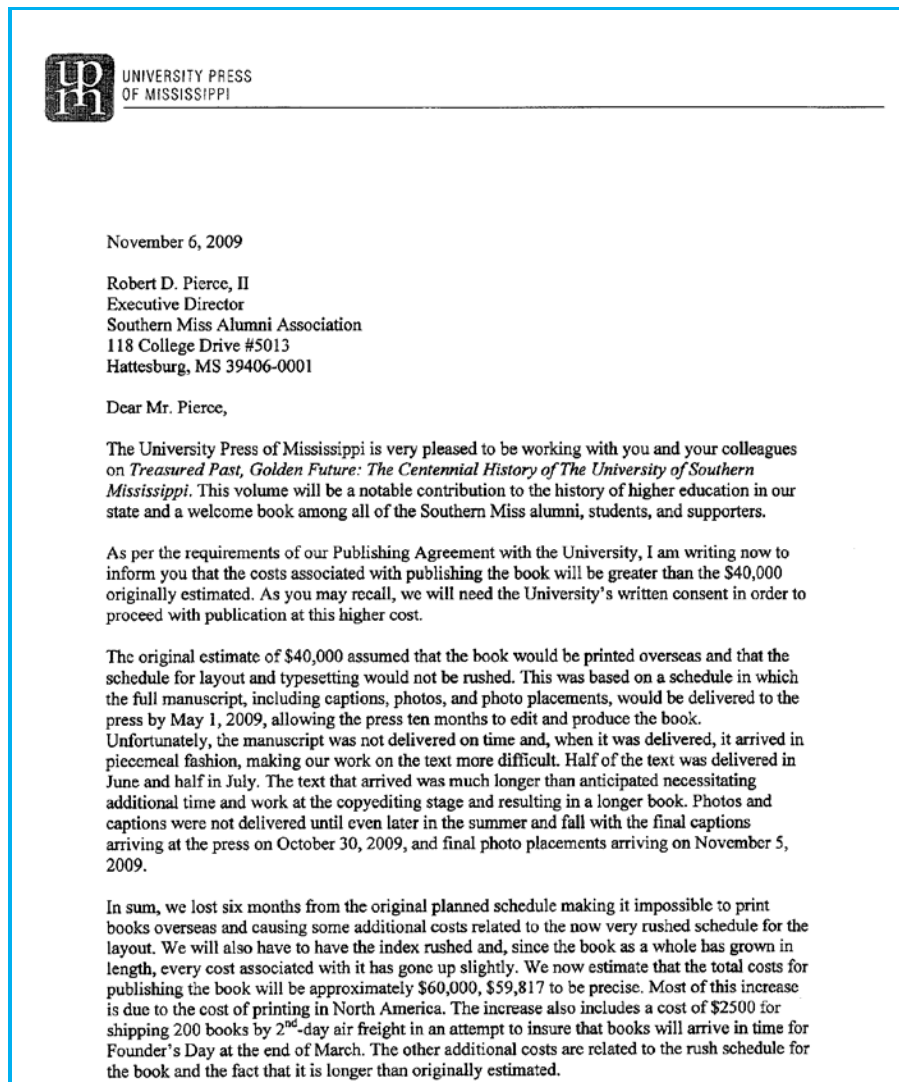


# Bo's Cost Overrun

## *Final Printing Cost of Centennial History 50% Higher than Originally Stated*

Documents obtained by USMNEWS.net indicate [that the printing cost](#) to Mississippi taxpayers and USM students of the USM [centennial history book](#), *Treasured Past, Golden Future*, ultimately rose from \$40,000, as stated in the original contracts, to almost \$60,000 by the time production of book was closer to completion. The insert below – the first page of a letter from Craig Gill, the editor-in-chief at the University Press of Mississippi, to Robert Pierce of USM – indicates that the UPoM incurred a final printing cost of **\$59,817** in publishing [the centennial history](#) of USM that was authored by Bo Morgan, the “University Historian” hired by former USM president Martha Saunders [in preparation for](#) a grand centennial celebration at the institution in 2010.



The money figures reported in Gill's letter above, dated 6-Nov-2009, indicate that the printing cost to UPoM of Morgan's history came in at **\$19,817** higher than originally planned. This printing cost overrun comes to **49.5%** of the original estimate of \$40,000. It also raises the total cost, including other

expenses already examined here at USMNEWS.net, of *Treasured Past, Golden Future* to anywhere from **\$118,000 to \$168,000**.

Interestingly, a partial reason for the 49.5% printing cost overrun was, according to Gill, that the manuscript was both delivered late and in a piecemeal fashion. This sloppiness, which falls at the feet of Morgan and, perhaps, Saunders (and others), meant that the UPoM faced greater difficulties in editing the book than had been earlier anticipated. The text was also, according Gill, much longer than anticipated, and the accompanying photos and captions arrived months after Morgan's written drafts. As sources indicate, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> paragraphs of Gill's letter inserted above represent something like a scathing admonition of those at USM who were responsible for putting the book together.

The second (final) page of Gill's letter is inserted below for interested readers.

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The new production schedule for the book is still very, very tight, but we are working to make sure that some books will arrive by the end of March. This assumes, however, that everyone working on the book will be able to rush every aspect of its production over the next four months, including the author when he reviews the page proofs. We could return to a total cost much closer to the original estimate if we agreed to deliver books in the early summer, thus allowing us to print overseas and relieving the burden of the short schedule from all parties involved. This would save the University a substantial amount of money and still allow books to be sold at events at the beginning of the Fall semester, but would of course miss the Founder's Day celebration.

We are continuing to work with the printer and the compositor in an attempt to reduce costs if possible, but any such reduction will be very modest and should not be assumed. This will be a beautiful book, but given the circumstances over the past six months in when and how the manuscript was delivered to us there is no way to avoid this increase in costs and still have a chance of delivering books by March 30, 2010.

I look forward to receiving your response to this letter and confirmation that we should proceed with production despite the higher costs now anticipated.

Sincerely,



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