

Reviews of Books

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Invitation to Book Collecting: Its Pleasures and Practices with Kindred Discussions of Manuscripts, Maps, and Prints, by Colton Storm and Howard Peckham. (New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1947. Pp. 281. \$5.00.)

The object of this volume is to explain what rare books are and how to collect them: the theory of collecting, the traditional practices, the techniques and reference tools which can be used to achieve skill and enjoyment in the game.

Since most book collectors usually proceed to acquire manuscripts related to their printed items, the authors have deemed it essential to include a chapter on this kind of material. Likewise, historical prints and old maps are discussed as a related type of document with special emphasis on maps as confirmatory evidence. The motives behind manuscript collecting are outlined and the fashions followed by noted collectors in the past are recounted. A half dozen pages are given to manuscript terminology, including a discussion of contemporary efforts to define *archive*. The concluding statements of the chapter encourage the collector to "let the archivist have the public papers, self-consciously written. The intimate, personal correspondence is certain to be more fascinating, and probably more valuable in interpreting events." One wishes there were some criteria offered to help the collector solve the thorny problem of how to differentiate between the personal and public papers of a public servant or official. No novel technical or scholarly discoveries are revealed in this work; however, curators of special collections may find it of assistance in stimulating new supporters or benefactors of their work.

Although the authors have not intended the book to serve as a text or manual in bibliography, its chapter on that subject is most helpful. Lucid explanations of such words as *edition*, *publication*, *issue* and others, clarify terms which mystify beginners. Subsequent chapters dealing with buying and selling rare books, auction buying, and prices, explain the rules of the game and how it is played in the big leagues. Indeed, recurrent emphasis is given to the function and beneficent role of the dealer. Those who become devotees of this sport are frequently, and not quite incorrectly, termed "biblio-maniacs." Alas, to what depths the mania has carried some (see Chapter 14, "Fakes, Forgeries, Facsimiles and Thefts")! No, the book is not a text book: it is anecdotal, full of the history of collecting, charming in style, a seductive invitation. Do not say, ten years from now, that you were not warned of its wiles.

ROBERT W. HILL

The New York Public Library

Land Office and Prerogative Court Records of Colonial Maryland by Elizabeth Hartsook and Gust Skordas. Publications of the Hall of Records Commission No. 4. ([Annapolis]. Hall of Records Commission of the State of Maryland, 1946. Pp. 124. \$2.00.)

This small volume, the latest offering of the Maryland Hall of Records, is a most useful guide to these two large bodies of early records. The introductory essays by Miss Hartsook and Mr. Skordas are admirable summaries of development and changes in the colonial land system and probate courts. Though the essays contain little information not elsewhere available, they bring together that information in convenient form and relate it specifically to the archives under consideration.

Following these essays the record books are listed and described volume by volume, as they now stand on the shelves of the Maryland Hall of Records. The Land Office records are divided into five series: Patent; Warrant; Proprietary; Rent Roll; and Debt Book, a total of 284 volumes. Under each entry the following information is provided: present Liber number; whether the volume is a copy or original; original title; pagination; inclusive dates; and brief description of contents.

The Prerogative Court records are essentially probate records. Listing is in the same general form as that followed for Land Office records. A total of 271 volumes of Prerogative Court records fall into the following categories: Proprietary Records; Testamentary Proceedings; Wills; Inventories and Accounts; Inventories; Accounts; and Balance Books.

These listings furnish a fuller and more accurate description of the records than has been heretofore available. The form adopted for description of each volume has been adhered to with admirable uniformity. Only occasional slips have been noted, as (p. 61) the use of that curious construction "between 1658-1775," rather than the usual and logical form "between 1658 and 1775." In the Prerogative Court entries it is sometimes uncertain whether Mr. Skordas is using the terms *pages* and *leaves* interchangeably. When he writes (p. 71), "The debt book for 1768 has 202 pages, the first page missing," it would certainly seem more logical to say "the first leaf missing." A lighter style in the introductory essays, particularly that of Miss Hartsook, would have enlivened an abstruse subject.

These minute errors are insignificant, however, beside the vast amount of labor entailed in the preparation of this volume. Only those who have done such work can appreciate the time, painstaking care, checking, and rechecking necessary to bring to a completion a collation of such magnitude involving records of a remote period. Not the least valuable result of this work is the fact that those who participated in it are thoroughly familiar with these records and thus in a position to give superlative service to all who wish to investigate many aspects of Maryland colonial history.

RUTH K. NUEREMBERGER

Washington, D.C.

Public Records of the State of Vermont, 1945-1946. Biennial Report, 1946, of the Public Records Commission of the General Assembly of the State of Vermont. ([Montpelier. 1947?] Pp. 28.)

This useful summary deals chiefly with plans and recommendations for a well rounded and effective records program for the State of Vermont.

In 1937 the Public Records Commission was created to take charge of the records program and to prepare recommendations. The Commission has already made significant headway, the most important of which was to employ Henry Howard Eddy in 1944 to survey the volume of state records and to prepare a plan for housing them properly. Mr. Eddy's report was published in September 1944. The Commission's report now being reviewed stresses the need for carrying Mr. Eddy's proposals into effect, prints floor plans, and reproduces a joint resolution of the Vermont Legislature of April 18, 1945 giving approval of the idea. The Commission favors an addition to the present State Library Building, so designed as to give adequate stack space for the Library, a functionally designed records office with sufficient space for records, and better quarters for the State Historical Society. The Commission is opposed to proposals made in other quarters which would require records to be housed in a new state office building chiefly on the grounds that "office space is more costly than records space." They argue that a new office building and an addition to the Library does not involve two separate building projects "but rather a single one." "The Office Building," they urge, "should not be built without the Records Annex, because no provision has been made in the former for records."

The pressing need for proper housing of the state records is shown by photographs of the arsenal fire on August 31, 1945 together with an accompanying report, also by Mr. Eddy, of the damage done to irreplaceable records.

The problem of local records is also discussed. The law provides that towns must have fireproof safes and vaults, and that the State may purchase such equipment when the towns fail to do so. Yet a survey in 1937 revealed that 144 safes were anything but fireproof. A personally conducted survey by one of the members of the Commission in 1944 indicated that little improvement had been made.

Having surveyed both State and local needs the Commission recommends a two point program: first that sufficient funds be available to build both an office building and an addition to the Library; secondly, that regardless of whether the first recommendation is immediately carried out, an appropriation be made available at once to employ records personnel and to purchase essential equipment to assist records custodians throughout the State to reduce the bulk of existing records and to care and service those that are retained. The Commission is very modest in its request—\$7,800 a year.

Inclosed in the Report are an opinion of the Attorney General concerning the recording of chattel mortgages and a statement of action taken by the Commission on requests for destruction of records.

ALBERT B. COREY

New York Division of Archives and History

First to Fourth Annual Reports of the Archivist of the Hall of Records, State of Maryland, for the Fiscal Years October 1, 1935 through September 30, 1939. (Annapolis, 1946. Pp. 52.)

Maryland and Illinois have been the two states in the Union outstanding for their model archival agencies. It is, therefore, of more than casual interest to learn the background and history of the Hall of Records. Since archival agencies do not, like Topsy, just grow out of nowhere, but, as in this case, the beginnings are often shrouded by unprinted facts and confidential reports, it is all the more important to have the early records available and published.

This is what Morris Radoff, Archivist of the Maryland Hall of Records, has done in a 50-some page brochure which relates the story of how the Maryland agency came to be, its early struggles, the details on the building, the members of the first Commission, the first staff headed by Dr. James Alexander Robinson, initial halting and uncertain attempts at receiving and arranging materials, and later improvements and developments. Mention is made of gradual changes and additions in personnel; financial problems are touched upon (especially the difficulty of paying the staff adequately) and facilities for repair, preservation and microfilming are outlined. A bibliographical list of printed materials for the study of Maryland archives and the Hall of Records is included and the booklet ends with an appendix of "Laws and Opinions Relating to the Hall of Records."

Not only will librarians now be able to complete their catalog data on the first four reports but all those who deal with Maryland archives in particular and state archives in general will be grateful to have available the full story in logical and readable form.

BERTHA E. JOSEPHSON

Columbus, Ohio

Records Administration Microfilming of Records. War Department Technical Manual, TM-12-257. (Washington. United States Government Printing Office, 1946. Pp. iv, 94.)

This War Department Manual is composed of three sections, one of which deals with "Uses and Limitations of Microfilm," one with "Basic Operating Procedures for Microfilming Projects," and a third section on "Special Techniques."

The first section describes the Government policy of microfilming and emphasizes that it does not regard microfilming as the cure-all for noncurrent records. The cost of a microfilm project is carefully studied before it is undertaken. Records are not filmed indiscriminately which may later prove to be of little or no value.

Microfilm has proved to be as suitable for permanent records as the best record papers. The film used for permanent records must not be confused with nitrate film which ignites and burns rapidly. The film used in Government microfilm projects has a base of cellulose acetate and is known as safety film. This presents no more fire hazard than papers.

There is little doubt concerning the legal status of microfilmed records. According to Public Law 115, 78th Congress, the duly authenticated repro-

ductions from microfilm shall be treated as the original paper records in court proceedings. Although state courts may refuse to enforce this Federal statute, generally microfilmed records are acceptable in court and can be authenticated to the satisfaction of the trial court.

The Adjutant General exercises centralized control of microfilming but the National Archives has authority to disapprove the destruction of papers where records have been improperly filmed or the original document has historic or legal value. Before the originals are destroyed the film is inspected and authority to destroy is withheld if there is improper photographic exposure, unreadable images, or loss of the original file's value through inadequate identification or lack of proper indexing.

Standard operating procedures are established for each project by the Adjutant General. Standard equipment consists of 16 mm. rotary type cameras, readers and film. For some projects 35 mm. cameras and film are used. The Manual deals in considerable detail with microfilming equipment.

Chapter Two describes basic operating procedures for microfilming projects. This is a very detailed description which puts emphasis on the importance of adequately trained personnel. Errors on microfilm are costly to correct. Preparation clerks remove staples, mend papers and prepare material for filming. Operators are trained to run the cameras properly. Inspectors must be experienced operators and must be able to recognize defects in the filming. Also included in this chapter is an informative section on the maintenance and use of film files which deals with proper housing for reels and adequate indexing of film.

The third section of the Manual describes the solutions to special problems not covered by the second section. For example, there are problems encountered in film engineering drawings and the like which are not ordinarily found in microfilming regular correspondence records. Different camera technique and indexing are required for this type of record.

The appendix would undoubtedly be very helpful to a microfilm operator. Trouble charts of common defects in the machinery have been compiled. These show the cause, effect, and remedy of various mechanical difficulties. Examples of images incorrectly filmed are included to illustrate defects in film caused by minor mechanical irregularities or improper operation of the camera.

On the whole, it can be said that the Manual contains much interesting information for those engaged in microfilming work. The report is, however, too detailed for the average reader and contains some information which is too technical for the layman.

D. K. TAYLOR

Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad

Records Retirement and Disposal Program, Foreign Economic Administration. ([Washington,] 1945. Pp. 83. Processed.)

Records Administration-Disposition of Records, Army Air Forces Manual 80-0-1. (Washington. Headquarters Army Air Forces, 1946. Pp. 69. Processed.)

The How and Why of Your Records Inventory, by the Records Management Section, Division of Service Operations, Federal Security Agency. ([Washington, 1946?] Pp. 7.)

Retirement and Disposition of Records, Office of the Chief Clerk, Records Administration Section, Treasury Department. ([Washington,] 1946. Pp. unnumbered. Processed.)

Records retirement is perhaps the one area in which there occurs the greatest amount of overlapping of records administration and archival activity. This is particularly true in programs involving the disposition of Government records. A decade of experience has proved that before a retirement program can be visualized, and its solution (both as to method and means) determined, there must be a "meeting of minds" on the part of the agency's records officers, the agency's archivists, and the representatives of the National Archives. Encouraging indications of the development of this cooperative attitude are evident in the four post-war records disposition manuals which are the subjects of this review. Each of these four agencies is illustrative of certain type of Federal activity. There is the so-called "emergency" or "wartime" agency, the Foreign Economic Administration: a highly specialized military establishment, the Army Air Forces; a comparatively new "permanent" organization, the Federal Security Administration; and an "old line" Government organization, the Treasury Department.

The Foreign Economic Administration was a "war agency". Its official life extended from the time of its creation within the Office of Emergency Management in September, 1943 to its termination and distribution of its functions in September, 1945 among the State, Commerce, and Agriculture Departments and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Its records retirement problem neither was, nor is, a long-term one, but rather one which set forth the basic elements of an effective *liquidation* program. Its manual, therefore, must be regarded primarily as a liquidation tool that should be of greatest value to those agencies upon which there devolved major liquidating responsibility for the FEA.

Much of the merit of this publication lies in its detailed analysis of such technical aspects of FEA's retirement problem as cost, storage facilities, and supplies and equipment. The chapter entitled, "Work Program" (pp. 24-32), is worthy of special note. Similarly, those portions which deal with classifications and job descriptions for records administration and archival personnel possesses wide applicability. The organizational structure of FEA and a description of the records of its several important component units (such as Lend-Lease) is well presented, both in the body of the manual and in the sixteen pages entitled, "Exhibits."

Although this manual was prepared primarily for the use of the FEA staff, the writer considers it regrettable that greater efforts were not made to supplement the retirement procedures outlined in the manual by referring to the procedures and forms used for disposal lists and schedules as applied to Federal records by the National Archives.

As stated in Lt. General Eaker's foreword to this publication, it is designed

to "supplement and implement the War Department's TM 12-259, *Records Administration-Disposition of Records*." The technical elements which characterize the peculiar mission of the AAF, its personnel, facilities, and equipment have produced a quasi-autonomous organizational set-up which is reflected in its own Records Administration program. As one would expect, therefore, this manual is not susceptible of application to every Government agency. For the most part, it deals with disposal programs and standards for various specialized records of the AAF and of its various commands.

Chapter 2, "Duties and Responsibilities," however, should be read by all workers in the records administration vineyard. Its account of the desired relationship between "records officers," "records administrators," and the AAF top administrative and functional command should make a good talking point for those records people who have occasion to complain of being "left out in the cold" in the matter of policy determination.

The concept of the disposal schedule as a guide and control device governing the life-span of all AAF files is well developed in Chapter 3.

Described by FSA's former records management officer as the "briefest manual of its type," this six page booklet should be made compulsory reading for any person who is responsible for getting an agency's records program under way. Unlike the other manuals covered in this review, it is in no sense a "disposal manual." It applies primarily to that all important first step in any sound retirement program—the records inventory. With graphic simplicity, enhanced by the boldness of its format, this publication sets forth several cogent reasons for undertaking a records inventory as well as some valuable "pointers" in establishing and conducting a survey. As an appendix there is attached an FSA records survey form and its accompanying instruction sheet, both of which compare favorably with similar issuances of other Federal agencies. In the opinion of the writer the inventory form would be improved by making some provisions for noting the cubic footage of a given body of records inasmuch as such a unit of records measurement is consistently achieving wider use.

Since the Federal Security Agency embraces activities of such bodies as the U. S. Office of Education, the U. S. Public Health Service, the Social Security Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, the Bureau of Employees' Compensation—all of which have a direct influence on the lives of great numbers of American citizens, we have every reason to feel that this manual is merely the predecessor of other significant FSA records management publications.

Distinguished from the FEA, which was facing a liquidation problem; AAF, whose records problems reflect the expansion of a new military arm in wartime; and the FSA with its current records management program; is the "old line" Treasury Department. Its records retirement manual is indicative not only of the maturity of the agency itself but is representative of the soundness of its records administration program.

There are two reasons why this writer regards this manual as outstanding. One is the excellence of its organization. The other is the clarity with which it

ties the Treasury's own records retirement program in with the government-wide responsibilities of the National Archives as published in that agency's *How To Dispose of Records*. The Treasury publication manual does not have "pages" as such. Rather it is divided into twenty-one sections each of which have a variable number of pages. Whenever there are changes in the internal records retirement program of the Treasury, whenever there are revisions of Federal laws concerning the records or of regulations or statements of policy by the National Archives or the National Archives Council, provision is made for their publication and insertion into the appropriate section of the manual. In a sense, therefore, this is a manual which, like the War Department's TM 12-259, possesses infinite capacity for *growth*.

Such subjects as definitions of terms, inventory forms, and appraisal standards are most adequately covered in the first four sections. In sections 5 through 10, one finds a wealth of instructional material concerning procedures for preserving valuable records. Similarly, in sections 11 through 18 the Treasury official (in fact, anyone) can find ready answers to most of his questions on the disposal of records. A section covering opinions of the Treasury Department's General Counsel on matters pertaining to record keeping along with a Bureau of Standards statement of microfilm specifications round out this manual's valuable content.

The publication and explanation of the National Archives Council regulations and National Archives accessioning and disposal forms and schedules is a most significant contribution. It illustrates the cooperative enterprise that records administration must be. Moreover, it makes possible for all Treasury personnel who work with records to see the *complete picture*, to see the "whys" and "wherefores" of procedures which otherwise might be regarded as arbitrary *dicta* of departmental officials.

The stature of the publication is well established by the inclusion of Secretary of the Treasury Snyder's letter giving the manual "my complete approval."

JOSEPH F. VAUGHAN

National Archives

The Territories of the United States, 1861-1890, by Earl S. Pomeroy. The American Historical Association Studies in Colonial Administration. (Philadelphia. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1947. Pp. vi, 163.)

Much has been written concerning the expansion of the United States from a small and tenuous Republic of thirteen quarrelling States to a Union of forty-eight commonwealths. Yet the manner in which this significant evolution was channelled within orderly political and constitutional lines has received less scrutiny and exposition than it deserves. By contrast with both the pre-Revolutionary and our later national history, the transition from the unorganized frontier to statehood may well be termed "the dark age" of American historiography. Only a few courageous historians have hitherto attempted to attack the problem along institutional lines and fewer still have published the results of their findings. Professor Pomeroy is one of the latter; the sum of his labor is found in the present distinctly pioneer work. He has chosen the hard way of

dropping down into the middle of the territorial era. But his choice was influenced by the fact that the eleven contiguous mountain and high plains territories of the period 1861-1890, because of their common characteristics, "furnishes a convenient segment of territorial history for study."

The analogy between the English system of colonialism in vogue for nearly two centuries and its American prototype was remarkably close. The Northwest Ordinance was a distillation of Anglo-American experience in colonialism and the succession of relevant Federal statutes of more than a century merely amplified the Ordinance. As recognized by Professor Pomeroy, however there were two distinct differences between the British and American systems. The capstone of the latter was the provision for the ultimate admission into the Union as equal States of the various territories which it contemplated. Again, the American order did not encourage the territorial assemblies to "needle" the statutory officers (governor, judges, and secretary) by withholding or otherwise controlling salaries, for these were paid out of appropriations by Congress. The independence of the territorial executive and judiciary of the whims of the people is to be sharply contrasted with the necessary subservience for the same officials in the old British system incident to their dependence upon the assemblies for their living. But the high cost of living on the frontier combined with the low stipends generally paid tended to erase this distinction as a practical matter, as when additional compensation was proffered by the assemblies. When this form of extra pay was made unlawful, the same end was achieved indirectly by allowances for travel and other gratuities. Ways were also devised to rid the territory of unpopular judges. A favorite device was to district the territory so as to place such judges where business was either too burdensome or non-existent. This was termed "sage-brush districting."

The overall administrative policies of the Department of State from 1861 to 1873 and those of the Department of the Interior from 1873 to 1890, and the respective responsibilities of the Departments of Treasury, War, and Justice are delineated with sufficient detail to convey a clear-cut view of both policies and practices. Very much as in the colonial period, successive administrations more often than otherwise took a dim view of these distant and remote territories. There were sporadic attempts to achieve an approach to good government through improving the character of appointments but there was no consistent evolution along this line. Few presidents took any interest and most department heads were too busily engaged in other fields to follow closely issues in the territories, except insofar as political patronage was concerned. Nevertheless, the development of Republican institutions in each of the territories grew apace: neglect was no deterrent.

Space forbids a summary of the author's analysis of the functions of the territorial delegate or of the Congressional Committee on Territories. Pomeroy has used a wide variety of original sources as found in the state that were once territories and in the National Archives. Convenient lists of territorial officials and delegates to Congress are appended, as well as a classified bibliography.

CLARENCE E. CARTER

U. S. Department of State

Theory and Practice in Historical Study: A Report of the Committee on Historiography. Social Science Research Council Bulletin 54. (New York City, 1946. Pp. 177. \$1.75.)

The Committee on Historiography of the Social Science Research Council composed of a distinguished group of American historians has rendered a significant service to the historical profession by preparing a manual that helps to clarify thought about history and aids historians in teaching and writing it. Comprised of six chapters—in reality six essays each of which could be expanded into book form—by prominent historians and a foreword by the chairman in which the chapters are tied together and certain information on the methodology used by the committee is set forth, the volume contributes a fuller understanding of certain methodological problems in the writing of American History; although the committee makes no claims of settling any issues with which it dealt.

Without attempting to summarize each chapter, a few of the highlights from each are worth mentioning. At the outset, however, it should be pointed out that some definition of history was considered in passing when the committee in the interest of precision made preliminary definition of the following terms: history-as-actuality, written-history, history-as-record, and recent history. These definitions were placed in a footnote in the first chapter. It is needless to say that many readers would have welcomed a special elaboration of these definitions in the main text although time and space and other considerations prevented this.

In the first chapter, "Grounds for a Reconsideration of Historiography," Charles Beard points out that "historicizations"—all history proves, history confirms, history makes clear, etc.,—are overdrawn and charges that "a large part, if not all, of the written history, even the best of it, falls far below the highest conceivable level of intellectual performance." He contends also that historiography should be reconsidered because of the dilemma concerning the nature and uses of their work with which historians find themselves confronted. That is to say history is treated as having little or no relation to the conduct of practical affairs—a useless old almanac—and yet at the same time is used as the ultimate source of knowledge and "laws" for demonstrating the invincible validity of policies proposed or already in practice. Beard further maintains that a reconsideration of historiography is in order inasmuch as many of the maladjustments from which mankind suffers to some measure grow out of the defects in man's practical knowledge of history.

In the second chapter, "Controlling Assumptions in the Practice of American Historians" by John Herman Randall and George Haines IV, it is explained that because the understanding of causes change as our knowledge of the sciences of man's social behavior increases and because the understanding of consequences and hence of the significance of past events, changes with further history that happens—with what comes to pass in the world of events as a result of the possibilities inherent in what happened; the history the historians will write, and the principle of selection he will employ, will be undergoing continual change. It is emphasized, however, that what is selected should be

basic for that particular problem of history before the historian—the conditions that generated it, the resources men had to draw upon, and how they dealt with it—if objectivity is to be attained.

After presenting the salient facts of the institutional development of the historical profession in the United States, the authors of this chapter pass on to such assumptions that controlled writers of history as the political history principle, the Teutonic “germ” theory of political institutions, the comparative method with its evolutionary development, and the Jacksonian Thesis which is described as a Declaration of Independence of the American Historian.

In chapter III, “What Historians Have Said About the Causes of the Civil War”, Howard K. Beale explains through examples that historians have assigned to the Civil War causes ranging from one simple force or phenomenon to patterns so complex and manifold that they include, intricately interwoven, all the important movements, thoughts, and actions of the decades before 1861. Beale concludes with a number of generalizations which should be of particular interest to students of the Civil War.

Charles A. Beard and Sydney Hook in chapter IV, “Problems in Terminology in Historical Writing” emphasize the need for greater precision in the use of historical terms. In so doing historical definitions are presented for some fifty terms such as analogy, cause, chance, change, development, progress, force, understanding, culture, frame of reference, and generalization.

In chapter V, “Propositions” (decided upon by the Committee) twenty-one propositions in historiography accepted by the members of the committee as valid, as useful for the advancement of learning, and as worthy of submission to the judgment of historians in general are presented. Eight of these are listed under Basic Premises, six under Important Sources of Methodological Error, found under Desirable Principles and Techniques and three under History and Related Disciplines. This chapter is all the more important because the committee attached at the beginning its meaning of such basic terms frequently used in the Propositions as: history, historical method, historical literature, historiography, and the scientific spirit in history.

Chapter VI, “Selective Reading List on Historiography and Philosophy of History” by Ronald Thompson concludes the volume. This bibliography extending over some twenty pages classifies works on the subject under the following headings with appropriate sub-headings: The Profession of Historian, The Philosophical Approach, Contending Schools, National Developments, and New Interpretations. The use of the volume is facilitated by a name index and a subject index.

Valuable as this work is to the historian and social scientist, it is regretted that no mention was made of the archives movement in America as an indispensable adjunct to historiography. Nor was any mention made of the need to train prospective historians and social scientists in work with modern records. Indeed, this writer looked in vain for any reference to the term archives, although the words document and record were sometimes used.

ROLAND C. MCCONNELL

The National Archives

Writing Your Community's War History, by Marvin W. Schlegel. (Bulletin of the American Association for State and Local History, 1 (October, 1946), 305-333.)

Anyone who is planning on, or even toying with the idea of, writing his community's war history should by all means secure a copy of Mr. Schlegel's twenty-eight page booklet. There he will find the most valuable source of information on this subject which has as yet been compiled. In fact, it is doubtful that any further directions will be needed by those who are engaged on this present day task. Most persons who attempt to write their community's war history will, of necessity, be inexperienced in writing. They are apt to be appalled by the task which they can sense lies ahead of them. A reading of Mr. Schlegel's booklet, however, will reassure them and even make them eager to go ahead with what is often a self-imposed but highly desirable undertaking.

The booklet points out that there are many sources of information within and outside the community to which the compiler may turn in securing his data. He is told what to look for, how to look for it, where to look for it, and he is given hints as to how write it and publish it. He is even given warning that the undertaking will not be financially self-sustaining unless there are from one to two thousand books purchased, and that not more than one in a hundred is likely to purchase a copy.

Even the most inexperienced writer is likely to turn out a very creditable community war history if he follows the advice offered by the booklet. It will also be sufficiently inclusive, for the author has seemingly mentioned every aspect of the community's life during the war years that could possibly be a part of the history of the period.

It is the hope of the writer, as well as the reviewer, that many communities will undertake the writing of their part in the war effort. Such accounts become increasingly valuable as the years go by.

DONALD D. PARKER

South Dakota State College

Oregon State Library. Division of State Archives. *First Biennial Report—July 1, 1944-June 30, 1946*. (N.p., n.d. Pp. 8.)

This report contains a short history of Oregon's official records together with the preliminary steps taken by the State before and after the appointment of David C. Duniway, the first State archivist. Objectives of the new department and the accomplishments of the first two years are given in concise form followed by a list of acquisitions under the general subdivisions usual to a report of this nature, i.e., "Legislative Records", "Executive Records", Administrative Records of State Agencies", "Local Records", "Federal Records", and "Supplemental Records." An informative, well written report of this kind should be of particular interest to citizens of Oregon and others who are doing research in that State.

HAROLD S. BURT

Connecticut State Library

Cornell University Collection of Regional History. *First Report of the Curator, 1942-1945*. (Ithaca. Published by the University, n.d. Pp. 56.) *Second Report of the Curator, 1945-1946*. (Ithaca. Published by the University, n.d. Pp. 53.)

These two reports cover the entire history of an interesting new collection. Founded in 1942 as a result of a Rockefeller Foundation grant of \$18,000 to the University for studies in history and folklore of upstate New York, the collection has already grown to impressive proportions.

Whitney R. Cross, curator, defines as the purpose of his first report, "to make the collection known and useful to interested scholars." He therefore confines himself to a very brief report and devotes the greater part of his space to a detailed accession list with an extensive index. Edith M. Fox, acting curator, who issues the second report, follows the pattern set by Mr. Cross.

The reports thus become an excellent tool for research workers making available through the photostat and microfilm services offered by the collection much hitherto unexplored material. For the worker in a similar collection, however, who studies the reports with his own problems in mind, they leave many questions tantalizingly unanswered. How large a staff was needed to collect, classify and index so much material in so short a time? What sources of income besides the Rockefeller grant were available? What were the relations of the collection to the various libraries of the University? (It is stated that books and periodical files received by the collection are transferred to the University Library, but is the reverse true?) What publicity methods were used to attract so many donors? How were farmers and storekeepers persuaded to part with records so long treasured?

The composition of the collection itself is puzzling. Both curators admit that the field is ill-defined and that "upper New York" is an elastic region. But with the loosest interpretation it is hard to account for the inclusion of newspapers from California, almanacs from Missouri, an odd volume of the *Saturday Evening Post*, and an autograph letter from Aldous Huxley. Aside from the very wise restriction that only primary sources shall be included, the policy seems so far to have been one of "receive all."

This is not necessarily a fault, as it is often wise, especially in the beginning, to accept whatever is offered for the sake of the few treasures to be found in the chaff. It is to be hoped, however, that a definite understanding is reached with donors permitting the curator to dispose of irrelevant material as he thinks wise. Many antagonisms, heart-burnings, and even lawsuits could thus be averted. The old smouldering question of material "on deposit" is also fanned by a list of titles under this heading in both reports.

Particularly perplexing, is the appearance on both lists of scattered material having to do chiefly with the history of Cornell University. Surely the University has its own archives, and either these items belong there, or the whole archives should be deposited in this collection.

Such questions, however, should not be allowed to obscure the very real value of work well done in so difficult a period. The papers of farms, stores

and local industries make an amazing show, and if more usual fields of research are not as fully covered, this may be because other collections have already absorbed much of the material.

If it existed only for its collection of small town weeklies the collection would be worthwhile. Older collections have shirked, for lack of space and staff, the preservation of this class of editor-owned journals, which are the true home of freedom of the press in America, and often represent a better type of journalism than the city daily.

The Cornell Collection give promise of becoming a very exciting center for historians, economists and sociologists, and its future development will be eagerly followed.

ELIZABETH C. KIEFFER

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Archives Year Book for South African History. Sixth year, 1943, edited by Dr. Coenraad Beyers and others. (Cape Town. The Government Printer, 1945. Pp. 216.) *Seventh year. 1944*. (Cape Town. The Government Printer, 1945. Pp. 253.)

Since 1938 the government of the Union of South Africa has provided its historians and archivists with an attractive medium for publication through the *Archives Year Book*, of which the first volume was reviewed in the *AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, Vol. III, No. 2, April 1940, pp. 117-118. Thus far the contributions have been mostly monographs exceeding the scope of a periodical article, and with the exception of two studies on archival science by Dr. P. J. Venter, all have dealt with various aspects of South African history.

The volumes for 1943 and 1944, publication of which has been delayed as a result of the paper shortage, contain a study of the administration of poor relief at the Cape in the days of the Dutch East India Company, by Miss Maria M. Marais; a history of mining in the Transvaal from 1836 to 1886, by the late D. J. Pietersee; and an account of the part played by the so-called "Commissioners for the Cape" in the administration of that colony by the Dutch East India Company during the Eighteenth Century, by Miss Anna J. Boeseken.

In her master's thesis for the University of Stellenbosch Miss Marais presents a concise and clear picture of the system of poor relief in operation at the Cape during the period of Dutch administration. As in the home country, the administration of poor relief was entrusted to the Dutch Reformed Church. But in the more primitive surroundings of colonial society, which lacked regular orphanages and homes for the aged, far greater use was made of the system of farming such persons out to individual families, who then received fixed compensation toward their support from the Church. The Church did, however, maintain a schoolmaster and a doctor for the poor who served black and white alike.

Interesting both on account of the importance of the subject in South African history and its vivid presentation, is the late Dr. D. J. Pietersee's

doctoral dissertation on the early history of mining in the Transvaal. The author is primarily concerned with the history of the discovery of gold and the extent to which this history was influenced by the policies of the Transvaal government from the days of the Great Trek to the founding of Johannesburg. But considerable attention is also given to early efforts of the Republic to encourage the mining of lead, iron, copper and tin. The story culminates in the discovery of the rich deposits at the Witwatersrand by Harrison and Walker and the founding of Johannesburg in 1886.

Miss Boeseken's doctoral dissertation, which takes up the whole of the *Archives Year Book* for 1944, is a sequel to her earlier volume on the "Commissioners for the Cape, 1657-1700," which was published by Nijhoff at The Hague in 1938. Her account embodies the result of extensive and painstaking research in the archives at Cape Town and Batavia. Obviously the author knows all the right answers; she has posed a good many of the right questions. Nevertheless, after reading through these 200 pages, this reviewer is left with the uneasy feeling that whatever is worth knowing of the rather insignificant part played by the Commissioners in the administration of the Cape Colony could have been said equally well in considerably less space. As in the earlier volume, the appendix contains a complete list of all commissioner and admirals of the returning East Indies fleet who visited the Cape colony in the Eighteenth Century.

B. H. WABEKE

The Library of Congress

The Indian Archives. Published quarterly by the Imperial Record Department, Government of India. Vol. I, No. 1 (January, 1947). Pp. 96. Single copies, Rs. 2. Annual subscription, Rs. 8.

For almost ten years the *AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* has been the sole periodical in English devoted primarily to archives and archives administration. A new quarterly in this field from the other side of the world, therefore, is especially welcome. It is an undertaking that naturally will be watched with great professional interest and with the utmost good will on the part of American archivists.

This journal was sponsored by the Indian Historical Records Commission, which for several years has been recommending its publication to the Government of India, but the war and the shortage of paper have delayed its appearance until now. Dr. S. N. Sen, Director of the Imperial Record Department at New Delhi is "Chief Editor," and he is assisted by an Editorial Board of four members. In his "Editor's Note" Dr. Sen writes that *Indian Archives* "will serve a useful purpose if it can simply constitute itself into a clearing-house for scientific knowledge, an information bureau for Indian archivists, a technical adviser to people in difficulty."

Because Indian archivists have had but limited access to the literature of archival administration published outside India. Dr. Sen evidently intends to devote considerable space to reprinting items that he feels may be especially useful in India. Western archivists will be interested in noting which items

are selected for this purpose. In this issue they are (1) "Analytical Methods in the Dating of Books and Documents" by Julius Grant, from *Nature* for August 6, 1938; (2) "Preservation of Rare Books and Manuscripts in the Huntington Library" by Thomas M. Iiams, from *The Library Quarterly* for October 1932; and (3) "A Proposed Uniform State Public Records Act" and "A Proposed Model Act to Create a State Department of Archives," from the *AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* of April 1940 and April 1944 respectively. They occupy nineteen of this issue's 96 pages.

There are three original articles, occupying twenty-three pages. The first, by Col. R. H. Phillimore, bears the confusing title "Survey of India Records." It turns out to be an excellent paper on the records of the Survey of India, a valuable body of journals and field books, maps, and administrative documents that constitute a record of geographical, topographical, and trigonometrical survey activities in all parts of India for nearly two centuries. These records, of obvious interest to historians and geographers, as well as to administrators, are destined soon to be transferred to the Imperial Record Department. An article entitled "A Study of Palm Leaf Manuscripts" by S. Chakravorti illustrates the scientific approach that India is making to some of her special preservation problems. The author has recently spent a year in the United States studying problems of record preservation, and surely there is no one so well equipped as he to unite the wisdom of the East and the West in this field. The third of the original articles, "General Ventura's Family and Travels," seems to be out of place in this journal. To what extent an archival publication should contain historical articles may be a point worthy of debate, but it would seem desirable at least that such articles be based on archival materials or illustrate their use if they are to be granted space.

Western readers will be especially interested in the long "New Notes" section (pp. 45-87), a feature doubtless taken over from the *AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*. Here in the "India" section we have excellent summaries of the activities of the Indian Historical Records Commission and the Imperial Record Department, and notes on the activities of many of the Record Offices of the Indian Provinces and States. The news from the British Isles is especially full and well handled. Much of the news from other countries is already known to American archivists, but it is presented in an interesting fashion and reveals that India has built up her foreign contacts to a commendable degree. Like the United States, India is interested in European archival news not only as a source of professional knowledge and experience but because much of the archival materials for her history are to be found in European archival repositories.

The book reviews are longer than in the *AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* and three of the four titles reviewed are documentary publications, to which the *AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, rightly or wrongly, has not given much attention.

The Indian Archives has the same size page and is similar in format to the *AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*. The quality of its paper is not satisfactory, but that is a detail that perhaps cannot now be controlled. *The Indian Archives* has a worthy purpose and is well launched. It is to be hoped

that the coming partition of India will not jeopardise its existence, for the archival problems of that area are destined apparently to become both more important and more complicated.

OLIVER W. HOLMES

The National Archives

Italian Archives During the War and at Its Close, by Hilary Jenkinson and H. E. Bell. (London. His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1947. Pp. iv, 56. 1s. 6d.)

During World War II a great deal was said about the importance of the records of occupied countries for intelligence or operation purposes. It is a satisfaction to read in this little volume on *Italian Archives During the War and at its Close* that a great deal of effort went into the protection of Italian archives for their own sakes. The British and American archives officers recognized dangers inherent in overzealous intelligence exploitation and arrangements were made to check and control it. The German *Kunstschutz* seems to have been very properly concerned with the preservation and not with the exploitation of the Italian archives. The Germans, in fact, were at times too much concerned about the historical importance of Italian records as when, under the Mayer plan of 1944, they proposed taking to Germany the groups of records that were of special significance to German history.

Thanks to the valiant efforts of Jenkinson and Shipman and other Allied archivists, and perhaps even to the blundering but well intentioned efforts of Germans like Mayer and Bock, the records of Italy, in all their richness and complexity, seem to have survived the War as well as might have been expected. The Germans were responsible for the brutal destruction of most valuable papers in the *Archivio di Stato* of Naples; and three other great Italian archives at Siena, Modena, and Bologna suffered only less severely under German occupation. Allied troops were responsible for some minor damage but, in general, the precautions taken by the military on both sides seem to have been effective and the plundering of records was not widespread. Destruction from fire and shot, serious as that was, was also minimized by such precautions as removal. Certainly we all learned with the greatest satisfaction that the rich archives of the Vatican are safe.

During the early days of World War II we heard much about the protection of monuments and art galleries. Discussion of the need for protecting the cultural treasures of countries in war areas seemed barely to touch upon documents and public records and archives. The indifference toward archives, apparent in too many quarters, was of much concern to professional archivists. Accounts like this one by Hilary Jenkinson and Major Bell make it clear that, entirely apart from fine arts and monuments, the archival problem in devastated areas was and still is of such importance that it cannot be overlooked by the builders of peace any more than it could be overlooked by the makers of war.

E. WILDER SPAULDING

U.S. Department of State

CORRECTIONS

Dr. Henry L. Savage requests that the following errata be noted in his review of W. E. Tate's *The Parish Chest* published in the July 1947 number of the AMERICAN ARCHIVIST. Vol. X, No. 3, p. 309. Dr. Savage did not see proof on this review.

(1) For "This word-list is well worth the making," read "This word-list was," etc.

(2) For "One can sympathize with rector of Keston," read "One can sympathize with that rector," etc.

(3) For "These are melancholy words, and far from true of our own country, where tradition counts for less," read "These are melancholy words, and far more true, of our own country," etc.

(4) On page 310. For "Our knowledge of the year of William Shakespeare's birth and death," read "Our knowledge of the years of William Shakespeare's birth and death."