

Reviews of Books

RICHARD G. WOOD, *Editor*

The National Archives
Washington 25, D. C.

Maryland Hall of Records Commission. Publication Number 7. *Calendar of Maryland State Papers, Number 4: The Red Books, Part 1.* (Annapolis. Hall of Records Commission, 1950. Pp. x, 280. \$2.00.)

With the publication of this first portion of a three-volume calendar of its "Red Books," the Hall of Records, Maryland's official State archives, moves toward the completion of the calendars of its so-called "Rainbow Series." The mishandling in earlier years of the mass of official and semi-official papers comprising this series has posed a considerable archival problem to Dr. Morris L. Radoff and his notably competent staff at Annapolis, a problem which has been rather happily solved through the *Calendar of State Papers*, begun in 1943, and to be completed during the next three or four years with parts 2 and 3 of *The Red Books*.

The "Rainbow Series" was formed from several thousand loose papers, chiefly colonial and executive in character, which survived neglect until 1866, were then transferred by the Governor of Maryland to the Land Office, where they remained until 1882, when they were placed in the custody of the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. At some period subsequent to the Civil War (the prefaces to the various numbers of the *Calendar* appear to be somewhat contradictory as to when the work was done) the papers were, with very little regard for archival principles, divided into four rough groups. And when they were received ultimately by the recently established Hall of Records in 1936, they had already been frozen into these four groups by binding, each group bound in a different color.

Three of these overlapping groups have already been abstracted and indexed in the first three numbers of the *Calendar*, published since 1943: the "Black Books," primarily papers of the proprietary and royal governments, 1636-1785; the "Brown Books," executive and military papers, 1747-1803, chiefly pertaining to the Revolution; and the "Blue Books," consisting of the Bank Stock Papers, including the documents of Samuel Chase's well known suit, 1780-1809. The fourth and largest group, "The Red Books," is now to become available through chronologically arranged abstracts in three separate volumes, each with its own index. Covered in the first volume are the papers in the designed arrest of Governor Robert Eden, 1776; minutes of the Maryland Convention of July, 1775; minutes of the Committee of Safety and Legislative Council, and correspondence of Maryland delegates in Congress, 1776-1778 and 1781; communications from Congress and the War Office to the Gov-

ernor of Maryland, the Council, and the Convention, 1775-1803, and various miscellaneous papers.

In preparing this first volume of *The Red Books*, Miss Beryl Gardner and Messrs. Gust Skordas and Roger Thomas have followed essentially the same practices employed in the first three numbers of the *Calendar*. Faced with an arbitrarily bound series of papers for which the searcher had neither index nor arrangement to guide him, they decided not to sacrifice the costly and protective bindings, nor to invalidate the many published references to the papers. The abstracts, which give every evidence of meticulous care and accuracy, have been prepared in accordance with well-established principles of calendaring, and are arranged chronologically for the benefit of the searcher who uses only the calendar. Following the calendar number, however, for each abstract, is the volume and page reference to the bound manuscript. And preceding the index is a "Finding List" for those who, with only a "Red Books" reference, wish to locate an abstract in the *Calendar*.

It is gratifying to note that the compilers have returned to the practice of *The Black Books* calendar in identifying those manuscripts which have been published in the *Archives of Maryland* and certain other publications. Some economy might have been achieved by substituting skeleton entries for full abstracts of those papers which are already available in print. But there are obvious arguments against this. This reviewer believes, however, that the use of bold face dates, hanging in the left-hand margins, and bold face numbers in the right-hand margins, is a scarcely justifiable extravagance in these days of sky-rocketing printing costs. Even this indulgence may be pardoned when one considers the almost certain factor of the extraordinary and altogether abnormal wear and tear to which the original manuscripts must have been subjected — and which this admirable *Calendar* will largely eliminate.

FRANCIS L. BERKELEY, JR.

University of Virginia Library

Annual Report of the Public Archives Commission, State of Delaware, by the State Archivist, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 1949 to June 30, 1950. (Dover, Delaware. Hall of Records, 1950. Pp. 70.)

Fifteenth Annual Report of the Archivist of the Hall of Records, State of Maryland, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 1949 Through June 30, 1950. (Annapolis, Hall of Records Commission, 1950. Pp. 43.)

The neighboring States of Maryland and Delaware have at least two things in common: long histories extending back into early colonial times and up-to-date, efficiently managed archival agencies. In their annual reports for the fiscal year 1950 Morris L. Radoff, the archivist of Maryland, and Leon de Valinger, Jr., the archivist of Delaware, report steady progress in their routine duties, high morale among their staff, and an ever widening span of functions.

It is, perhaps, a sign of the times that archivists nowadays appear to devote more of their attention to destruction than to preservation. Having brought

their older records substantially under control, both Mr. Radoff and Mr. de Valinger are increasingly concerned with the records administration problem. It is a relatively new problem in Maryland, since the Hall of Records was given responsibility for supervising the disposal of records for all other agencies of the State beginning June 1, 1949. In reporting on his first full year of operations under the Disposal Act Mr. Radoff lists numerous series that have been authorized for destruction and points out the complexity and at the same time the extreme usefulness of this work. He claims that any one of several decisions made for records disposal has saved the State more than the annual budget of the Hall of Records. Because of the rapid growth of the records administration work in Delaware, Mr. de Valinger recommends the addition of another employee to his staff in the capacity of Public Records Examiner. He points out that in addition to the examination of records for permanent retention or disposal, the Hall of Records is constantly being called upon for advice on filing methods. A central file system for the State Highway Department of Delaware was devised during the year.

In both States extensive use is made of microfilm. Groups of records too large for retention in their original form are microfilmed and the originals destroyed. But the story is not entirely one of destruction. Valuable records that must remain in public use are being protected by making a microfilm security copy. Many county records, for example, housed in firetraps called county courthouses, are being microfilmed as a safety factor.

This reviewer takes particular satisfaction in noting that both reports list extensive accessions and that the description and publication functions are not being ignored altogether. Among other activities, a card catalogue of county microfilm records is being compiled in Maryland and the *Calendar of Red Books* is in the hands of a printer. In Delaware volume II of a projected three-volume series of *A Calendar of Ridgely Family Letters, 1742-1899* has been completed. A *Memorial Volume* honoring Delawarians who died in the armed services in World War II was completed during the year also and deposited in the Hall of Records.

In routine and technical matters such as reference work, the furnishing of photostatic copies of documents, and in repair and preservation of records both establishments have functioned smoothly and efficiently. A great deal has been accomplished in both States on relatively modest annual budgets (something less than \$50,000).

These reports can be recommended to other archivists, State and Federal, not for their content alone but for their form as well. Singularly free of gibberish and "governmentese" they are written in an urbane, lucid, and dignified style worthy of emulation.

HARRY L. COLES, JR.

Ohio State University

A Guide to the Microfilm Collection of Early State Records, prepared by the Library of Congress in association with the University of North Carolina; collected and compiled under the direction of William Sumner Jenkins; edited by Lillian A. Hamrick. (Washington. Library of Congress, 1950. Pp. xxxviii, 308, 206, 44, 101, 56, 8, 38. Paper covers. \$5.00.)

It can with good reason be asserted that the early State records have been the most troublesome problem in American historiography. Although fundamental for research, they are only in part available in print. Of the great bulk still unprinted, much is in repositories having no microfilm service. And certain of the most important series existing only in manuscript have been unavailable for years at a time because of the ignorance of their custodians. There are many files which have never been used by historians although they contain material which if taken into consideration would have altered the conclusions of most of the books dealing with their area and period.

The creation of the collection of microfilms of State documents at the Library of Congress, the work of a mere ten years, for the first time makes a great part of this material readily available. Few institutions can afford to subscribe for the entire series at \$22,400, but now anyone can acquire the particular segments of records he needs at the rate of \$15.00 for a hundred-foot roll. In the *Guide*, the material is classed into the major groups of legislative, statutory, constitutional, administrative, executive, and court records, each with simple and logical subdivisions. The chronological extent of the coverage is dictated by the rarity of the material covered so far as printed files are concerned, or by the probable utility, if in manuscript form. Often, however, the material after the terminal date of the filming is much rarer than are the reprint series of earlier records. Here publishing in film form has great advantages over print, for extensions can be made at any point in the series.

The greater part of this microfilm collection and its *Guide* is concerned with legislative records for which earlier guides were available. The great morass of administrative, executive, and court records is hardly touched, although for the first time a few almost unknown and unused series of great importance are made available. There are no guides to this material, so the search will often take longer than the filming.

This *Guide* would be more useful if it contained a few editorial notes pointing out which records are available in modern printing or reprints. The indexed reprints of the *Journals of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts*, to take one example, are far more usable than the unindexed film, and not much more expensive. Serious thought should be given to the publishing of indexes of the films, for without them their use is seriously limited.

This *Guide* is much more than a list of objects which can be purchased. Every historian working in the early American field can browse through it with profit, finding material which he never knew existed, or could never afford to travel to consult.

The project calls for continuing filming and publications to cover local government records, the records of American Indian nations, newspapers contain-

ing official records, and material relating to rudimentary States and courts. As enticing as these, particularly the last, may be, it is to be hoped that the directors will not allow mere rarity or geographical uniformity to outweigh historical importance or demand. As librarians well know, the demand for the records of certain periods and areas greatly exceeds the demand for others.

CLIFFORD K. SHIPTON

American Antiquarian Society

Literary Property in the United States, by Ralph R. Shaw. (N.p. Scarecrow Press, 1950. Pp. v, 277. \$6.00.)

Why is it an infringement upon copyright to sell a volume in which a typed copy of a missing page has been inserted, but perfectly legal to supply a library patron with a photostatic copy of a whole book? And why can anyone make and sell recordings of a copyrighted poem but not of a copyrighted song?

These and many other conflicting provisions of the United States copyright law as interpreted by the courts have been used by Dr. Shaw to deduce the basic philosophy involved in copyright and literary property rights. These, he concludes, stem from the common law right of an author "to control the public use of a manuscript up to the moment when it is first generally published." The author decides whether to establish a monopoly for himself via copyright, or whether to dedicate his work to the public for unrestricted use. Publication, with or without printing, has been declared to take effect whenever the document is placed in a public place where it can be consulted by others. Since only the author has the right to decide whether or not and how he wishes his writings (including correspondence) published, this doctrine, if carried to its logical conclusion, would forbid any library, archives or other public institution to acquire any manuscript from any source without the consent of the author or his legal heirs!

Dr. Shaw suggests a number of needed amendments to our antiquated copyright law. The summaries at the end of each chapter and the "citations" in Part II are most useful. Readers of the *American Archivist* will be particularly interested in Chapter XVIII entitled "Literary Property and Scholarly Institutions."

MARGARET C. NORTON

Illinois State Library

Library of Congress: Departmental & Divisional Manuals, No. 17, Manuscripts Division. Preliminary draft by Arthur E. Young; Revised. (Washington, D. C., Card Division, Library of Congress, 1950. Pp. 44. Charts and supplements. Processed. 30¢.)

The purpose of this manual, as stated in the preface by Dr. Solon J. Buck, chief of the Manuscripts Division, is "to explain, primarily to officials and staff members of the Library of Congress, including those of the Manuscripts Division, the *raison d'être* of the Manuscripts Division what it is and what it does, but not, in detail, how it does its work." It is primarily a functional rather

than a procedural manual which, nevertheless, undertakes to describe recent modifications in policies and procedures of the Division. Following a brief outline of the history of the Division, a summary of holdings is given. Two facts given in this summary are particularly impressive: twentieth century material constitutes about two-thirds in bulk of the holdings; reproductions of material of American interest in foreign depositories, nearly a quarter. The second section, dealing with organization, describes briefly the duties of each of the eighteen members of the staff.

Of particular use to the outsider are the sections dealing with acquisition of manuscripts, with processing, and with reference service. They contain many suggestions which could be profitably followed by lesser depositories.

Supplement A, tracing briefly the history of the *Writings on American History* Project, is of special interest to American historians. Supplement B, listing "Publications Concerning Manuscript Holdings of the Library of Congress," in itself constitutes a valuable bibliography.

In the matter of supplying conventional title-page information, this publication falls down badly — a deficiency particularly exasperating in a publication emanating from so distinguished a source. Otherwise, the *Manual* fulfils very satisfactorily the purpose for which it was written.

L. G. VANDER VELDE

University of Michigan

Inventory of the County Archives of Pennsylvania: Cambria County. (Ebensburg. The Board of County Commissioners. Archives Publishing Company of Pennsylvania, Inc., Harrisburg, 1950. Pp. vii, 299.)

The latest of the series relating to Pennsylvania counties, their offices and records, is the third to be published after the interim of World War II. It is a well-constructed, scientific compilation and commendable for its organization, printing, and format. The three Cambria County Commissioners concede, on page v, as follows: "It is with profound gratitude that we acknowledge the splendid cooperation of the Pennsylvania Historical Records Survey and all others who have contributed their talents and services in the preparation of this Inventory of Cambria County."

The work is divided into two parts: (A) Cambria County and Its Records System; (B) County Offices and Their Records. The latter has thirty archival series with a total of 514 consecutively numbered groups, with a Chronological Index in which "... A record entry is listed under each decade which the record covers in full or in part. Entry numbers are *italicized* to call attention to the initial appearances of records." There is also, of course, a general index to the volume as well as a Bibliography of more than four pages although, "Much of the descriptive material included in this inventory, in addition to information on the records themselves, has been obtained first hand. Interviews with county officials, members of local historical societies, and citizens of the county have unearthed many new facts for which no documentation or bibliography can be given." The text is well-documented by footnotes, however.

In the arrangement of the inventory, the records of the executive branch are first, followed by the judicial, law enforcing, fiscal, and miscellaneous agencies. A description of the legal development of each office or agency precedes the inventory of its records and, where possible, a subject heading has been given to records of the same type. Number 1, Minutes, 1807- , includes minutes of the commissioners' meetings, resolutions, motions on bills, solicitor's opinions, etc., showing date of meeting, names of the commissioners, chief clerk and solicitor present, nature of business transacted, and the like.

This is a selection of record groups which has caught the attention of your reviewer: 7, Index to Seated and Unseated Lands, 1808-1856, 1 volume; 159, Naturalization Record of Intensions, 1835- , 49 volumes; 237, Adoption (Petitions), 1925- ; 251-258, Vital Statistics, 1852- ; 268, Marriage License Index, Male and Female, 1890- ; and 457, Petition for Registration, 1915-23, 1930-35.

It may be noted that there are statutory provisions concerning county records whenever a new county has been formed from another. Mortgages, judgments, verdicts, orders and all records affecting lands in the new county but made in the original county, may be copied and certified by the register of wills and recorder of deeds, . . . or other officers, and entered by the same officer in the new county as part of its records.

NEWMAN F. MCGIRR

Washington, D. C.

Public Record Office. *111th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records* (London. His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1950. Pp. 19. 6d.)

To many American archivists who have felt that the Europeans' concern for mediaeval manuscripts has prevented an understanding of the modern problems of mass which confront us, this report gives implicit refutation. Like the *Introduction to the Guide to the Public Records* (1949), also written by Sir Hilary Jenkinson, this account shows that the British archivists have taken on the retirement of very recent records and still remained professional archivists in the most traditional sense. Remembering that Sir Hilary (we suspect not quite entirely facetiously) said in a talk in Washington in 1950 that records dated since 1327 seemed somehow vulgar and uninteresting, one can understand with what feeling he says in this report that "the enormous increase in accruals of modern archives . . . seems likely at no distant date to alter considerably the balance of work in the Department." Yet while attention is given to the increasing assignment of personnel to closer relations with the departments, to the preparation of disposal schedules for the courts and departments, and to the development of intermediate depositories, real progress is also noted in the assistance to research students and in publication projects. Apparently the balance of workload will be altered, but not the balance of judgment.

All this supports the thesis that the archivist can exercise an active concern in the evaluation, segregation, and retirement of records in the creating agencies, and their care in intermediate depositories, without impairing his archival char-

acter. Evidently the British have taken this for granted and have been spared the uncertainties felt in this country as to the relationship of the archival institution to archivists and current records officials in the other agencies. It does not appear that the British archivists undertake responsibility for the care of current records still in the departments. This is consistent with the view that the basic character of the archivist's task may include advising current records managers in those phases of their work that relate to records retirement and archival interests, such for example as segregation of ephemera in filing, though it does not embrace actual current records work. If American archivists can work together on this basis we can minimize the concern of the Archivist of Canada, who in reviewing the 1949 *Annual Report* of our National Archives (*American Archivist* 13:295, July 1950) remarked that "whether one can be both an archivist and a records manager remains, perhaps, to be seen; the one would appear to be governed primarily by immediate and pressing problems, whereas the other must give due consideration to the long-term point of view." I hope and believe we are not embracing too broad a span of competence.

Sir Hilary's report tells with precision and clarity what the Public Record Office did in 1949. At the same time it induces reflection on many questions of interest to all archivists. For example, the transfer of a museum director to handle relations with the departments and with bodies controlling socialized industries suggests the flexibility of a staff that must at the same time maintain highly specialized competencies. The varied legal relationships of the Record Office to the departments through the years is evidenced by the fact that accessions still occur of what we would call quite old records (e.g. 1839) whereas our National Archives has accessioned practically all valuable records of the Government to about 1930. The proposed distribution of Search Room Lists of records to students and libraries in typescript or microfilm is of interest. The issuance of more formal publications of several kinds continues to set a high standard to which archivists of other countries may aspire.

PHILIP C. BROOKS

The National Archives

British Museum Catalogue of Additions to the Manuscripts, 1921-1925. (London. The Trustees of the British Museum, 1950. Pp. xx, 1400.)

The year 1950 witnessed the appearance of the fourteenth voluminous list of additions to the manuscripts in the British Museum, in the series covering its accessions from 1836 through 1925. Long overdue, this weighty tome catalogues the additional MSS. numbered 40016-41295; the Egerton MSS. numbered 3031-3038; numbers 62759-66689 of the additional charters and rolls; numbers CLXVII.1-CLXXII.22 of the detached seals; papyri numbered 2240-2740; and 58 facsimiles of manuscripts. In quantity, the accessions for the five-year period covered by this volume are nearly twice as great as for the previous five-year period, and are analyzed in a much more detailed and voluminous index of more than a thousand of the publication's fourteen hundred pages.

Prepared by the staff of the department, under the guidance of the Keeper of Manuscripts, Sir Harold Bell, and his successor, A. Jeffries Collins, the present catalogue follows the same general pattern as previous ones. Each accession is characterized by a more or less detailed statement of subject matter, period covered, and circumstances under which it was created and preserved. There is frequently a brief biographical sketch of the person whose papers are involved. The final paragraph includes the physical description, and a statement of the source of the accession. For such large accessions as the Peel papers the collation may consist of the phrase: "Eight volumes. Folio (vols. XIII, XIV) and quarto," while for such items as no. 41069, "Lives of Saints, Exempla, etc., in *Latin*," an elaborate page-by-page, gathering-by-gathering collation may be given.

It will interest the manuscript cataloguer to note the handling of such a large accession as the Peel papers referred to above. These include over 400 volumes, each of which is assigned an accession number (no. 40181-40617). First is given a description of the collection as a whole, with a summary of Sir Robert Peel's career, and a list of the four series into which the manuscripts fall. This is followed by what amounts to a volume-by-volume, paper-by-paper calendar of the entire accession. All the principal correspondents are named, and names of all writers are given in the Index.

This collection of the official and private correspondence and papers of Sir Robert Peel from 1812-1850, is one of the accessions of interest to the student of American history. There are not many. Under the heading: "America, United States of," in the index are but twenty entries. These include such single items as a seal of Connecticut colony, 1710 (Added Charters 66210), and items in a few collections, such as the official letters of G. Washington to Governor G. Clinton, 1779 (in no. 40690), papers relating to Northwestern boundary negotiations, 1824-1826 (in no. 40365), Memoranda concerning trade and resources, 1841, 1842 (in nos. 40469 and 40497), memorandum relating to Oregon boundary question, 1845 (in no. 40562), and letter relating to gold diggings in California, 1849 (in no. 40602). The Vernon papers (nos. 40771-40850) contain some papers relating to the West Indies in the 1740's. The Clarkson papers (nos. 41262-41267) will be of interest to any student of the slave trade and abolitionist movement. The student of musical history will be interested to find (no. 40728) two holograph copies of compositions of the American composer, Edward Alexander MacDowell: his "Ländliche Suite F. grosses Orchester . . . Op. 37," and the same work in arrangements as pianoforte duets.

DOROTHY V. MARTIN

The National Archives

Gaetano Ramacciotti, "Archivi ed archivisti," *Il Libro e Le Biblioteche Atti Del Primo Congresso Bibliologico Francese Internazionale 20-27 Febbraio 1949* Parte Prima Conferenze di Carattere Generale Parte Seconda di Carattere Particolare. (Rome. Pontificium Athenaeum Antonianum, 1950. Pp. 441-510.)

This is the text of an address delivered by an Italian state archivist at the first Congresso Bibliologico Francese Internazionale held in Rome, February 20-27, 1949. The two volumes containing the acts of this Congress cover a wide range of subject matter of general and of particular character, all of it worthy of the attention of librarians as well as of archivists. In his discussion of the latter, which appears in Part One of the above work, Dott. Ramacciotti is primarily concerned with setting up criteria rather than with describing the *status quo* in the archival field.

The competent archivist should not only have a profound knowledge of the materials in his care, but he should also be informed on historical data already brought to light and on those still in the course of investigation. Although the inventorying of archival material is an endless task, the usefulness of archives depends on such inventories, which serve as "strada maestra" for research.

The present regulations pertaining to the Italian state archives permit the full use of archival material for research and study except that dating from 1870 on and that not yet arranged for use. Despite the barbarous mutilations suffered by Italian archives during the last war, particularly those at Naples, Milan, Genoa, and Parma, they still constitute an impressive monument of the civilization of a people. Unfortunately, archival care has not received the attention it should from the Italian government, preoccupied as it is with other pressing problems. Ideally, the state archives should be brought under a single direction dependent on the Council of Ministers, with each minister guaranteed a representative on the archival council, the supreme technical and administrative organ in this field. The present lack of autonomy in the caring of archives and the meager sums appropriated for this work have up to now doomed this important field to a poor and anemic life, whose usefulness has been further diminished by frequent changes in personnel. Another badly needed reform, recommended for some time by leading Italian archivists, is the unification of the various types of archives, the importance of which is indicated in *The State Archives* (1944) and *Historical-Archival Manual* (1910).

In discussing the preparation for the archival profession, Dott. Ramacciotti reduces the qualifications to three indispensable ones: a specialized theoretical culture, a thorough knowledge of archival sources, and a passion for this type of work. The most important task for the archivist is the compilation of inventories, indexes, rolls, lists, and such types of aids to study and research. Works of this nature should always be finished instead, as often happens, of being abandoned at the half-way mark because of changes in personnel. The archivist should always respect the provenance of the material, leaving it as far as possible according to its original arrangement.

If, as in the case of the Netherlands and some other countries, legal training is the principle requisite for the post of archivist, such training should be supplemented by historical and paleographical study. A new biennial course of study in library economy, archival science, and paleography has been instituted at the University of Rome leading to the title of archivist-paleographer. A law is now needed to unify the criteria for obtaining such a diploma. The recent lowering of standards for the competition in the archival field has, according to Dott. Ramacciotti, been a step backward. The need for a higher school for the study of paleography, archival science, and related subjects should not lessen the importance of regional schools in the training of archivists.

Along with the improvement in standards, Dott. Ramacciotti recommends a comparable improvement in the position of the archivist from the standpoint of pay and promotion, both of which are at a deplorably low level at present. On the other hand, it should be expected that archivists devote their time to arranging and cataloguing material rather than to research which interests them particularly.

The number of employees in the three main classifications — A, for directive functions and care of older and more historical documents; B, for the care of more modern archives; C, for ordering and copying — should depend on the type of archive in which they work. Although Dott. Ramacciotti believes that there should be rotation of duties within a given archive in order to widen the experience of the personnel, he does not think it advisable to transfer archivists from one archive to another, a practice which makes it impossible for them to become familiar with the material in any one of the archives. Each archivist on leaving his post should prepare a report on the state of progress of the archival work undertaken. Finally, the supreme archival council should have a permanent secretariat composed of the most prominent members of the profession who should have at their disposal two or three inspectors corresponding to the main geographical division of Italy to coordinate archival activity in the nation and to insure continuity of undertakings. With all these criteria in mind, perhaps some real reform might be achieved in ten or twenty years.

ELIZABETH COMETTI

Marshall College

Indian Record Series: Fort William — India House Correspondence and other contemporary papers relating thereto (Public Series) Vol. V, 1767-1769, edited by Narendra Krishna Sinha (Delhi, India. The National Archives of India, 1949. Pp. xvi, 36, 670. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index, lists of company officials, and corrigenda. RM 25.)

The fifth volume of the Indian Record Series which covers the official correspondence of the East India Company for the three years, 1767, 1768, and 1769 will be helpful to students of British India history who seek to verify the hypotheses concerning the nature of East India Company's policies in governing British India in the era often described as "Shaking the Pagoda Tree."

The editor's introduction is another masterpiece of historical analysis of a most confused period of history. Dr. Sinha, through the letters published in this volume and with reference to the conclusions reached by historians of the past, has abundantly verified the fact that the Court of Directors, during Verelst's term in office as Governor of Bengal, was interested almost solely in milking the wealth of India into the coffers of the East India Company. To this end, the Directors sought to curtail the private profits of company servants. They sought to export as much silver bullion as possible from India to China to promote that trade. They worked to destroy the Indian silk cloth manufacturing industry by paying better wages to Indians to cultivate mulberry trees and wind raw silk than to weave. They sought, with partial success, to curtail the military establishment and limit the military operations of company servants in India to cut company expenditures. They also failed, though given ample warning, to do anything constructive to ameliorate the grisly famine of 1770.

An extremely early example of the policy of "divide and rule" appears in the directors' adoption of a recommendation of Lord Clive who advocated enlisting equal numbers of Hindu and Muslim sepoys in British army units to forestall any recurrence of mutiny as had occurred in 1764. The Governor of Bengal, his Council, and the company servants in India, the letters indicate, took exception to the Directors' military policy, and to their policy in restricting private trade. While both parties to this dispute sought to push their own economic advantage, the prosperity of Bengal gave way to the poverty of Bengal.

Dr. Sinha has arranged the letters under the two convenient headings *Letters from Court*, comprising a total of 261 printed pages, and *Letters to Court* occupying 353 pages. Several pages of notes explaining certain technical terms and points of historical significance are helpful as are the several maps and illustrations. Occasional minor errors of reference not included in the corrigenda appear, as on page 5 a letter cited under 16 March was actually written 17 March. Graduate students working in the British-Indian field would appreciate the addition of a glossary of the Anglo-Indian terms used in the volume, particularly such terms as do not appear in *Hobson-Jobson*.

ELMER H. CUTTS

Northeastern University

POSITION WANTED

Archivist: Experienced in handling special collections with world-wide contacts; photographic background. Write William F. Brinton, 327 Sharpless St., West Chester, Pa.