



Barbara A. Schaal

Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to confirm the commitment of Washington University in St. Louis to the ongoing work of The Spenser Project, a multi-institutional effort to edit the collected works of Edmund Spenser for print and online dissemination. I am joined in my support by Chancellor Mark Wrighton.

The University has sustained the project from its inception. The Spenser Project informed the founding of the Humanities Digital Workshop, which provides staff support and technical infrastructure for computer-assisted research in the humanities, and a structure for student participation in that research through undergraduate and graduate fellowships. The Executive Vice Chancellor and General Counsel's office have assisted the editors in their negotiations with Oxford University Press in order to secure an accord between the Press's intellectual property in the edition and the university's commitment to freedom of access to the online edition.

There are strong institutional reasons for our support. The core motive for our sponsorship of this edition is Spenser is a central role in Elizabethan literary culture. As scholars have noted, his works created a ground on which partisan politics, cultural ambition, and ethics struggle creatively. Thus, a new Spenser edition is a major contribution to literary scholarship. Moreover, the edition has become important to our teaching mission. Professor Loewenstein has integrated editorial work into the curriculum of the English Department, and his "lab" course on Spenser has trained dozens of graduate students and undergraduates in advanced literary scholarship, schooling them in book history, history of religion, editorial theory, and poetics.

The Spenser Project was one of the founding undertakings of our Humanities Digital Workshop, which now supports faculty projects in History, German, English, Music, Economics, Classics, Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Some of these projects are internally funded, some funded by the ACLS, and the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council, as well as the NEH. Working out how to support the Spenser Project helped us to develop the infrastructure to support these other research projects, and helped us to establish robust working relationships between Arts & Sciences Computing and the Library's Digital Library Services.

I am therefore happy to confirm our enthusiastic continuing support for this edition, since it has usefully contributed to our institutional strength while advancing both our research and our educational mission.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara A. Schaal".

Barbara A. Schaal

Mary-Dell Chilton Distinguished Professor



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
NINA LEVINE, CHAIR

November 26, 2014

To: David Lee Miller
Distinguished Carolina Professor
Department of English
University of South Carolina

From: Nina Levine, Chair
Department of English

Re: The Spenser Project

The English Department is pleased to offer support for your work on the Spenser Project. The project will make an absolutely invaluable contribution to Renaissance studies, resulting in the publication of the *Collected Works of Edmund Spenser* with Oxford University Press and the accompanying *Spenser Archive*. This monumental project is also invaluable in its promise to set an important new standard in textual editing and presentational formats.

The department will contribute up to \$7,000 toward the cost of your travel to archives (six libraries in all) for the purpose of collating copies of the *Fowre Hymnes*.

**Department of English**

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20 November 2014

To the National Endowment for the Humanities:

I confirm the Penn State English Department's ongoing support for the Spenser Project. The Spenser Project is applying for another NEH Scholarly Editions Grant during the next funding cycle, and I confirm that Penn State will continue to provide graduate and undergraduate research assistants, travel and research funding for Professor Cheney, digital media infrastructure as needed, and office, computer, and library support and other supplies Professor Cheney may need.

The Spenser Project is at the center of many important priorities for the department and for the College of the Liberal Arts at Penn State. Spenser has long been a key author in the Elizabethan canon, and supporting this major career project of an eminent Spenser scholar—Patrick Cheney, Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of English and Comparative Literature—has benefitted Penn State in several ways.

Undertaking the year's long labor of a top quality scholarly edition contributes to our research mission and directly benefits both our graduate and undergraduate students in a collaborative research process that has become a model for other branches of our department. We have supported and will continue to provide graduate student Research Assistants for the project, and those students have gained much from their involvement in Professor Cheney's research for the edition. But this close research collaboration has also benefitted our undergraduate teaching mission. For several years, our undergraduate internship program has been able to provide to the Spenser Project 3-4 students per year, many of them Schreyer Honors College students and many of them provided with some level of research support from the department. Professor Cheney offers students an invaluable opportunity to work with a top researcher to see the craft of research from within.

Another area in which the Spenser Project has been trail blazing for Penn State is digital humanities –a strategic priority for the English Department and the College of the Liberal Arts. The impressive digital component of the Spenser Project has already provided recent RA's direct experience in markup and the logistics of a formidable digital project. While digital humanities work on this scale is expensive and benefits from NEH grants and cross-institutional collaboration, it has become a crucial part of our own research and graduate training, and we will continue to support Penn State's contributions to the digital archive of the Spenser Project beyond the end of the future NEH or other grants.

Finally, the cross-institutional collaboration of the Spenser Project—that facilitates research and publication with Washington University, University of Virginia, Cambridge University, and the University of South Carolina—is also a major benefit to Penn State and makes this project certain of continuing support. Much future success in the humanities is likely to feature multi-institutional and even multi-national collaborations such as the Spenser Project. I urge the NEH to fund the Spenser Project again. It will best be able to realize its full potential through NEH funding, and its groundbreaking scholarly and pedagogical contributions will further the mission of the NEH Scholarly Editions Grants to make a major author's work both broadly accessible and available in a high quality scholarly edition. We look forward to continuing to enthusiastically support the Spenser Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Burkholder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Robert E." on the top line and "Burkholder" on the bottom line.

Robert E. Burkholder
Associate Professor and Acting Head



29 November 2014

Professor Joseph Loewenstein
Department of English
Washington University in St Louis
Campus Box 1122
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899

Re: Proposal for Research Support from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Dear Professor Loewenstein:

I write to express my pleasure at and commitment to continuing in my position as a General Editor of the Oxford Edition of the Collected Works of Edmund Spenser.

Over the proposed grant period, I will devote my efforts particularly toward the production of a standard scholarly text of Spenser's *A Vewe of the Present State of Ireland*. The Bodleian Library's MS. Rawlinson B.478, my primary authority for the text of the *Vewe*, continues to be prepared as a base text, and other manuscript witnesses to the text transcribed and collated with Rawlinson as we continue the work of annotation.

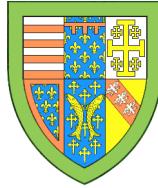
I will also work together with you, our co-editors, and the team of research assistants at Washington University on the editorial apparatus for other parts of the *Works*, especially helping with annotation on *Two Cantos of Mutabilitie*.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Fowler'.

Elizabeth Fowler
Associate Professor

Dr Andrew Zurcher
Fellow & Director of Studies in English
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15 November 2014

Statement of commitment
Edmund Spenser, *Collected Works*, Oxford University Press

I write to express my ongoing commitment to the development and production of the Oxford University Press edition of the *Collected Works of Edmund Spenser*. My primary responsibilities in the editing of Spenser's works for this edition include the drafting of a glossary, and the editing of Spenser's manuscript letters. I will also continue to assist in the preparation of textual and critical materials relating to other parts of the project.

I understand that my contribution to the edition will consist of materials and works that I create for both the print edition and for the open-access on-line Archive. By signing this letter, I grant Washington University and University of South Carolina a royalty-free, perpetual, nonexclusive license and unconditional right to publish materials and works that I create and submit for the edition and the open-access on-line Archive. I understand that Washington University and the University of South Carolina will rely upon this grant of license to develop, construct and publish the open-access on-line Archive.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Zurcher.



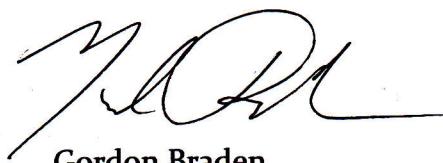
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5 November 2014

I have agreed to edit *Axiochus* for the Oxford edition of Spenser, and will complete my work on it by the end of 2016.



Gordon Braden
Professor Emeritus, Department of English
University of Virginia