

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The Historical Records of North Carolina, Volume I, The County Records, Alamance-Columbus, edited by C. C. Crittenden, state director of the Historical Records Survey, and Dan Lacy, assistant state director. (Raleigh, North Carolina. The North Carolina Historical Commission, 1938.)

The Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration for North Carolina has been fortunate in enlisting the assistance of the North Carolina Historical Commission in presenting in permanent and worthy form its survey of the county archives of the state. This volume presents an introduction and the lists of county records for Alamance to Columbus counties; approximately 340 pages are allotted to twenty-six counties; on this average something like a thousand pages will be needed to complete the undertaking in the succeeding volumes which may be expected.

North Carolina, casual in her record keeping as in her government in the Colonial period, has long since achieved an honored position among the states for the high historical standards under which her historical publications have been made. The present reviewer can testify how very little in the Public Record Office has escaped the compilers of the *Colonial Records of North Carolina*. In the work under consideration, one part of the introduction adequately sets forth in the large the state's history and her historical publications. It goes on to take up opportunities of research in the North Carolina county records; it describes in elaborate detail the records kept by the various county offices of records, ending with detailed alphabetical lists of the various types of records.

There follow the county lists giving in brief the date and scope and short descriptions of the records of each individual county. The usual record offices are the Register of Deeds, the Clerk of the Superior Court, the Sheriff, the Treasurer, the Auditor or Accountant, the Superintendent of Schools, the Superintendent of Health, the Superintendent of Public Welfare; though not all counties possess all these offices. There is sometimes a separate head for Historical Commission Archives. Certain counties such as Albemarle and Bute which no longer function are included in the alphabetical lists of counties, under which their Historical Commission Archives are listed. Each county is prefaced with about a page respecting its history, population, growth, county seats, record repositories, etc. In this connection it would be well if derivations of county names were given a little more exactly.

All in all the work is a worthy addition to the long series of North Carolina historical publications. Not much higher praise can be given any work or handbook of historical scholarship.

THEODORE CALVIN PEASE

"The Science of Archives in South Africa," by Lt.-Col. C. Graham Botha, chief archivist of the Union, president. Presidential address delivered 5 July, 1937. (Johannesburg: Published by the South African Association for the Advancement of Science. 1937. Reprinted from the *South African Journal of Science*, Vol. xxxiv, pp. 1-17, November, 1937.)

Archivists needing to explain their work to the public and to enlist nonprofessional support may well look over the example provided by the veteran archivist of South Africa on the significant occasion of his being honored by the leading academic organization of his country. One can with interest compare his *Report of a Visit to Various Archives Centres in Europe, United States of America, and Canada* (Pretoria: Government Printing and Stationery Office, 1921) with this scholarly review of archival theory and practice in the Union, as a record of accomplishment. The paper is nontechnical but clearly expository.

In Colonel Botha's defense of calling the field the "science of archives," not only "because it can be described as 'systematised, organised, formulated knowledge,' but also when the relation between its methods and those of other sciences is taken into consideration," and in his discussion of archival administration there is tempting bait for the students of terminology. Those who feel that there is no such "science" and who ponder over the choice of an adjective may be intrigued by the following: "The importance of proper archival administration has led to the science of archive economy. The primary elements of this science are (a) the bringing together under one administration of all archives not in current use, (b) the efficient and scientific classification and general administration of documents so centralised, and (c) the custody of the archives under competent officials. The activities of the archives administration and science are identical."

Colonel Botha's discussion of the duties of the archivist, as to physical and moral defense of archives and as to serving the special needs of students, follows naturally the British precedent in Jenkinson's *Manual*. In specific relation to South African problems there are references to some commendable features. Among these is the mention of the appraisal and disposition of valueless records. Colonel Botha explains the peril to important records and the complication of archival work caused by accumulation of ephemeral matter, and makes the significant observation that the archivist "is concerned with the archive-maker of the present and the 'weeding out' of types of his records." He is fully conscious of the need in this connection of study of governmental organization in order properly to appraise records. He refers to the highly desirable legal provision under which "the authority to destroy emanates from the archives which acts in conjunction with the department whose records are under consideration."

In order to stimulate the interest of lay listeners, Colonel Botha concluded his address with a reference to the most spectacular recent scientific develop-

ment in the field, that of photography, and with an illustration of historical facts made available through archives comprised in a history of road building in the Union.

PHILIP COOLIDGE BROOKS

The National Archives

The Selection of United States Serial Documents for Liberal Arts Colleges, by Kathryn Naomi Miller. (New York. The H. W. Wilson Company, Publishers of Indexes and Reference Works, 950-972 University Avenue, New York, N.Y. \$2.50.)

Under the auspices of the Public Documents Committee of the American Library Association and the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago, Miss Kathryn Naomi Miller has prepared a study to determine the importance of federal documents to the library of the liberal arts college. This report was financed by the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago and was compiled with the assistance of a number of WPA workers. Mr. William Randall, of the University of Chicago, supervised its preparation.

Mr. A. F. Kuhlman, chairman of the Public Documents Committee of the American Library Association, has prepared a preface to the volume which gives the historical background of the problem treated, emphasizing the growing importance of the use of primary sources in various college subjects and the need for making these sources readily accessible to instructors and students. The problem is then discussed by Miss Miller in a detailed and interesting fashion, with a clear-cut picture of the objectives of the investigation and the procedure by means of which they were attained.

Eight hundred twelve college instructors and seventy-six college librarians have herein given their opinions as to the importance of the serial publications of the federal government to the various subjects taught in four-year colleges by means of ranked lists consisting of 737 document titles. Lists submitted to them were ranked by means of check marks indicating the items which they considered desirable or indispensable to their particular subjects.

The major conclusions drawn from this tabulation are as follows: An increased number of depositories for government documents in liberal arts colleges is needed; a great number of government documents are indispensable to various college courses, particularly the social sciences; greater co-operation between college librarians and instructors is necessary for the efficient selection of documents; present governmental limitations of one depository of government documents to each congressional district should be expanded to allow greater liberality in distribution.

Third Annual Report of the Archivist of the United States. (Washington. United States Government Printing Office, 1938.)

The history of the establishment and a description of the organization and

work of the National Archives is concisely summarized by the archivist of the United States in his report for the year ending June 30, 1937. Briefly, he discusses the problems of selection and tells of the enormous task of gathering together the scattered archives of 150 years. To collect those archives, it was first necessary to survey all depositories of federal records. This was begun in the District of Columbia in May, 1935, and continued through 1937 at which time 5,659 depositories containing 2,601,020 cubic feet of paper records, 17,151,529 feet of motion-picture films, 2,345,998 still-picture negatives, and 5,343 sound recordings had been covered. At the same time, beginning in January, 1936, a survey was made by the WPA of federal archives outside the District of Columbia; by June 30, 1937, the most important records in all states had been listed.

Out of all this accumulation of records, naturally only a portion are of sufficient importance to be saved. According to the archivist, therefore, the National Archives has as one of its chief functions the careful examination of all documents turned over for disposal in light of "(1) their value to the agency reporting them; (2) their value to other government agencies; (3) their historical interest."

The extensive cleaning and repairing required is carried on by specially trained archives workers. All paper records are fumigated and cleaned before they are sent to the stacks. During the last fiscal year, approximately 45,000,000 loose documents and 30,479 bound volumes were cleaned; 35,673 units (sizes varying from single volumes to 1,200-pound boxes) were fumigated. All folded papers must be unfolded, and though a worker's daily output is from 1,500 to 2,500 sheets, there remain, as may be imagined, millions yet to be cared for. Repairing of fragile or damaged records is done by "lamination under heat and pressure between sheets of cellulose acetate foil."

Reports of the various divisions of the National Archives give in more detail the specific difficulties met, the equipment installed, and the work so far accomplished. In the appendix are the report of the national director of the WPA Survey of Federal Archives outside the District of Columbia, a list of "books and articles published, papers read, and addresses delivered by members of the National Archives staff during the year ending June 30, 1937," a guide to material in the archives, including, of course, the seventy-four new accessions, and also the legislation and regulations concerning the archives.

Adding much to the attractiveness and interest of the archivist's report are the excellent illustrations which include photographs of the Archives Building, the two Faulkner murals of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, storage cabinets for nitrate film, and reproductions of the first amendments to the Constitution as proposed by the House of Representatives.

Seventh Annual Report of the Archivist, University of Virginia Library, for the Year 1936-37. (University of Virginia, 1937.)

The library of the University of Virginia has been enriched by several important accessions of historical manuscripts during the past year, according to the report of the archivist. The largest collection acquired was the papers of John Warwick Daniel which cover the years from 1860 to 1910. In this are about one hundred war letters written by him to his father and family from 1861 to 1865, pocket diaries for parts of 1901, 1903-1905, and 1907, and numerous books of clippings on his activities as United States senator.

The Withrow family papers for 1880-1895, the Minute Book of the Charlottesville Lyceum, 1845-1856, the letters and accounts of the firm of Daniel Grinnan and John Mundell, 1790-1830, and a manuscript volume bound in the seventeenth century and containing, on vellum, fifteenth century copies of two of the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas are among the other additions. Included in the valuable documents lately deposited with the university library, are the Edward P. Buford collection, 1895-1931, two Civil War diaries of Robert Larimer of the Sixty-second Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and the papers of the William Daniels, father and son, for the years 1816 to 1885.

Virginia newspapers now belonging to the library include issues, dated between February, 1808 and January, 1809, of the *Virginische Volksberichter*, the first German paper of the state. From the Henkel press of New Market, Virginia, on which the *Volksberichter* was printed has also come a "unique collection" of theological and educational works in German and English published in the early nineteenth century.

The minutes of the Board of Trustees of Falmouth, Virginia, for 1728-1813, 1828-1868, have been photographed as has Major Henry Bedinger's Military Order Book for the St. Clair Indian campaign in the Northwest in 1791. An accession of microfilm copies of books printed in England before 1550 has been promptly utilized.

In the appendix of the report is a bibliography of Baptist church manuscripts belonging to the Virginia Baptist Historical Society. This organization has today, largely through the work of its founder, Dr. Charles H. Ryland, and of his son, Dr. Garnett Ryland, the most extensive collection of Baptist church records of one state to be found in the country. A short list of works relating to the rise of the denomination in the United States, and particularly in Virginia, is also given. In the bibliography the churches are arranged alphabetically by county under each association, and where the dates of the founding are known they are printed in parentheses. References are made to printed minutes and historical sketches in the possession of the society.