

1950— *The Papers of
Thomas Jefferson*

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For more than five decades, the Press has been involved in some of the most ambitious endeavors in scholarly publishing—multivolume papers projects undertaken by large research teams at great expense and completed over many years. The first at Princeton was *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, under the editorship of univer-

sity librarian and later Princeton professor of history Julian Boyd. Boyd conceived of the project in 1943 while serving on the Thomas Jefferson Bicentennial Commission. The project's goal was—and remains—to prepare an authoritative and comprehensive edition of the correspondence and papers of Jefferson. Current editor Barbara B. Oberg hopes to complete the project's remaining forty volumes by July 4, 2026, the bicentennial of Jefferson's death.

Upon publication of the first volume in 1950, the Jefferson Papers received a grand send-off at the Library of Congress in a ceremony presided over by President Truman. The project renewed interest in the nation's documentary heritage and set the standard for the organization and presentation of historical documents, so much so that the highest honor awarded today by the Association for Documentary Editing is named for Julian P. Boyd. It became the model for the papers of Franklin, Adams, Hamilton, Madison, Wilson, and others.

As part of the lavish attention the Press devoted to the project, Press designer P. J. Conkwright and the Mergenthaler Linotype Company spent nearly six years reinventing an eighteenth-century typeface, which they dubbed "Monticello," expressly for the Jefferson Papers.

