

Reviews of Books

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The Use of Personal Documents in History, Anthropology, and Sociology.

Prepared for the Committee on Appraisal of Research by Louis Gottschalk, Clyde Kluckhohn, and Robert Angell. *Bulletin 53*. (New York, Social Science Research Council, 1945. Pp. xiv, 243. \$1.50.)

This bulletin is the third of the series of reports on methodology that are being prepared under the direction of the Social Science Research Council's Committee on Appraisal of Research. The first report, Herbert Blumer's *An Appraisal of Thomas and Znaniecki's The Polish Peasant in Europe and America*, raised fundamental questions concerning the value of personal documents as data for the social sciences and prompted the committee to have reviews prepared on the uses of this type of source. The second report of the series, namely G. W. Allport's *The Use of Personal Documents in Psychological Science*, was the first of these reviews. The present bulletin includes three others. Aside from the use of the term "personal documents," they are so distinct that it is probably best to consider them separately.

Gottschalk's "The Historian and the Historical Document" (pages 1-75) is a balanced, keenly analytical, and vigorously written essay on historical method. By necessity he extended the term "personal documents" to include practically all historical sources. The chapters on external and internal criticism present the techniques employed by historians to ascertain the validity of documents and the basic problems of interpretation. There is also a chapter on synthesis and another on the relations of history to the other social sciences. The essay together with its bibliographical footnotes should be very useful to graduate students in the field of history and even to their teachers.

Kluckhohn, in his essay on "The Personal Document in Anthropological Science" (pages 77-173), shows the potentialities of the field of anthropology in revealing human life to the practitioners in the other social science fields. He delineates the uses his professional colleagues have made of biographies, autobiographies, diaries, letters, and expressive interviews. Having concluded that this type of source has not been sufficiently utilized, he discusses field techniques and methods by which good personal documents can be secured, the concepts and devices to be used in their interpretation, and the ways in which personal documents can be presented for the use of other social scientists. Kluckhohn concludes with a chapter on future research needs with reference to personal documents.

Although Angell's "Critical Review of the Development of the Personal

Document Method in Sociology, 1920-1940" (pages 175-232) is addressed primarily to sociologists, it has fundamental value for other social scientists because of its concern with the validity of personal documents as sources of data. In his concluding chapter, Angell discusses the methodological difficulties which have hampered progress in the use of personal documents. During the past quarter century, the emphasis has been on the quantitative methods which have made vast contributions to the social sciences. More attention to methods of utilizing the type of source which is the concern of this bulletin may bring similar, though perhaps less demonstrable progress.

EVERETT E. EDWARDS

United States Department of Agriculture

A Guide to Manuscripts Relating to American History in British Depositories Reproduced for the Division of Manuscripts of the Library of Congress, by Grace Gardner Griffin. (Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1946. Pp. xvi, 313. \$1.25.)

Over forty years ago the Library of Congress began acquiring reproductions of manuscripts in European archives and other depositories relating to the history of the United States. The copying of manuscripts was inaugurated in Great Britain in 1905 and was later extended to other European countries in cooperation with the Carnegie Institution of Washington, which was then investigating European archives for the purpose of preparing guides indicating their holdings relating to the history of the United States. Prior to 1927, 300,000 transcript and facsimile folios of original documents in the archives of Great Britain, France, Spain, and Mexico were procured by the Library. In that year a seven year program was launched with funds supplied by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and under this, nearly two and a half million pages of copies were obtained. With money from a fund established by Mr. James B. Wilbur in 1925, copying has been continued on a much smaller scale since the termination of the Rockefeller project. Because the reproductions from Great Britain are the most extensive in the possession of the Division of Manuscripts, these were the most logical choice for an initial guide.

The guide is well organized and contains a detailed table of contents. A preface gives a brief history of the reproduction program and a description of the methods employed in preparing the guide. The largest section of the guide is that concerned with government archives, including those of the different departments and offices of the national government having to do with the administration of the colonies and the foreign office. Other sections are devoted to the manuscript collections in the British Museum; the libraries, societies, and the institutions inside and outside of London; personal collections; a few depositories in Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Canada; and the collections of papers of British statesmen in the William L. Clements Library at Ann Arbor, Michigan. The guide lists manuscripts pertaining to all regions of the United States as well as to Canada and parts of Latin America dating from the time of the discovery of the Western Hemisphere to the nineteenth century. Manuscripts originating in European countries other than Great Britain but deposited in that country are included in the listing. Hence the

guide is a very useful tool to scholars working in numerous fields of American history. The reproductions are maintained by the Library of Congress in the same arrangement they had in their original depositories and the archival arrangement is retained in the guide. Each section of the book is preceded by a brief general description, including titles of other guides and lists pertaining to the manuscripts.

Though an admirable compilation, this guide is not complete. It must be used in conjunction with the Carnegie Institution guides and other guides, for instead of embracing complete descriptions, references are made to the descriptions already published in those guides which were utilized by the Library in obtaining the reproductions. This saves compiling and printing expense but it is inconvenient. Despite this handicap the researcher interested in ascertaining what is available in the Library of Congress from the rich archival and manuscript resources of Great Britain will find the guide of very great assistance. Its value as a reference work is substantially enhanced by the inclusion of an excellent analytical index. Typographically the book is also an excellent product. For a reference work, however, the paper cover was an unfortunate selection. It is to be hoped that this guide is the first of a series describing the Library's holdings of materials reproduced from European depositories without which the colonial history of the United States cannot be completely told.

HENRY P. BEERS

U. S. Department of State

The National Archives. Preliminary Checklists Nos. 15-38, 40-42, 44 and 45. Washington, D.C., National Archives, July 1944-June 1946. Processed. Various lengths; separate paginations. Unpriced.

During the fiscal years 1945 and 1946 the National Archives has been able to resume, slowly at first but with gathering momentum, the program of describing its records which was formulated in the spring of 1941 but was necessarily suspended more or less completely by the outbreak of war. Only fourteen of these *Preliminary Checklists* had been turned out up to the beginning of fiscal 1945; ten more were produced in that year; and in fiscal 1946 the previous year's output was almost doubled. In May 1945 a happy change was made from a smeary purple offset process to a firm black multilith one, with great gains in appearance and legibility. An altered numbering system was unfortunately in use from February to June 1945, so that *Preliminary Checklists Nos. 17-24* do not actually bear these numbers. A prefatory note in each later *Checklist* disclaims publication, stating that the primary purpose is for internal use in the National Archives, but that a few extra copies are available for staff members, Government officials, "and others having specific need for it"—which latter formula has a welcome elasticity. *Checklists Nos. 39 and 43* have been compiled and assigned numbers, but have not yet been multilithed and so are not available for review.

In the National Archives' program of 1941, which established the *record group* as the basic unit of classification, the *preliminary checklist* occupies an intermediate position. Below it lies the *registration sheet*, the initial brief

identification of a record group indicating its scope and content. In fiscal 1945 the National Archives finally succeeded in catching up with the registration of its existing record groups; it has the continuing problems of registering new groups, and of recording additional transfers of records belonging to the older groups upon the existing registration sheets. Beyond the preliminary checklist lies the *definitive inventory*, depending upon the multiplication and testing of the preliminary descriptions, and as yet an unrealized ideal. Beyond all these is the general *Guide* to the whole material in the National Archives, which ideally should wait for the completion of the definitive inventories, but practically of course cannot, and of which a new edition, superseding the quite obsolescent one of 1940, is therefore now preparing. A very summary guide to the record groups, presumably compiled from the registration sheets, was published in 1946 with the title, *Your Government's Records in the National Archives*, and was reviewed in a recent issue. Outside this main framework of descriptive matter, provision is made for the compilation of *special finding aids*, which appear in the published series of *Reference Information Circulars*; these are particularly useful for fields of interest cutting across record groups, such as personnel records in the national Archives.

The 29 *Preliminary Checklists* now under consideration are of the greatest variety in length, subject matter, and authorship. The first two, dated July 1944, do not identify the record group to which their materials belong, but thenceforward the record group number and name appear regularly upon the title-page. No. 15, the General Administrative Files of the Rehabilitation Division, 1918-1928, I take to be a predecessor agency of the Veterans' Administration, and so belong to RG 15; No. 16, the Records of the Temporary National Economic Committee, 1938-1941, evidently covers the whole of RG 144. This points to one of the characteristics of these checklists: some are coterminous with the record group as it existed at the time of compilation; others are descriptive of much lesser or quite small portions of such groups. In addition to the T.N.E.C., the following record groups are evidently covered as a whole by a single checklist: RG 45 in PC 30, the Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library, 1775-1910; RG 78 in PC 42, the Records of the Naval Observatory, 1840-1929; RG 80 in PC 31, the General Records of the Department of the Navy, 1804-1944; RG 125 in PC 32, the Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Navy), 1799-1943; RG 143 in PC 41, Records of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts (Navy), 1885-1942; RG 153 in PC 29, Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (War), 1808-1942; RG 145 in PC [21], Records of the War Department General Staff [1903-1939]; RG 138 in PC 33, Records of the National Guard Bureau and its Predecessors, 1822-1941; RG 174 in PC 28, General Records of the Department of Labor, 1907-1942; and RG 192 in PC 34, Records of the Office of the Commissary General of Subsistence, 1818-1912. The Navy Department will be seen to have come off best in these overall surveys, a result largely owing to the assiduity of Mr. James R. Masterson, whose massive *Checklists Nos. 30 and 31*, covering the Naval Records Collection and the General Departmental records, come to xiv, 149 and xiv, 104 pages respectively. The first of these, describing as it does an

archive within an archive comprising materials brought together for their historical interest and including papers of private and foreign origin, ought to be known to all interested in naval history.

On the other hand, PC 44, on the Insurance Records of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance and of the Insurance Division of the Veterans' Bureau, describes a mere 250 cubic feet out of the total of 100,767 filled by RG 15. *Divide et impera* is manifestly the only feasible policy in approaching such a colossus as the Records of the Veterans' Administration and its predecessors. From the Archivist's Report for 1944-1945, the latest available to the reviewer, we learn that in fiscal 1945, 35,000 cubic feet of records were described in addition to 46,000 previously disposed of, a total of 81,000 cubic feet of records described as against a "backlog" of 600,000 cubic feet not yet under preliminary control. The 19 checklists of fiscal 1946, my adding machine informs me, have described a total of 40,174 cubic feet, an impressive enough inroad into *terra incognita*, but still not enough to indicate that the Archivist's goal of complete preliminary description by the end of fiscal 1949 is likely to be reached.

Each checklist has an introduction outlining the administrative history of the agency or agencies involved and indicating the provenance and quantity of the records surveyed. PC 15, on the General Administrative Files of the Rehabilitation Division, Veterans' Bureau, by Evangeline Thurber, has an 18-page introduction which amounts to a substantial administrative history of the first decade of the veterans' rehabilitation. Many of the checklists are provided with useful chronological lists of the administrative personnel concerned. The descriptive system, if normally consistent, is elastic; thus the bulk of PC 45, the Records of the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, 1839-1943, consists of "Subject Headings used in the Subject File of the Office of Secretary, 1906-1939," occupying pp. 14-62. The greater part of PC 16, on the Temporary National Economic Committee of 1938-1941, consists of alphabetical lists of commercial companies who answered questionnaires or with whom correspondence was exchanged. PC 20, the Records of the Foreign Broadcasting Intelligence Service, 1941-1944, devotes six pages to the checklist proper, as against 16 pages of appendixes indexing the largest single file by city or radio station and by country, and listing the individual items in two other small files of high quality, the Special Releases and the Special Reports of the Service.

Whatever diversities may exist, this body of checklists displays one homogeneous character: thorough workmanship and consistently adequate description, arguing high professional competence on the part of the compilers, drawn from many points of the Archives' organization, and much skill in the editorial office. The chief conclusion to be drawn from these 29 checklists is that the work of describing and making generally available the vast contents of the National Archives is proceeding steadily and in a most satisfactory manner. The more perfect and general guides which will be its culmination are sure to appear in due course and finished form unless the vagaries of legislative policy should deprive the National Archives of sufficient staff to keep this work on foot along with other pressures which beset every

agency of Government. Meanwhile, standards of performance are being set for the archivist's profession in the entire nation.

DONALD H. MUGRIDGE

The Library of Congress

Inventory of the County Archives of Pennsylvania: Bradford County. (Towanda, Pennsylvania, Board of County Commissioners. Exclusive Sales Rights, Archives Publishing Company of Pennsylvania, Inc., Harrisburg. Pp. xii, 242. \$4.00.)

This is an inventory of the archives of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, based upon a survey of the County's records made by the Historical Records Survey several years ago.

Bradford County, having participated in numerous and significant episodes in the development of the state and nation, has a rich and colorful historical background. As stated in the foreword, it is the primary purpose of this inventory to make the records of the County readily available to historians and research workers by revealing the extent, location, and nature of the material, thereby offering an inducement for the study of history not only from the narrow standpoint of local history, but from the wider view of progress and development of American civilization.

This book is divided into two parts, the first embracing a very excellent historical sketch of the County together with an account of the governmental organization and records system, a discussion of the housing, care, and accessibility of the records, and abbreviations, symbols, and explanatory notes used in the book, the second describing the County offices and their records.

In the arrangement of the second part, which includes the inventory of the records, the records of the executive branch of the government are introduced first, followed by those of the judicial, law enforcing, fiscal, and miscellaneous agencies. A detailed comprehensive essay on the growth, organization, powers, and duties of each County office or agency precedes the inventory of the records of that office or agency.

All records found by the Survey are listed. The timesweep covered is from the creation of the County in 1812 to the present. An entry includes the title of the series, given wherever possible exactly as it appears on the volumes or file boxes, dates covered, quantity, a general description of the material, arrangement, information relating to indexes, cross references to other series, and the average size of the records. The entries are arranged under each office according to broad subjects such as "Military," "Juries," "Accounts," etc.

Following the inventory proper is a list of Bradford County officials, 1812-1946; then a bibliography of primary and secondary sources, and finally a chronological index.

The format of the work is clean-cut, clear, and integrated. Footnote documentation has been purposely avoided. Not only is this volume an unusually well organized and convenient approach to a valuable collection of records; it is, in itself, a smooth flowing summary of the history of the County.

LUCILLE H. PENDELL

National Archives

Calendar of Persian Correspondence: Being Letters Which Passed Between Some of The Company's Servants and Indian Rulers and Notables. Vol. VII, 1785-7, edited by S. N. Sen. (Imperial Records Department, Delhi, 1940. Pp. xv, 648, xxxvii. Rs. 20 or 31s.)

This publication consists chiefly of 1935 official letters, translated from the Persian, concerning the diplomatic and business interests of the British East India Company in India during the years 1785-1787. The letters, in chronological order, cover the Company's official correspondence during the last few weeks of the governor generalship of Warren Hastings, through the short administration of Sir John Macpherson as acting Governor General, and so on into the opening years of Cornwallis' term in the same office. The letters, of course, speak for themselves. Detailed footnotes are most valuable aids to the use of this work in research. The introduction, which summarizes the content of the correspondence is particularly enlightening, and could well take its place as a chapter in any general history of British India. It makes a real contribution to an understanding of the emergence of Great Britain as the dominant power in India in a period when Indian political institutions were in a disrupted condition following upon the collapse of Mughal power.

If there is any criticism of so excellent a publication of basic source material, it is by way of suggesting the inclusion of yet another appendix, listing the major subjects covered by the correspondence (i.e., Mahrattas, Sikhs, Emperor of Delhi, Mysore, Carnatic, Tanjore, problems of administration, business interests, etc.), together with the letters, designated by numerals affixed to them in the publication, which chiefly cover each of these broad subjects. Such an appendix would render these original sources more useful to the research student.

ELMER H. CUTTS

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Records in Oriental Languages. Vol. I: Bengali Letters, edited by S. N. Sen. (University of Calcutta, Calcutta, 1942. Pp. iii, 87, 285, xvi, 99. Bengali text, English summary and synopses.)

Volume I of *Bengali Letters* consists of 169 letters concerning the local history of the small states of Cooch Behar, Assam, Cachar, and Manipur, all to the northeast of Bengal. The letters are dated between 1779 and 1819, and chiefly indicate the relationships between these four Indian states and their more powerful neighbors, the East India Company in Bengal, the Bhotias of Bhutan, the Teshi Lama of Tibet, and the King of Burma. The author of the English summary, situated between the Bengali text and the English synopses of the letters, appears to indorse the "White man's burden" point of view by insisting that British intervention alone could eliminate the chaos which overtook the four small Indian states prior to the British victory over Burma in the first Burmese War. The biographical and geographical notes are most helpful but the book could also use an English index to advantage.

ELMER H. CUTTS

Northeastern University

Catálogo de la Sección Republicana, 1821-1822. [República del Perú, Ministerio de Hacienda y Comercio, Archivo Histórico.] (Lima. Imprenta Torres Aguirre, S. A., 1945. Pp. viii, 314.)

Catálogo de la Sección Republicana, 1823-1825. [República del Perú, Ministerio de Hacienda y Comercio, Archivo Histórico.] (Lima. Imprenta Azul, 1946. Pp. v, 457.)

These are the first two volumes of a series being prepared by the members of the staff of the Archivo Historico de Hacienda y Comercio of Peru, under the direction of Sr. Federico Schwab. In view of the extensive amount of the material in the valuable collections of the archives, the two volumes cover only the first five years of the independent life of the republic. The records are classified as "official" or "particular." In volume one there are listed the documents in seventy-four legajos containing decrees, correspondence and other administrative papers, and those of two legajos of expedientes relating to different matters handled by Hacienda, as well as seventeen volumes of accounts and other records. Volume two lists the records in seventy-two legajos of correspondence and other papers and in three legajos of expedientes, as well as nineteen volumes.

In the listing, the documents are arranged first by years and then by legajos for the several agencies of the government or containing special material such as laws, decrees, and orders. Within the legajos a chronological order is maintained. The legajos are numbered and have a letter prefixed to indicate the groups. Likewise the documents of each legajo are numbered, thus providing a ready reference to a particular item. An innovation of volume two is the consecutive numbering of all the entries. Each entry indicates the title of the document, the place, the date, the name of the signer, the number of folios and the designation. Each volume has a list of the titles of the legajos and volumes included, as well as an index of subjects and one of names.

The papers listed, comprising a rich treasure of the archive, deal with a critical period of Peruvian history and serve to throw new light on many topics. Those in volume one treat of the financial difficulties of the new republic, the establishment of the first bank, the operations of the Casa de Moneda and many other subjects. The chaotic state of affairs and the general disorganization which obtained at the time are amply revealed. The varying titles of the offices listed serve to indicate the problems in developing the administrative machinery. Particular mention may be made of the numerous laws, decrees, and orders listed which, it is believed, will supplement those published heretofore. The same types of materials are included in volume two. In this volume the difficult situation in the struggle against Spain and in the organization of the new government is reflected in the number of entries for the several years. The year 1824, in which the Battle of Ayacucho marked the end of the war for independence, has only about one fifth as many documents as the other two years. The documents of these years very fully reveal the activities of the Congress, the Liberator and the various administrative office of the government.

Sr. Schwab, in a preface, states that these records afford to investigators "the authentic facts to clarify the various aspects of Peruvian economy and show the form in which the administration of the Republic was organized and functioned during the War for Independence." Indexes of this type serve admirably to make better known the treasures stored up in the governmental archives.

ROSCOE R. HILL

Washington, D.C.

Archivo Nacional. Indices del Archivo Colonial. Volumen III, Abastos, Aduanas, Alcabalas, Archivos, Competencias, Consulados, Correos, Cruzadas y Genealogías; Volumen IV, Caciques e Indios, Curas y Obispos, Lazaretos y Obras Pías. [Ministerio de Educación Nacional, Publicaciones del Archivo Histórico Nacional.] Bogotá, Editorial Antena, 1946, Pp. xv, 366, 374.)

These indexes of records relating to the colonial period of Colombia in the Archivo Nacional continue the series begun more than a decade ago. Volumes one and two appeared in 1935 and 1936 and were prepared under the direction of Carlos Valencia Estrada. The volumes under review have been prepared by the staff of the Archive under the efficient direction of Dr. Enrique Ortega Ricaurte. The delay in publication was due first to the reorganization and transfer of the archive to a new building and then to the exigencies of the second World War. It is now expected that more volumes will soon appear to make available the other indexes already formulated.

The records covered by these indexes are in bound form. Hence the listings are made first by groups and then by volumes. Within the volumes the expedientes are generally listed in the order in which they appear. Since there are no alphabetical indexes, it is necessary to peruse the entries to ascertain the materials included. It should be noted, however, that in the case of certain groups, Archivo, Consulados and Curas y Obispos, the entries are arranged in alphabetical order under the names of the persons.

The entries give the names of the persons involved in the expedientes and an indication of who they were, the general nature of the subject matter, the places, the year and the pages where the document is found. Each entry is numbered consecutively for each volume indexed. The expedientes are mostly of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, with some few of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Volume three indexes or lists the expedientes of ten groups from the Colonial division of the Archive. These, with an indication of the number of volumes and the nature of the materials, are: *Abastos* (provisions), 14 vols.—records dealing with the handling and sale of foodstuffs and other provisions; *Aduanas* (customs), 25 vols.—the administration of the customs, imports, duties, shipping and related matters; *Alcabalas* (sales tax), 25 vols.—documents relating to the administration of the alcabala or sales tax; *Archivo* (archive), 8 vols.—various miscellaneous expedientes which were filed with the government; *Colegios* (colleges), 6 vols.—papers relating to university, colleges, students and education; *Competencias* (competence), 8 vols.—documents dealing

with jurisdictional matters; *Consulados* (consulates), 5 vols.—papers in connection with the activities of the consulate; *Correos* (posts), 17 vols.—records dealing with post offices and mails in the various parts of the colony; *Cruzadas* (crusade), 4 vols.—documents concerning the Bull of the Crusade, its administration and collection; and *Genealogías* (genealogy), 6 vols. expedientes regarding the ancestry of individuals.

Volume four comprises the following indexes: *Caciques e Indios* (chiefs and Indians), 78 vols.—royal cédulas, decrees and expedientes dealing with all problems arising in the relations with the native peoples; *Curas y Obispos* (priests and bishops)—an alphabetical index of appointments; *Lazaretos* (pest houses), 1 vol.—documents relating to public health; and *Obras Pías* (pious works), 1 vol.—expedientes regarding pious foundations.

A brief preface in volume three contains the text of the presidential decree of January 17, 1868, establishing the Archivo Nacional and a list of all the groups of papers in the Colonial division with an indication of the number of volumes in each one. These indexes serve to make available to scholars a vast amount of information on many phases of the life in colonial Colombia. The Archivo Nacional and Dr. Ortega Ricaurte are to be congratulated on the publication of the two valuable indexes of records in the Archive.

ROSCOE R. HILL

Washington, D.C.

El Archivo Nacional: Antecedentes de su Fundacion y Resena de la Labor Realizada desde 1927 a 1945. (Santiago de Chile, 1946, Pp. 172.)

In this small volume there is assembled the decrees and laws which have most significance in the development of the National Archive of Chile and the annual reports of the director from 1927 to 1945 inclusive. In addition there appears a brief summary of its holdings, a bibliography, an index, and some introductory matter on the opinions of prominent Chileans on the importance and usefulness of archives.

The laws and decrees with a limited commentary—a somewhat longer explanation would be welcome—are arranged in chronological order. This, of necessity, causes a considerable repetition, but it results in an account surprisingly well connected. The detailed provisions which are given the force of presidential authority and legislative sanction imply a restricted sphere of jurisdiction for the director but also a field of action backed up by highest legal power.

The annual reports have a particular interest. Many of the problems of the director are shared by archivists the world over. Thus, he confronts the dilemma of reporting the achievements of which he is proud and yet at the same time producing a convincing argument that he fails to do justice to his job for lack of funds. He would boast a little concerning his reference service to the government and the public and yet he must plead for more facilities for such service through extension of his catalogue work. On the other hand, the Director of the Chilean Archive has points of strength in his position which are lacking to some of his colleagues. The amount of fees collected for services performed is quite large in relation to his expenditures. The monetary

value of his reference service to the government is susceptible of easy proof. His work with respect to revision of the decrees on public instruction has high significance. Even more important, however, are the efforts of the director in the international field, the journey to the United States, to the Argentine, and particularly to Peru. In restoring to Peru the records which were brought to Santiago after the War of the Pacific, the director contributed in no small measure to the peace of the Americas.

ALMON R. WRIGHT

National Archives