

Review of Books

RICHARD G. WOOD, Editor

The National Archives

Archives Year Book for South African History. Tenth year, 1947, edited by Dr. Coenraad Beyers, Chief Archivist of the Union, and others. (Cape Town. The Government Printer, 1948. Pp. 304.)

The tenth year of the *Archives Year Book* would seem to provide a convenient opportunity for reviewing the progress of the whole series, and estimating how far it has fulfilled its original purpose. This was set out by Dr. Botha, the former Chief Archivist of the Union, in the preface to Volume 1, part 1, as follows:

"It will enable the archivist to discuss problems, draw attention to new material coming into his custody and to any other matter which may be of assistance to the historical student. It will also serve the research scholar as a medium of giving others the benefit of his work."

Of these three aims, the last, the publication of the results of research, is on the face of it the least legitimate for an archival body, which is concerned (within the field of publication) with providing public tools — inventories, guides, calendars or transcripts — and not private conclusions. This for the archivist is a fundamental principle, for he is not a historian but the impartial custodian of authentic material. Yet this aim is the only one which has been pursued. Of the thirty contributions, varying in length from seven pages to over 400, only two short articles, both by Dr. P. J. Venter, have appeared on archival problems, and no attention has ever been drawn to new materials as such. The remaining twenty-eight are all historical and derivative.

It is certainly desirable, in order to avoid duplication of effort, that the results of one man's research should be available for others. But the publication of academic theses (seventeen have appeared in the series so far) is a very different matter. Even though the editorial board may find, in those theses which it has published, evidence of "thorough scientific work in the Archives" it is not justified in lending its own peculiar authority to work which must be partial and often immature. In any case such publication must be selective, and it is noteworthy that nearly half the theses emanate from one university. Surely it would be far better and more in keeping with the impartiality of the archivist to publish a guide to all historical theses relating to South Africa which are based on archival material, indicating where the text of the theses is available.

The volume for 1947 contains two works, a doctoral dissertation in Afrikaans by Miss M. J. Hugo on the vastly important subject of the franchise question in the South African Republic, and a genealogical table of the Kruger family down to the generation of President Kruger by Dr. E. E. Mossop. The his-

torical competence of these articles is better left to a historical journal to review; what we are here concerned with is the archival significance of the publication.

V. W. HILLER

Central African Archives

Bibliography of New Jersey Official Reports, 1905-1945, compiled by Dorothy Fordyce Lucas. (New Jersey State Department of Education, Division of State Library, Archives and History, 1947. Pp. vi, 256.)

This bibliography, begun by Miss Lucas in 1928 at the request of the New Jersey state librarian and admittedly not complete because of the difficulty in locating documents (blank pages are left in the book for noting additions which may turn up), lists reports of special committees authorized by the legislature, special studies issued by divisions of the state, and annual reports of state divisions and administrative commissions. In addition to the reports for 1905 to 1945, there are some for the years 1901 to 1904 which do not appear in Hasse's *Index*. Periodicals and series of bulletins and circulars issued by departments are purposely omitted.

The arrangement is explained very well by Miss Lucas in the preface. It is by year. Annual reports are listed separately, 183 pages of them. Each item (there are 1194) is numbered. Reports in legislative documents for the years 1905 to 1920 when the compilation was discontinued, are listed by year, giving a list of documents and contents in each volume. There is an index to legislative documents referring to year, volume and document. Finally there is a good general index to reports referring to item number of the report. This index has "see" and "see also" references to the index to legislative documents.

This modest volume may not be in great demand outside the State of New Jersey, but anyone who must search in documents of that State will find his task less because of it. For anyone who feels the need of such a bibliography of the documents of another state but who shrinks from the amount of work it entails, here is proof that it can be done.

LILLIAN MICHAELIS

Ohio State University Library

Calendar of Maryland State Papers. No. 3. The Brown Books, by Roger Thomas. State of Maryland Publications of the Hall of Records Commission No. 6. (Annapolis. Hall of Records Commission, 1948. Pp. vii, 180. \$2.00.)

To those of us who live and work in the archivally backward Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the achievements of the Free State of Maryland are marvelous. No State has done a better job of publishing the more important parts of its records than the Free State has done in the *Archives of Maryland* series, but, not content with this, it has proceeded to print thorough calendars of the great mass of miscellaneous papers bound up as the Brown, Black, Blue, and Red Books series.

The Brown Books series is composed almost entirely of official correspondence of the period of the Revolution. The manuscripts are bound in eleven volumes with small regard to chronology, and the editors of the calendar have taken the opportunity to place the material in chronological order. A table of Brown Book and Calendar numbers arranged in the order of the former provides a ready cross reference. The system of calendaring follows Dr. Radoff's *Guide* and is thoroughly satisfactory in daily use. The summaries of the documents are generous and will suffice for a majority of the people who have reason to consult the Brown Books. The index is as good as is practical when dealing with such material. It is to be hoped that this excellent series will shame other States into doing likewise.

CLIFFORD K. SHIPTON

American Antiquarian Society

A Calendar of Ridgely Family Letters 1742-1899 in the Delaware State Archives edited and compiled by Leon de Valinger, Jr., State Archivist, and Virginia E. Shaw, Classifier, Family data supplied by Mrs. Henry Ridgely, vol. I. (Published privately by some descendants of the Ridgely Family for the Public Archives Commission, Dover, Delaware, 1948. Pp. 349. 36 illustrations.)

He who prepares a calendar is like Goethe's translator: "He shows you a veiled beauty, that you may long for the loveliness behind the veil." The editors of this calendar have been wise enough to allow the beauty to peep through her veil in the form of frequent quotations, so deftly interwoven with the abridgment as to make a smooth and pleasing narrative, as entertaining for straight reading as it is valuable for reference.

The collection under consideration is an almost unique one, embodying the almost complete correspondence of a large and lively family, of some importance not only in state but in national affairs for more than a century and a half. The informal and intimate character of the material, makes it of infinite value to the social historian, and one may predict for it a position in history almost comparable to that of the *Paston Letters*.

Faced with the difficulty of arranging so large and complex a collection, the editors have adopted the following scheme: "to devote an individual chapter to the male head of the family in each generation, and an additional one for his children. . . . The separate chapters designated for the children contain the exchange of correspondence among themselves and with friends and relatives but not with their parents." To the present writer, this scheme seems unduly complex, and results in such awkwardness as this: To follow the career of Henry M. Ridgely and his brother George as students at Dickinson College, in the 1790's, it is necessary to read their letters to their mother in one section of the volume, and then to turn to an entirely different section to read their letters to their friends, brothers and sisters. This would have been obviated by a chronological arrangement; but, perhaps, such an arrangement would have created other problems for other users. At all events, an excellent and

detailed index, with many cross-references, and sub-headings assures the research worker of finding all the material on his subject no matter how widely scattered.

Illustrations and typography are above reproach, and the genealogical, biographical and historical material make rich and rewarding reading.

ELIZABETH CLARKE KIEFFER

Franklin and Marshall College

Collected Public Documents of the States; a Check-List, compiled by William S. Jenkins for the National Association of State Libraries. (Boston. The Association, 1947. Pp. ix, 87. Cloth, \$10.00.)

With this volume the National Association of State Libraries presents the final volume in its series of publications listing the basic printed sources of legislative and statutory history in the States. The three previous volumes, all compiled by Grace E. MacDonald, were the *Check-list of Session Laws* (1936), the *Check-list of Statutes of States of the United States of America* (1937), and the *Checklist of Legislative Journals of the States of the United States of America* (1938). Together, the two volumes last published list material in the field of state documents which may be compared to the material found in the *Congressional Series* in the field of federal documents.

As the compiler states in his very able preface, the collected documents here listed contain two main types of materials: executive documents, and legislative documents. These, of course, parallel, for the States, the papers submitted by the President along with his messages, which constitute the Federal executive documents; and the various papers ordered printed by Congress, which constitute the Federal legislative documents. The history of the authorized collection of this type of document in the States reveals for many of them a regrettable lack of real program, only thirteen States having continued into the 1940's a consistent policy of collecting and publishing. Four States have no published collections of documents at all, and for most of the other States collection was discontinued around the twenties, or even earlier.

The project of preparing the present check-list was carried on by the compiler over a period of ten years, during which time he had the advantage of working in two of the nation's most complete collections of State documents, at the Library of Congress, and at the University of North Carolina. In addition, he was the editor of a legislative journals microfilm project, a joint undertaking of these two institutions, the aim of which was to assemble a complete official record of the proceedings of all legislative bodies of the American colonies, territories and states. The list is based upon these two collections, supplemented by the microfilm project. Thus a library wishing to complete its files could readily do so through these sources.

The arrangement of the check-list, fully explained in the preface, is extremely simple to use, and for the librarian, or for the student who wants merely to ascertain the existence of collected documents for a certain year, wholly adequate. The state archivist will find in it a handy guide to the arrangement of

his own unpublished collections, and with its companion volumes will find something to give him a measure of control over the fundamental documents of his State.

DOROTHY V. MARTIN

National Archives

The Lincoln Papers. The Story of the Collection with Selections to July 4, 1861, by David C. Mearns. (Garden City, New York. Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1948. 2 vols. Pp. xvii, 681.)

Archivists will learn much from Mr. Mearns' brilliant and useful essay introductory to the first pair of a series of volumes of Lincoln papers. Here, in 133 pages which are a stylistic delight, is a detailed account of the vicissitudes and peregrinations of one of the most sought-after family archives in American history.

The biography of the Lincoln papers from the time the presidential nominee hired Nicolay and Hay as his secretaries through the tremendously publicized public opening in the summer of 1947 is an enthralling mystery story. To a large extent it concerns Robert Lincoln, who was custodian of the papers for over a half century after his father's death — and who tied them up for twenty-one years after his own death in 1926. Mr. Mearns has marshalled every available bit of evidence to explain and pierce the heavy velvet curtain of Victorian reticence with which Lincoln's son shrouded the papers for so many decades.

The great body of the Lincoln papers were the White House files, accumulated in the usual fashion, and customarily the property of the president. Immediately after the assassination, they were hastily packed and sent to Illinois. There they were stored in sealed boxes in a bank in Bloomington under the custody of Justice David Davis. Although Robert Lincoln denied access to the papers to Herndon, Lamon and other would-be biographers, in 1874 he turned them over to Nicolay and Hay for their judicious use in preparing the monumental *Abraham Lincoln: a History*. They remained in John Nicolay's Washington home until his death in 1901.

It was in that year that the Librarian of Congress, Herbert Putnam, at the suggestion of Ida Tarbell began a campaign to obtain the papers. Robert Lincoln gave him polite consideration but for years continued to keep them in his personal possession. For a while they were in Washington, then Chicago, and after 1911 followed their owner back and forth between Georgetown and Manchester, Vermont. Finally, in 1918, Robert Lincoln placed them on deposit in the Library of Congress, and four years later turned them over to the Library on a deed of gift.

During his lifetime, Robert Lincoln often spoke of his wish to sort through — or even burn — sections of the papers. He permitted only the official biographers, and briefly one other searcher, to see them. By terms of the gift, for a while the Library of Congress could not even allow access to an indexer. Respect for proprieties and fear of injuring those still living and

their immediate descendants in part dictated the policy. Unfortunately it gave ample latitude for the fantastic whispering of rumor-mongers, and between 1865 and 1947 a legend of the Lincoln papers, second only to the Lincoln legend itself, matured to hoary eminence.

Archivists will feel a warm sympathy toward the harassed custodians of the Lincoln papers from 1919 to 1947 and will be grateful to Mr. Mearns for his illuminating account of the collection.

FRANK FREIDEL

Vassar College

Treaties, Catalogue of an Exhibition at the Public Record Office (London, His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1948. Pp. 46. 1 s. net.)

The opening of a new Exhibition Room across a corridor from its main Museum, which is still housed in the old Rolls Chapel, was the occasion this past summer for the Public Record Office to publish a concise little booklet which is noteworthy for the clarity of its introduction to the subject of treaty format and style. Fifty-two representative treaty documents from the year 1197 to the year 1934 are now on display mainly in the new room and are here briefly described. One of the illustrative plates shows the signatures and seals on the British copy of the Treaty of Paris, 1783.

H. B. FANT

National Archives

Acuerdos de la Real Audiencia del Nueva Reino de Granada. Tomo II. 1557-1567. Publicación del Archivo Nacional de Colombia. Directed by Enrique Ortega Ricaurte, assisted by Carlota Bustos Losada. (Bógota. Editorial Antena, 1948. Pp. 371.)

This second volume of the *Acuerdos* of the Royal Audiencia of New Granada covers the years 1557 to 1567 inclusively. During that period, there were a total of 175 sessions of the Audiencia which took place in seventy-nine of the months. In most of these months there were only one or two meetings but in two there were as many as seven. The business conducted included such subjects as: installation of royal appointees, especially new members of the Audiencia; bonds; oaths of office; treatment of the Indians; encomiendas and encomenderos; repartamientos; powers and accounts of officials; roads and bridges; new discoveries; silver mines; investigations; and other matters. An especially important entry records the reception accorded to the first president of the Nuevo Reino in 1564 and gives the text of his title. There is also a notice of the establishment of an archive for the treasury in 1567. This volume, of the same pleasing format as its predecessor, contains much information on the early years of New Granada and is a documentary publication of the National Archive which is a valuable addition to the historiography of Colombia.

ROSCOE R. HILL

Washington, D. C.

Der Archivar. Mitteilungsblatt fuer deutsches Archivwesen. Jhrg. 1, Heft 3 (May 1948), Cols. 97-144.

The lead article which occupies thirty-eight of the forty-eight columns, reports on the measures taken to protect archives in the British Zone from damage during the war, the return of those archives to their proper repositories, the lessons learned from these experiences and a brief evaluation of losses sustained to archival collections, finding aids, and reference libraries. Eleven state archives and thirty-two municipal archives are covered. It is impossible here to digest all the important data which this article brings to light, but in it and similar articles one has the basis in fact for a comparison of prewar planning in Germany and elsewhere with the results, good and bad, of that planning. Some comments, which occasionally contradict each other will illustrate. For example, it is considered poor planning to store cultural materials adjacent to food and furniture which are subject to pilferage from many sources; it is undesirable to ship to repositories so distant that supervision is difficult and inspection impractical or impossible; fire extinguishers are of little use against a real fire; fire proof buildings, so called, are not adequate protection; frequent moves cause damage even to carefully packed materials; wooden boxes, especially when nailed or sealed, incite curiosity and so invite destruction. It is a good idea to make photocopies in some form of valuable items or indispensable aids such as catalogs; archival buildings should be erected outside population centers; duplicate sets of items should be stored in separate localities; salt mines are good repositories; packing boxes are superior to loose bundles or paper cartons in the protection they afford; covered furniture vans are excellent means of transport; and central direction of air raid protection is desirable and effective.

The second article (cols. 133-140), which is written in well documented style by Ahasver von Brandt, director of the archive of Hansa City in Luebeck, is entitled "Schicksalsfragen deutscher Archive." The fate of German archives with which von Brandt is primarily concerned is that of the Prussian State Archives of Koenigsberg, and those of the Free City of Danzig, although he brings into his argument the Prussian State Archives at Stettin and Breslau. His argument is worth serious study, even though unavoidably partisan, in connection with the final disposition of the archives belonging to the territory over which sovereignty has changed. Von Brandt argues that the basic principle of keeping archives with the territory to which they pertain would be improper in the case of Koenigsberg, Danzig and probably Stettin and Breslau, because the population, the laws, the administrative principles in connection with which the archives grew are no longer in existence. He argues that the population, not the land, is the legal and moral owner of the archives. It seems to me that not all of his points are well made, but that he succeeds in posing a question of "moral" law which is hard to answer according to established international law.

Among the minor contributions is a series of notes (cols. 140-143) on steps taken since the Detmold meeting to assure coverage on the history of Germans

driven out of the East; a notice of the archive of letters of musicians created by a private scholar and dealer in Berlin; official notices; list of missing archives sought; removal of the former Prussian State Archives at Keil to its new location in Schloss Gottorp in the town of Schleswig; notice of the joint meeting of the Verein deutscher Archivare and Gesamtverein der deutschen Geschichte — und Altertumsvereine scheduled for September 6-7, but which was subsequently postponed.

LESTER K. BORN

Office of Military Government for Germany, Karlsruhe

Der Archivar. Mitteilungsblatt fuer deutsches Archivwesen. Jhrg. I, Heft 4 (August 1948), Cols. 145-192.

This number contains five major contributions of considerable interest and importance. The first is a report (cols. 147-158) on the condition of state, municipal, county, and church archives in the Rhineland and Palatinate, i.e., the upper part of the French Zone. The detailed notes on individual institutions are prepared in accordance with the scheme noted in our review in *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* for January 1948. These notes on the two state, twenty-four city and county, and six church archives are preceded by an introduction, signed by Aloys Schmidt of the State Archives at Coblenz, which details the story of archives stored in Ehrenbreitstein, the old fortress on the heights across the river from Coblenz. The story is no less interesting because it is not unique: vehicles were lacking; laborers were non-existent; food, clothing, furniture (all excellent bait for pilferers) were stored adjacent to archives; and rail transportation for re-evacuation was disorganized. Schmidt gives generous thanks to the archival staffs, the engineers, the representatives of French and British Military Governments for their energy, planning, and help in storing and / or returning the materials stored in more than a hundred rooms.

The second article (cols. 157-170) reports on the condition of some 150 family archives in the American (34), French (2), and British (116) Zones according to the established scheme of reporting. As could be guessed, family archives have, in general, suffered negligible war damage because of their habitual seclusion in isolated castles. Some of these castles, however, were destroyed or damaged, or have been requisitioned for other purposes, and the archives once located there have been left without a home of their own. In this they share the fate of many public archives.

The third article (cols. 169-178), which, like the second, is unsigned, is the second part of the article on wartime protection and postwar developments of archives in the British Zone. It reports on forty-two church archives and eight business archives. These latter suffered considerable war damage since they were usually stored, albeit in strong rooms, in or near the factories to which they were related. The church archives enjoyed — or suffered — the same unpredictable fate as those of public institutions.

The fourth article (cols. 177-182), by Carl Wilkes of Duesseldorf, deals

with the protection of non-state archives of the Rhine Province, Prussia, against the effects of war. Most of his space is given to illustrations of the close cooperation of all protective agencies, to the planning of evacuations, the setting up and the constant inspection of repositories. The author believes that the comparatively small losses suffered by non-state archives in the hard hit Rhineland are the best tribute to the quality of work done.

The fifth article (cols. 181-184), again unsigned, reports according to the established scheme on the fate of the more important archives in Saxony. The pleasant surprise of having at hand this information gathered from behind the "Iron Curtain" in itself makes the article interesting. Most of the ten archives reported on suffered only minor losses or damages, and most have been reopened since the end of hostilities.

Minor contributions include the usual brief official notices from parts of the British Zone; a list of missing items sought by the State Archive at Bremen; personalia; the list of deceased archivists; a memorial (cols. 187-191) on Ivo Striedinger, formerly Director of State Archives of Bavaria and editor of the *Archivalische Zeitschrift*, which was written by Fridolin Solleder, Director of the State Archives at Nuremberg; a notice that graduates of the Evangelical Library School at Goettingen are receiving a brief introduction to archival practices, since they will in most cases be responsible for libraries and archives alike; a very favorable review, by Volmer of Duesseldorf, of the *Mitteilungen des oesterreichischen Staatsarchivs*; and a four line notice of the postponement, as a result of the money reform, of the archivists' meeting from September 1948 to May 1949.

This number, which brings to a close the first year of this new periodical, illustrates the effectiveness of the planning and the obvious need for such a publication. The editor is to be congratulated on his accomplishment.

LESTER K. BORN

Office of Military Government for Germany, Karlsruhe

Mitteilungen des Österreichischen Staatsarchivs. Herausgegeben von der Generaldirektion. Vol. I, fasc. 1. (Vienna. Österreichische Staatsdruckerei, 1948. 16 Austrian schilling or 20 Swiss frs.)

By publishing the *Mitteilungen des Österreichischen Staatsarchivs*, the Office of the Director General of the Austrian State Archives resumes the tradition of the *Historische Blätter*, since 1921 the historical journal of the former *Haus- Hof- und Staatsarchiv* in Vienna. The new serial deserves the attention of archivists as well as that of scholars of European history.

In the preface to Fascicle 1 of Volume I, Leo Santifaller, the Director General of the Austrian State Archives, announces the entire publication program of his office. It includes, in addition to the *Mitteilungen*, the continuation of the inventories of the public archives of Austria and of the great documentary publications, entitled *Österreichische Zentralverwaltung* and *Österreichische Staatsverträge*, and a new publication, the *Publikationen des Österreichischen Staatsarchivs*. This ambitious program is ample evidence of

the admirable scholarly aims of Austria's archivists and merits the applause and the active support of their colleagues in all lands.

The *Mitteilungen* is not an exclusively professional journal like THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST. Besides cultivating *archivwissenschaft*, that is, archival history and archival administration, diplomatics, and other auxiliary sciences of history, it wants to publish articles and documents pertaining to the history of the late Middle Ages and of modern and very recent items. Fascicle 1 of the first volume clearly reveals the dualistic nature of the journal; for, by far the largest part of it is taken up by Leo Santifaller's "Quellen zur Geschichte des spätmittelalterlichen Ablass- und Reliquienwesens aus schlesischen Archiven" (Silesian archival sources pertaining to the history of indulgences and relics during the late Middle Ages) and by Heinrich Benedikt's "Die europäische Politik der Pforte vor Beginn und während des österreichischen Erbfolgekriegs" (Turkey's European policy before and during the War for the Austrian Succession).

These articles as well as two shorter ones do not fall within the scope of this review. Archivists, however, will be much interested in Jakob Seidl's "Das Österreichische Staatsarchiv" because this informative essay will assist them in tracing the history of the present Austrian State Archives back to the pre-*Anschluss* situation. In imperial times and under the Republic, when Austria did not have a centralized archives set-up, records of central government agencies were in the custody of the *Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv*, the *Hofkammerarchiv*, the *Staatsarchiv des Innern und der Justiz*, and some other ministerial archival agencies. As has happened so often in the history of archives administration, a political crisis of major proportions resulted in archival progress: *Anschluss* and the discontinuation of Austria's central administrative machinery that followed it, made it necessary to consolidate the various ministerial archives into the *Reichsarchiv Wien* which was placed under the supervision of the *Reich* Ministry of the Interior. When Austria regained its independence, the *Reichsarchiv* became the present Austrian State Archives, composed of four main divisions including the former *Kriegsarchiv* which, in Nazi times, had been under the control of the High Command of the Armed Forces. In addition to describing the organizational history of the Austrian State Archives, Seidl deals with the recent development of its holdings, with their evacuation to places of safety during the war, and with their shipping back to Vienna in 1945, a major operation in which the Red Army participated by furnishing the necessary trucks. The only major wartime loss was that of the records of the Austrian Council of State for the period from 1760 to 1833, a loss that is particularly lamentable because the corresponding records of the Austrian-Bohemian Court Chancery became the victim of the conflagration of the Vienna Justice Building in 1927. While it has been possible to bring the archives back to Vienna, conditions are of course far from being satisfactory. The holdings are scattered over a number of buildings, most of them inadequate, and the staff has been cut in half and is overaged so that there is real danger of a great archival tradition getting lost. The

splendid archives, however, so indispensable for research in European history, are practically intact, and their custodians stand ready to serve the scholars of all countries.

In addition to Seidl's article, Walter Goldinger's review of *Archivwissenschaftliche Literatur der Jahre 1938 bis 1947* (Writings on the history and administration of archives 1938 to 1947) deserves being called to the attention of American archivists. Prior to 1938, the *Jahresberichte für deutsche Geschichte* included regular annual reports on the recent archival literature of Germany and adjacent German speaking countries. Goldinger's bibliographical study is intended to fill the gap caused by the discontinuation of the *Jahresberichte* and, beyond that, to list the pertinent writings in non-German languages. War and postwar conditions have made it impossible for him to attain his goal. For the countries under German wartime control, however, and certainly for Central Europe, his report makes available a great wealth of hitherto unknown articles and monographs in the field, many of them indispensable for the archivist interested in the comparative study of professional problems and in the history of archival administration.

The issue of the *Mitteilungen* here under review also contains an article on the Archives of the Government of Steiermark in Graz, a summary of activities of the French Archives, and a report on the publication of the *Österreichische Staatsverträge* which will be of interest to students of diplomatic history and international law.

ERNST POSNER

The American University

Ocherki Po Istorii Arkhivnogo Dela V. S. S. S. R. (Sketches on the History of Archival Care in the U. S. S. R.), by I. L. Maiakovsky. Part I. (Moscow. Historico-Archival Institute, 1941. Pp. 343.)

I. L. Maiakovsky is the dean of Russian archivists whose lectures at the Petrograd Archaeological Institute in prerevolutionary years always attracted graduate students and scholars. The field of archival studies and its relation to research and teaching was at that time a comparatively new discipline and rapidly won enthusiasts. Maiakovsky's course, given at the Petrograd Institute in 1918, was published as a book two years later.¹ This was not the first Russian textbook on archival science. P. E. Andreevsky published his *Nauka ob Arkhivakh* (Archival Science) in 1885 and a decade later A. P. Voronov followed up with a *Konspekt Lektsii Po Arkhivovedeniu* (An Outline of Lectures on Archival Care). Other historians and archivists also published works on the subject at this time or even earlier. However, the field of Russian archival study was still in its adolescence. Moreover, the history of archival science, like history in general, was written in that period with little

¹ Under the title, *Istoricheskii Ocherk Arkhivnogo Dela V Rossii* (An Historical Sketch of Archival Care in Russia) by I. L. Maiakovsky, Petrograd, 1920. Pp. 175. A review of this work by S. Bogoiavlensky will be found in *Krasnyi Arkhiv*, Vol. I, 1926, p. 422.

or no regard to the economic and socio-political factors that helped shape Russian culture.

Maiakovsky's present work is a far cry from his earlier effort. The seventeen chapters take the reader through the entire length of Russian history, from ancient times to 1917. Maiakovsky reveals that recently unearthed archives throw new light on the history of the Turkomans, Tadzhik, Uzbek and other nationalities of the U. S. S. R. One such cache was found in 1933 in Tadzhikistan. An excavation of the palace of Divashtich, the ruler of Sogdian (722 A.D.), produced eighty-one documents written on paper, leather and long wooden sticks. The writings were in Chinese, Arabic, Sogdian and in an unknown language.

Even before the introduction of Christianity, Kievan-Russia had learned the technique of drawing up records and the preservation of books from the Byzantine Empire and from the Greek and Bulgarian clergy.

Russian acceptance of Christianity had a stimulating effect on the preservation of written records. Yaroslav I, a great legislator, brought to the St. Sophia Monastery in Kiev a number of scribes who were kept busy copying religious books and state records. The "keepers of books" played an important role in the Russian monasteries. The period of Russian unification under Ivan III, who assumed the title of Tsar, witnessed the bringing together of records from Tsver, Novgorod, Suzdal, Rostov and other principalities.

When, in 1715, Peter the Great who hated Moscow, decided to move his capital to St. Petersburg, he placed the state archives under the jurisdiction of the Senate and ordered the Moscow collections brought to St. Petersburg. The records were placed in wooden crates and a horse-drawn procession of 111 wagons started for St. Petersburg. The back breaking journey over muddy roads and across rivers and mountains took almost two months. It was no fault of the well meaning Tsar that the transfer proved unfortunate. The great flood of 1824 played havoc with a great part of the Senate Archive.

One person to whom Russia is greatly indebted for saving and modernizing the care of historical materials is the German-Russian historian, Gerard F. Mueller (1705-1783). Mueller was commissioned by the Academy of Science to head an expedition to Kamchatka, spent ten years traveling all over Siberia, and discovered and turned over to the Archaeological Society such an amount of archival wealth that it "has not as yet been fully studied."²

Among other scholars in the field of Russian archival science was Nikolai V. Kalachov (1819-1885) who studied western European archival practices, especially the French *Ecole des Chartes*, and established the first Archaeological Institute in 1877. Dmitry I. Damokvasov (1843-1911) developed a plan for centralizing the Russian archives — a plan which was modified and adopted by the Second Archaeological Congress held in Kiev in 1899. But, despite its adoption, the government never provided sufficient funds and facilities to safeguard and develop the country's historical treasures. As years passed, the

² *Malaia Sovetskaia Entsiklopedia* (Small Soviet Encyclopedia) Moscow, 1930, Vol. V, p. 214.

major concession on the part of the government was the establishment of another Archaeological Institute in Moscow in 1907 which functioned as a private institution.

The important phases in the reorganization of Russian archival science are described by Maiakovsky not only in relation to the internal situation in Russia and the changes in the government, but also in relation to the evolution of archival work in Western Europe, especially Germany and France. The author provides examples showing that the destruction of many documentary collections in Russia was caused by lack of storage facilities, negligence or sheer ignorance. Peasant uprisings were usually accompanied by setting fire to the landlords' records that fixed the serf-status, taxes and other obligations of the peasantry.

The more important archives in Imperial Russia were under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These included the major Moscow Archive and the State and Central Archives in St. Petersburg. The Vitebsk Archive of ancient protocols was later joined with the Kiev Archive. The Vilna Archive also had an invaluable collection of old records. The Military-Scientific Archive of the General Staff and the Naval Archive had an independent status and were among the oldest. The sovereigns kept their own private archives and these sometimes contained the most confidential papers. Every *Gubernia* (province) had on the average from 1000 to 1500 governmental and community archives.

Maiakovsky mentions some of the private collections. It would be extremely valuable to know the location and condition of these private archives of the former Russian nobility which were nationalized by the Soviets after the Revolution. One hopes that Maiakovsky may give us this information in the second volume of his work which is to deal with the really enormous advancement of archival work under the Soviets.

The introduction states that M. N. Pokrovsky's erroneous conception of history led to a "disdainful attitude to the problems of safeguarding and developing the historical monuments of the peoples of the U. S. S. R." (p. 17). While this writer is far from accepting Pokrovsky's theories, he believes that the above statement does not jibe with the fact that it was Pokrovsky who, during the years following the Revolution, saved national and many local archives from pillage by men and from destruction by the elements—a fact which was widely acknowledged before Pokrovsky's death in 1932.³

The lack of an index in Maiakovsky's work is regrettable and, while the detailed table of contents is useful, it is no substitute for an index. This is a major work on archival care in old Russia, done with love and knowledge of the subject. Historians and archivists will await with great interest the publication of the second volume dealing with the Soviet period which was initiated by Lenin's decree of July 1, 1918.

Cleveland Public Library

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³ A more detailed discussion of this subject will be found in *A Digest of the Krasnyi Arkhiv* (Red Archives) by L. S. Rubinchek, ed. by L. M. Boutelle and G. W. Thayer, Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio, 1947.

Repertorio Bibliográfico de los Archivos Mexicanos y de las Colecciones Diplomáticas Fundamentales para la Historia de México, by Augustin Millares Carlo and José Ignacio Mantecón. [Publicaciones del Instituto de Historia, primera serie, numero 6]. (Mexico. Imprenta Aldina, 1948. Pp. xv, 186.)

This is the sixth number in the series of publications of the Instituto de Historia of the National University of Mexico. Their purpose is to provide source material for further study and research by scholars and historians interested in the development of the Mexican Republic. The student of Mexican history cannot overlook these important sources.

The Repertorio Bibliográfico is divided into two parts: First, a bibliography of archives; and second, documentary collections which are fundamental in the study of Mexican history. Pages 161-186 contain an index to entries found in both parts and in the section of additions which the compilers have included. The listings in each section are in logical order: that is, material dealing with all America, then with Mexico, its various districts, cities, and the like. Under certain geographical divisions are found, frequently, good information dealing with the early archives of the region, particularly stating where disastrous fires and other causes have destroyed archival material, and indicating where other important publications may be found.

This bibliography will prove to be valuable because of its logical order and the ease with which it may be used. It is an important addition to published material available on Mexico. The compilers have been careful to include full citations for most entries. It is gratifying to see that series notes are included in the various listings, a matter too frequently overlooked by bibliographers and publishers. The "Índice analítico" is of great aid in the use of this publication; but, as is often the case, it cannot be relied upon completely. The annotations are quite helpful; the print is very good and typographical errors are few.

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Zentralblatt fuer Bibliothekswesen. Jhrg. 62, Heft 1/2 (Jan/Apr 1948). Cols. 1-118.

The pattern of content for this second year is identical with that of the first. However, coverage in such departments as News and Notes, Minor Contributions and Personalia is much more catholic in inclusion of items from the western zones and in foreign news. The classified bibliography of just over 100 items still contains only two that were received for review. Of historical interest are an article (pp. 49-86) by Rudolph Buelck entitled "Bie Kieler Universitaetsbibliothek . . . 1793 bis 1823" based largely on documentation available in the Staatsarchiv at Kiel, and an article (pp. 26-48) by Wieland Schmidt of Berlin entitled cryptically "CLM," which is a history of the cataloging and, therefore, of provience of manuscripts in the Bavarian State Library; i.e., *codices latini monacenses*. An article (pp. 4-26) on "Die Saechische Landesbibliothek zu Dresden im Wiederaufbau" by Karl Assmann,

who had been director since October 1945 and who has been a professional member of the staff since January 1919, gives in extensive form the kind of information which is summarized in Georg Leyh's book (reviewed in *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, XI, No. 3 (July 1948), 263-265): the buildings, the wartime evacuations and repositories, losses, postwar rehabilitation, separation of Nazi and militaristic literature, and personnel. From May 25, 1945 to February 27, 1947 the collection of books and the catalogs were moved three times "without interrupting the current internal operations of the library, the administration, the acquisition, and the cataloguing of the books for even a single day." The library has finally come to rest in its own building, a former caserne.

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Zentralblatt fuer Bibliothekswesen. Jhrg. 62, Hft 3 (May/June 1948). Cols. 119-174.

This first single number to appear differs from the preceding double numbers only in two respects: the smaller number of pages, and, in the classified bibliography, the high percentage of items received for review; i.e., ten out of some sixty. Rudolph Blum of Berlin contributes an article (pp. 132-144) on the general problem of "duplicates" in which he analyses the several ideas confused under "exchange" — that is, book for book, value for value, and the like; states the imperative need for using to the maximum all library resources in the postwar rebuilding program; frankly faces the issue that not all libraries merit priorities in acquisitions at this time; argues the ways and means of evaluation of books and priorities. He ends with two concrete suggestions. 1) Institutions must be divided by types and within types priorities of opportunity to acquire new materials through exchange must be set up. For example, if four categories are set up, then the most important libraries get four times as many opportunities as do the least important. 2) Books must be divided according to subject, general nature, publication date, and size. According to a fixed scale for each of the criteria a combined "value" in points would be fixed for every book and periodical. For example, scientific literature published between 1800 and 1889 gets one point for a volume up to 160 pages and five points for a volume with 160 to 480 pages, but the same type published between 1920 and 1948 gets eight and ten points, respectively. The latest editions of reading room reference works gets twelve and sixty points, respectively. For volumes over 480 pages a percentage scale of increase is applied. This system, which would require the keeping of credit and debit ledgers in the central exchange office, avoids all questions of money value in a world in which currencies and prices are none too stable.

Friedrich Schmidt-Ott writes (pp. 145-157) about "Der Bibliotheksaus-schuss der Notmeinschaft der deutschen Wissenschaft" in an article in which he reviews the formulation of this society for aid to German scholarship after the last war, and, in particular, the excellent record in its committee on li-

braries. He makes no specific recommendations for its revival at the present time. In the minor contributions Georg Leyh expresses the hope that the Verein der deutschen Bibliothekare (modeled on that of the archivists) will renew publication of the *Jahrbuch der Bibliotheken*. Ernst Mehl, in his report on the Bavarian State Library, calls attention to the fact that this institution will probably lose to re-requisition by Amerika Haus considerable space which it shares with the Bavarian State Archives. This latter has already lost most of its space.

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