Reviews of Books

RICHARD G. WOOD, Editor

The National Archives

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Volume I, 1760-1776, Volume II, 1777-1779, edited by Julian P. Boyd, Lyman H. Butterfield, and Mina R. Bryan. (Princeton. University Press, 1950. Pp. viii 679; xxiii, 665. Illustrations. $10.00 per volume.)

Thomas Jefferson, perhaps more than any other public figure of the Revolutionary and Republican era, had a great sense of history, a considered regard for the preservation of those earliest records which he called "the curious monuments of the infancy of our country." At his death he left to his grandson, Thomas Jefferson Randolph, his well-ordered accumulation of letters and papers which Chinard has called "the richest treasure house of information ever left by a single man." Ironically, this magnificent archive was later divided, dispersed, and partially destroyed.

With the publication of Volume II of a projected fifty-two volume edition of the *Papers of Thomas Jefferson* by the Princeton University Press, under the editorship of Julian P. Boyd, and his assistants, Lyman H. Butterfield and Mina R. Bryan, the work of presenting this vast reassembled treasure house is well under way. Hereafter it is planned to publish four volumes each year. This will complete the series in 1963, just twenty years after the date of its inception on the bi-centennial anniversary of Jefferson's birth.

This is one of the greatest editorial projects ever launched in America. It is also a major archival triumph, for the search for Jefferson documents extended to libraries and archival institutions throughout the United States and archival institutions in France, Italy, Holland, Germany, Sweden, Canada, and the British Isles. Several hundred private owners of Jefferson manuscripts also contributed to the reconstituting of the Jefferson archive.

In the eighty-three years of his life, this philosopher-statesman corresponded with men in every walk of life from philosophers and kings to carpenters and farmers; and on every subject from mould-boards for plows to the inalienable rights of man. Living through the momentous events of American and world history from 1743 to 1826, Jefferson played an important role in many of them, and was a keen observer and recorder of the rest.

As he told Robert Walsh in 1823, "the letters of a person, especially one whose business has been chiefly transacted by letters, form the only full and genuine journal of his life. . . ." What a life will be revealed when the editors publish more than 18,000 letters which Jefferson wrote, together with texts or summaries of more than 25,000 of which he was the overburdened recipient!

The first volume begins with the year 1760, for most of Jefferson's earliest writings were lost when his early home, "Shadwell," burned in 1770. It con-

tains one of the finest documentary studies of the genesis and writing of the Declaration of Independence, which includes an extended discussion of the discovery of the earliest known fragment of its composition draft.

The second volume covers a portion of the years 1777 to 1779, when Jefferson was serving his native State in the House of Delegates, and as wartime Governor. During this period he embarked intensively upon a program of legislative reform which culminated in his great work on the Revisal of the Laws of Virginia. The great reforms, both attempted and accomplished, are not only monuments of the enlightenment in Virginia, but are major charters in the history of American liberties. The bill for the emancipation of slaves failed, but those for the abolition of primogeniture and entail, for proportioning crimes and punishments, for the general diffusion of knowledge, and for the establishment of religious freedom, succeeded.

One of the most fascinating facets of editorial interpretation of Jefferson's great career as legislator and architect of some of America's most significant laws, is the new light thrown upon his method of preparing his great documents.The magnificent foundation in law he had gained under his beloved mentor, George Wythe, who worked with him on the Committee for Revisal; his own insistence upon a reform of language, as well as substance of old laws; and his own insistence upon achieving the objects of the American Revolution through legislation are every where apparent.

The editors have been most skillful in their use of editorial notes and scholarly apparatus, with a single exception. The volumes are not indexed, and it is intended to issue indexes periodically to groups of volumes, and a comprehensive index at the conclusion of the series — but twenty years is a long, long time to wait.

Could Jefferson view the skill and care with which the editors have performed their part of the work, the excellence of typography and format, the specially designed Monticello type face, the fine paper and illustrations, he might well be reminded of advice that he gave to William Waller Hening, who was preparing an edition of the Statutes at Large of Virginia, for which he drew heavily upon Jefferson's own collection of printed and manuscript records. "I shall have no doubt of the exactness of your part of the work, but hope you will take measures to have the typography and paper worthy of the work." It is.

HELEN DUPREY BULLOCK
National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings

Erhvervshistorisk Årbog. Meddelelser fra Erhvervsarkivet (Business Historical Yearbook, Information from the Business Archive). Vol. 1, 1949, (Denmark, Aarhuus Stiftsbogtrykkerie, 1949, P. 86).

In this report the recently established Danish Business Archive, located in the historic town of Aarhus, endeavors to acquaint its public with its aims and activities and, incidentally, also with the similarities and differences between it and other business archival institutions. Vagn Dybdahl, archivist of

the institution, is apparently responsible for most of the brief but meaty chapters.

The first chapter summarizes the history of the development of the Business Archive. As Mr. Dybdahl has been associated with the project since 1942, and previously to that with the Danish Rigsarkiv, he should be well versed in its historical antecedents. Already before World War I, Danish archivists were interested in the preservation of noncurrent business records. Although the attention given to the subject did not then materialize into any separate organization, the various archival institutions of the government did become the recipients of the archives of a number of private concerns. In 1922 the Scientific Society aided the movement by creating a "Commission for the Examination of the privately owned Sources to Danish History," and the next decade brought more offers of archival holdings than the Danish Rigsarkiv and the provincial archives were able to accept. In a volume entitled *Dansk Arkivvaesen* (Danish Archival Administration) published in 1933, Axel Linvald, the present Riggsarkivar, declared that the situation must eventually lead either to the establishment of a separate institution for business archives or to a considerable expansion of the national and provincial archives. Quite aware of the problem, the Scientific Society's archival commission considered placing the business archives in the ancient castle of Kronborg [of Hamlet fame] and of combining them with the Trade and Maritime Museum.

Before any such action could be taken, members of the faculty of the new university in the city of Aarhus decided that the business archives of the country would be an asset to the university by providing the means for research. The outcome was a typically Danish step of cooperation. On July 1, 1942, representatives of several institutions met and formed a "Committee for the Establishment of a Business Archives in Aarhus." The city mayor became chairman; the city courthouse and the state library offered work and storage space; the Scientific Society promised financial aid; and the archival work was placed under the direction of the Rigsarkivar.

At the conclusion of a six-year period the committee found that it had received the archives of 350 organizations, covering the period from 1670 to 1947 and representing trade, industry, agriculture, and handicrafts. With the promise of greater financial support from the municipality, the national government, and private sources, the decision was made on June 4, 1948, to create the Business Archive at Aarhus as an "independent" organization under the supervision of the Rigsarkivar.

In the chapter on business archives in Europe and the United States, Mr. Dybdahl mentions that the scope of the Danish national archives has been broadened to include all "handwritten" sources of the history of the country with the exception of those having a literary character. Nevertheless, he believes that the collection and arrangement of business archives will receive only secondary consideration unless they are kept in special archival depositories. That the business archives of "France, Belgium, Esthonia, the Soviet Union, Norway, and Sweden" have been consigned to previously existing pub-

lic archives, he considers unfortunate. Solace is found, however, in the fact that since 1931 the archivists of French "departments" have been ordered to prevent the loss of valuable archives when business organizations cease to exist. Furthermore, several French business organizations have opened their archives for research, while other firms allow their records personnel to receive instruction from archivists of the Ecole des Chartes.

A chapter on "principles of arrangement," actually a systematic discussion of records administration, contains a pertinent anecdote in which the great financier, Jacob Fugger, in 1560 advises his nephew always to have the records of the firm in such order as to be assured of "an arsenal whether it be for attack or defense." For those in doubt as to the meaning of archival terminology, "arkiv" is defined as having originated from the Greek "archeion" meaning government building. Other definitions of "arkiv" as used in Denmark are given: (1) a building for the preservation of "papers" (records); (2) an institution which has the care and custody of such records; and (3) a collection of records resulting from the activity of an individual, a business, or an institution.

To an American archivist the advice concerning containers for records seems strange, although perhaps appropriate for records as kept in Europe. In regard to the care of records, Mr. Dybdahl speaks of placing records vertically in paper cartons as constituting a method which became conspicuous during World War I. He indicates that this method has been found unsatisfactory because "the papers sink together and become unmanageable unless the boxes are filled to the point of bursting." In the latter case, it might be added, the records can not readily be removed without considerable wear and tear.

Having expressed the belief that an archivist should be allowed to do some historical research, Mr. Dybdahl includes a chapter on shop closing hours in Denmark from 1840 to 1908. Like the preceding chapters it is well-written and well-documentated, and the problems that arose in fixing the time that shops should be open or closed during the week are discussed with clarity and discernment.

The guiding hand of the Rigsarkivar is manifest in an introduction, in which he expresses the hope that the new institution may be able to continue and to expand its activity, and that it may become one of the archives of the national government.

This report, which shows rapid growth for the institution during the first year of its existence, will undoubtedly help to continue the agency's good public relations so evident throughout the volume.

MARGARETH JORGENSEN

National Archives

Meddelanden från Svenska Riksarkivet för År 1948. (Stockholm. Kungl. Boktryckeriet, P. A. Norsted & Söner, 1950. Pp. 102. 4 kronor.)

As in previous years, the Archivist's annual report (*Arsberattelse*) appears first in the *Meddelanden* and covers the work of the Riksarkiv, the "lands-

och ländsarkiven," and the various agencies with archival functions which are responsible to him. Accession inventories for the year are appended. Work done during the year for the Foreign Office (Utrikesdepartment) in examining the archives originating in the Auswärtiges Amt of Germany, and now brought together at the Allied Document Centre in Berlin, is rated of "outstanding national research significance." The Riksarkiv is also to be the recipient of a positive copy of the microfilm, now being prepared by the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, of Sweden's church books, tax and population schedules, and certain other archives of genealogical significance. In this connection, Herr Boëthius remarks that thus far nothing has come of his request, made last year, for permission to study American microfilming practices as they might apply to the needs of the Riksarkiv.

Mere mention is made in this report of the fact that the plea for adequate storage space, voiced repeatedly since 1940, has yet borne no fruit. And, although the reorganization plan submitted with the 1947 report was presented in connection with the agency's appropriation request for 1948/49, financial conditions have prevented its consideration. So events of the past year have served only to emphasize the need for increased personnel.

Two articles (one dealing with certain private archives, the other with the problems involved in preparing the graphic reproduction of the seals for the *Diplomatarium Suecanum*) and a book review complete the volume.

Since archival legislation in any country is of particular interest, the review article warrants some additional comment. The volume reviewed, *Kommunal Arkivordning: Kort Rettledning for Kommuner* (Oslo, 1949) was issued by the Norwegian Riksarkiv pursuant to a Royal Decree (July 8, 1948) which vested the Archivist with power to issue directions for the preservation, arrangement, and supervision of the archives of petty jurisdictional districts (härader), parishes (socken), and municipalities (stadskommuner). Under this authority the Archivist can require a given *kommun* to establish proper archival storage within a reasonable time or send its noncurrent records to one of the "statsarkiv." *Kommunal Arkivordning* implements this authority with the necessary orders, and gives directions for the collection of the old records, their arrangement, selection, listing and care, as well as for the building and equipment of fireproof and damp-free storage space.

MATILDA H. ELIASON

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Les Archives de France, Hier, Aujourd'hui, Demain, by Charles Braibant. (Paris, Imprimerie Nationale, 1949. Pp. 22. Two illustrations.)

This is an address given late in 1949 by the new Director of the Archives of France before the Society of the Ecole des Chartes. Marking the first of a series of lectures, it discusses with remarkable frankness and candor what Mr. Braibant calls the "crisis" of the French archives. In order to make crystal clear the nature of the crisis he contrasts the present unhappy state of

affairs with that of an earlier, in comparison, golden age. This done, he points the way out of the archival desert.

What proof is there of a crisis? Braibant gives several proofs as follows: (1) a "veritable exodus" in recent years of archivists to other work; (2) the fact that of all the great cultural institutions of the country the Archives alone lacks representation on UNESCO (thus failing also to receive certain material benefits); and (3) the constant shrinking of the Archives budget as against the total government budget during the period 1865 to 1947.

Out of every 10,000,000 francs of the general budget, Braibant indicates, the Archives Nationales received:

in 1856	1,065 francs
in 1874	720 francs
in 1888	645 francs

After the Archives Nationales and the departmental archives were combined to form the Archives of France, they together received:

in 1903	625 francs
in 1922	363 francs
in 1947	285 francs
in 1949	405 francs

Braibant presents these figures to reveal some measure of the decadence of the archival service. He takes scant consolation in the slight increase in his 1949 budget. Nor does he neglect to compare his own modest position with the prestige enjoyed by distinguished predecessors such as Daunou (First Empire) and Léon de Laborde (Second Empire). In 1860, out of the 103 inspectors general of the French Government, the Archives had three. It now, with greatly increased responsibilities, has only two, while each of the other services has more inspectors general than in 1860. The plight of the French ministerial archives in Paris naturally forms no part of Braibant's discussion, so he does not relate that between 1906 and 1936 the French Foreign Office archives suffered a cut of three fourths of its personnel.

Braibant attributes the decline of the Archives to the modesty of the hard-working archivists and to the stagnation of historical research. Part of his program is to bring the Archives to the attention of the authorities and the public by means of expositions, press conferences, and radio talks. At the opening of the Peace of Westphalia exhibit at the Archives Nationales (in 1948) he secured not only the attendance of the President of the Republic but that of a number of French and foreign personalities of high rank. A grandiose plan for the future is to create as part of the Archives Nationales a "sort of city of the history of the world"— a museum of universal history which would depict the great human desire for peace from the Forty-Day Truce of Philip Augustus to UNESCO. The foreign section of the incomparable museum of the Archives Nationales, he declares, has the first elements for the proposed museum.

But such measures are not sufficient to restore the earlier luster of the Archives. Braibant regards as beyond his power the reactivation of historical re-

search as it was from Guizot to Lavisse. Since the archivists are not called upon at the present time to serve historians, he proposes that they serve government officials instead. This they did during the French Revolution, also a period of great change.

Braibant refutes warmly the charge that *Chartistes* (graduates of the Ecole des Chartes, the training school of archivists) are merely scholars who understand nothing about present-day problems. A number of these graduates, he shows, have successfully applied their method to practical affairs. Oddly enough, he does not mention Gabriel Hanotaux of the class of 1880, who became a distinguished statesman and historian.

Beginnings have been made to introduce *Chartistes* into current records work. In 1949 plans were made to establish on an experimental basis a central archival service in the Ministry of Agriculture under a *Chartiste*. Braibant attaches great importance to the creation of centers of contemporary documentation in the provinces. As inspector general he established 29 of these centers for the use of administrators, general counsels, educators, and the press. *Chartistes* are needed to arrange the masses of papers in dossiers for ready consultation. Braibant does not propose at this time, however, to attempt to introduce order among the great masses of current administrative correspondence where "a horrible confusion" reigns. On no point, he declares, are the administrators and particularly their subordinates more touchy. Any moves in this direction must, in consequence, be made with great prudence. This task the director leaves to the future.

But how can French archivists, depleted in numbers and overworked, take on new duties? Should they not wait for the government first to provide sorely-needed personnel in the form of lower ranking archivists and clerks? No, says Braibant. Using military analogy, he favors starting the assault without reinforcements. Seeing the assault started, the authorities, he believes, will send reinforcements. By assuming new duties the Archives has a chance of securing a suitable staff. It is absurd, he points out, to have but one archivist per department as in the days of the July Monarchy (1830-1848).

At the end of his address Braibant takes up the subject of training Ecole des Chartes students for current archival work. As a beginning, he worked out an arrangement with the director of the school whereby three students became probationers in the departmental archives of the Seine for a period of one to two months. Through this system, to be expanded as rapidly as possible, he hopes to obtain directors of departmental archives who are trained to assume the difficult and complex tasks devolving upon such officials.

Braibant is a man to watch. The traditionalists are opposing him. He asks: who is right, those who see things as they were in 1900 or he who sees them as they will be in the year 2000?

CARL L. LOKKE

National Archives

Microfilms and Microcards: Their Use in Research, by Blanche Prichard McCrumm. (Washington, D. C., Library of Congress Card Division, 1950. Pp. v, 81, $.55.)

The literature of the micro documentary reproduction techniques including microfilm and microcard is dispersed and highly fugitive. Relatively few books have appeared, and the principal sources must be ferreted out of the entire broad span of the periodical literature. In all probability still more valuable information could be found in the reports of committee memoranda, private or organizational surveys, and data files which have never achieved public circulation. In bringing together a selected and annotated bibliography with emphasis on more recent titles, Miss Blanche Prichard McCrumm has rendered a real service to the field and to all who may come to find the micro techniques increasingly important in their work. In a listing of 263 entries indexed by topics, the basic important segments of the literature have been clearly presented. To state that there have been omissions is to underscore the obvious; complete coverage was not visualized or required for the present work. Ample references to bibliographies and sources will guide the reader further afield if necessary. The two important studies of William Jerome Wilson that appeared in *The Library Quarterly*, Vol. XIII, No. 3, July, 1943 "Manuscripts in Microfilm — Problems of Librarian and Custodian" and Vol. XIII, No. 4, October, 1943 "Manuscripts in Microfilm — Problems of Cataloger and Bibliographer" are not mentioned, and there are other titles of importance in the field that readily come to mind. But these are regrets of the reviewer and do not constitute valid criticisms of an excellent piece of work.

Inclusion of the Library of Congress card numbers when available together with location symbols for material in the Library of Congress will be found useful. The bibliography is directed specifically toward investigators who are not themselves librarians, archivists, or others engaged professionally in the handling of documentation. In this respect it has served its purpose exceedingly well, and it is moreover a reference tool of great utility. The modest price of $.55 represents an investment which will produce dividends greatly in excess of even sanguine expectations.

VERNON D. TATE

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Report of Administration & Operations, Records Administration Center, Office of The Adjutant General, St. Louis, Missouri and Kansas City Records Center, Office of The Adjutant General, Kansas City, Missouri. Fiscal Year 1949, [by E. C. Gault] (N.p., n.d., Pp. 72. Processed.)

Records centers are one of the major frontiers in the field of records management and archives administration. The gargantuan Army records centers at St. Louis and Kansas City provide tangible evidence of new challenges to management and the archivist. Some of the challenges include control of giant record keeping operations, forging new techniques in finding media, developing assembly-line techniques for screening, segregating and processing masses of

records, and at the same time assuring selective records preservation. The Army and the Navy made significant strides in dealing with these challenges have forged many new techniques to deal with the problem of mass handling of records in a "Limbo" status.

The records centers at St. Louis and Kansas City are not archival establishments. Rather, they are facilities for the centralized and responsible custody of records pertaining to separated military and civilian personnel of the Army and the Air Force.

A few selected figures might be cited to illustrate not only the extent of operations at St. Louis, but also the fact that daily problems are concerned mainly with records management rather than with archives administration. In July, 1948, 3,638 persons were employed at St. Louis. Over 900,000 linear feet of records were on hand at that time, and the volume of references during fiscal year 1949 amounted to almost three and one half million cases. The handling of this impressive workload involved many problems of intake, output, and backlog.

Although the bulk of the records of the Department of the Navy is not as large as the Army holdings, the Navy faces similar problems of processing, servicing, weeding, and merging of files. The merger of Army and Navy military personnel records operations has received much discussion. The economies to be achieved through such a merger are definitely in the public interest. Perhaps the National Archives and Records Service of General Services Administration will some day spearhead this merger.

ROBERT A. SHIFF

The National Records Management Council

Annual Report on Historical Collections, University of Virginia Library including Alfred Henry Byrd Library of Virginia History and Literature, Elizabeth Cocke Coles Collection of Books about Virginia, Tracy W. McGregor Library, Eighteenth and Nineteenth, for the Years 1947 to 1949. (Charlottesville. University of Virginia, 1950. Pp. 93-246.)

With the publication of this report, another chapter has been added to the careful and scholarly appraisal of the resources of the Historical Collections of the University of Virginia Library. Consisting of two parts, the report contains an essay by Francis L. Berkeley, Jr., and an alphabetical list of collections of manuscript materials acquired by the division.

The essay by Mr. Berkeley, in addition to providing a general description of the work accomplished by the staff, undertakes to answer two questions which are of interest not only to the scholar but also to the general reader. They are: "Why are so many of 'Our Virginia Manuscripts' in North Carolina and California? Why is Princeton University publishing the Jefferson papers?" The first of these two questions is so familiar that I am sure any reader can substitute the name of his own State and thus translate it into an inquiry pertinent to his own case. Mr. Berkeley gives a very satisfactory explanation and an equally satisfactory description of the policy of cooperation

which is the goal of the University of Virginia Library. The discussion of the Jefferson papers is very adequately handled and again points the way to co-operation between institutions. The introduction also records the development of the University's plan for filming not only its own collection of newspapers but also many which are in the hands of individuals. Attention is called to the program of making the Division of Rare Books and Manuscripts serve as an agency for stimulating the intellectual growth of the undergraduate without diminishing its usefulness to scholars generally.

The list of materials acquired July 1, 1947 to June 30, 1949 is impressive as usual, including 541 new collections totaling a million and a quarter pieces. Equally impressive is the statement that "every collection received during these two years . . . has been processed and made available to investigators within a few weeks of its reception." Of the new collections received, twelve fall in the period before 1699, and 193 between the years 1900 and 1949. The greatest number of collections deal with the nineteenth century.

While one hesitates to select items of importance for particular note, some outstanding collections or documents should be noted. One hundred twenty-seven original Jefferson letters were added during the period. The papers of the late Carter Glass of Virginia, numbering 400,000 items, are of major importance. The broad scope of the collections is amply illustrated by the inclusion of many items of literary as well as historical interest.

JACQUELINE BULL

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Public Record Office. *110th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records.* (London. His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1950. Pp. 21. Appendices. 6d.)

This publication is a report "to the King's Most Excellent Majesty" by the present Deputy Keeper of the Records, Sir Hilary Jenkinson, of the activities of the Public Record Office during the year 1948. In addition to routine reports concerning the staff, the work of the Secretariat, the Repository Section, and of other sections, the report contains further information of significance to archivists. Of particular interest is the settlement in regard to the transmission of certain Scottish records to the General Register House, Edinburgh. A classification of these records is given in Appendix II of the report. In the publishing program of the Office only one volume was issued during the year, the *Calendar of Patent Rolls, Elizabeth, Volume* II. Among the projects discussed in 1948 was the new edition of the *Guide to the Public Records*, of which the first part has since been published. A plan has been prepared for the publication of a series of *Exchequer Enrolments*. Scholars will welcome the sizeable list in the report of classes of records for which transcript lists are now available in the search rooms. Of prime importance is the announcement that Treasury consent has been given to a new venture, the appointment of temporary editorial assistants, drawn from young graduates of the British universities, "who have had at least a year's experience in research and are thought likely to hold in the future University teaching posts." Such a procedure will

be invaluable in offering a training not only to young editors but also to young historians who hope to combine teaching and research as a career, and who may also wish to do part-time editorial work on records. This report reveals a vigorous administration of archives that unites thoroughness and scrupulous care in every phase of the work with imagination and initiative in the launching of new projects.

DOROTHY BRUCE WESKE

Barrington, Rhode Island

Texas Library and Historical Commission. *Texas State Business and Historical Records: Solution to Space and Preservation Problems.* (Texas State Library. Austin, 1950. Pp. 36.)

This little brochure of nineteen pages of text, seventeen pages of illustration, one double page insert, and textual and illustrative matter on the inside covers bubbles over with enthusiasm. The illustrations recall the "before and after" photographs of WPA days. In fact, one wonders how the records of the State of Texas which, according to this brochure, are stored in attics, corridors, cellars, and a cowbarn, failed to benefit from the widespread projects of rehabilitation. The accumulative figures on footage occupied by the records in original form (35,438) and in microfilm (1,644), the number of file drawers originally required (29,321) and finally required (1,133), are impressive and convincing. The cost figures are another matter. The "cost of film" is given as $269,461 for 69,034 rolls of film; that is, the cost per roll is about $3.90. Where are the labor costs, and the editorial, the cataloging, the equipment?

LESTER K. BORN

Library of Congress

Indian Historical Records Commission. *Proceedings of the Meetings of the Silver Jubilee Session.* Volume XXV. (New Delhi. Manager of the Government of India Press, 1949. Part I. Pp. ii, 148; Part II. Pp. ii, 229.)

Although there are many interesting features in the two slim volumes representing the Silver Jubilee Meeting of the Indian Historical Records Commission, by far the most important for archivists of all nationalities is the inaugural speech by the Honorable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Caught, as we so often feel ourselves, in the inescapable spiderweb of minutiae that seems to hold us forever from the bright vision of scholarship that lured us into the mesh, it is a release to find a world figure of the stature of the Prime Minister of India speaking of our labors with serious and understanding respect; and even showing sufficient concern for us to scold us gently for that very entanglement. Pandit Nehru is no patronizing outsider, condescending to us from a larger world. Not only does he make history; he seizes his leisure moments — such as those supplied by a lengthy prison sentence — to write history of the highest quality. Any historical worker who has failed to read his *Glimpses of World History* has missed a soul stirring experience.

When such a man says, "I sometimes feel how delightful it must be to carry on that pursuit [of historical research] in a calmer atmosphere . . . cut away from the provocations and disturbances of the type of life that I lead," one feels that he speaks with more knowledge than is based on what he wryly calls in his next sentence, "some kind of nostalgia from which many of us suffer who do not like the particular job they are placed in."

The importance of his speech lies in his warning to us all against what all of us must recognize as the two great failings of any worker in historical details: First, "An attempt at unconsciously forgetting the fact that a larger public has to be, or should be addressed." "I do not think that is good," he says, "because you isolate yourself from that larger public. You do not get their backing, and that larger public cannot benefit by your labours." Secondly, "Any subject that you might investigate — although necessarily you investigate a particular subject — might generally be viewed in relation to a larger whole. Otherwise it has no real meaning except as some odd incident that might interest you."

Volume II of the proceedings contains papers presented at the public meeting (among them is one by Solon J. Buck). Many of them are on the general subject of archives methods; but most of them are on the subject of Indian history. Next to the speech of the Prime Minister, however, the most revealing portion of these volumes is found in the committee reports which form the bulk of Volume I. Here one gains a startling insight into the heart breaking problems of preserving archives in a government in the present situation of that of India. What, for instance, is the proper disposition of the records of the retiring British Government? Are they to be carried back to England, where they are unmistakably of national importance? If so, what of the plight of the Indian scholar who must make a long and expensive journey to consult records of vital importance to any study of Indian history? What is the fair disposition of papers equally important to India and Pakistan? What of the records pertaining to Kashmir and the small independent kingdoms? Can a despotic rajah be forced to preserve records which reveal corruption in his own reign?

These are problems unlike any which perplex us, so that it is exciting to study their possibilities from afar. One is impressed with the practical resourcefulness with which the Indian scholars are meeting them. It is of interest to note to how large an extent microfilming is being applied as one solution.

Appendixes to Volume I contain bibliographical and documentary lists which should be useful to students of Indian history. The volume is illustrated with portraits of leading personalities at the meeting.

ELIZABETH CLARKE KIEFFER

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