



I could go on, but I will restrain myself. To quote Jimmy in *8 Mile*, however, “Don’t ever try to judge me dude. You don’t know what...I’ve been through.”

11. I think that discretion being the better part of valor, with a strange sense of solidarity with the classification regime at State, the CIA, et. al, and in keeping with the advice I have gotten from people I trust and respect, I have reluctantly redacted most of my previous comment. As Tyrion Lannister said, “Sometimes nothing is the hardest thing to do.”

12. I think that the cost of travel and accommodations at the Toronto conference demonstrates pretty convincingly that a European-based SHAFR conference is a bad idea. In theory, sure—let’s go to London or Berlin or Madrid or Sydney or (as Tom Zeiler advocated for years) Havana. In reality, though, few graduate students, contingent faculty, or even tenure-track faculty without endowed chairs or lacking robust research accounts have access to the thousands of dollars of travel funds that would be required to attend a conference at these destinations. Plus, the costs to the organization itself would be significant and prohibitive, which is highly problematic given the current state of SHAFR finances—I mean, we may not be back at the Renaissance in Arlington after 2025 due to rising expenses. Other options—like SHAFR-sponsored panels at European (or Asian or South American) conferences—make far more financial sense, particularly given the economic factors at play for the organization and for its members. But let’s definitely think about going back to the west coast before too long; SHAFR has only been west of the Mississippi River three times in nearly fifty years. I hear Vegas is nice...

13. I think that Mitch Lerner’s tenure as president of SHAFR was outrageously successful in the face of serious economic obstacles and major organizational turnover and personnel changes. And that SHAFR-themed Hawaiian shirt he procured for his presidential address? Priceless.

14. I think that I say this a lot, but one more time for those in the back not paying attention: SHAFR needs to do anything and everything that it can to resurrect the Summer Institute program... wait, what was that? We found a way to bring the Summer Institute back? That is the best news I have heard since I found out that the 2025 PCB-AHA conference will be in Las Vegas. Seriously, this is an outstanding development, one that will benefit not only the participants in future Summer Institutes but also SHAFR as an organization. Good luck to Michael Brenes and Alvita Akiboh in 2025—let’s hope that this will be the beginning of a long and uninterrupted run of successful Institutes.

15. I think that SHAFR’s creation of the Walter LaFeber-Molly Wood Distinguished Teaching Award is an outstanding decision, and I am proud to have played a small part in making that a reality. I only met Walt a couple of times at conferences, although he gave probably the best lecture I have ever heard back in 2006: an hour-long *tour de force* in his home state of Indiana that synthesized about 250 years of the history of U.S. foreign relations seamlessly, expertly, and without a single note in sight or syllable out of place. Simply astonishing. His influence on the field—not only with his scholarship but also in terms of his legacy with scores of graduate

students he advised and thousands of Cornell undergraduates he exposed to his perspectives on the past in his courses—is nearly incalculable. But I am beyond thrilled that Molly Wood (an alum of the first Summer Institute in 2008) has been recognized for her unending, tireless, and unselfish devotion to teaching during her career at Wittenberg University (much of the time in the face of nearly insurmountable odds due to adverse circumstances); as a long-time member of—and one of the driving forces behind—SHAFR’s Teaching Committee; and as the inaugural teaching-centered member of Council. Molly truly cares about her students, about her colleagues, and about furthering SHAFR’s mission to teach the history of U.S. foreign relations (something which is too often overlooked by members focusing primarily on scholarship), and I am thrilled that the organization can honor her commitment in this way. You should go donate to the (tax deductible) prize fund.

16. I think that Richard Immerman will do an excellent job as SHAFR’s new Executive Director. His experience with the organization is nearly unrivaled, and he will be an important voice advising Council and guiding the organization as SHAFR navigates the perilous financial, cultural, professional, and political challenges that it is facing currently and will certainly encounter over the next several years.

17. I think that whoever replaces me as *Passport* editor will do a terrific job. SHAFR has scores (if not hundreds) of talented, creative, and intelligent members who would thrive in this position, and my successor will probably turn my tenure as editor into a distant and forgotten memory with their insights and innovations. I look forward to seeing how *Passport* evolves in the coming years.

18. I think that I need to publicly thank a number of people in SHAFR for their support and encouragement over the past two decades. As I wrote over five years ago in this column, most of my closest friends are members of the organization (and I’m still not sure what that says about my lack of a life the other eleven months and three weeks of the year), and the sense of camaraderie and friendship that permeates and transcends the Renaissance and other conference sites is overwhelming. In no particular order and with apologies for anyone I have left out (there are definitely scores of people in that category), my heartfelt gratitude to David Anderson, Lori Clune, Tom Schwartz, Brian Etheridge, Molly Wood, Kimber Quinney, Jason Parker, Jeremi Suri, Marc Selverstone, Kelly McFarland, Heather Dichter, Kelly Shannon, Mitch Lerner, David Schmitz, Ken Osgood, Andrew Preston, Kara Vuic, Bill Miscamble, Chester Pach, Kyle Longley, the late George Herring, and Kathryn Statler. The extremely short list of people on the diametrically opposite side of the spectrum is addressed above in #10.

19. I think that I will miss being as deeply involved with SHAFR as I have been for the past two decades, but I am leaving on my own terms. Neil Gaiman wrote, “What do I do now? I don’t know. Fade away, perhaps.” That about sums it up. I wish the organization and its members continued success going forward.

20. I think that’s it. I’m out.