aware of the resource will help vastly in creating the market for support.

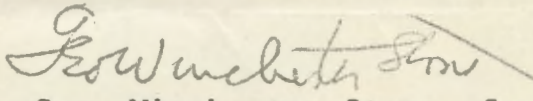
5. Convocations of scholars: It was felt important that we request a joint seminar at the 1973 MLA meeting with the Computers and the Humanities people in order to discuss the topic of "compatibility in computer systems in the humanities". Others may gain much from hearing of our experiences, and it becomes vitally important that standard formats be developed, lest Babel reproduce itself. Mr. Schneider was asked to get in touch with Professor Richard Bailey (University of Michigan) who ran a seminar on "Computer study of Language and Literature" at the 1972 meeting, and Professor Joseph Raben (Queens College, N.Y.) who has a proposal underway for a large computer project for the humanities, to see what sort of useful seminar could be mounted. Secondly it was suggested that knowledge of the London Stage data bank and its opportunities should be made known to the American Society for Theatre Research members at their annual meeting in November 1973. Mr. Stone said he would write to Professor Oscar Brockett, University of Indiana, who is in charge of the ASTR program, to see what the possibilities were for an appearance (probably by Ben Schneider) on that program next November.

6. Special problems of the London Stage Index: Although it was clear that the Index should flow together and reconcile in one alphabetical listing all names and titles appearing in the eleven volumes of the London Stage Calendars and Headnotes, a number of those present wondered what guidance future scholars could get from it about subject headings, such as those matters dealt with in the five introductions-- command performances, benefits, advertising, taxation, management, repertoire, music, etc. Specification of these items by Part, Vol, and Roman small-cap numerals, would not interfere with the other listing by chronology, and would (with a proper headnote) direct the reader to the proper "Introductions." Problems arose as to the subject categories to be listed. It was noted that the first four parts follow in general a similar 17-chapter format, which could be the basis for minimal subject headings. Mr. Scouten suggested that he, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Hogan have a look at the indices for the paper-back editions of their introductions, to see what categories seemed necessary, or wheter these should be reproduced (but integrated) as they now stand, or whether

the Bank editor should take a set and underscore in red all items which would be keyed and thrown into the computer bank. A person therefore, asking hereafter, for all information on "box receipts" and "tickets" would gain a full yield not only from the relevant Calendar items, but also be pointed towards pertinent discussions of these in the various "Introductions."

 Mr. Scouten and Mr. Hogan and Mr. Stone are asked to examine their Introductions and their paper-back indexes, and to send comments and suggestions to Mr. Stone, for a discussion item at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. with the thought that the next should probably be called in the late Spring of 1973.

  
Geo. Winchester Stone, Jr.  
Dean

ser

cc: To all present  
Advisory Committee members  
Mellon Foundation  
William Bradford

74  
see  
you  
you  
W. Stone

9 Washington News  
New York, N.Y. 10003  
30 September 1974

Professor Joseph Dominus  
Department of English  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, Mass

Dear Joe,

I have just returned from Appleton, where Vernon Sternberg and I had a day's session with Ben Schneider and Dean Thomas Headrick about the progress and problems remaining in the ISIS and particularly the LS computerized index.

One item in our agenda was the most effective tie-in that could, for the benefit of future scholarship, be made with you and the 19th-century ISIS. We all agreed in principle that sharing of information and programs in order to insure compatibility in retrieval was most desirable. The details of working out that sharing will be an item on the agenda of our Advisory Committee meeting on Friday 27 December 1974 at the MLA meetings. This is the first occasion at which we can assemble the group. I extend herewith to you and Jim Ellis an invitation to attend.

Ben Schneider has some specifics about producing compatible format which our Advisory group should look at. He has sent me the correspondence you and he have had recently, which I am now digesting. I suspect we can come to an agreement at the time of the meeting. Our intent is for cooperation both ways for the good of the profession, so some mutually beneficial exchange of programs and tapes can undoubtedly be worked out.

One thing you might be thinking about in any application for a grant is the value of including consultation funds, so that you can capitalize on the experience which Ben Schneider, for example, has gained. An exchange of the soft-ware program we are using might indeed save your grant much money.

All the best,

Sincerely yours,

Geo. Winchester Stone, Jr.  
Chairman

cc. Dean Headrick ✓  
Vernon Sternberg  
Ben Schneider  
Jim Ellis