

# The President's Page

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**I**N this first issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* under Mr. Trever's editorship, there is included a new feature, the "President's Page." Such a feature, I understand, has been under consideration for some time, but for various reasons has not been initiated. It is hoped that it will prove worth while and of interest to the members of the Society and to other readers of our journal.

In the conduct of the affairs of any organization it is inevitable that the officers, whose duty it is to handle the routine business and to meet the various problems that arise, should be kept better informed than is the membership at large. Ordinarily there is no secret about any of this; it is simply a fact that somebody has to do the job and that the task naturally falls to the officers who are chosen for the purpose. Much of the routine is tedious, and in many cases those who have to deal with it would be just as happy if they could turn it over to someone else.

Be that as it may, it would appear to be the duty of the officers to make every effort to keep the membership informed as to what is going on. In all too many organizations there develops a feeling that control is in the hands of a ring of "insiders" who handle things pretty much to suit themselves. If such conditions exist in other societies, certainly it is my hope that they will never be so in the Society of American Archivists. I have long believed that in any organization, governmental or otherwise, insofar as practicable, the will of the majority should be carried out.

Fortunately, our own Society from the beginning has operated according to democratic procedures and practices. If the officers have not carried out the policies approved by the membership, the latter has not hesitated to express its disapproval, and in no uncertain terms. Ours has been an outspoken group, and I hope that it will continue to be so. Perhaps that explains, in part, why there has never been any sharp cleavage between the officers and the membership at large.

The "President's Page," however, represents an effort to bring about even closer coordination between the two groups by keeping the membership more closely informed. Comments and suggestions, particularly as to topics that might be of interest if covered in this feature, will be appreciated.

The separate conventions of the Society of American Archivists in Quebec and of the American Association for State and Local History in Burlington, Vermont, this September will mark a new departure. Always, since the latter organization was established, the two have met at the same place, either with the sessions of one following immediately after those of the other, or else with the sessions interspersed during the entire period, together with a joint session of both. Having been a founding member of the Society of American Archivists, and also having played a small part in the establishment of the American Association for State and Local History, I happen to have at hand certain background information on this subject that may be of interest.

When the American Association for State and Local History was launched in 1940 (as the successor to the old Conference on Historical Societies), the Society of American Archivists, which already had been in existence for four years, was firmly established and able to stand on its own feet. The American Association for State and Local History, however, had yet to take its first tentative steps, and no one could be certain how strong it would be. It represented a somewhat heterogeneous assortment of institutional members, consisting of state and local historical societies and archival and manuscript agencies, together with individual members, including college and university professors of history, staff members of historical societies, archivists, amateur historians, and others. To tie these divergent elements together was the problem of the founders of the new Association. Since there was considerable overlapping in the membership of the American Association for State and Local History and the Society of American Archivists, it was believed that for the two to meet together would be of advantage to both — and, in the beginning at least, especially to the American Association for State and Local History. The necessary arrangements were made, therefore, and the first coordinate session was held in Hartford in the fall of 1941. Thereafter such sessions were held every year through the Raleigh meeting of 1948.

It was felt by many members of both groups that the arrangement was one of mutual advantage. The attendance was probably

larger for each than it would have been at a separate meeting, most features of the programs of both were of interest to the members of the two organizations, and the longer total sessions were more worth while than would have been a single shorter meeting of only one group — and some persons would not have been able to attend both sessions if held separately.

Some sentiment developed in the American Association for State and Local History, however, that it might be well to break away, or at least to make a partial break. The Society of American Archivists is designedly a professional organization, while the American Association for State and Local History includes a large number of non-professionals. One of the major purposes of the Association is to serve this latter group, and some have felt that this phase of the program has not been adequately developed. In meetings with the Society of American Archivists, professional and often technical topics have tended to be emphasized and, if I understand correctly, it was the desire to change this situation that led to the decision of the American Association for State and Local History to meet separately this year. Lest there be any misapprehension, however, it should be said that there was no ill feeling whatsoever in this connection, and that the decision was reached on the most friendly basis by all concerned.

The new arrangement will not represent a complete break. The two meetings will be held in the same general area and the tentative timing, which will have been made final by the time this is published, will make it possible to attend both, one after the other. We can see how things work out this year. Later, if it seems advisable for the two organizations to continue to meet separately, they can do so. But, on the other hand, there is nothing to prevent their holding coördinate sessions again in the future.

Speaking of conventions, those of some larger organizations are on such a mammoth scale that I must confess I feel bewildered and lost when I attend them. The number of persons present is so large and there is such a diversity of interests, with currents and cross-currents, that one cannot begin to keep up with all that is going on. Usually half a dozen or more sessions are in progress at the same time, so that, as in the case of a gigantic circus, it is impossible to follow everything at once. Drove of persons surge through the hotel lobbies and corridors like crowds at a major athletic event. I have never enjoyed meetings on such a scale, and I attend them only because of a sense of duty.

The conventions of the Society of American Archivists and the American Association for State and Local History, however, are different. The number in attendance is not overpowering, only one session is held at a time, and there is a unity of interest that makes for a common understanding. From the beginning, the group gets down to practical matters and the discussions are usually to the point and informative. There prevails a spirit of good fellowship and camaraderie, for most of those in attendance have known one another for a good many years and are glad to get together again for both official and personal associations. Most of us look forward to these meetings from year to year and are glad when the time rolls around for the next one.

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# Technical Topics

Edited by DANIEL F. NOLL

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## THE MICROPHOTOGRAPHY OF CURRENT COURT RECORDS

Microphotography's spectacular space economies frequently obscure the even more substantial savings possible when microfilming is applied to current record operations. In private industry, millions of checks, vouchers, sales slips, waybills, and even laundry tickets are microcopied daily to reduce the clerical costs of listing and posting current accounting transactions. Improved accuracy and space savings may result, but the main advantage lies in the time and labor saved. During the war, the Washington office where all Army freight bills were paid used a microfilm procedure that eliminated one copy of all bills of lading. In approximately four years, it has been estimated, over three million dollars were saved in the cost of handling and filing eighty-four million sheets of paper — at a cost for microfilm of less than \$50,000.<sup>1</sup>

It is hard to imagine that the uses of microfilm in banks, department stores or Army finance offices have any relation to the problems of court records. When we contemplate court records, we visualize musty records in basement vaults. We suspect that many of the records have already outlived their usefulness; but, since it would take a crystal ball to tell which one of these documents might some day be needed to unravel some tangled problem of property or citizenship rights, the court clerk may think of microfilm as a solution. He is told that one thousand document pages will require only a dollar's worth of film and that in a few hours anyone can be trained to photograph ten to thirty pages per minute with these nearly automatic cameras. When he multiplies the low unit cost by the total number of documents in his files, however, he arrives at a rather substantial total. Even if the microfilming costs would be repaid in five or ten years, the fact is that governmental offices live from one appropriation year to the next. In most counties expenditures that can be justified only out of future savings have to be financed by new bond issues. Furthermore, the cost of space is a very intangible item; the court clerk rarely pays out of his own budget for the space in the courthouse which his old records occupy. Too often, the custodian of court records drops his investigation at about this point. As a solution to the problem of old records, microfilm may be all right for big courts, but for him it is a luxury he cannot afford.

For almost ten years, however, a few county courts have been microfilming records in much the same manner as private industry uses the process to "re-

<sup>1</sup>This procedure is more fully described on pages 9-10, *The Evaluation of Microfilming Projects*, proceedings of the Interagency Records Administration Conference, May 9, 1947.

cord" current accounting transactions. About five years ago, an account of one of these operations was published under some such title as "COUNTY CLERK SAVES COURTHOUSE SPACE." Buried in the middle of a paragraph was the statement that microfilm copies of current court orders were being substituted for photostats. The cost of a bound volume of photostat copies was about seventy-five dollars, whereas the microfilm equivalent cost about three dollars. About two years ago, the archivist in that state sent me a summary of this county's activities. Some older records were being microfilmed and mention was again made of the work with current court orders. But, since neither of us knew about the function of the Court Order Book, the major significance of this microfilming was overlooked.

Then, very recently, an experiment in one of the U. S. District Courts brought to light a study of court administration made in 1941. Among other things, the report of this study<sup>2</sup> included a full description of the manner in which Minute and Order Books were maintained, as well as detailed suggestions for the use of microphotography in this connection. Significant as these proposals were, they have not been cited in bibliographies on microphotography; and it is felt that a summary of those portions bearing on microfilming will interest readers of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*.

The Minute Books, Order Books, and Journals contain in chronological sequence either abstracted or complete copies of final court actions. The originals in the case files are the primary records used by the public. The Minute and Order Books are secondary records, rarely used by the public; their basic function is to provide some measure of insurance against loss, alteration, or damage to the primary records. Microphotography's speed and accuracy, as well as the compactness and virtually unalterable form of microfilm, would appear to be tailor-made for this purpose. No other copying process approaches it from the viewpoint of economy and permanence.

Statutes must usually be altered, however, to permit substitution of the film roll for the earlier book form of record. Thus, the process could not be used in the Federal courts until certain changes were made in the Federal Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure. In the following revision recommended in 1941, the words in italics were intended to replace the original language, shown in parenthesis:

79-b. (Civil Order Book) *Record of Civil Orders*.—The clerk shall keep a (book) *record* for civil actions entitled ("civil order book") "*civil orders*" in which shall be kept in the sequence of their making exact copies of all final judgments and orders, all orders affecting title or lien upon real or personal property, all appealable orders, and such other orders as the court may direct.

A similar change was recommended in Rule 55 on criminal procedure.

Before the microphotographic method can be described, however, the functions and preparation of the conventional record must be understood.

<sup>2</sup> *Possible Improvements in the Administration of the Offices of Clerks of U. S. District Courts*, prepared by the Bureau of the Budget, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1941 (Out of print).

The Minute Book is an abbreviated "log" of the court's proceedings. Abstracts of final actions are typed or handwritten in loose-leaf books or bound volumes. It differs from the Order Book which contains the full text of the orders. Some courts combine the Minute with the Order Book, in which form it is sometimes known as the Journal. Some maintain Minute Books for criminal cases only. The primary difficulty with the Minute Book is that the lengthy wording of a variety of legal forms requires experienced clerks to insure brief, but accurate, entries.

The Order Book, prior to the advent of microphotography, was prepared in three ways: a) by transcribing the entire order from the original; b) by making a photostat copy; c) by requiring the litigants to furnish an extra carbon copy. According to the survey of 1941, the time required to make transcripts resulted in a record which "lagged months and even years behind current court proceedings." The transcripts were rarely proof-read. The photostat method improved the accuracy and reduced the time lag, but there was little difference between the cost of the transcript and the photostat. The use of copies furnished by the litigants was considered the most economical; but the varying sizes of papers, the lesser legibility of carbon copies, as well as frequent failure to furnish copies of *all* the documents, created another crop of difficulties.

The conventional methods of maintaining these "security copies" obviously contributed further to the bulk of the records in already overcrowded courthouses. The "exactness" of the copies could be seriously questioned. Further, full advantage of the insurance feature was not achieved, since a fire or flood was likely to destroy originals and duplicates as long as both sets were kept in the same courthouse.

The problem of adapting a single mechanized procedure to courts with varying work loads is ordinarily difficult. That most Order Books were found in the 1941 survey to be transcribed by hand can probably be explained by the fact that the relatively heavy investment in photostat equipment was not offset by savings in clerical costs. Fortunately, most microfilm equipment can be rented for 12 months in the year, or only when needed. Records can also be microcopied on a service contract basis, in the courthouse or on the contractor's premises with a deputy present.

Where the microfilm camera is used on a full-time basis, the originals are routed first to the camera and thence to the case files. The originals thus reach the file room in a single day where formerly 4 or 5 days were required by the photostat process. The speed of the camera operations and film economy may permit many courts to photograph pleadings and processes, as well as court orders, thereby increasing the insurance value of the duplicate record. Where the work load is insufficient to warrant full-time use of microfilm equipment, the litigants are required to furnish an extra carbon copy. The copy, so identified, is placed temporarily in the case files; the originals are maintained in loose-leaf binders, not accessible to the public. Periodically the originals are

microfilmed and sent to the case files. The carbons, of course, are then destroyed.

From brief, first-hand observations in county courts in two states and in one Federal court, it seems to be the consensus of opinion that the microfilm method is approximately 1/25th as costly as either the photostat or transcript method. In one court with a work load of about three hundred pages per day, two clerks were made available for other duties. In the majority of the courts visited, cameras were purchased or rented the year around and some micro-filming of older as well as current records was undertaken. In general, originals of older records were not destroyed, but moved to low-cost warehouse space at some distance from the main courthouse. Although the problems encountered so far have not required any special care in identifying or indexing the microfilm rolls, it was apparent that difficulties might arise when the microfilm collections become more extensive and more varied. The microfilms of current records have not been transferred to depositories removed from the courthouse.

On April 20, 1949, Chief Justice Vinson of the United States Supreme Court approved a report<sup>3</sup> on the experiments conducted since last July in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and instructed the Clerk of that Court to maintain the following records on microfilm in lieu of Order and Minute Books: 1) in civil cases and proceedings, except adoption proceedings, each judgment and order; 2) in criminal cases and proceedings, each judgment, order, indictment, bond, and all other formal entries of court transactions.

In commenting on the results, which "exceeded their utmost expectations," the report stated: ". . . As an illustration of some of the economies . . . it was estimated that the cost of the new system would be less than one dollar for every twenty-five dollars of costs under the present system; that one file cabinet [for film] . . . would provide . . . sufficient storage for thirty-five years . . . and that the business of the court would be considerably expedited and services to the bar and litigants materially improved."

DANIEL F. NOLL

<sup>3</sup> Report of the Proceedings of a Special Meeting of the Judicial Conference of the United States, March 24-25, 1949.

# The Archivist's Book Shelf

RICHARD G. WOOD, Editor

*The National Archives*

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## AIR-CONDITIONING AS A MEANS OF PRESERVING BOOKS AND RECORDS

Air-conditioning, with particular reference to equipment, is now in such a fluid state, that we would certainly feel that any book or article covering this subject should be carefully checked to make sure that it is up-to-date before its conclusions and recommendations could be completely relied upon.

In approaching this problem of air-conditioning, it is necessary at the outset to determine whether the governing factor shall be the production of conditions most advantageous to the preservation of books, papers, and manuscripts or most desirable from the standpoint of human comfort. Normally, an effort is made to strike a happy medium.

Conditions that are desirable from the standpoint of human comfort are well known. There appears to be, however, a considerable divergence of opinion as to the most desirable conditions that should be maintained for the preservation of the contents of an archival or library building. It seems to be generally agreed, however, that the most important conditions necessary to be controlled are humidity, cleanliness, and air movement.

In warm, humid weather there appears to be the greatest tendency toward the formation of mold or mildew. This condition may result from the relative humidity or lack of air motion or a combination of both. It is more or less standard engineering practice to design air-conditioning systems so that the humidity will not exceed a certain predetermined limit (60% would be a reasonable figure) and to distribute the air so as to produce a fairly constant movement in all portions of a book stack or other location for storage of books. Dead pockets, where there is little or no movement of air, should be avoided.

An excessively low humidity tends to dry up the paper and bindings and may cause cracking. It is therefore desirable to add moisture (humidify) in the wintertime or in abnormally dry climates to prevent this. Normal practice is to add as much moisture as may be contained in the air for the given dew point so that condensation will not occur on walls and windows and thus cause dripping.

Cleanliness of the air is best controlled by filtering. This may be accomplished by the standard mechanical type filters using spun glass, metal shavings or paper mats, etc. The cleaning of the air is not quite as complete with this type of filter as is obtained with the use of the electrostatic type, which is close to 100% efficient. The latter, however, is considerably more expensive to install and does not appear in all cases to be worth the added cost. If the electrostatic filters are used it is desirable to place mechanical filters behind the elec-

trostatic filters so that dirt and dust will not be drawn through in the event of power failure. In cases where the return air is re-circulated and re-supplied to the system it is desirable to filter the return air as well as the fresh air.

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# Cartographic Record Filing in the National Archives

By J. FRED WINKLER

*National Archives*

**T**HE Cartographic Records Branch of the National Archives has presently in its custody approximately 650,000 maps and related record items of varying sizes and shapes. This number will increase greatly as future accessions of non-current, permanently valuable Federal records are received. The equipment available for the Branch's holdings is now about one-half occupied, although some additional space will be obtained as the process of flattening remaining rolled-up records continues.

Two types of steel filing units are now in use, supplying a total — though not optimum — maximum storage space of almost 25,000 cubic feet. One type consists of a four drawer unit specially designed for the National Archives by the Public Buildings Administration and built under contracts let to private firms. The other design is a five drawer unit manufactured by the Hamilton Manufacturing Company of Wisconsin. The Public Buildings Administration assembly unit is 18 inches high, 64 inches wide, and 42 inches deep. The drawers have an inside measurement of 40x62 inches with a three inch height, which furnishes a maximum storage volume of 4.3 cubic feet per drawer. The units are being used in tiers of four assembly units each, placed back to back where possible, on two inch bases. This arrangement places the uppermost drawers six feet or so above floor level, requiring the use of portable footstools about eighteen inches high to give access to the contents. There is some question as to the advisability of having drawers any higher even if stack ceilings permitted, because of the bulk and size of the records involved. A few drawers are made with a hood extending over the back to prevent documents from sliding out over the rear, while others are equipped with flaps hinged at the top of the front panel for holding down the edges of documents to prevent their rubbing and catching on the bottom of the drawer above. All are furnished with large label-holders.

The Hamilton assembly unit of five drawers is 15  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches high, 53  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide and 41  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep. The inside measurement of each drawer is 38 x 40 inches with a two inch height, thus yield-

ing 2.2 cubic feet maximum storage space. Each drawer is equipped with a coated-canvas dust cover that serves a most useful purpose in holding down the contents of tightly-packed drawers, thereby preventing damage when opening or closing them. This unit is similarly stacked in tiers of four, bringing the height of the top drawer to five and one half feet above the floor level through the use of four inch bases. Here again, the use of the eighteen inch footstools is required.

The four drawer assembly units, placed in tiers of two, back to back, are used in place of work tables, for they are of convenient height, can be made as large in surface area as required, and serve their primary purpose as well. The smaller unit also can be utilized in this manner, although the work height of two such units is somewhat lower.

The varying sizes of the material making up the Branch's holdings present definite problems in filing, servicing, and preservation. Difficulty is experienced in handling large sheets, many in various stages of fragility, especially when mounted on cloth backs that add weight and friction to the contents of the drawers. One hand is needed to hold up a mass of documents, while the other is needed to insert or remove the map desired, and invariably all maps needed for services appear to be filed at the bottom of the heap! For this reason the shallower drawer is to be preferred. The use of folders made of firm wrapping paper, in which just a few maps are kept, has made this task of removal and insertion somewhat easier without adding too much useless material per drawer. Then, too, the brittle surfaces of maps are better protected from accidental scuffing and tearing.

The records in the custody of the Branch are non-current from the viewpoint of the agencies of origin and may thus be considered "retired." The various kinds of reference requests, however, as well as the number per month received by the Branch necessitate having all the records easily accessible, for any number of maps may have to be consulted before one or more suitable record items are selected for use in answering requests for information or reproductions. A more useful filing system for this type of record material would be one that permitted easy access to individual items, regardless of the volume involved, and which served at the same time as a permanent storage medium. This would seem to indicate the need for filing equipment in which durable folders holding four or five maps each would be placed on light-weight shelves or trays placed one above the other to a convenient height.

Should air-conditioning be lacking, the addition of dust covers over the front of each tier of shelves would be advisable.

It will be obvious from the preceding that only flat-filing is considered satisfactory, if for no other reason than that of the fragile nature and age of much of the record material. Bound groups of maps, if of substantial thickness, are in most instances removed from their bindings in order to fit into the drawers assigned to them. When the size of a map warrants, the practice is to dissect it into convenient sections, mount the entire document on cloth with a small space separating each section, and then fold it at these intersections when filing. Thus the physical unity of the map is preserved, while allowing for flat filing at the same time. This method adds somewhat to the difficulty in handling, however, particularly when filing into the larger drawers.

As a last thought may be mentioned the use of adequate lighting as a "must" for the proper servicing of map records. A light source giving soft, non-glare light is needed, as much of the material is stained and faded with age or annotated in pencil or color that has become faint over the years. Fluorescent fixtures are placed over the centers of the consulting "tables" in the Cartographic Records Branch, and they have been found to answer quite satisfactorily the problem of obtaining enough light without glare.

With additional storage facilities for Federal records of permanent value still in the planning stage, it is to be hoped that any future edifice will permit the tailoring of equipment to the peculiar needs of such record types as cartographic documents, rather than that such records will have to be fitted to equipment not adequately answering the service asked of it.

# News Notes

MARY C. LETHBRIDGE, Editor

*The National Archives*

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## THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Records, ranging in date from 1816 to 1945, of 80 consular and diplomatic posts located throughout the world have recently been received by the National Archives from the Department of State. The Panama Canal has transferred records, 1879-89, of the French canal company organized under Ferdinand de Lesseps, which were turned over to the second Isthmian Canal Commission in 1904. Among other records received recently by the National Archives are Selective Service System records, 1940-47, chiefly microfilmed, including registration cards, instructions from State headquarters to local boards, materials relating to conscientious objectors, case files of registrants who appealed to the President, and docket books of the Presidential Appeal Board; records of the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Section of the U. S. Office of Military Government for Germany, 1946-47, consisting of questionnaires, reports, and about 1,800 photographs of war-damaged cultural institutions and monuments in the U. S. Zone of Germany; and records of the 1949 Inaugural Committee.

An agreement has been reached between the National Archives and the Library of Congress on their provinces in the field of motion pictures. Both have authority to acquire Government and non-government films, with the result that there has been some overlapping in acquisitions. To prevent duplication of effort, promote operational efficiency, and contribute to governmental economy, the National Archives has agreed to relinquish its interest in non-government films and to be exclusively responsible for films produced by or for agencies of the United States Government that become part of their records. Non-government films now in the custody of the Archivist, except, of course, for such films as have become part of official files, will be turned over to the Library of Congress if the permission of the donors of such motion pictures can be obtained. In turn, the Library has agreed to limit its acquisitions to non-government films, except, for instance, when government films are copyrighted, and has expressed its willingness to transfer to the National Archives its Government films.

Negative microcopies, positive prints of which may be purchased, have been made recently of the "Captains' Letters" to the Secretary of the Navy, 1826-40 (172 rolls); population schedules of the Census of 1830 for New Jersey (5 rolls) and New Hampshire (5 rolls); despatches from U. S. Ministers to Japan, 1858-77 (31 rolls); papers of General Wilhelm Groener, 1877-1938 (27 rolls); and certificates of registry, enrollment, and license issued at Edgartown, Mass., 1815-1913 (9 rolls).

### THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY AT HYDE PARK, N. Y.

Former Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., has given to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library the extensive collection of personal papers accumulated by him during his period of service in Washington. The papers, which have become known as the "Morgenthau Diary," consist of 864 typescript volumes of private notes and memoranda, copies of letters, transcripts of conferences, and similar materials accumulated by Mr. Morgenthau in the period 1933-45.

Because of the intimately personal character of many of the papers in the collection, Mr. Morgenthau has stipulated that during his lifetime they may be examined only by persons authorized by him. After his death they will be open for research purposes, except for certain specified categories of documents, access to which will be restricted for a period of 25 years.

All of Franklin D. Roosevelt's political papers and correspondence for the period prior to 1933, except for a small group in the period 1928-32, have now been opened for research purposes. Among papers of the White House period that have recently been made available for use are all copies of drafts of President Roosevelt's speeches and public statements, reading copies of speeches, and the background materials gathered in the preparation of speeches. The White House papers bearing on philatelic matters have also been opened for use.

### LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

On April 4 Dr. Waldo Gifford Leland, former president of the Society of American Archivists, became the Library's Consultant in the History of International Intellectual Relations. He will assist in the collection of material in his field, aid the Library's users in its interpretation, and do research for early publication on recent accomplishments in this vital area of contemporary history.

Dr. Lewis Hanke left for Mexico in January to begin an eight-month assignment under a program jointly sponsored by the State Department and the Library. He will confer with historians, archivists, and librarians and visit cultural institutions in the provinces as well as in the Capital. The establishment of a unit of the Photoduplication Service in Mexico City provides a technical basis for the program to which he will devote an important part of his time, that of microfilming printed and manuscript material in Mexico for needs of individual scholars and other institutions in the United States and Mexico.

The papers of General William Mitchell have been deposited in the Library of Congress as a gift to the nation. The Mitchell papers, which include letters, diaries, clippings, photographs, and a mass of manuscripts (many unpublished), form a comprehensive record of the early days of aviation as well as of the General's imaginative ideas and dynamic career. Of particular interest among the unpublished writings are the typescripts of books on Alaska

as the key to the air defense of the United States, the Pacific as the probable scene of the Second World War, and aviation in World War I (a history). These works, with illustrations, are accompanied by the war and administrative diaries, inspection reports, and voluminous eye-witness notes on which they were based. Other historic documents not hitherto accessible are included in the collection: typewritten transcripts of General Mitchell's testimony at various times before numerous Committees of Congress, many portions of which do not appear in the published record; materials relating to the court-martial of 1925-26 which resulted in General Mitchell's resignation from the military service; correspondence at that time and prior thereto with Members of Congress, especially the then chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, John J. McSwain; letters (1934-1935) from important persons throughout the country endorsing General Mitchell for appointment as Assistant Secretary of War for Air; and finally an interesting series of communications in 1932 and 1933 with Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose candidacy for the presidency General Mitchell strongly supported.

The main body of the personal papers of Albert J. Beveridge, United States Senator from 1899 to 1911 and author of biographies of John Marshall and Abraham Lincoln, has recently been presented to the Library of Congress by Mrs. Beveridge. Senator Beveridge's office files and the papers he accumulated in connection with his biographical studies have been in the Library for some years. The newly received papers cover the years 1890 to 1927 and many of them reflect the Senator's activities as an "insurgent" in Congress and as a leader in the Progressive Party that nominated Theodore Roosevelt for the presidency in 1912.

The papers of Judge Ben Lindsey, whose concern with the problems of juvenile delinquency made him a nationally known figure in the first four decades of the present century, have been presented to the Library by Mrs. Lindsey. They are concerned mainly with Judge Lindsey's contributions to the development of the juvenile court system and his services as a Superior Court judge in Denver and later as a Superior Court judge in California.

### UNITED NATIONS

The Archives Section of the United Nations reports that its holdings are increasing at an accelerated pace as a result of the growth of the organization and the transferring of several important accessions from other agencies. A systematic disposal program is being vigorously applied, but the rapid growth in holdings is expected to continue for some time. Among the most valuable collections now held in the archives are the UNRRA photographic records and the sound recordings of United Nations meetings. Acquisitions during the past year include portions of the Registry files of the former League of Nations, documents of the Nürnberg War Crimes Commission trials, and UNRRA personnel records. The bulk of the UNRRA records remain in Washington, where they are being prepared by a United Nations staff for shipment to the Archives Section at the end of 1949. Arrangements have been

completed for the accessioning of the records of the United Nations War Crimes Commission, and the first shipment is on its way from London.

## FOREIGN NEWS

*Canada*

The Rockefeller Foundation has voted an appropriation of \$100,000 to McGill University in Montreal to be used exclusively in helping former Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King write his memoirs. The grant will help pay for the study and preparation of the immense personal and official files accumulated during Mr. King's fifty years in office, from which he hopes to produce a book of memoirs. The conditions of the grant give Mr. King freedom to organize the work and to publish it as he sees fit.

The National Library Consultants in Canada have been named as follows:

British Columbia, Mr. Edgar S. Robinson, Vancouver Public Library  
 Alberta, Mrs. Frank Conway, Edmonton  
 Saskatchewan, Mr. S. R. Stephens, Moose Jaw  
 Manitoba, Miss Elizabeth Dafoe, University of Manitoba Library, Winnipeg  
 Ontario, Dr. William Stuart Wallace, University of Toronto Library  
 Quebec, Abbé Arthur Maheur, Université Laval, Quebec  
 New Brunswick, Dr. Alfred Bailey, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton  
 Nova Scotia, Dr. C. L. Bennett, Dalhousie University, Halifax  
 Prince Edward Island, Mr. Thane Campbell, Charlottetown

## Additional members:

Mr. F. A. Hardy, Library of Parliament, Ottawa  
 Dr. William K. Lamb, Public Archives, Ottawa

In the speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament, January 26, the following paragraph appears:

"It is the view of my Ministers that there should be an examination of the activities of the Federal Government relating to radio, films, television, the encouragement of arts and sciences, research, the preservation of our national records, a National Library, museums, exhibitions, relations in these fields with international organizations, and activities generally which are designed to enrich our national life, and to increase our own consciousness of our national heritage and the knowledge of Canada abroad. For this purpose, the Government intends at an early date to establish a Royal Commission." (*The Ottawa Journal*, January 27.) The *Journal* says that Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey is to be named Chairman of this Royal Commission on Arts and Sciences.

*England*

Dr. Henry Guppy, C.B.E., Librarian of John Rylands Library, Manchester, died on August 4, 1948, aged 86 years. He controlled the destinies of the library for nearly fifty years and was editor of the *Library's Bulletin* for forty years.

*The Times* (London), January 28, carries a story as follows:

## ARCHIVES OF SEVEN CENTURIES, LORD FITZWILLIAM'S OFFER

Lord Fitzwilliam and his trustees have made an offer to the Sheffield City Council

to deposit on long loan the whole of the records and papers at Wentworth Woodhouse, except those required for current needs, in the Sheffield City Library, which is recognized by the Master of the Rolls as a repository for manorial documents.

The private papers include deeds dating back to the thirteenth century, a grant of plantation in Ireland of 1622, manorial court rolls, rentals, and accounts for eight south Yorkshire manors, estate accounts, household accounts from the early seventeenth century, servants' wages books of the eighteenth century, and cellar accounts.

Large sections of these archives deal with national affairs. Among these are many volumes of the correspondence of Lord Strafford, executed in 1641, including a number of letters from Charles I. There are also a register of the officers of the royal household of James I and a parliamentary diary of his reign.

The papers of the second Marquess of Rockingham, Whig Prime Minister in 1765-66, and again in 1782, include two crates of correspondence which may prove to be of great interest to historians of Anglo-American relations. His private secretary was Edmund Burke, whose papers fill four boxes.

For a short period in 1794 and 1795 the fourth Earl Fitzwilliam was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and the collection contains his letters and the register of a secret correspondence between him and the Home Secretary, the Duke of Portland.

### *Germany*

The Cultural Affairs Branch of the Education and Cultural Relations Division, Office of Military Government for Germany (U. S.), has announced the establishment of the Archives-Libraries Section, and the appointment of Dr. Lester K. Born as chief of the section. Thus for the first time since the inception of Military Government in 1945 responsibility for archives and libraries has been united. From the first days the Archives Officer of Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Section, OMGUS, was charged with security, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of archives, and with the security and basic rehabilitation of all library materials. The present reorganization develops this close liaison and makes for readier coordination in the general effort toward reorientation.

Dr. Born, who has been overseas continuously for more than five years, joined the United States Group Control Commission as the only archivist on the regular T/O immediately after V-E Day, and played a considerable role in the reception and safe-keeping of German records from former Reich agencies at the Ministerial Collecting Center. Here he also set up a central reference library of 70,000 volumes. In March 1946 Dr. Born succeeded Mr. S. B. Child, the Adviser on Archives and Libraries, as the senior archivist in the ETO, and remained continuously in that position until his recent transfer. In addition to carrying out his duties with respect to cultural restitution, Dr. Born has long taken an active interest in the revival of German professional and cultural life as evidenced by the meeting of archivists held at Bamberg in April 1947.

The Archives-Libraries Section will furnish technical advice to archives and libraries in the United States Zone; further the two-way exchange of professional personnel; and assist in arranging international loan exhibitions of archival and library materials. It will likewise aid in reorientation of librarians and archivists by fostering the establishment of professional schools,

meetings, associations, and journals, by restoring international contacts, and by liaison with other powers and with international cultural agencies.

### *India*

*Indian Archives*, October 1947, announces the decision of the Supreme Partition Council that the original archives of the undivided Government should remain with the Government of India, while the Government of Pakistan should be given duplicate copies of those papers which might be of interest to it, provided such copies were available. As regards open files, the arrangement agreed to by the two governments is that the Government of Pakistan should be entitled to receive all papers which are considered to be of interest to it provided the Government of India did not need them for its own use.

Under the agreement reached between the two Governments full facilities are to be provided to the nominees of the Government of Pakistan for examining the indexes as well as the original records of the undivided government with a view to preparing a list of such records as might be considered of interest to the former. These lists are to be compiled in agreement with the officers nominated for the purpose by the Government of India. If any of the records mentioned in the lists are microfilmed by the Government of India in the ordinary course, one copy should be made available to the sister government free of cost. If the Government of Pakistan is able to place additional microfilming units at the disposal of the Government of India, the latter should, with the help of these units, agree to microfilm the records in which the Government of Pakistan was specially interested and to supply one copy thereof to that government free of cost. Scholars and students sponsored by the Government of one dominion should, for the next three years, have in respect of archives and records situated in the territories of the other dominion, the same facilities for reference and research as the nationals of that dominion.

Information, however, is lacking as to the principle being followed in dealing with the pre-partition archives of the Punjab, Bengal, and Assam. It is hoped that the authorities concerned should follow the lead given by the Supreme Partition Council in arriving at a decision, and will not adopt any measure that might disturb the integrity of the provincial collections.

As regards the archives of the now defunct office of the Crown Representative and its numerous agencies located within the jurisdiction of the Dominion of India, it has been decided that they should be retained with the Government of India. The central archives of that office, prior to 1880, as is well known, are already in the custody of the National Archives of India. The records after that date have been taken over by the Ministry of States, and it has been decided to transfer all papers prior to 1900 to the custody of the National Archives. As for the regional records relating to the defunct Residencies and Political Agencies, the decision of Government is that all papers prior to 1880 are to be received by the National Archives of India, the rest being retained by the offices of the Regional Commissioners and other authorities set up by the Government to conduct the affairs of the States in their relation to the Central authority. A large portion of the regional records are, how-

ever, reported to have been dispersed or destroyed before the Government of India could take over from the Crown Representative.

Another archival problem of paramount importance which needs the immediate attention of archivists is that created by the recent fusion of a large number of states with neighboring provinces or with bigger unions. No definite policy has yet been formulated regarding the future of the records of the now defunct States. It is understood that the question has already been taken up by the Indian Historical Records Commission.

### COLORADO

Herbert O. Brayer has announced that through the courtesy of the Ford Foundation the State of Colorado has acquired the entire collection of William Henry Jackson original glass negatives, some 52,900 in all, taken from 1880 to 1920. Faced with the expense of shipping and packing eight tons of glass, the Historical Society developed a plan with the Library of Congress, whereby the Society acquired all the negatives pertaining to the states and territories west of the Mississippi River, and in return for assuming the packing and shipping costs of the entire collection, the Library of Congress obtained the negatives pertaining to areas east of the Mississippi and foreign countries. Funds are still lacking to house the Society's 7,000 negatives, but it was hoped that the collection would be ready for use in the spring.

### ILLINOIS

The papers of Sherwood Anderson, presented to the Newberry Library nearly a year ago by Mrs. Anderson, have been catalogued and are now opened to qualified students. After the presentation of his papers to the Library, additional letters in the files of his correspondents across the country were gathered into the collection. The December 1948 issue of the *Library Bulletin* is a Sherwood Anderson Memorial Number, and in addition to memories of the man, and critical estimates of his work, there appear a description of the papers and a bibliography of his writings.

The Associated Press announced in December that "all that is left of the \$1,000,000,000 empire of Samuel Insull has become just a lot of scrap." Federal Judge Michael L. Igoe ordered two tons of documents of the bankrupt Insull Utility Investments, Inc., destroyed and sold as scrap paper. The documents include old bonds, canceled debentures, stock certificates, vouchers, receipts and canceled checks.

### LOUISIANA

The Department of Archives of Louisiana State University has acquired several additional volumes of mercantile and other accounts, including a ledger (in English), French colonial Baton Rouge, 1748; loose pages (in English) from a ledger, Natchez, Mississippi, 1776; two additional ledgers of Nathaniel Evans, postmaster and merchant, Ft. Adams, Mississippi, 1807-08, 1811-16;

ledger (in French) of J. Laurans, Pointe Coupee Parish, 1827-36; ledger, principally of James Stokes, Catahoula Parish, 1832-39; and three daybooks from Natchitoches Parish, 1919-20. Other collections of private manuscript and public archival materials include additional documents pertaining to land grants and related matters in Louisiana and Mississippi, 1772-1840; photostats of 35 items in other collections pertaining to Seargent S. Prentiss of Mississippi, 1788-1851; 624 items of personal and business papers of Captain Antonio Patrick Walsh, soldier, trader, and later planter of West Feliciana Parish, 1789-1826; 47 items, chiefly legal documents, of the Carnatz family prominent in educational and eleemosynary work in New Orleans, 1807-66; 190 items and 3 volumes of additional judicial records of Natchitoches Parish, 1809-1903; 45 items of business and legal papers of Zacharias Taliaferro, owner of a sawmill in Catahoula Parish, and personal letters to James G. Taliaferro, a student at Transylvania University, 1814-67; typescript of a diary of Dr. R. F. McGuire, Ouachita Parish, 1818-52; 209 items of business correspondence of the T. Smith and Company, manufacturers and wholesale dealers in saddlery of Hartford, Connecticut, from their branch store in New Orleans and others, 1834-50; microfilm copy of a plantation diary-account book of William F. Moreland of LaGrange, Georgia, and Macon County, Alabama, 1834-49, 1861-67, and typescript of his diary, in two volumes, of a trip from Macon County to Texas, via New Orleans, 1850; typescripts of 34 letters of William B. Lenoir, a postmaster in Roane County, Tennessee, from relatives in Tennessee and Missouri, 1834-44; 315 items and 2 volumes of historical notes and research materials (1704-1848) of Henry Remy, Louisiana historian, gathered in the period *ca.* 1840-48; journal and fee book of an attorney, Caldwell Parish, 1845-55; four additional volumes of the William T. Johnson family, free Negroes of Natchez, Mississippi, consisting of two diary-cashbooks of William Johnson, 1846-48, and a diary and a copy-book of poems of a daughter, 1864-74; plantation diary of H. M. Seale, manager of Houmas Plantation, Ascension Parish, 1853-57; diary of John Hageman on a trip from Ohio through Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri, chiefly as a solicitor of subscriptions to the *Crusader*, a religious periodical, 1857; microfilm copy of a war diary of Sergeant Ezekiel Armstrong, 17th Mississippi Regiment, C.S.A., of service principally in Virginia, May 28-December 10, 1862; a manuscript list of officers and employees in the office of the Provost Marshal, Richmond, Virginia, 1864; and 14 items and 11 volumes of materials of the Louisiana United Confederate Veterans and the Confederate States Cavalry Association, 1889-1910.

## MARYLAND

During the session of the Maryland General Assembly which adjourned April 1, three laws were passed governing the care of records in the State of Maryland. House Bill No. 1 provided for the abandonment of the old system, which required each Clerk of the county court to prepare an abstract of every deed, mortgage and release recorded in his office. These abstracts were sent

every year to the office of the Land Commissioner, which is located in the Hall of Records building in Annapolis. The new plan will require that a microfilm copy of the recorded instrument be prepared and sent to the same office.

House Bill No. 107 provided for the destruction of records in various State agencies after they have been microfilmed under the supervision of the Archivist of the Hall of Records. The third bill, House Bill No. 684, provided for the scheduling of the disposal of administrative records, including county records, and also defined the meaning of "records" in so far as this Act was concerned.

The Register of Wills of Prince George's County has transferred recorded probate records (1695 to 1788) to the Hall of Records. As part of the celebration of the 300th anniversary of Annapolis, May 22-27, 1949, the Hall of Records exhibited 17th century material loaned by the John Work Garrett Library in Baltimore.

Records dating back to 1690 were uncovered at Prince George's County Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, when W. Waverly Webb, clerk to the Circuit Court, reshuffled his files as part of a general courthouse cleaning. Among the hundreds of documents found in dusty folder files are many bills of manumission. One of the forgotten documents is a reply by Francis Scott Key to a bill of complaint made against him by one Philemon Chew.

#### MICHIGAN

About one thousand items relating to the prominent Michigan statesman Lewis Cass, have been given to the William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, by Mr. Lewis Cass Ledyard of New York. They cover the years of Cass's career as a general in the Army of the United States, fighting Indians in the Northwest, as governor of the Michigan Territory, as Secretary of War under Andrew Jackson, as envoy extraordinary to France, as Michigan Senator and Democratic presidential candidate, and as Secretary of State under Buchanan. There are a number of notable single pieces in the lot, including speeches to the Indians signed by Thomas Jefferson, a contemporary copy of the Treaty of Greenville, and a letter from Edgar Allan Poe.

One hundred and fifty letters and documents signed by members of the Continental Congress and the First Federal Congress have been given the Library by Clements Library Associate, Dr. Joseph E. Fields of Chicago.

#### MINNESOTA

A proposed increase in the appropriation for the Minnesota Archives Commission to provide for a full-time archivist and the beginning of a program of archival storage was deleted from the appropriation bill passed by the 1949 legislature. The work of the Commission therefore will continue along its present lines. Up to this time the Archives Commission has been concerned chiefly with the disposal of useless papers and with microfilming records from the office of the State Auditor. Although much of the work of the Commis-

sion during its first two years has been exploratory, it has an impressive record of accomplishment. Over 17,500 cubic feet of useless records have been cleared from state files and sold as waste paper and over a million papers have been microfilmed. Beginning in October, questionnaires were mailed to all forty-eight State Auditors, and the replies used to prepare a survey of policies in other states pertaining to the preservation of claims and bills incurred by each state as well as the checks, warrants, and similar instruments involved in payment. There seems to be great diversity in both opinion and practice.

### MISSOURI

The City of Independence voted in 1946 to establish a museum and the City Council resolved in that year to approve an adequate building to house mementoes of President Harry S. Truman. Now individuals in the community are seeking support from various organizations and societies for a Truman Foundation "to promote better education for American youth, to establish a library at Independence, and to promote the idea of world peace."

The Western Historical Manuscripts Collection of the University of Missouri has recently acquired the Parole Mining Record Books, approximately 1836-1903, records of a lead mine and the accompanying store in Palmer, Missouri, near Potosi; the Corbey Family Records, deeds, letters, and record books of a pioneer St. Joseph, Missouri family; the papers of Dr. Shepard, a geologist and instructor at Drury College, Springfield, Missouri; minutes of the Baptist Church at Zoar, Mo., 1867-1886; Branson Town Company Records, papers of a company set up to build the town of Branson, Missouri, 1903-1930's; some accounts, correspondence, and church papers, 1832-1857, of James Shannon, the third president of Missouri University; and the Walker Family Papers, 1782-1883, wills, correspondence and legal documents of a pioneer family in New Madrid County, Missouri.

### NEW JERSEY

Mr. Sidney Goldmann, former head of the Bureau of Archives and History, New Jersey Division of the State Library, Archives and History, resigned his position in March 1949. A lawyer by profession, Mr. Goldman has accepted an appointment as Standing Master of the New Jersey Superior Court. No successor has been appointed and for the present, Roger H. McDonough, State Librarian, is carrying on the archives functions in addition to his other duties.

The New Jersey Bureau of Archives and History has been given the responsibility of setting up a coordinated microfilming program for the State. A planetary camera is being used for a major project of microfilming the vital statistics records in the Health Department. Automatic type machines are being used on several large accumulations of other departmental records. Work has begun on microfilming over 7,000,000 checks in the Treasury Department, and approximately 8,000,000 motor vehicle records in the Law Department.

## NEW YORK

Chancellor Harry Woodburn Chase of New York University has announced the receipt of a grant of \$35,000 from The Rockefeller Foundation for a study of problems dealing with the preservation of business records, to be undertaken by the National Records Management Council during the year beginning February 1, 1949. The Rockefeller Grant, according to Dr. Thomas C. Cochran, professor of history at the University's Graduate School of Business Administration and president of the National Records Management Council, will be used by the Council to provide more effective records management programs in business, to provide experienced counsel and training to that end, and to assist in the establishment of company archives.

The following sections of the new Education Law, passed by the last session of the Legislature, are of interest to archivists:

Section 142. . . . The officers of any county, city, town or village or other political division of the state of any institution or society created under any law of the state may transfer to the regents records, books, pamphlets, manuscripts, archives, maps, papers and other documents which are not in general use, and it shall be the duty of the regents to receive the same and to provide for their custody and preservation.

Section 144. In construing the provisions of this chapter and other statutes, the words "public records" shall, unless a contrary intention clearly appears, mean any written or printed book or paper, or map, which is the property of the state, or of any county, city, town or village or part thereof, and in or on which any entry has been made or is required to be made by law, or which any officer or employee of the state or of a county, city, town or village has received or is required to receive for filing. All public records inscribed by public officials, other than maps, shall be entered or recorded in durable ink on linen paper durably made and well finished.

Section 147. No officer of the state or of any county, city, town or village or other political division of the state, or of any institution or society created under any law of the state, shall destroy, sell or otherwise dispose of any public record, original or copies, or of any archive, in his care or custody or under his control, and which are no longer in current use, without first having advised the commissioner of education of their nature and obtain his consent.

Unusual publicity attended the visit of the New York State's Freedom Train to Amsterdam, New York. The Amsterdam *Evening Recorder*, February 2, devoted an entire page to a description of the Train and its contents and the following appreciation of the work of Edward J. Sheehan, Montgomery County Historian and Archivist:

The department (of archives), created by resolution of July 10, 1934, is the outgrowth of a WPA project during the depression years when surplus labor was put at work transcribing old documents and binding them into well-ordered volumes. Directing the project was Edward J. Sheehan, who was later named to head the newly-created department of the county and has continued in this position since that time.

Members of the Board of Supervisors were aware of the value of the documents and also of the fact that Montgomery County had no systematized procedure for preserving records after they had outlived usefulness in the departments of their origin. The third floor of the Old Courthouse at Fonda was designated for the archives and Director Sheehan and an assistant continued the work started by the WPA group.

Volumes available now include more than 100 volumes of church records, 150 vol-

umes of early township meetings, each town board proceedings complete but Minden whose records were lost in a fire of the 1840's. Many village records have also been transcribed and the originals stored.

Valuable are the early court records of Tryon County and proceedings of the Board of Supervisors back to 1784 when the name was changed to Montgomery County. Filed, too, are the records of the Court of Common Pleas which became the County Court in 1848.

Sessions Laws of New York State are available from 1784, many of them original publications, also more than 60,000 documents relating to the county in its earlier days.

When it became known that records of this type were being collected officially, many contributions were received. Some came from attics where they had lain forgotten for generations, and others from families that had preserved valuable papers and books in the hope that the day would come when they might be turned over to proper authorities.

## OHIO

The family of Dr. George W. Crile has presented to the Western Reserve Historical Society, of Cleveland, a large collection of his private papers. Amounting to about a ton in bulk, the collection includes letters, personal memorabilia, Spanish-American and World War I service diaries, and photographs. It contains ample material for a number of writing projects, including a biography of Dr. Crile, a history of the Lakeside Base Hospital Unit, the story of the Cleveland Clinic, and the Clinic disaster.

New additions to the manuscript collections of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society during 1949 include the following: James A. Garfield, letter to Charles W. Hill, Adj. Gen. of Ohio, from Duke, Mississippi, June 9, 1862; Joshua R. Giddings, letter to John Crowell, Warren, Ohio, from Washington, D. C., Dec. 13, 1838; Ulysses S. Grant, autograph album of Grant, his Cabinet and Congress, 1872; Warren G. Harding, speech on Republican policies, Fall, 1910, 12 holograph pages; William H. Taft, five letters and three speeches, 1920's; War Pole (Indian Chief), speech in relation to the Road for Senecas and Wyandots, and covering letter from Indian agent, John Johnston, Upper Sandusky, Sept. 1820; Wyandot Indians, papers concerning attempted treaty with the U. S. at Upper Sandusky, Sept.-Oct. 1834, 32 pieces.

## OKLAHOMA

The Archivist of the University of Oklahoma reports continued progress in the assembly of the non-current records of various operating units of the University and of campus organizations. The program for the location and acquisition of manuscript materials in the hands of private holders over the State is also gaining momentum following the awarding of fellowships for summer field work to Professors Gilbert C. Fite and W. E. Hallon. A brief grant under the archival program of the University is enabling Mr. Don Whistler, principal chief of the Sac and Fox tribe, to travel over the State and make recordings of Indian chants and songs from "oldtimers" too infirm or otherwise unable to appear in person on his radio program over the University sta-

tion. A survey of the resources of the National Archives relating to Oklahoma has been undertaken by Mr. Lewis K. Demand.

### OREGON

The Legislature, which adjourned April 16, 1949, passed four laws of interest to archivists. House Bill 184 amended the law authorizing the use of microphotography, photocopies, and films by public officers. To facilitate the use of microphotography, the amendment deems a roll of film to constitute a book or volume, since many laws require records to be "kept in a book for that purpose." The same amendment further requires the filing of a duplicate film copy in a separate place. House Bill 171 authorizes the method for the destruction of court stenographic notes and exhibits in circuit court cases. Senate Bills 82 and 84 relate to the admissibility in evidence of microphotographs, photostats, and photographic reproductions of the records of a business, provided that it is the practice of such business to make and keep their records in such form. This law extends to filmed business records the same recognition as evidence as is already recognized by statute for public records.

As part of its inservice training program for all state employees, the Oregon State Civil Service Commission sponsors a class in government filing under David C. Duniway, Oregon State Archivist. Forty-two persons have completed the course, and twenty-six persons are registered for a second class now in progress. The course includes a discussion of the history of filing, the mail and its processing, file procedures, subject and case filing, indexing, microfilming, technical equipment and the storage and disposition of records. The course is completed with demonstrations of their equipment by Recordak, Remington Rand, and I.B.M.

The Oregon State Archives announces the receipt of its first major accession of county records from Marion County. Included are Sheriff's tax rolls, 1857-1925; records of voters, 1900-1914; court exhibits and testimony; and various smaller items from the County Clerk's Office. Duplicate tax rolls from the office of the Tax Assessor were also received, and those which are matched by the Sheriff's copies are to be transferred to the Oregon Historical Society. After 1890 sample tax rolls have been selected for preservation, those for each five years beginning with 1893 being transferred to the Historical Society and for each five years beginning with 1895 being retained by the Archives. Similarly, voters' registration books for 1900, 1902, 1904, 1906, 1910, and 1912, which are duplicated by voters' registers are to be transferred to the Historical Society. At the same time that records were transferred to the Archives, a program for the destruction of county records, no longer of value, was begun in Marion County, and a similar program is under way in Lane County.

Recent accessions of state records at the Oregon State Archives include a major portion of the closed case files of the World War Veterans' State Aid Commission, 1921-1944, applications for loans and bonus payments, and the general correspondence files of the administrator. Dealing with recent history

are the files received from various committees of the 1949 Oregon State Legislative Assembly which adjourned April 16, 1949. Under provisions of the law establishing the State Archives, whereby copies of important records may be filed with the State Archivist for insurance purposes, the Industrial Accident Commission filed some 2,397 reels of microfilm covering closed cases before the Commission and its general correspondence.

### PENNSYLVANIA

Two bills of particular interest to archivists and historians were introduced in the 1949 session of the General Assembly. One would authorize the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies and other historical organizations, to prepare and publish materials on state and local history for the use of the schools and the public, to gather source materials for that purpose, to loan microfilms to historical societies, and to encourage and assist writing and research on Pennsylvania history. The other bill would establish an advisory committee under the Commission to make plans for a multi-volume history of Pennsylvania and to advise in the collection of materials for that purpose. Other proposed legislation would authorize the protection of county and municipal records by microfilming and would authorize the Public Records Division of the Commission to participate in such microfilming.

A survey of the source materials for Pennsylvania history in the Huntington Library and Art Gallery, the Colorado State Archives, and the Oregon Historical Society was made during January by S. K. Stevens and Donald H. Kent. Through the cooperation of the Canadian Library Association the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has received the microfilms of the Pennsylvania materials selected last spring in the Public Archives of Canada. The letters and documents thus brought on film to Harrisburg cover many aspects of the state's history. The papers of Daniel Claus, British Indian agent, relate to many frontier developments, and include many items on Alexander McKee and General Arthur St. Clair, whose papers captured at the time of his defeat, form part of this collection. Selections from the Minutes of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs at Albany, New York, the volumes of the Monckton Papers pertaining to his command in Pennsylvania, the naturalization records in the colonies from 1740 to 1761, and numerous transcripts also are recorded on these microfilms.

Dr. Harvey Bassler, of Myerstown, Pennsylvania, has offered his collection of Pennsylvania German books, manuscripts and paintings to the Pennsylvania-German Society, about to build a \$400,000 library on the campus of Franklin and Marshall College.

The Presbyterian Historical Society of Philadelphia describes in the December *Key* four special collections of source material on western life in America: the Sheldon Jackson correspondence; American Indian correspondence; Domestic Missions correspondence; and the John D. Shane papers. Scholarship funds have been made available for graduate students who wish to work

on projects related to this material. Inquiries concerning these and other of the Society's holdings should be addressed to Charles A. Anderson, Manager, Presbyterian Historical Society, 520 Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

The Division of Public Records of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission reports increasing activities. Two new Junior Archivists have been appointed: Martha B. Curtis, of Meadville, and LeRoy DePuy, of Lancaster. William A. Hunter, of Mercer, formerly on the staff of the State Historian, has transferred as a Senior Archivist. The program for disposing of useless files in the departments is growing, and a small publication, *A Guide to the Published Archives of Pennsylvania*, is now with the printer.

In the summer of 1946, the Library of the Pennsylvania State College received some 20,000 pieces of personal correspondence relating to the life of James Addams Beaver, Governor of Pennsylvania from 1887 to 1891. This collection has been repaired, organized and indexed, and the papers are now available for use by scholars.

The Beaver Manuscripts consist almost entirely of letters sent to Mr. Beaver. They are divided into eleven sections, as follows:

1. Campaign for Governorship, 1881-1882	700 pieces
2. Campaign for Governorship, 1885-1886	500 pieces
3. Patronage requests and election comment, 1886	500 pieces
4. Cabinet appointments, 1886	300 pieces
5. Governor's Correspondence, 1887-1891	9000 pieces
6. General Correspondence, 1891-1911	2000 pieces
7. Business Correspondence, 1867-1912	5000 pieces
8. Pennsylvania State College, 1891-1912	500 pieces
9. Curtin Memorial Monument, 1903-1907	300 pieces
10. State Hospital, Warren, Pennsylvania	400 pieces
11. Miscellaneous papers, 1855-1914	300 pieces

The papers are organized within each section. The Library has prepared a narrative description of the contents of each section, and an alphabetical index of the names of all correspondents which is keyed to the collection.

The Beaver papers help to fill a gap in the source materials of American history — the political history of Pennsylvania from 1870 to 1900. The manuscripts throw light on political practices and party finance from the precinct level upwards, they add details to the record of the Cameron-Quay-Penrose organization, they contain interesting material on labor, they amplify the stories of the Independent Republican and Prohibition parties, and they offer representative case material on American business enterprise of the late nineteenth century. Those interested in more detailed information regarding the contents of the Beaver papers may write to the Librarian of the Pennsylvania State College.

## TENNESSEE

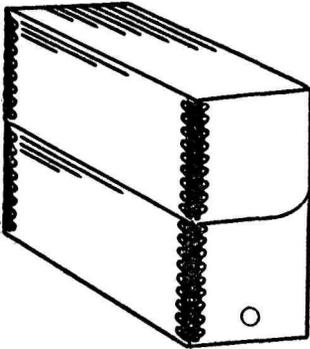
At its winter meeting in December 1948 the Tennessee Historical Commission inaugurated its policy designed to encourage and promote the collection of manuscript material bearing on the state's history by purchasing the Cherokee

Papers from Mrs. Penelope J. Allen of Chattanooga. These papers, sought by collectors from outside the state for several years, relate to negotiations between Tennessee and the Cherokee chief, John Ross, relative to the properties of that tribe just prior to the Cherokees' departure from the state. The Commission also designated certain institutions as depositories for certain types of material. For example, Vanderbilt University is to be the center for material on naval history; Peabody College for material on early educational institutions; The University of Tennessee for atomic bomb material; and the University of the South for material on the Confederacy. In line with this policy the Commission's chairman, William E. Beard, announced that he had already donated his own navy collection to Vanderbilt and his three looseleaf volumes of Tennessee battle sketches to the University of the South.

### VIRGINIA

In a February ruling, Attorney General J. Lindsay Almond, Jr., stated that the Commonwealth has a clear title to public records which, due to wars, greed, and carelessness, have been dispersed among libraries and private collections in Virginia and other States. In an opinion furnished Governor Tuck and State Librarian Randolph W. Church, Mr. Almond said that holders of such documents might claim compensations for recovering and preserving them during the period in which they have been out of State custody, but that ownership legally is with the Commonwealth. The Attorney General suggested that Mr. Church contact in person the institutions and individuals known to hold the public records, explain the situation and, if possible, regain possession by direct negotiation rather than by a written demand for the papers. The records in question include county records, letters, State records believed stolen by Benedict Arnold's British column when it occupied Richmond, and numerous papers picked up by Federal soldiers during the Civil War.

# FIBREDEX



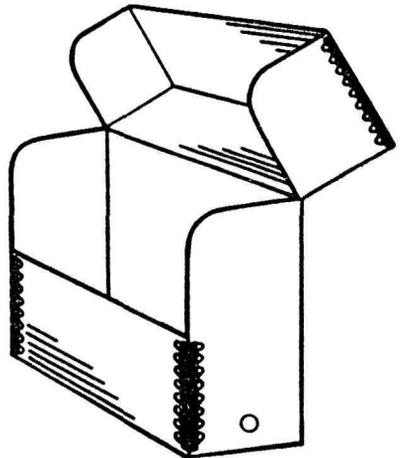
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