

ROBERT O'DELL III, U.E.

Robert O'Dell III, U.E. is a historian of technology, labor, and business, a postal historian, and an aspiring Human Performance Engineer and Instructional Systems Designer/Technologist, currently pursuing his Doctorate in Instructional Systems Technology at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA, focusing on Human Performance Improvement in business, government, and industrial workplaces. He received his Bachelor's Degree in History and Secondary Education from Roger Williams University, in Bristol, Rhode Island, USA, and his Master's Degree in History from Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island, USA.

Mr. O'Dell's historical interests broadly encompass the transnational history of technology, labor, and business in the United States and Canada during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. His research interests primarily focus on technology at the intersection of the state, the history of postal systems, and the legacy of complex workplace processes, systems, and logistics networks. As a proud descendant of both French-Canadian and British-Canadian ancestors, he has long been fascinated by the cross-border continuity and divergence between Canada and the United States, especially technological diffusion and trade. He has also worked to preserve the postal heritage of both nations by engaging in advocacy, personally saving the remnants of the Pitney-Bowes Postmark Slogan Proof Archive and the surviving artifacts and documents from the International Postal Supply Company's machine shop. He is also currently working on a long-term book project cataloging and contextualizing the postmark propaganda slogan dies manufactured by the Pitney-Bowes Corporation. Mr. O'Dell also studies workplace and industrial processes, sociotechnical systems, and the human-technology relationship within historical and modern perspectives.

Mr. O'Dell is a technology and computer enthusiast, a passionate educator, and a problem-solver with an insatiably curious mind. At twenty-four years of age, the author is a distinguished Fellow of the Hassenfeld Foundation; a recipient of The John Dewey Award for Excellence in Education; a recipient of The Herbert Claiborne Pell Award for Excellence in Studies in United States History and Culture; a frequent guest speaker and presenter on topics ranging from the history of postal systems to digital humanities research methodologies; and a philanthropist successfully preserving and donating to academic institutions overlooked and endangered collections of documents and objects relating to United States and Canadian technological heritage. The author hopes to use the history of technology in the future as a medium to better understand and solve the problems and ethical quandaries that society faces from rapid scientific and technological growth in the twenty-first century. He is a proponent for creating the efficient, safe, ethical, and innovative workplace environments of the future and looks forward to continuing his historical research on postal systems.