SPECIAL EDITION GRANT'S TOMB DEDICATION OF 1897

The matter of whether patronage is necessarily synonymous with corruption provides an additional question of consistency: for historians, if the reformers' verdict is true, must explain how Grant's predecessors, most of whom practiced patronage, led administrations exempt from the brand of corruption. What is ironic about the traditional picture of honest reformers opposing the president's corrupt party henchmen is that Grant was actually the first president since the establishment of the Jacksonian spoils system to initiate civil service reform.

The arguability of the reformers' charges against Grant extends to cases of actual corruption. The Credit Mobilier scandal, the most conspicuous of the so-called Grant scandals, was in fact only uncovered by the administration. The corrupt activity had occurred in 1867-68, before Grant even became president. Nowhere else in the American political tradition is a president held accountable for corruption dating back to a previous administration. The reformers also charged such figures as cabinet members George H. Williams and George M. Robeson with corruption, and although the record showed the baselessness of such charges, historians evidently see this minor point as negligible. No major study of the Grant presidency makes the connection between the untrustworthiness and utter damage of the reformers' accusations and Grant's adverse behavior toward such reformers as Secretary of the Treasury Benjamin Bristow, who made serious allegations concerning the president's private secretary, Orville Babcock, without sufficient evidence. The weakness of the reformers' charges, however, is in itself an insufficient explanation of the political environment of the Grant presidency. The crucial issue that remains to be explored--Reconstruction--sheds light on the entire political situation. There was more to the reformers than civil service reform, just as there was more to Grant's supporters than patronage.

In order to understand the reformers, one must understand the circumstances under which they first came into existence as an organized group dedicated specifically to defeating Grant in 1872 through the Liberal Republican Party. Grant's suspension of habeas corpus in nine South Carolina counties in 1871 marked a singular display of peacetime presidential power, and in Benedict's words, "The effect was electric. "Reformers lamented the sacrifice of 'real' issues, such as the tariff and civil-service reform, to the 'dead' one symbolized by the 'bloody shirt'...and the use of federal troops (in the South) as gross violations of civil liberty, but they were also forced at last to give up their open hostility to equal rights and black suffrage. Announcing a "new departure," they promised to accept the finality of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments. The new departure enabled Democrats, reform Republicans, and some Republican politicians who had lost power in their party to unite against Grant's re-election. Calling themselves Liberal republicans, the dissident Republicans met...(in 1872 ) to name a candidate whom the Democrats would endorse". 1

The administration's success that led to the "new departure" was one of President Grant's crowning achievements, but Grant would pay dearly for it in history. Having lost their old focus and finding themselves desperately in need of a new one, the Liberal Republican movement began to focus upon what they questionably termed corruption. Both the birth and the survival of Grant's enemies as a group specifically focused on Grant himself and the new politics of the Gilded Age was deeply intertwined with Grant's dedication to Reconstruction. "(Liberal reform had come to view Reconstruction as an expression of all the real and imagined evils of the Gilded Age," Historian Eric Foner asserted, and "the rise of (pro-Grant) Stalwarts did less to undermine Republican Southern policy than the emergence of an influential group of party reformers whose revolt against the new politics of the Grant era" caused them to "demand...an end to Reconstruction". 2

It is the centrality of Reconstruction issues in Grant's political situation that has led to a great deal of oversight by historians. Grant's years in office cannot be understood if the politics of the Gilded Age is separated from the politics of Reconstruction. Both were primary features of the 1870's, and in order to understand Grant's political situation, historians must recognize how fundamental the inconsistency was between the reformers' revered conception of government by the best educated and the notion of black rule in the South, the latter being an essential part of Grant's program. The president's dedication to Reconstruction, which endured even after most national leaders declared it misguided, produced a civil rights record which, according to Richard N. Current, made Grant, "in a certain respect, one of the greatest presidents" with whom "only Lyndon B. Johnson can even be compared..." 3

A look at all of the pressing issues during the Grant administration, but especially Reconstruction, clearly indicates that the portrait of politics during the 1870's as a mere matter of who practiced a less desirable system of patronage and who advocated civil service reform is seriously distorted. The traditional verdict on the Grant presidency does not even begin to appear logical until one accepts the flawed assumption that the corruption / civil service reform issue was more important than such issues as Reconstruction, international crises, Indian affairs, and the multitude of economic matters, all combined. As William B. Hesseltine
I continue to be fascinated by how problematical Grant's status in history has become when compared to the historical record -- a record which may be as elusive as his personality. Grant has been consistently misunderstood as a general, as a president, and as a man. Of course, many prominent Americans have been misunderstood--some overrated and some underrated--but what has made Grant distinctive to me is that behind his misunderstood story seems to lie an element that, had it been more widely recognized by unbiased writers, might have kept him a place in the highest pantheon of great Americans.

Grant, early in his first term as President. 
Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress
GRANT FAMILY ATTENDS THE CEREMONY AT THE TOMB

left to right: Ulysses S. Grant II, Miss Julia Grant, Mrs. D. Grant, Mrs. Julia D. Grant, Col. Frederick D. Grant

"I feel that we are on the eve of a new era, when there is to be great harmony between the Federal and Confederate. I cannot stay to be a living witness to the correctness of this prophecy, but I feel it within me that it is to be so. The universal kind feeling expressed for me at a time when it was supposed that each day would prove my last, seemed to me the beginning of the answer to "Let us have peace."... U.S. Grant, 1885
The next several pages reflect the dedication ceremony at Grant's Tomb from April 25-28, 1897. All articles and pictures are taken from the *New York Herald.*

View of the solitary sarcophagi. Grant's remains were moved to the new tomb before the ceremonies.

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**PROGRAMME OF EXERCISES AT THE TOMB.**

1. Hymn, "America" ("My Country, 'Tis of Thee").
2. Prayer by Bishop J. P. Newman.
3. Hymn of Thanks. Old Netherland Folksong.
4. Address by the President of the United States.
5. "Star Spangled Banner."
7. Acceptance of the monument by Mayor William L. Strong.

Doxology will be sung by the chorus, under direction of Frank Damrosch, and the assemblage in the vicinity of the monument is invited to join.

After the exercises the People's Choral Union and the Oratorio Society of New York will sing the following selections:

2. Battle Hymn of the Republic.

Movement of President and Vice President, with the Cabinet and the official guests especially invited by the city of New York.
The following account of President McKinley's speech at the dedication of Grant's Tomb was printed in the New York Herald, April 28, 1897.

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT

His Glowing Eulogy of the Great Soldier and Statesman.

"Fellow citizens - A great life, dedicated to the welfare of the nation, here finds its earthly coronation. Even if this day lacked the impressiveness of ceremony and was devoid of pageantry, it would still be memorable, because it is the anniversary of the birth of one of the most famous and best beloved of American soldiers.

"Architecture has paid high tribute to the leaders of mankind, but never was a memorial more worthily bestowed or more gratefully accepted by a free people than the beautiful structure before which we are gathered.

"In marking the successful completion of this work we have as witnesses and participants representatives of all branches of our government, the resident officials of foreign nations, the Governors of States and the sovereign people from every section of our common country, who join in this august tribute to the soldier, patriot, and citizen.

"Almost twelve years have passed since the heroic vigil ended, and the brave spirit of Ulysses S. Grant fearlessly took its flight. Lincoln and Stanton had preceded him, but of the mighty captains of the war Grant was the first to be called. Sherman and Sheridan survived him, but have since joined him on the other shore.

"The great heroes of the civil strife on land and sea are for the most part now no more. Thomas and Hancock, Logan and McPherson, Farragut, Dupont, and Porter and a host of others have passed forever from human sight. Those remaining grow dearer to us, and from them and the memory of those who have departed generations yet unborn will draw their inspiration and gather strength for patriotic purpose.

"A great life never dies. Great deeds are imperishable; great names immortal. General Grant's services and character will continue undiminished in influence and advance in the estimation of mankind so long as liberty remains the cornerstone of free government and integrity of life the guaranty of good citizenship.

"Faithful and fearless as a volunteer soldier, intrepid and invincible as Commander in Chief of the armies of the Union, and confident as President of a reunited and strengthened nation which his genius had been instrumental in achieving he has our homage and that of the world, but brilliant as was his public character, we love him all the more for his home life and homely virtues.

"His individuality, his bearing and speech, his simple ways, had a flavor of rare and unique distinction, and his Americanism was so true and uncompromising that his name will stand for all time as the embodiment of liberty, loyalty and national unity.

"Victorious in the work which under Divine Providence he was called upon to do; clothed with almost limitless power, he was yet one of the people - patient, patriotic and just. Success did not disturb the even balance of his mind, while fame was powerless to swerve him from the path of duty. Great as he was in war, he loved peace, and told the world that honorable arbitration of differences was the best hope of civilization.

"With Washington and Lincoln, Grant has an exalted place in history and the affections of the people. Today his memory is held in equal esteem by those whom he led to victory and by those who accepted his generous terms of peace.

"The veteran leaders of the Blue and the Gray here meet not only to honor the name of the departed Grant, but to testify to the living reality of a fraternal national spirit which has triumphed over the differences of the past and transcends the limitations of sectional lines. Its completion, which we pray God to speed, will be the nation's greatest glory.
"It is right, then, that General Grant should have a memorial commensurate with his greatness and that his last resting place should be the city of his choice, to which he was so attached in life and of whose ties he was not forgetful even in death.

"Fitting, too, is it that the great soldier should sleep beside the noble river on whose banks he first learned the art of war, and of which he became master and leader without a rival.

"But let us not forget the glorious distinction with which the metropolis among the fair sisterhood of American cities has honored his memory.

"With all that riches and sculpture can do to render the edifice worthy of the man, upon a site unsurpassed for magnificence, has this monument been reared by New York as a perpetual record of his illustrious deeds, in the certainty that as time passes around it will assemble with gratitude and reverence and veneration men of all climes, races and nationalities.

"New York holds in its keeping the precious dust of the silent soldier; but his achievements - what he and his brave comrades wrought for mankind - are in the keeping of seventy millions of American citizens, who will guard the sacred heritage forever and forevermore."

At the end of the address Colonel Frederick Grant stepped forward and shook the President's hand warmly.

After the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" Mayor Strong introduced General Horace Porter, the president of the Grant Monument Association.
The following address by General Horace Porter was given at the dedication of Grant's Tomb on April 27, 1897 and was printed the next day in The New York Herald.

GENERAL PORTER'S ADDRESS

"It is all like a dream. One can scarcely realize the lapse of time and the memorable events which have occurred since our hero President was first proclaimed one of the great of earth. The dial hands upon the celestial clock record the flight of more than a generation since the legions of America's manhood poured down from the hilltops, surged up from the valleys, knelt upon their native soil to swear eternal allegiance to the Union, and went forth to seal the oath with their blood in marching under the victorious banners of Ulysses S. Grant. Today countless numbers of his contemporaries, their children and their children's children gather about his tomb to give permanent sepulture to his ashes and to recall the record of his imperishable deeds.

"It is peculiarly fitting that this memorial should be dedicated in the presence of the distinguished soldier who marched in the victorious columns of his illustrious chief, and who now so worthily occupies the chair of state in which he sat. There is a source of extreme gratification and a profound significance in the fact that there are in attendance here not only the soldiers who fought under the renowned defender of the Union cause, but the leaders of armies who fought against him, all uniting in testifying to the esteem and respect which he commanded from friend and foe alike.

"This grateful duty which we discharge this day is not unmixed with sadness, for the occasion brings vividly to mind the fatal day on which his generous heart ceased to beat, and recalls the grief which fell upon the American people with a sense of pain which was akin to the sorrow of a personal bereavement, and yet it is not an occasion for tears - not a time to chant requiems or display the sable draperies of public mourning.

"He who lies within the portals of yonder tomb is not a dead memory; he is a living reality. He has been consigned to the chamber of death but not to the realms of forgetfulness. Our grief is calmed by the recollection of the blessings his life conferred and the fame he has left to the custody of his fellow citizens.

"We consecrate this day a tribute to the memory of departed worth. The story of his life is the history of the most eventful epoch in his country's annals. Upon an occasion such as this it would seem more fitting to stand silent by the tomb and let history alone speak, but it has been deemed proper that living witnesses to his virtues should pay the grateful tribute of their testimony. The allotment of time permits only a brief allusion to the achievements of his marvelous career."

[Some highlights from the remainder of Porter's speech follow.]

"As a commander of men in the field he manifested the highest characteristics of the soldier, as evinced in every battle in which he was engaged, from Palo Alto to Appomattox. He was bold in conception, fixed in purpose and vigorous in execution. He never allowed himself to be thrown on the defensive, but always aimed to take the initiative in battle. He made armies and not cities the objective points of his campaigns. Obstacles which would have deterred another seemed only to inspire him with greater confidence and his soldiers soon learned to reflect much of his determination."

"A study of his martial deeds inspires us with the grandeur of events and the majesty of achievement. He did not fight for glory, but for national existence and the equality and rights of men. His sole ambition was his country's prosperity. His victories failed to elate him. In the dispatches which reported his triumphs there was no word of arrogance, no exaggeration, no aim at dramatic effect. With all his self-reliance he was never betrayed into immodesty of expression."

"He never underrated himself in a battle, he never overrated himself in a report. He could not only command armies, he could command himself. Inexorable as he was in battle, war never hardened his heart or weakened the strength of his natural affections. He retained a singular sensitive nature, a rare tenderness of feeling: shrank from the sight of blood and was painfully alive to every form of human suffering."
"As early as the capture of Vicksburg he expressed entire confidence in the belief that it was not a military necessity to deal harshly with the enemy, and that all possible leniency should be shown to the Southern people, as they would soon again become our fellow countrymen. He therefore treated the prisoners with every consideration, paroled the officers and men, and issued this characteristic order: 'The garrison will march out tomorrow. Instruct your commands to be quiet and orderly as the prisoners pass by, and make no offensive remarks."

"General Grant, without consulting higher authority and without hesitation, took the responsibility of according lenient treatment and avoiding unnecessary offense. He did not demand Lee's sword, and allowed the men to take their horses home to work their little farms.' With his uncommon range of mental vision, he foresaw that the granting of these conditions would induce other armies throughout the South to accept the same terms and thus prevent a guerrilla warfare from being carried on for an indefinite period in the interior, and would induce such influential men as Lee and other Confederate army commanders to use their influence in aiding in the rehabilitation of the Southern States."

"In the letter of acceptance of his nomination for the Presidency he uttered one of the sublimest sentences ever penned by statesman's hand, 'Let us have peace.' Of all the many aphorisms which emanated from him this has been deemed the most fitting to be engraved indelibly over the portals of his tomb. It is typical of his nature and emblematic of the eternal peace enjoyed by his soul."

"Even his valor on the field of carnage was not superior to the heroism he displayed when in his fatal illness he confronted the only enemy to whom he ever surrendered. His old will power reasserted itself in his determination to complete his memoirs. During whole months of physical torture he with one hand held death at arm's length while with the other he penned the most brilliant chapter in American history."

"His countrymen have paid him a tribute of grateful hearts; they have reared in monumental rock a sepulchre for his ashes, a temple to his fame. The fact that it has been built by the voluntary contributions of the people will give our citizens an individual interest in preserving it, in honoring it. It will stand throughout the ages upon this conspicuous promontory, this ideal site. It will overlook the metropolis of the Republic which his efforts saved from dismemberment; it will be reflected in the noble waters of the Hudson, upon which pass the argosies of commerce so largely multiplied by the peace secured by his heroic deeds."

"They have reared his monument to a majestic height, but if it towered above the eagle's flight it would not reach as high as the summit of his fame. Its flawless granite is typical of the spotless character of his reputation. Its delicate lines and massive proportions will remind us of the childlike simplicity which was mingled with the majestic grandeur of his nature."

[After acknowledging the labors of those on the committee who contributed to the success of the monument, Porter concluded his speech by presenting the Monument to the City of New York.]

"And now, Mr. Mayor, it only remains for me to formally transmit through you to the custody of the nation's metropolis this memorial tomb, which henceforth is to remain in the custody of the city over which you have the honor to preside."

[The New York Herald also reported the following:]

Mayor Strong accepted the gift for the city in a brief speech, in which he said

"As he invoked peace for us, let us see that his ashes repose in peace so long as the country he so heroically defended exists; aye, so long as the waters of the Hudson flow silently by this noble structure. From this day forth let us hope that every passing steamboat, going in either direction, shall toll its bell in recognition of the great services rendered this country by the silent soldier who sleeps within these granite walls. For such an object, gentlemen of the New York Legislature, your request would have the weight of law."
DEDICATION OF THE MONUMENT

On the 27th of April, 1897, the 75th anniversary of the birth of Ulysses S. Grant, the formal dedication of Grant's Tomb took place. The following is an excerpt from The New York Herald's account of the dedication.

The Impressive Ceremonies Conducted at the Foot of the Hero's Magnificent Mausoleum

The dedicatory exercises and the formal presentation of the monument to the city by General Horace Porter preceded the stirring spectacle of the great parade. An immense throng filled the huge stand, sloping from the monument's front southward, and, in spite of the wind that made the speakers' words scarcely audible a few feet away, the scene was both spirited and impressive.

Those who were not at Claremont yesterday morning can scarcely imagine the immensity of the human spectacle, while the presence of the gayly decorated ships in the river, the gathering of distinguished guests upon the great, sloping platform, and the ecstatic fluttering of flags and bunting of every description under the whipping of the fresh, cold, tireless wind, lent an atmosphere of expectation and almost festive solemnity to a scene whose very nature was impressive.

A large crowd faced the dedication stand long before the official party arrived, and when, at twenty minutes to eleven o'clock, the booming of guns from the fleet in the river announced the approach of the President, cheer upon cheer rose upon the breeze.

The approach of the party was a pretty sight, and awoke an enthusiasm that did not ebb until the day's great spectacle was closed. The President and Vice President were under the escort of Squadron A, while the family of the dead hero were escorted by mounted companies of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, New York Commandery and Military Order of the Loyal Legion, with four comrades of George G. Meade Post, No. 1, G.A.R., Department of Pennsylvania, in carriages.

A platoon of mounted police led the way, and then followed New York's handsome troopers, superbly mounted. In the Presidential party were Secretary Sherman, Secretary Gage, Secretary Bliss, Secretary Russel A. Alger and Mrs. Alger, Attorney General and Mrs. James McKenna, Secretary and Mrs. James Wilson and Major General Nelson A. Miles, commander of the United States Army, with Mrs. Miles, his daughter and aide.

In the Grant family carriages were Mrs. Julia D. Grant, Frederick D. Grant, Mrs. Frederick D. Grant, Miss Julia Grant Junior; Mrs. U.S. Grant Junior, Miss Marion Grant, Master Grant, Mrs. Julia Grant, Mrs. Fannie Grant, Master U.S. Grant fourth; Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris, Algeron Sartoris, Miss Vivian Sartoris, Miss Rosemary Sartoris, Jesse Grant, Mrs. Jesse Grant, Miss Nellie Grant, Master Chapman Grant, Miss Virginia Grant Corbin and M.J. Cramer, Mrs. M.J. Cramer and Mrs. Jesse Cramer.

The Diplomatic Corp followed, led by the British Ambassador, followed by the French Ambassador, the German Ambassador, the Mexican Minister, the Swiss Minister, the Danish Minister, the Minister of Ecuador, the Portuguese Minister, the Turkish Minister and the Belgian Minister.
TIME TABLE FOR TO-DAY.

8 A.M. — Official guests will assemble at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

9 A.M. — The American men of war will anchor at anchor on both sides of the North River.

9:30 A.M. — President McKinley, Mrs. Grant, members of the Cabinet, Diplomatic Corps and escort will leave the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

9:30 A.M. — All members of the Grand Marshal's staff will report at Madison Avenue and Twenty-third street, to General Rodman, chief of staff.

10 A.M. — First and Second divisions of the Military Grand Division will assemble.

10 A.M. — Head of column will move.

10 A.M. — Third and Fourth divisions of the Military Grand Division will assemble.

10 A.M. — Veterans' Grand Division will assemble.

10 A.M. — President will read the tomb.

10 A.M. — Head of column will reach Forty-second street.

11 A.M. — Exercises at the tomb will begin.

11 A.M. — Head of column will reach Fifty-fifth street.

11 A.M. — Head of column will reach Fifty-sixth street and Boulevard.

11:30 A.M. — Marching salute will be given to the Veterans' division by the Military Grand Division at Seventieth street.

12 A.M. — Head of column will reach Seventy-second street.

12:30 A.M. — Head of column will reach River Street.

1:30 P.M. — Head of column will reach the tomb and review the review the review the review.

1:30 P.M. — Civic Grand Division will assemble.

2:30 P.M. — Naval parade will begin.

3:30 P.M. — Head of column will reach the Grand Marshall's reviewing stand at the Boulevard and Fifth street.

3:30 P.M. — Head of column will be dismissed at Fiftieth street and the Boulevard.

3:30 P.M. — Head of merchant marine parade will reach a point opposite the tomb.

3:30 P.M. — President McKinley will leave the reviewing stand at the tomb and embark on the flagship, the Dolphin to review the naval parade.

4:30 P.M. — Reception to the President at the Metropolitan Opera House.

5:30 P.M. — Reception to the President at the Union League.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF THE WATER PARADE.

Rear Admiral Bunsen, director of the naval parade, has issued the following order. Vessels will form in four grand divisions, as follows:—First, the naval forces of the North Atlantic station, together with such foreign ships of war as may be present; second, other naval vessels and vessels belonging to the United States Lighthouse Department; third, the United States revenue cutters and government vessels; fourth, vessels of the merchant marine.

The North Atlantic fleet, to anchor in the North River, off the Grant monument, some time before the parade.

The second division will form under the direction of Commander A. S. Snow, United States Navy Inspector of the Third Lighthouse district, by eleven o'clock on the day of the parade, and proceed up the river in columns. They will anchor to the rear of the ships of war of the first division.

The third division will form under the direction of Captain A. A. R. J. R., commanding the revenue cutter Dexter, off Hoboken, and be ready to follow the second division to an anchorage off the Grant monument.

The fourth division, under the direction of Rear Admiral Osborn, will form at Red Hook by two P.M., and move up the Hudson after saluting the Grant monument and pass in review of Rear Admiral Bunsen.

Proceeding in the easternward of the ships of war at anchor between them and Riverside Drive, the moving parade will turn a steamboat placed about one-half mile above the national vessels down between them and the Jersey shore, around a steamboat off Seventy-fifth street and up again to their stations in rear of the government vessels, to await review of the fleet by the President.
MRS. GRANT SAW THE GREAT PARADE

Widow of the Honored Hero, with Her Family, Stayed Three Hours Watching It.

WENT INTO THE MAUSOLEUM

Bronze Doors Closed Five Minutes While She and Her Relatives Visited the Tomb.

MAY GO TO WASHINGTON.

Ceremonies All Impressed Her, She Says, and She Praised the Splendid Speeches.

President McKinley and Vice Pres. Hobert on Their Way to the Tomb.
Centennial of Grant's Tomb
AND
Grant's 175th Birthday Commemoration
AT
GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL MEMORIAL
Riverside Drive and 122nd Street
Sunday April 27, 1997

Come join the National Park Service Manhattan Sites celebration of the 175th anniversary of the birth of General Ulysses S. Grant.
GRANT'S TOMB UPDATE

The Manhattan Sites Unit of the National Park Service is planning the centennial celebrations for April 27, 1997. This date will commemorate the dedication of Grant's Tomb on April 27, 1897. In preparation for this event the Tomb will be closed for a few weeks this winter so that restorations and renovations can be completed.

For details about the dedication ceremony and for the dates that the monument will be closed call the National Park Service at 212-825-6990.

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ULYSSES S. GRANT ASSOCIATION TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW YORK CITY

The Ulysses S. Grant Association has announced plans to hold their annual meeting in New York City, Friday, April 25 through Sunday April 27th. Members of the Association and their friends are invited. Arrangements have already been made for several speakers and a tour of local sites of Grant interest. This meeting will coincide with the 175th anniversary of Grant's birth and the centennial of Grant's Tomb. Harold Holzer, vice president for communications, Metropolitan Museum of Art, will coordinate local arrangements.

The Grant Association has secured rooms at the Surrey Hotel, 20 East 76th St. on the Upper East Side, at the special rate of $125 per night. Rooms can be reserved through ReBecca Ames, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028-0198, 212/570-3951. Early decisions about reservations are recommended since space is limited.

Additional information can be found on the Grant Association web site at http://www.lib.siu.edu/projects/usgrant/
SEARCHING FOR OLD AND RARE BOOKS ON ULYSSES S. GRANT

by Marie Kelsey

The search for the elusive old or rare book about Ulysses S. Grant can be time consuming and frustrating. Here are a few hints on how to make the process a rewarding one.

Check at your local library for a publication titled Buy Books Where, Sell Books Where. In this you’ll find lists of dealers by topic (Civil War, for example) and state and city. If you contact any of these dealers, you may find that they subscribe to one or more search services which track down customer wants. Automated Bookman and Interloc are two such services. Book dealers enter their stock in the databases and submit customer wants. Wants are matched to the stock database. When a match is found the dealer calls the customer and offers the book for sale. Customers are under no obligation to buy. New books about Grant and reprints of old classics can be located by using Books in Print. Some libraries have BIP online and it’s updated monthly. Otherwise, it’s available in paper format or on CD ROM at bookstores and libraries.

On the World Wide Web you’ll find many sites for rare book dealers, many of whom have their entire catalogs online. Check out these sites: Antiquarian Book Shops and Associations on the World Wide Web

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/marcus_williamson/wwwbs.htm

Bookseller’s Corner


SUGGESTED READING

Many articles have been written about U.S. Grant and most can be accessed through inter library loan. Below is a list of excellent articles written by Brooks Simpson author of Let Us Have Peace: Ulysses S. Grant and the Politics of War and Reconstruction.

- Ulysses S. Grant and the Fruits of Victory, Essays in History, vol. 23, 1979, 23-26
- Ulysses S. Grant and the Failure of Reconciliation, Illinois Historical Journal, 81 (Winter 1988), 269-282
- The Doom of Slavery: Ulysses S. Grant, War Aims, and Emancipation, 1861-1863, Civil War History, 37 (March 1990), 36-56
- Ulysses S. Grant and the Electoral Crisis of 1876-77, Hayes Historical Journal, 11 (Winter, 1992), 5-22
- Alexander McClure on Lincoln and Grant: A Questionable Account, Lincoln Herald, 95 (Fall 1993), 83-86
- ’All I Want is to Advance’: Ulysses S. Grant’s Early Military Career, Gateway Magazine, 9 (summer 1994, 5-22
- Lincoln Finds His General, Lincoln Herald, 96 (Fall 1994), 82-89