

FDLP Libraries Feature Interesting and Historic Collections

Nationwide Federal depository libraries offer the public broad and diverse collections of Government resources. The collections provide a glimpse into the founding and development of our country, and range from the historically significant to the weird and wonderful, unique to each region and library. To highlight the collections and libraries, this is the first in a series of articles, which feature some of the significant and weird publications beginning with two Northeast libraries and resources for community engagement.

The Boston Public Library (BPL) was established in 1848 and was the first large free municipal library in the United States. Even before becoming a Federal depository library in 1859, the BPL was collecting Federal publications, thanks to benefactors such as Edward Everett, an orator so great that he was the main speaker at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

Historical Documents include the Report and hearings from President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy (also known as the Warren Commission) and House Un-American Activities Hearings. A generous grant allowed the BPL to digitize much of the material with the digital collections accessible by Internet Archive and catalog. The Warren Commission hearings digitized were provided to GPO for ingest into FDsys.

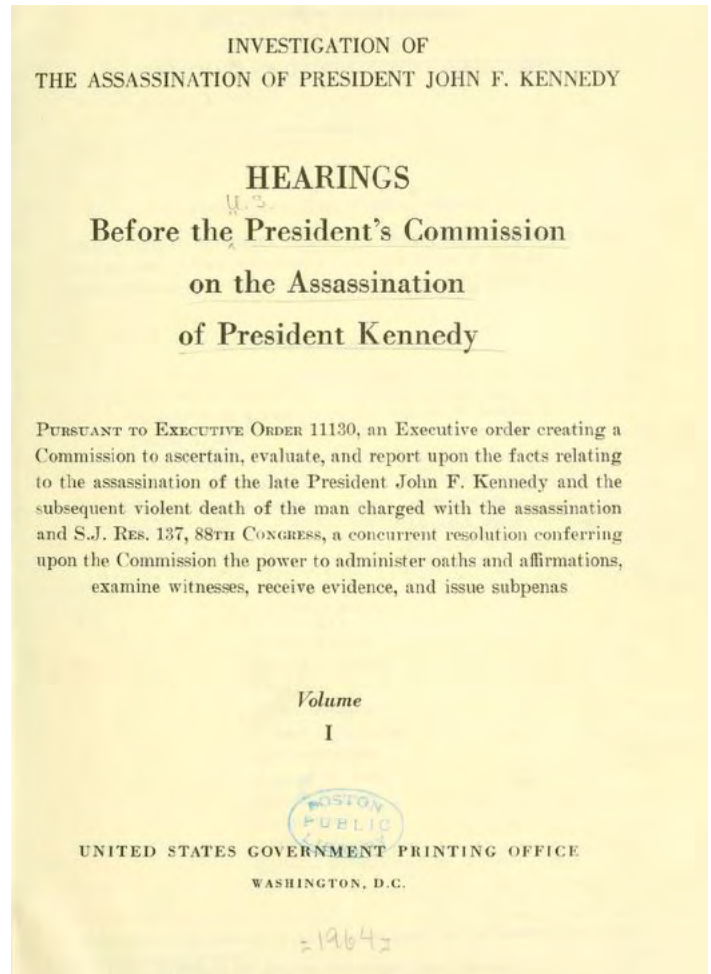
The John W. King New



Boston Public Library stacks of Historical Documents.

Hampshire Law Library has been a member of the FDLP since 1994, and the law library is the beneficiary of the New Hampshire State Library's extensive collection of historical Federal documents. The library, founded in 1717 and generally considered to be the first state library in the United States, has been a long-time member of the FDLP.

Some of the Federal documents on the New Hampshire Law Library's shelves include a full set of *Interstate Commerce Commission Reports* beginning in 1887, *National Labor Relations Board Decisions and Orders* from 1935, *Opinions of the Attorneys General* beginning with volume 1 (1878), the *United States Reports* dating back to 1790, and a complete set of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (1935 to present day). One of the oldest books in the law library's United States law collection is a thin volume of Acts passed by the Second



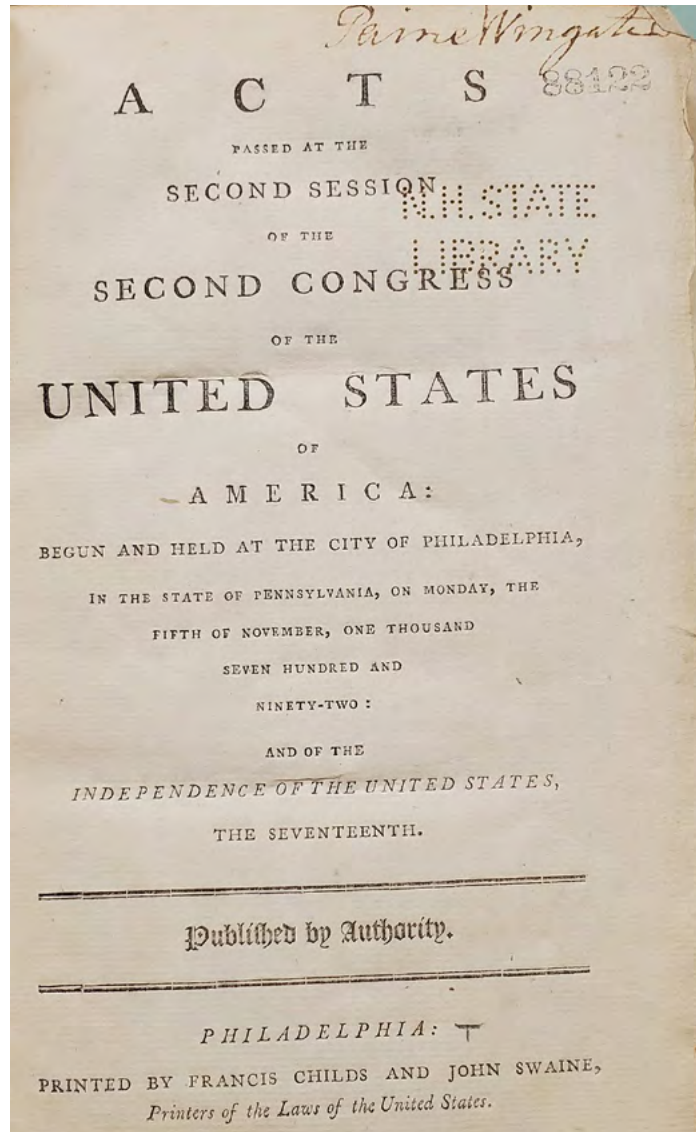
President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

Congress in 1792. This volume bears the signature of Paine Wingate, who was a delegate to the Continental Congress and was appointed to the first United States Senate by the state of New Hampshire. Before he passed away at age 98, he was the last surviving member of the first United States Congress.

We at GPO know Federal agencies have published some fascinating and “cool” U.S. Government publications. A Top Trending Post of the Government Book Talk blog features some of these in, *Stop Me if You’ve Heard This One ... A Top Ten List of Funny Federal Titles*.

Federal depository staff enjoy featuring these publications to help engage their communities and promote knowledge of the variety of resources available in their depository collections. Kathryn Bayer, LSCM Outreach Librarian, was inspired by these activities to start capturing interesting and timely publications highlighted in various GPO resources through a GPO Staff Picks collection in the FDLP Content guide in *FDLP LibGuides*. Documents are highlighted in sources such as the FDLP.gov home page, the Government Book Talk blog, **govinfo** Featured Content, and U.S. Government Bookstore bestsellers. LSCM staff favorites are also identified monthly and linked from the guide to their catalog records in the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications.

Bayer said, “When sharing information about resources in the Federal Depository Library Program, some of



A thin volume of Acts, passed by the Second Congress in 1792, is one of the oldest books in the New Hampshire Law Library’s United States law collection.

my current favorite titles to highlight include *Squeaks discovers type! How print has expanded our universe*; *Do Mandrakes really scream? Magic and medicine in Harry Potter*; *Preparedness 101: Zombie pandemic*; and *Hills Bros. coffee can chronology: field guide*.

Although the titles do not sound governmental, they are indeed all Federal resources and help speak to the variety

of content available from Federal agencies. I also like to mention all the titles published in languages other than English.”

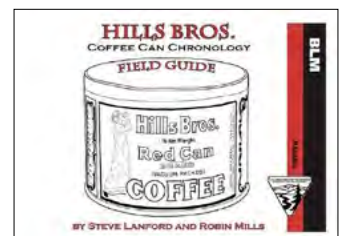
For more information on the FDLP libraries along with their amazing and historic collections of material, please go to the Federal Depository Library Directory at <https://ask.gpo.gov/s/FDL>.



Squeaks Discovers Type is GPO’s first original comic book. The story of a video game space mouse who helps an elementary student discover the invention of printing and its evolution through the ages.



The CDC was smart and exploited the current interest in zombies, and made an emergency preparedness checklist into a comic on preparing for the “zombie pandemic”.



Through time, the images and information on the Hills Bros. cans changed in subtle yet distinctive ways.