

WILL ROGERS RESEARCH CENTER, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Report to President Robert B. Kamm, December, 1968

I. GENERAL

This report is intended to cover activities associated with the Will Rogers Research Center for the period since the signing of the contract between Oklahoma State University and the Will Rogers Memorial Commission of Claremore, Oklahoma. This contract, signed on September 11, 1967, called for the University "to edit all of the published and unpublished works, letters, documents, and other memorabilia pertaining to the late Will Rogers." The report therefore will present, in topical rather than chronological form, a summary of events.

II. LAUNCHING THE CENTER'S ACTIVITIES

A. *Facilities*

Facilities have been provided which are admirably suited to the present needs of the project. Dr. Roscoe Rouse, Oklahoma State University Librarian, allocated in the new wing of the Library space which was partitioned and made ready for occupancy.

On May 9 the staff, which had been operating out of the office of Dr. Homer L. Knight, head of the History Department, moved into the new facilities. Certain furniture had been purchased with the initial fund allocation, including a secretarial desk and chair, electric typewriter, filing cabinet, and storage case for supplies. The Library loaned other furniture to the Will Rogers Research Center, and with the installation of a tasteful carpet in September, working conditions are excellent.

B. *Personnel*

The Oklahoma State University Board of Regents, at its meeting in January, 1968, approved as an addition to the title of Professor Theodore L. Agnew the words "Director of Will Rogers Research." Well before the appointment became official, Dr. Agnew had been working with various details of the project, beginning in some cases only a few days after the signing of the contract in September, 1967. During the spring semester, 1968, his teaching load was reduced so that he was devoting an official one-quarter time to the project. During the summer session, with the production of publicity brochures a chief concern, he gave the project full time. In the fall semester his project share is half-time; it is anticipated that in the spring of 1969 it will amount to three-quarters time.

The choice by Dr. Agnew to retain at least a one-quarter time teaching assignment was deliberately made, with the expectation that his upper division and graduate students will use the Will Rogers material for course papers and theses. In addition, such research work should facilitate the completion of the editing work on the project.

Joining the staff of the Center in February, 1968, as executive secretary was Mrs. Nina Provence, who brought a variety of secretarial experience in business offices and at the Oklahoma State University School of Chemical Engineering. Her skills have been used in many ways, and she has proved resourceful and imaginative in taking care of the project's responsibilities.

During eight months of the academic year 1967-1968 Dr. Homer Knight assigned to the project the services of Lew Wentz Scholar Billy K. Banks. This history major, a junior at Oklahoma State University, performed under Dr. Agnew's direction the duties of research assistant. Beginning within three weeks of the date the contract was signed, and more than three months before Dr. Agnew's title was changed, Oklahoma State University was thus doing significant work to carry out its obligation.

From time to time during the months since the project was announced various persons have applied, either by correspondence or in person, to Dr. Agnew for employment by the Center. Usually they have offered services of a secretarial or research nature. The lack of available funds, however — for none of them has seriously proposed to work free of charge — has made it impossible thus far to appoint other staff personnel.

The several proposals for funding made to private foundations and to the National Endowment for the Humanities have included items for the employment of additional personnel. It is particularly desirable to have an associate editor to facilitate the tasks of editing the *Papers*.

C. Support

The director acknowledges with gratitude the initial allocation by the President's Office of \$8,000 to cover maintenance and salaries of the Center through June 30, 1968. Budget accounts number 4373 (Will Rogers Publications – Salaries, and Will Rogers Publications – Maintenance) were set up for this purpose, with details being handled by the Research Foundation. When on June 30, 1968, \$653.77 of the allocation was not spent or obligated, that amount reverted to the University's general funds. No income from outside sources had been received to that point.

The Research Foundation handsomely stepped in. During the period since July 1, while taking care of many administrative tasks connected with the project, the Research Foundation has adjusted its own budget – unexpectedly so, be it noted – to continue salary and maintenance support of the Center. This support has been promised at least through June 30, 1969, and will amount to approximately \$16,000 for the year July 1, 1968 to June 30, 1969. The Research Foundation set up State Project Number 141 under its own account number 4350 to take care of details. It is not possible adequately to express Dr. Agnew's gratitude to Dr. Marvin Edmison, Mr. Howard Jarrell, Dr. John Egermeier, and the entire staff of the Research Foundation for their assistance.

Support, largely in the form of advice and friendly supervision, has come from the members of the Advisory Committee: Dr. Homer L. Knight, head of the History Department, chairman; Dr. Robert Erwin, director of the Oklahoma State University Development Foundation; Mr. Howard Jarrell, representing Dr. Marvin Edmison, director of the Research Foundation and assistant vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Roscoe Rouse, University Librarian; Mr. John Hamilton, director of the Oklahoma State University Press; Mr. E. Moses Frye, University Attorney; and Mr. Robert Cox, jointly responsible to the Research Foundation and the Office of Public Information.

In addition, Dr. Rouse has promised full support to the project through the Library's Order Department. Therefore, the already considerable holdings in twentieth century American culture and history are being gradually augmented to increase still further the effectiveness of the Center.

III. THE SEARCH FOR OUTSIDE SUPPORT

A. Publicity Materials

In this seven-fold search much time, especially in the early days, was devoted to preparing initial publicity materials. Especially effective was the March issue of *Research Reports*, produced by the Research Foundation. It was distributed widely, along with a multilith news release prepared by Dr. Agnew, on the occasion of the Research Foundation annual meeting and dinner on March 22. Will Rogers, Jr., was the featured speaker, giving the project his enthusiastic endorsement. In addition, Mr. Rogers offered strong encouragement to Dr. Agnew in seeking to make the project a model of scholarship and careful preparation.

B. Brochure

In August the publicity brochure, *The Will Rogers Papers*, was issued. This twelve-page pamphlet, with four-color stiff cover, was produced by team effort in which Dr. Agnew, Dr. Erwin, Mr. Jarrell, Mr. Cox, Mr. Hamilton and Gerald Eby (Office of Public Information), assisted. Copiously illustrated with photographs from the collections of the Will Rogers Memorial, the brochure features an assessment of the project by Mrs. Paula M. Love, Curator. Endorsements of the project by President Harry S. Truman and Senator Everett M. Dirksen appear prominently.

C. Proposals

Much attention has been devoted, during the spring, the summer, and the fall, to preparation of proposals to foundations requesting their support. Dr. Erwin has given guidance as to the best approach in every case, and each proposal has been individually tailored to fit the interests of the prospective client. To date no funds have been received, though each recipient of a proposal has indicated interest and has promised appropriate consideration. Included among potential donors thus reached have been: the Mabee Foundation, the Amon Carter Foundation, Mr. E. Fred Johnson, and the Jesse Jones Foundation. In addition, Dr. Erwin and Dr. Raymond Knight, chairman of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission, visited during an August tour of the East with Secretary of Commerce C. R. Smith and with other federal personnel regarding possible support of the project.

D. *The New York Times*

Since Will Rogers' columns, both weekly and daily, were carried by the *New York Times* – in fact, the *Daily Telegrams* were born out of a series of cables which Rogers sent to the *Times* – it seemed possible that this great newspaper might consider supporting the project. An additional reason for consideration is the *Times*' past assistance to various scholarly enterprises, including the *Dictionary of American Biography* and *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*. Dr. Agnew therefore made inquiry of Mr. Harrison Salisbury, assistant managing editor of the *Times*, on the occasion of Mr. Salisbury's addresses at Oklahoma State University on November 13, 1968, as to the procedure of request. Dr. Agnew followed Mr. Salisbury's suggestions with correspondence to the *Times*. Response was negative for 1968, but the Times Foundation expressed some interest and invited resubmission for consideration in 1969.

E. *The National Historical Publications Commission*.

This advisory body, reconstituted in 1950, and with members appointed by the President of the United States, has been the principal agency in calling attention to the need to publish the papers of prominent Americans. In a report in 1951, revised in 1954 and further augmented in 1962, the Commission urged support for several major projects, particularly the Adams, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, and Madison Papers. Knowing that the Commission properly concentrates its limited resources in these projects, Dr. Agnew still believed that the Commission might consider endorsing *The Will Rogers Papers* as a project worthy of other public or private support. Accordingly, at the April meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Dallas, Dr. Agnew conversed at length with Dr. Oliver Holmes, executive director of the Commission. Subsequent correspondence continued the contact. In August Dr. Erwin and Dr. Raymond Knight visited with Dr. Holmes in Washington, leaving him copies of our brochure. Further communications continue to hold the hope that the Commission may give its blessing to *The Will Rogers Papers*.

F. *The National Endowment for the Humanities*.

This recently constituted federal agency has announced programs of support for several kinds of activities in the humanities area. Believing that *The Will Rogers Papers* might receive such support, Dr. Agnew, with the assistance of the Research Foundation staff, particularly Mr. Jarrell, submitted a proposal in November. The request, for the year beginning July 1, 1969, was in two parts – for a direct grant of \$9,930; and for a matching grant of \$19,870, of which half would be given from federal funds to match private gifts made to the Endowment but designated for *The Will Rogers Papers* project. Naturally this proposal interested the Advisory Committee, particularly Dr. Erwin. The Endowment has acknowledged receipt of the proposal and has indicated that a decision may be anticipated in four to six months' time.

G. *Other Scholarly Groups*.

Dr. Agnew has closely monitored program offerings by such agencies as the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. He has found no possible support to *The Will Rogers Papers* as a project; nevertheless certain grants programs for individuals hold some promise. However, these seem to involve research training or other activities away from the home institution, as for example post-doctoral study. Ideal for a younger scholar, such a program might help some future assistant editor of *The Will Rogers Papers*. It offers nothing substantial in the present circumstances.

IV. GENERAL PUBLICITY

A. *Ceremonial Occasions*.

Dr. Agnew has been pleased to participate in two ceremonial occasions, notably the observance at the Will Rogers Memorial on November 4, 1968, of the birthday of Will Rogers. President Robert B. Kamm made the principal address, and Governor Dewey Bartlett and other notables were present. Dr. Agnew was particularly gratified to be included in the luncheon preceding the ceremonies at the Memorial. Mrs. Paula Love had thoughtfully arranged a "scholars' table" at which Dr. Agnew met and conversed with several whose writings on Will Rogers have increased our knowledge immensely. Included were Dr. Noel Kaho, Claremore dentist and author of *The Will Rogers Country* (1941; reprinted 1950); Dr. William Brown, author of the 1964 dissertation entitled "The Rhetorical Techniques of Will Rogers" (University of Oklahoma) and speech professor at the University of Oklahoma; and Dr. Reba Collins,

whose 1967 dissertation "Will Rogers, Writer and Journalist" was awarded the doctorate by Oklahoma State University (she being publicity director at Central State College).

A second occasion occurred September 16, 1968, in Ponca City, when the seventy-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Cherokee Outlet was observed. Part of the day's activities featured a rededication of the Pioneer Woman statue, which had been originally dedicated in April, 1930, by Will Rogers. The rededication address was made by Will Rogers, Jr. Dr. Agnew, after attending the day's ceremonies, had a warm and encouraging conversation with Will Rogers, Jr., in which he indicated his continued endorsement of our project.

B. *Distribution of Materials.*

Dr. Agnew has seen to it that *The Will Rogers Papers* brochure and other materials receive appropriate distribution. Copies of the brochure have been put, for instance, into the hands of Senator Mike Monroney, Senator Fred Harris, Senator-elect Henry Bellmon, Representative Ed Edmondson, Governor Dewey Bartlett, Senator Clem McSpadden, President W. L. Keeler of Phillips Petroleum Company, Mr. E. K. Gaylord, and many others. Various requests for information about the project have come to the Center, being answered by sending copies of the brochure, the *Research Reports* for March, 1968, the February, 1968 *Oklahoma State Alumnus* (which contained a story about the project), and other releases and data.

C. *Will Rogers Films*

In September, 1968, the members of Lahoma Club, organization of faculty wives at Oklahoma State University, held their annual reception honoring President Kamm and new faculty members. The officers of the club, in planning the evening's program of varied activities, had requested Dr. Agnew to arrange for the showing of Will Rogers films in the Student Union Theater. With the full cooperation of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Love, three motion pictures were borrowed and were shown continuously during the reception. Countless favorable comments have come to Dr. Agnew from persons who viewed the films, including more than one who confessed to having completely missed the receiving line. Mr. Guy Pritchard, director of the Audio-Visual Center, provided operators and technical assistance which indicate his willingness to furnish equivalent care and attention for any tapes, discs, films, or other similar materials which the Will Rogers Memorial may wish to deposit with Oklahoma State University.

D. *Speaking Engagements.*

Dr. Agnew has held himself ready, when so requested, to speak before university, professional, or other audiences regarding *The Will Rogers Papers*. Thus he has delivered papers on these occasions:

1. "The Will Rogers Research Project," delivered before members of Naval Reserve Research Company 8-13, Stillwater, September 23, 1968; this group included officers from Ponca City as well as Stillwater.
2. "Will Rogers as a Field for Historical Research," delivered before the Social Science Section of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, Tulsa, December 6, 1968; a longer version of this talk is indicated as the next item.
3. "Will Rogers as a Field for Historical Research," delivered before a regional conference of Phi Alpha Theta, international honor society in history, Stillwater, December 7, 1968; an expanded version is to be submitted for publication in a major historical journal.

E. *Conferences with Newspaper Men.*

Dr. Agnew has welcomed the opportunity to converse with representatives of two of Oklahoma's leading newspapers, regarding details of the Will Rogers Research Center and its activities. Kyle Goddard, education editor, and Frosty Troy, associate editor, both of the *Tulsa Tribune*, and Francis Thetford, who conducts the column "Dateline: Oklahoma" in the *Oklahoma City Daily Oklahoman*, have participated in these conversations. Several favorable articles and editorials have resulted.

F. *The Oklahoma Historical Society.*

Dr. Agnew, himself a member of the Oklahoma Historical Society, has indicated to a member of the Society's Board of Directors his willingness to appear before that group in the interests of *The Will Rogers Papers* project. Date for the appearance has tentatively been set for January 23, 1969. Another member of the Board of Directors is Mr. Morton Harrison, member and longtime chairman of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission.

G. Attendance at Professional Meetings.

Even before he was officially appointed director of Will Rogers Research, Dr. Agnew was using his attendance at professional meetings as the occasion for publicizing *The Will Rogers Papers* project. Word of mouth publicity, distribution of the *March Research Reports* and of the brochure, and even some preliminary interviews with potential staff members, have involved Dr. Agnew at these meetings:

Southern Historical Association, Atlanta, November, 1967

Midcontinent American Studies Association, Iowa City, April, 1968

Organization of American Historians, Dallas, April, 1968

American Mathematical Society, Madison, August, 1968

The aforementioned conversations with Dr. Holmes of the National Historical Publications Commission occurred at the OAH meeting in Dallas. During the autumn of 1968, with considerably restricted maintenance funds available, Dr. Agnew has passed up several desirable meetings and will continue to do so until outside support is more certain.

V. EDITING *THE WILL ROGERS PAPERS*.

A. Mr. and Mrs. Love

Dr. Agnew cannot adequately acknowledge his sense of obligation and admiration for Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Love and for their achievements. As Manager and Curator, respectively, of the Will Rogers Memorial, Mr. and Mrs. Love have dedicated their lives for thirty years to perpetuating the memory and the works of Will Rogers. They have been responsible for maintaining the exhibits and the facilities at the Memorial; this they have done with good taste and in keeping with their high responsibility. They have welcomed visitors to the Memorial, averaging 1,200 daily. They have patiently answered inquiries from school children, advertising executives, newspaper columnists, government leaders, radio and television commentators, and many more, relating to Will Rogers and his life. Meanwhile they have gathered from a variety of sources, mainly the Rogers family in California and Rogers relatives in Oklahoma, the great bulk of Will Rogers' writings and related documents. Mr. and Mrs. Love, husbanding modest appropriated funds, have cared for these treasures against the day when editing for publication could be completed. Meanwhile they had performed much in preliminary checking and collating, showing resourcefulness and imagination. They have permitted access to the collections to qualified research scholars, including some in years past as well as those mentioned above. It is for Dr. Agnew a rare privilege to be associated with people so dedicated as are Mr. and Mrs. Love.

B. Assessment of the Project.

It was early obvious to Dr. Agnew that *The Will Rogers Papers* is a project to rank in importance and in scope with any of the series of writings launched within the last generation. It is comparable, for example, with the so-called "Big Five," the projects strongly sponsored by the National Historical Publications Commission — Adams, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, and Madison. Likewise it can rank with any of more recent efforts, some of which have had NHPC endorsement, such as the papers of U. S. Grant, of Jefferson Davis, of Andrew Johnson, and of John Jay. It can be compared as well with *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, completed in 1953, and with *The Papers of Woodrow Wilson*, which has received the only endorsement given by the NHPC to a twentieth century project.

The Will Rogers Papers can likewise be compared in complexity to numerous enterprises which seek to publish the writings of literary figures. In many ways the most ambitious of these is the *Correspondence of Horace Walpole*, a series which has so impressed Will Rogers, Jr., that he regards it as an excellent model for our project. More recently the Modern Language Association, leading organization for professional scholars in literature, has instituted standards to be used by editors of series of 19th century authors; in return for adopting these standards, these projects may use a seal of endorsement issued by the MLA through its Center for Editions of American Authors.

It seemed wise to Dr. Agnew to adapt for *The Will Rogers Papers* the editing techniques of both historical and literary projects. Unless otherwise stated, the standards summarized below are those of the MLA, found in *Statement of Editorial Principles, A Working Manual for Editing Nineteenth Century American Texts* (1967):

1. As a motto:
 "Accuracy without Pedantry.
 Consistency, first, last, and always."
 (O. Handlin et al, eds., *The Harvard Guide to American History*, 1954, p. 104).
2. The editor's first obligation is "to make sure that he works with all the available forms of the text in which the writer may have had the opportunity to change or refine it."
3. The editor's next obligation is to determine which of the several forms is "to be his 'copy-text'... the text closest to the hand and/or the intent of the author."
4. The next obligation of the editor is "to collate all other relevant forms of his text...and to determine and list all substantive variants."
5. The next obligation is to determine "the manner of reporting these collation results." The most desirable of several listed methods appears to be "clear text," which is a text "for the general reading public as well as students, teachers, and scholars." Therefore the "apparatus" (footnotes, etc.) should appear "as end-matter, following the text proper."
6. In representing the manuscripts, when this form is to be the "copy-text," the editor plans to use "expanded method," which is recommended by the *Harvard Guide* and has been adopted for *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*.
7. The next obligation is to write explanatory footnotes.
8. The next obligation of the editor is to write an introduction or afterword to his text which will "remain viable as history," and be "a concentrated, lucid essay." It is desired as well that Mrs. Love prepare a general introduction for the entire series.
9. The critical text, thus obtained, should be proof-read against the originals; microfilmed or xeroxed for safety; and submitted to the publisher. Upon publication, the editor should proof-read his galleys and page proofs. The MLA recommends *five* stages of proof-reading the printed text.

C. Order of Editing for Publication.

After considerable study, Dr. Agnew determined that the following order, stated in *The Will Rogers Papers* brochure, serves the interests of the project most thoroughly:

1. *The Daily Telegrams 1926-1935*; in many ways these were the most characteristic of Will Rogers' writings, and on them the fame of his later years was in great measure built. Two volumes will be devoted to these nearly 3,000 items.
2. *The Books 1919-1929*. A single volume may appropriately be devoted to gathering in consolidated form the six books Will Rogers wrote for publication during his lifetime.
3. *The Weekly Articles 1922-1935*. These amount to more than 800,000 words, four volumes worth.
4. *The Worst Story I Have Heard Today, 1925-1927*. These are 500 columns of the most consciously humorous writing Will Rogers did, and will form a single volume.
5. *Radio Broadcasts 1930-1935*. These are more than sixty in number, and were chiefly in two sponsored series. Carefully prepared but extemporaneously delivered, these represent the author's wide-ranging interests and humane concerns and deserve a separate volume.
6. *General Writings*. This miscellaneous designation is for a variety of other materials, including magazine and newspaper articles, advertisements, speeches, interviews, letters, etc. It will require perhaps five volumes.

The order as stated here is subject to modification should need become evident; yet it is the present working pattern. It is planned that edited copy, ready for publication, be produced as soon as practicable, and that work progress steadily so that volumes may appear at a minimum rate of one, or perhaps two, per year.

D. Steps in Editing.

Mrs. Paula Love has furnished the Center, in keeping with the terms of the contract, xerox copies of all the *Daily Telegrams* at the Memorial. Many additional magazine articles, radio broadcasts (transcribed), certain newspaper articles, and copies of the Will Rogers books, have also been received. The *Daily Telegrams* are presented from several sources, with initial collation already performed, when possible, with the copy as printed in the *New York Times*, usually in the *Tulsa Daily World*, and often in

the *Kansas City Star*. An independent collation has been commenced by the editor, including the preparation of an additional working copy. Work has begun on identifying people and places mentioned in the columns, and in presenting brief explanations of situations to which Mr. Rogers refers. Mrs. Provence has prepared a preliminary subject index for the *Telegrams*, which amounts to more than 2,000 file cards and which facilitates cross-referencing. Mrs. Provence's card index helped Dr. Agnew quickly find certain quotations as desired in the preparation of brochures, papers, and proposals. She discovered certain items which were communicated to President Kamm in preparing for his November 4 address at the Memorial. Other tasks of editing will come in logical sequence as appropriate.

E. *Apparatus*

The contents of the volumes will include the following:

1. Introduction to the series and to each individual volume.
2. Introductory statement by Mrs. Love.
3. Brief description of editing standards and criteria.
4. List of commonly used abbreviations.
5. Table of contents.
6. List of illustrations.
7. Content material, including illustrations.
8. Annotations.
9. Appendices.
10. Index.

VI. USES MADE OF *THE WILL ROGERS PAPERS*.

A. *Inquiries of the Editor.*

To date faculty members and students at Oklahoma State University in the areas of speech, radio-television, journalism, and English have inquired of Dr. Agnew as to the availability of materials relating to Will Rogers. Particularly desired are: tape recordings of speeches, transcriptions of speeches and other addresses, scripts of motion pictures, idea or "gag" books of stage routines, and films. Dr. Agnew has been able to refer such inquiries to the Will Rogers Memorial. However, it seems desirable to emphasize the eagerness of Mr. Pritchard, director of the Audio-Visual Center, to give space and care to appropriate materials in his division's quarters on the second floor of the Library. Dr. Agnew can properly house any written or printed material in the Center. Any such offers from Mrs. Love would be accepted with gratitude.

B. *By Members of Dr. Agnew's Courses.*

Each semester during the academic year Dr. Agnew hopes to be able to offer an upper division or graduate course in American social and intellectual history, for reasons stated above. In the fall semester of 1968 the course offered ends nominally at 1865, with the conclusion of the Civil War. However, Dr. Agnew seized the opportunity by means of a study of the characteristics of Americans to bring in the Will Rogers subject. He assigned each member of the class to write on the topic "Will Rogers, Individualist or Conformist." Dr. Agnew had the students read a selected list of essays describing the American character in terms of these two characteristics, and then, using the writings of Will Rogers, to test the validity of the concepts, both as descriptions of Rogers and of the American people. Each student was to concentrate on Rogers' writings for a single year. While most emphasized the *Daily Telegrams*, several used magazine articles, weekly articles, and some of the Rogers books. Xerox copies of these course papers have been placed in the Center.

Dr. Agnew expects to assign similar projects in the spring semester, when the course will begin with the year 1865 and come down to the present. He hopes to use Will Rogers material similarly in each such course indefinitely.

C. *Incidental Contacts.*

As an example among many of an incidental contact, the Center was visited on November 27, 1968, by Miss Eva Jessye and Mr. Lee Ward. Miss Jessye had earlier been associated with Mr. Ward, who is principal of Highland Park Elementary School, Stillwater. Miss Jessye, a stage personality, is organizer and director of the Eva Jessye Choir, which has given concerts on tours of colleges and universities, specializing in "Porgy and Bess" and similar musical presentations. Her search was for folklore material

of the freedmen who had belonged to members of the Five Civilized Tribes long before Oklahoma statehood. Since the Center contained no material directly related to her subject, she soon left, but not before a pleasant visit, mutual exchange of brochures, and a feeling on Dr. Agnew's part that Will Rogers would have enjoyed talking with a fellow entertainer such as Miss Jessye. Mr. Ward brought her to the Center because he had read newspaper stories about the project and because he has known Dr. Agnew for some years.

D. *Plans for Other Publications.*

Every effort is of course being bent toward the publication of *The Will Rogers Papers*. Nevertheless benefits to the project can be expected through the appropriate publication of related material. For example, Dr. Agnew's paper "Will Rogers as a Field for Historical Research" is being made ready for submission to a scholarly journal. An inquiry has been received from one textbook company's representative as to the feasibility of preparing a selection of Will Rogers writings to be a sourcebook for college history and literature classes. Steps have been initiated toward a possible article in popular historical magazines, such as *The American West*, *American Heritage*, and the like. The writing of newspaper articles for use on commemorative occasions is being considered. No type of publication outlet is being rejected.

VII. RESULTANT BENEFITS

A. *Materials Offered to the Center.*

Several kinds of materials related to the Will Rogers subject have been offered to Dr. Agnew for the Research Center. For example, Mr. E. O. Galyon, Oklahoma State University alumnus from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, sent to the Center ten colored slides which he had taken of the Will Rogers Memorial and the Will Rogers shrine in Colorado. Mrs. Mary Ann Nichols of Stillwater, whose family had lived in the Claremore area, loaned the Center a scrapbook which her relatives had made of hundreds of clippings related to Will Rogers, his life and death. While most of the material doubtless is already known, and much more besides, to the staff of the Memorial, it provided the Center an opportunity to get xerox copies of many items of Will Rogers interest. In addition, when the collection of Rogers stamps and related material made by L. M. "Tex" Edmunds was placed on exhibit in Oklahoma City late in November, 1968, Dr. Agnew inventoried the eight autograph Will Rogers letters, fifteen Will Rogers signed documents, and twenty associated items which would be desirable to include in the published series for the sake of completeness.

B. *Aids to Research*

Incidental aids can be expected from the project toward strengthening graduate study at Oklahoma State University. With the approval of new Ph.D. programs in history and English, expected to be in full operation by September, 1969, and September, 1970, respectively, and joining long standing M.A. programs in those fields, the University should be able to make efficient use of Will Rogers material as furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Love, and in addition to assist research and graduate training in many fields: journalism, speech, radio-television, American literature, and American history, as examples.

VIII. SUMMARY

This report can be summarized in two words - "measured progress." While such progress would be faster if the project could be given assurance of support from gifts or grants, present levels of activity are satisfactory although on a somewhat reduced basis. It is desirable that we bend every effort toward the early realization of our goal, which is to complete the publication of *The Will Rogers Papers* so that future generations of students and scholars may understand and appreciate this important twentieth century American. They may also, through such study, learn the better to understand themselves.

Respectfully submitted

Theodore L. Agnew
Professor of History, and
Director Will Rogers Research

TLA:np
December 18, 1968