IV. Audio-Visual Materials

Stimulated by the Bicentennial, there has been a sharp increase in the production of audio-visual materials about the American Revolution. Some of it is currently available, and much will be forthcoming. New items should be looked for in education journals and publisher/distributor announcements. Although audio-visual materials complement and supplement the written word, reinforce learning, and provide excellent sources of motivation and enrichment, they should be used only with thought and planning. Such materials should be utilized when they can perform a service in the classroom equal or superior to that of other materials, when they fit into the lesson and contribute to fulfilling its objectives, and only after they have been thoroughly previewed.

*The Adams Chronicles, 1750-1900.* A series of thirteen dramatic television programs shown over Public Broadcasting Service during the 1976 season. Although this handsomely funded, carefully researched, and creatively developed project will cover the careers of later Adamses, the earlier episodes deal with the late colonial and revolutionary periods.

*American Civilization: 1783-1840.* A three-part program comprised of 240 slides in three carousel cartridges, three tape cassettes, three long-playing records, accompanied by a teacher's guide. Although the scope of this program goes beyond the revolutionary period, a good proportion is comprised of portraits of revolutionary leaders and Founding Fathers and of examples of neoclassical architecture. The Center for Humanities, Inc., Two Holland Avenue, White Plains, NY 10603.

Audio-Visual Materials

The American Revolution: A Cantata Based on the Music of the American Colonies During the Years 1775-1800, by Richard Bales. One-record album combining song and the spoken word, accompanied by a booklet containing pictures, cartoons, and textual material. Columbia LL1001. Columbia Record Sales, 45-20 83rd Road, Elmhurst, Queens, NY 11421.

The American Revolution Through Its Songs and Ballads. Long-playing record sung and narrated by Bill and Gene Bonyn and John Anthony Scott, providing a vivid and lifelike aural portrait of the period. Heirloom Records, Wiscasset, ME 04578.


Battles and Skirmishes of the American Revolution in New Jersey. Bureau of Archives and History, New Jersey State Library and Bureau of Geology and Topography, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Color; 48" x 28". Map Publication Sales Office, Bureau of Geology and Topography, P.O. Box 2809, Trenton, NJ 08625. A printed guide to the map is currently being produced, and will be published sometime in 1976. Information about the guide, including probable date of publication and cost, can be obtained from the above address.


The Colonial Printer. 16mm, sound, color film, twenty-six minutes. Deals with the patriot-printers who struggled to print the truth as they saw it, and focuses upon the events of 1775 when revolutionary fighting broke out. Colonial Williamsburg, AV Distribution Section, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

Dick, Marcia. Trailway to Freedom—New Jersey and the Revolution. Sound filmstrip, fifty-nine frames, color, cassette. A portrayal of the major events of the revolutionary war in New Jersey through maps, paintings and photographs of contemporary sites and buildings. From Heritage to Horizon—New Jersey and the Bicentennial. Sound filmstrip, eighty-five frames, color, cassette. Compares forms of transportation, shelter, occupations, recreation and art in New Jersey two hundred years ago with those of today. Both filmstrips and cassettes available by direct pick-up from Center for Educational Technology, Paramus High School, Spring Valley Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.

Distinguished Lecture Series. Eighteen lectures by prominent Americans on the nature and the future of the American Revolution, videotaped at historic or other outstanding sites during 1973-1974.
NPACT, Public Broadcasting Service, Washington, DC 20408.


The History of New Jersey [Set II]. Set of six color filmstrips. Filmstrip five is entitled "The Age of Discontent and Rebellion, 1764-1776" (fifty-three frames) and includes New Jersey's response to British restrictions, the formation of the Committee of Correspondence and the Committee of Safety, the arrest of Governor Franklin, and the adoption of the constitution of 1776. Filmstrip six is "The Era of the War for Independence in New Jersey, 1776-1783" (forty-four frames) and deals with the battles, sites and principal figures in New Jersey during the Revolution. Associated Educators, P.O. Box 2663, State College, West Chester, PA 19380.

Independence in the Making. Filmstrip, color, sixty-one frames. An "eyewitness" account by an ordinary Williamsburg citizen of the events that led to the Revolution and its ultimate success as gleaned from personal observation and conversations of others. Colonial Williamsburg, AV Distribution Section, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

Landmark of America Series. Set of nine standard 8mm. sound reel color loop films, fifteen minutes each. Series deals with the historical significance of major American landmarks. Two titles are "Independence Hall" and "Old North Church." Multi-Ways Educational Corporation, New York, NY 10021.


Lomax, John and Alan. Folk Song, USA. New York: Signet Books, 1966. A stimulating and colorful collection of folk songs, folk stories and tall tales with background information, a good number of which deal with the colonial and revolutionary periods.


National Geographic Society. Decades of Decision: The American Revolution. A series of twelve dramatic films dealing with key human aspects of the revolutionary era; 16mm, sound, color, twenty-five
minutes each, grade level five through twelve. Made in conjunction with Metropolitan Pittsburgh Public Broadcasting and Carnegie-Mellon University, each film, accompanied by a packet of primary source documents and a teacher’s guide, constitutes a learning unit. Purchase from the Society (17 and M Sts., N.W., Washington, DC 20036); rental from any Modern Film Rental Library.


New Jersey Past and Present. A series of fifteen videotapes produced between 1973 and 1975 by Willingboro high school students under a grant from the New Jersey American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration Commission. Each tape, ten to fifteen minutes in length, is on a New Jersey historic site or event. School systems with videotape capabilities can receive gratis a complete set by sending blank tapes to Sidney L. Taylor, Willingboro Public Schools, Willingboro, NJ 08046.

Pictures of the Revolutionary War. The National Archives Trust Fund Board, General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20408. A pamphlet listing selected pictures relating to the American Revolution, arranged by subject, held by the National Archives. They are black and white photographic copies of works of art that can be ordered from the National Archives.

The Planter Statesmen of Colonial Virginia. Filmstrip color, thirty-nine frames. Reveals the preparation for national leadership through devotion to public service and political and military experience on the local level of men like Washington, Jefferson and James Madison. Colonial Williamsburg, AV Distribution Section, Williamsburg, VA 23185.


Redcoats and Rebels. WBGO, Newark Board of Education Station (88.3-FM). Fifteen, fifteen-minute dramatized programs commissioned by the New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority, each focusing on an individual—man or woman, famous or obscure, patriot or Loyalist, white or black. Broadcast over non-commercial radio stations in the state beginning in mid-1975. Inquiries concerning receipt of scripts should be addressed to WBGO, 345 High St., Newark, NJ 07102.

The Rhetoric of War. A three-quarter inch videotape cassette, color, thirty minutes. Information and purchase or rental: Television Center, University of Michigan, 400 Fourth Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Silber, Irwin, comp., *Songs of Independence*. 1973. Words, music and guitar accompaniment, along with historical setting, for over one hundred songs about America, ranging from 1620 to 1815 but concentrating on the revolutionary period. Stackpole Books, Cameron & Kelker Sts., Harrisburg, PA 17105.

Sirkis, Nancy. *Reflections of 1776*. New York: Viking Press, 1974. A collection of photographs of homes, shops and public buildings and places with some accompanying text which attempts to capture the architectural appearance of the American colonies at the outbreak of the Revolution. There are a number of good examples from New Jersey.


*Williamsburg—The Story of a Patriot.* 16mm, sound, color film, thirty-six minutes. Although focused on Williamsburg, capital of colonial Virginia, it deals with the broad issues of British-colonial conflict, the events leading to independence, and the roles of the Virginia patriots, Washington, Jefferson and Patrick Henry. Colonial Williamsburg, AV Distribution Section, Williamsburg, VA 2185