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Malone, D

**Columbia University**  
**in the City of New York**

[NEW YORK 27, N. Y.]

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

December 20, 1948

MAR 8 1949

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Dr. David H. Stevens  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
49 W. 49th Street  
New York 20, New York

Dear Stevens:

Enclosed I am sending a rather informal report on the progress of my project since I last reported to you. I am sorry that I did not get this to you more promptly, because I certainly want you to be promptly and fully informed. If by any chance this should seem incomplete to you at any point or if the financial reports which have been sent you from Virginia and Columbia are in any sense inadequate, I wish you would let me know. Sometime before too long I want to pass the time of day with you, and I certainly want you to know how much I appreciate all that you have done.

With best wishes for the Christmas season,

Yours very sincerely,

*Dumas Malone*

Dumas Malone

say  
OK  
any day


REPORT TO DR. DAVID H. STEVENS

MAR 8 1949

BY

DUMAS MALONE

The supplementary grant of the Rockefeller Foundation in support of my comprehensive biography of Thomas Jefferson expired on October 1, 1948. This grant, for \$5000, was made to Columbia University. The original grant was made to the University of Virginia for the period of three years from June 1, 1944 to June 1, 1947, and was afterwards extended to October 1, 1947. The total amount of this was \$21,000, of which the sum of slightly more than \$20,000 was used. The grand total of aid thus amounted to somewhat more than \$25,000, over a period of four and a third years. It is not my purpose here to enter into fiscal details, but this is a good time to express again my great appreciation of this generous support, without which the continuance of this large and exacting project would have been quite impossible. The undertaking of such a task, requiring so large a personal investment of labor through so long a period, was an act of considerable audacity on my part in the first place. At a crucial juncture I was so fortunate as to gain the support not merely of the funds but also of the faith of the Foundation, and for this I am and always shall be deeply grateful.

The fullest statement about the project that is on record is the one I made to the Foundation on February 10, 1944. The plan that was outlined then has been adhered to except in details of schedule and the precise breakdown of volumes. A report on the progress of the work was made on March 19, 1947, and my purposes were restated in the Introduction to the first published volume. These purposes needed not be repeated here, but the present rather informal report may be regarded as a continuation of the one of March 19, 1947, to the date of the expiration of the supplementary grant.

The title which has been adopted for the entire work is Jefferson and His Time, and the first of the four projected volumes was published on April 13, 1948, under the title, Jefferson the Virginian (1743-1784). It comprises about 190,000 words. Detailed information about the preparation of this volume was given in my report of March 19, 1947, at which time copy was in the hands of the publishers. A few words may be said here about the actual processes of printing and publishing.

These were more complicated than usual because of the fact that I availed myself - wisely, I am sure - of the counsel of a number of people as the successive chapters were set in type. The editors of The Papers of Thomas Jefferson at Princeton did

The state of the work on October 1, 1948, was as follows:

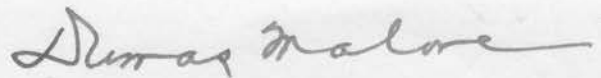
Research. The major manuscript materials for this period of seventeen years are approximately 100 volumes of the Jefferson Papers in the Library of Congress, and perhaps a third of that number in the Co lidge Collection in the Massachusetts Historical Society. These manuscripts I have gone through almost completely, along with the Account Books and other personal records in various repositories. The materials at Princeton I am continuing to use for purposes of supplementation. As to other manuscript collections, it is hard to know just where to draw the line, though one must draw it somewhere because of the brevity of human life. My general procedure is to go through the published writings of Jefferson's major contemporaries year by year (Washington, Adams, Madison, Monroe, Hamilton, et al.), and to consult their manuscripts only in special matters. The main additional collection used up to this point is that of Madison, but valuable items have been found in other places, as in the William C. Rives Papers. Very few writers have attempted a careful correlation of even the published writings of contemporary leaders, and in a real sense these are still untapped sources. The monographs in this period, also, are of great value, and I have gone through a large number of them. There are still gaps in my notes, especially for the years 1798-1800 and in newspaper materials, but the research work for the volume is largely done. I think the immensity of the task will be obvious.

Writing. This has lagged beyond my hopes, chiefly because it has had to be largely confined to the summers. Eight chapters and one appendix are done and a ninth chapter about half done. These deal wholly with Jefferson's exceedingly rich life in France, comprising perhaps a third of the book, and they run to approximately 75,000 words altogether. (A tentative list of chapter titles is attached). This period of five and a half years could easily fill an entire volume, and it presents unusually difficult problems of selection and organization. Also, I am not as thoroughly familiar with it as with the later American political story. Presumably I can go a good deal faster when I get him into the secretaryship of state.

Prospects. By now I have learned to make all prophecies with reservations. The time-consuming research work on Volume II is largely done, and my records are in much better shape than they ever were for Volume I. My guess is, therefore, that if I can devote the whole of next summer to it I can finish the writing within another year, that is, by the end of 1949. At all events, the volume ought to be done soon enough for publication in the fall of 1950. The delays in final processes should be fewer than they were with Volume I. For example, I expect to submit the various chapters to the Princeton people and others in typescript instead

of proof. Also, all matters of verification, bibliography, etc., should be expedited this time. The postponement of publication is exceedingly disadvantageous to me personally, but I should be unworthy of the confidence which has been placed in me if I were to sacrifice standards of scholarship and writing for the sake of speed.

Much advance work has been done on the two last volumes, but here I am confining myself to the second. For this the Rockefeller Foundation will deserve the major share of credit, and I should like to get a copy of it to them long before the fall of 1950. I hope they will continue to be patient, and that they will regard their confidence as justified when, at last, the book is done.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dumas Malone". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Dumas Malone

December 20, 1948

JEFFERSON THE DEMOCRAT, 1784-1801  
*[Franklin Point, 1784-1789]*

LOWEST OF THE DIPLOMATIC TRIBE

- I. Introduction to Paris
- II. The Rebuffs of a Commissioner, 1784-1786
- III. At the Court of Versailles, 1785-1787
- IV. Confronting John Bull, 1786

THE KNOWLEDGE OF ANOTHER WORLD

- V. Sentimental Adventure, 1786
- VI. Minister of Information, 1785-1789
- VII. Traveling with a Purpose, 1787
- VIII. The Jefferson Circle, 1787-1788

THE IMPACT OF REVOLUTION

- IX. Viewing the American Scene, 1787-1789
- X. The Revolution Begins, 1787-1789
- XI. European Balance Sheet

Appendix I. Jefferson and French Writings about America, ~~1786~~-1789