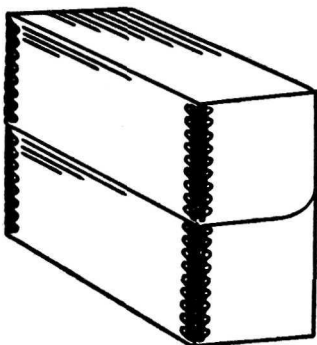


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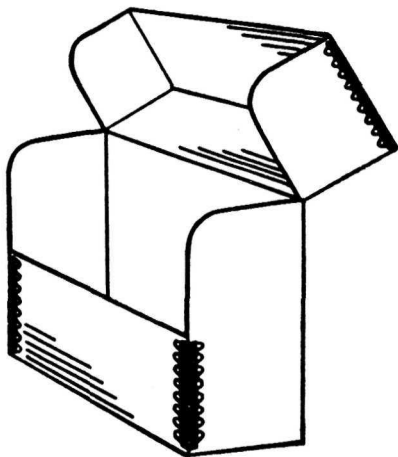
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One Solution for the Map-Handling Problem

By J. FRED WINKLER

National Archives

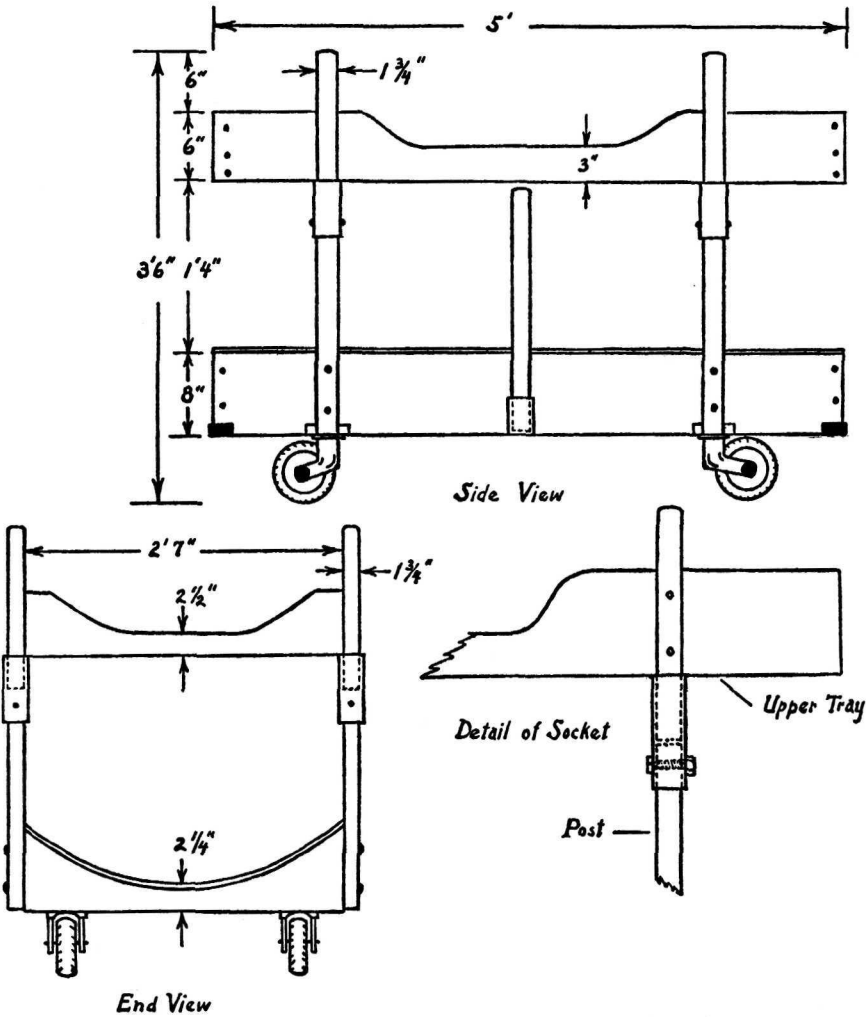
THE physical handling involved in moving map records to and fro during the normal activities of preserving, filing, and searching them presents a problem to all archivists.

As a solution to the problem the Cartographic Records Branch of the National Archives has designed and built a truck better suited to carrying a wide variety of map items than is the ordinary library book truck, which tends to be top-heavy and too narrow to hold large, brittle sheets and long rolls. Because of the generally fragile condition of most of the earlier map records, their awkward size, and their frequently awkward bulk, it was felt that the new truck would have to be of such proportions as to cradle safely sizeable numbers of the records, no matter in what form, while in transit between the stack areas and the office search room.

Maneuverability, over-all size, adaptability, and ease of manufacture had to be considered in designing a suitable truck. Both stationary (rigid) and swivel wheels were available from a previous project in the carpenter shop of the National Archives. Two trucks were built, one with all four wheels swiveling, the other with a rigid wheel at the center of each side and, as in the conventional library book truck, one swivel wheel at each end. In actual use, the latter type can be controlled better on straight courses, and the former is better suited for turning tight corners.

In arriving at workable dimensions for the width and length of the trucks the doorways and aisles that would be used then and in the foreseeable future had to be considered. So also did the factor of design simplicity, because the carpenter shop of the National Archives was to construct the trucks of easily available wood and hardware. The various types of archival record that the trucks were intended to transport dictated the general form evolved, with modifications prompted by experience on the part of the carpenter.

The accompanying sketch illustrates the features incorporated in the finished vehicle. As will be seen, the upper flat-bottomed tray is removable and is footed for easy lifting from the floor or other



flat surface. The feet hold the tray on the chassis by fitting into metal sockets fastened to the lower unit. The lower shelf is a curved sheet of Masonite or composition board, to support large items in narrower space than would be possible if they were carried flat and to accommodate large rolls that might slip off a flat-surface. Fixed side braces support the upper shelf or tray and also serve, with the aid of removable center guards, to hold in place any items on the lower shelf that might tend to shift in transit.

Figures for the amount of material used in making the two trucks are given here, together with approximate costs. The cost of man-hours (49), which varies in different localities, is not included.

8 casters	\$28.00
30 board feet of 1 inch poplar.....	11.00
25 board feet of pine shelving.....	10.00
40 square feet of Masonite board.....	2.80
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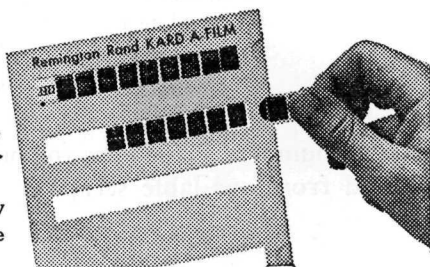


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A New Consideration for the Archivist¹

By MORTON BORDEN

The City College, New York

THE most modern researcher no longer arrives at a library burdened with a typewriter, grosses of filing cards, scores of sharpened pencils, and other paraphernalia. No longer does he spend months copying documents at one archival establishment. No longer are his fingers tired, his eyes bleary, his body exhausted.

This new researcher carries a Contoura Photo-copier and photographic paper in one briefcase. At a rate of ten seconds each, he records with precision and completeness all the documents he needs. Instead of months in each library, he spends days. Instead of being fatigued and weary, he feels comparatively relaxed at the close of a day's work.

This new technique amazes librarians, archivists, and fellow researchers who are unacquainted with a Contoura. They approach distrustfully, inquisitively, skeptically, disdainfully, timidly, inquiringly — but one and all fascinated. Does it really take pictures? Is it hard to operate? Is it expensive? Will it injure the manuscripts? Can it be used in all libraries? I have had the pleasure of answering these questions and scores of others, at libraries and archives in Washington, D. C., Baltimore, Dover, Wilmington, Philadelphia, and New York. It does take pictures, it is easy and cheap to operate, it does not harm the documents. Unfortunately, it cannot be used in all libraries.

The Contoura user merely requires an electrical outlet, a.c. or d.c., a table upon which to work, and a room with subdued lighting. (He does not need a darkroom, though it is desirable. Fluorescent lights, of any sort, cannot be used.) Here he can photograph, quickly and easily, all that he needs: letters, newspapers, official documents, pamphlets, and so forth.

¹ The Contoura Photo-copier, advertised elsewhere in this issue, presents new problems for consideration by librarians, archivists, and manuscript curators. An experienced Contoura user himself, Mr. Borden submitted this article to the editor of the *American Archivist* in the hope that its publication might smooth the way for his fellow students who wish to use Contoura in their research. Publication of the article does not, of course, constitute endorsement of Contoura by the Society of American Archivists.

Since the device is new, these facilities are sometimes unavailable. It becomes necessary for the researcher to discover utilizable working space. He will occasionally find himself in strange corners. At the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, for example, I was placed in the microfilm reading room. In the Newspaper Division of the same library, because the Contoura requires an electrical outlet, I was set off to one side, near Orientalia. The State archivist at Dover allowed me the use of the photographic laboratory. This was ideal. At the Maryland Historical Society I was placed in the "vault." Such a location may constitute a danger to the Contoura user. There I became absorbed in my work and lost track of time. The busy library staff forgot me as they closed the library. Even the janitor overlooked me. Other libraries, not practicing segregation, allow the Contoura user to associate with ordinary researchers employing typewriter or pencil.

Permission to use the Contoura was easily obtained in most libraries. At the National Archives telephone conversations with appropriate officials resulted in permission to photograph any unrestricted material. In local libraries a demonstration of the machine usually resulted in approval. The library staffs who refused permission mentioned their own photographic-duplication services. They feared that if they allowed researchers to use Contouras their own business would decrease.

Archivists and librarians must reorient themselves in dealing with Contoura users. This new species of researcher poses new problems. For example, the "old-style" researcher will spend hours and days over a few volumes. Most of this time is consumed in taking notes. With a Contoura, the documents are photographed in minutes. The "new-style" researcher, therefore, is continually requesting more material. The resulting problem for the librarian is to meet the rapid turnover of material. Librarians have made these remarks to me: "Oh! You couldn't possibly have finished all those volumes already!" "More material again? I've just given you some!" While the Contoura user is relaxed at closing time, the poor archivist is tired from bringing him documents all day long.

After the library closes, more work begins for the Contoura user. He must now develop his exposed paper. Chemicals are purchased at any photographic shop and mixed according to simple directions, and the prints are developed. If there are any failures in photography, he merely rephotographs those particular documents.

Before the advent of the Contoura, the weary researcher often balked at copying long passages. His fatigue sometimes robbed him

of necessary material. This caused time-consuming return visits. The Contoura user has no such problem. He is willing to take another ten seconds to photograph any material he may possibly need. To those opposed to any newfangled devices, the Contoura machine is a poor substitute for the traditional techniques of research. If you use the Contoura, they assert, you cannot immerse yourself in the material. This is fallacious, for the Contoura gives you the original document in its entirety. At home, you have the source material, instead of notes, to peruse at your leisure. One of these skeptics hovered about me at the National Archives, while I was working with the Contoura. He asked many questions concerning its operation and cost. Finally he inquired about the purpose of my research. I explained that it was for my Ph.D. dissertation at Columbia University. He snorted, "They ought to grant the degree to the Contoura!"

Probably the Contoura will receive no academic degrees. It is, however, becoming increasingly popular among researchers of all sorts. These researchers must always look to the archivist for aid, and today such aid should include facilities for the Contoura user.

News Notes

MARY C. LETHBRIDGE, Editor

Assisted by ROY HART, *National Archives*

*Department of State
Washington, D. C.*

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

The secretary reports that the following persons or institutions have been accepted by the council as members of the Society: Terry Beach, William Benedon, M. L. Clifton, Madeline C. Felix, Jason Horn, Vasant Gorind Joshi, Woll G. Robinson, Mohammed Nuras Saffa, Vernon V. Santen, Darell C. Swinney, R. K. Waldron, W. S. Wallace, Peter Walne, and the University of Toronto Library School.

Additions or changes should be made in the previously published list of committees, as follows:

Committee on College and University Archives: Rev. Henry J. Browne, chairman; Jacqueline Bull, Edith M. Fox.

Joint Committee on Historical Manuscripts: Philip C. Brooks.

Committee on Institutional and Business Archives: Irving C. Zitmore.

Committee on Membership: Henry E. Edmunds.

Committee on Local Arrangements, Sixteenth annual meeting: Thomas D. Clark, J. Winston Coleman, Mary H. Cooper, Mrs. Hammond Dugan, Mrs. Hazel Farris, Ezra L. Gillis, Bayless Hardin, Virginia Hayes, Roemel Henry, Roscoe Pierson, Lawrence Thompson, Polly Warren.

Everett Eugene Edwards, Department of Agriculture historian and editor of *Agricultural History*, died recently. Mr. Edwards was a valued member of the Society of American Archivists for many years.

The Society's Committee on International Relations reports that it is prepared to act as a central point of information about foreign archival institutions or conditions in them, to write letters of introduction, to help plan itineraries, and to assist in similar ways members of the Society and other American archivists who plan to go abroad for professional reasons. The committee hopes that returning travelers will send to it any comments, notes, reports, and the like, which the travelers believe will be helpful to others. Thus the committee may assist in giving such information wider distribution than it otherwise might receive.

Dr. Lester K. Born, chairman of the International Relations Committee and author of an article in this issue, is also the author of an interesting and useful article entitled "A Synthesis on 'Microfilm' at the Library of Congress," published in the *Journal of Documentation*, 8: 1-13 (Mar. 1952).

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

The Executive Board of the International Council on Archives held its annual meeting at the National Archives in Washington on April 9-11. In

attendance were M. Charles Braibant, Director of the Archives of France and President of the International Council; Dr. Lester K. Born, Special Assistant on Microfilm Program at the Library of Congress and Council Secretary General; Dr. Purnendu Basu, on leave from the National Archives of India to serve as Assistant Archivist of the United Nations in New York; Dr. Wayne C. Grover, Archivist of the United States and Council Vice President for the Western Hemisphere; and Dr. Solon J. Buck, Assistant Librarian of Congress. Several other members of the board were represented by proxy. The agenda for the business sessions included the reading and approval of minutes of the board meeting held in London, July 2-5, 1951; presentation and discussion of reports of the Treasurer, Secretary General, and chairmen of professional committees; discussion of plans for the Second International Congress on Archives to be held at The Hague, June 15-21, 1953; and other professional matters. Members of the board visited the Library of Congress and the Maryland Hall of Records, were greeted by the President of the United States at the White House, and were guests of the Washington members of the Society of American Archivists at a luncheon held in the Raleigh Hotel. M. Braibant, accompanied by Mme. Braibant, also visited the Virginia State Library at Richmond.

The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, which have been on display at the Library of Congress since 1921, except for the war years, are to be transferred to the National Archives sometime before the end of 1952. The official transfer ceremonies will probably take place in the National Archives Exhibition Hall on Bill of Rights Day, December 15. The change of location for these documents of American liberty was unanimously approved by the Joint Congressional Committee on the Library on April 30. The decision to transfer them was based, it is understood, on the fact that both "law and logic" made the National Archives the proper repository for them. In their protective helium cases they will be displayed, henceforth, in company with the Bill of Rights, which is to be similarly encased, in the shrine in the National Archives Exhibition Hall. Transferred with the Declaration and the Constitution will be the Articles of Confederation and the papers of the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention. These will be transferred in advance of the December 15 ceremonies.

Among records recently deposited in the National Archives are those of United States District Attorneys for the Eastern District of Virginia, 1868-85, the Western District of Wisconsin, 1894-1908, the District of Arizona, 1903-9, and the Northern District of New York, 1928-29, concerning legal matters involving Reconstruction, public land titles, the introduction of liquor on reservation lands, Indian administration, the administration of justice in Arizona Territory, and cooperation between rail and water carriers; correspondence and press releases of the Office of Information of the Department of Agriculture, 1913-44; materials accumulated by the Economic Adviser and the Special Assistant to the United States High Commissioner to the Philippine Islands, chiefly 1940-46, documenting policies, plans, and actions of the United States Government with respect to the defense of the Philippines, the

operations of the Philippine Government-in-Exile, the reoccupation of the Islands, the reestablishment of civil government, and the recognition of Philippine independence; case files of the Department of Labor containing information filed under provisions of the Taft-Hartley Labor-Management Act of 1947 by local, national and international labor organizations for the years 1946-48; central correspondence files of the Office of the Secretary of War, 1932-42; prints (41,500) from the Signal Corps photographic file illustrating military scenes and events in American history for the period 1775-1938; and 27,000 maps, drawings, plans, and photographs accumulated by the Office of the Chief of Engineers, War Department, pertaining to fortified sites in the United States and its possessions, 1900-1939.

Positive microfilm prints of the following are newly available through the National Archives microfilm publication program: State Department records documenting United States relations with Argentina, 1817-1906 (73 rolls); despatches from United States ministers to Mexico, 1823-72 (39 rolls), and to Venezuela, 1835-72 (21 rolls); letters received by the Secretary of the Navy from Commanding Officers of the East India Squadron, 1841-61 (13 rolls), the Brazil Squadron, 1841-61 (17 rolls), the African Squadron, 1843-61 (12 rolls), and the Asiatic Squadron, 1865-85 (21 rolls); correspondence of the Secretary of the Navy relating to African colonization, 1819-44 (2 rolls); letter books of Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commanding officer of the African Squadron, 1843-45 (1 roll); records of the Cherokee Indian Agency in Tennessee, 1801-35 (14 rolls); Interior Department Territorial papers for Wyoming, 1870-90 (6 rolls); letters received by the Secretary of the Treasury from Collectors of Customs at New York, 1834-69 (67 rolls); and the *Federal Register* for 1951 (6 rolls).

The National Archives has issued for staff use a *Handbook of Procedures*. Prepared in loose-leaf form to permit insertion or removal of pages, it is divided into five chapters dealing respectively with organization and internal management, disposition of records, preservation and arrangement, description and publication, and reference service. An appendix contains instructions for the use of the forms used by the National Archives and models to be followed in the preparation of certain types of reports and formal papers. Copies of the *Handbook*, without the appendix, are available for distribution to archival agencies only.

Finding aids recently published by the National Archives include preliminary inventories of the records of the Solid Fuels Administration for War, the Office of Government Reports, the Bureau of the First Assistant Postmaster General, the Weather Bureau (climatological and hydrological records), the Hydrographic Office, and the United States Mint at Philadelphia. A limited number of copies of these publications are available upon request.

Herman R. Friis, a member of the National Archives staff since March 1938, has been appointed chief archivist of the Cartographic Records Branch to succeed the late W. L. G. Joerg. Chester L. Guthrie of the Records Management Division has been appointed records officer of the General Services Administration.

The President of the United States has appointed Prof. Arthur M. Schlesinger of Harvard University to be a member of the National Historical Publications Commission in the place of Mr. George M. Elsey, whose term has expired.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The personal papers of the late Harold L. Ickes have been presented by Mrs. Ickes to the Library of Congress. They cover the period 1905-51 and include correspondence, articles, and speeches of the former Secretary of the Interior. They comprise more than 150,000 items and relate to Mr. Ickes' work as a lawyer in Chicago and his activities in early municipal reform and in national politics as well as to his career as a member of the Cabinet. At present the use of the material is restricted. Mrs. Ickes, in presenting her late husband's papers, expressed the hope that other persons who have papers relating to Mr. Ickes and his public service will present them to the library.

Mrs. Woodrow Wilson has presented some 10,000 papers to be added to the Woodrow Wilson Collection. Besides correspondence, there are notes and drafts for college lectures and addresses, many manuscripts of Wilson's books and articles, and a large group of memorabilia such as medals, diplomas, and illuminated scrolls. Much of the correspondence was written in 1910, a period that was previously rather poorly documented in the library's Wilson Collection.

The Lincoln materials in the library have been increased by two recent gifts. On April 28 Alfred Whital Stern of Chicago presented the printer's copy of the Lincoln-Douglas debates and a letter from Lincoln to Dr. Charles H. Ray of the *Chicago Press & Tribune* requesting two sets of that newspaper's reports on the debates. Mr. Stern purchased the letter and Lincoln's scrapbook, which constitutes the printer's copy for the debates, at the auction sale of the Oliver R. Barrett Collection of *Lincolniana* in February. He paid \$24,000 for the scrapbook and \$600 for the letter. Lewis M. Rabinowitz of New York has given the library a group of photographs and other picture materials relating to Lincoln, also purchased at the Barrett sale. The outstanding item is an original ambrotype (Meserve No. 12), and there are also photographs of a group in front of Lincoln's family home in Springfield at the time of his funeral; several other photographs taken at the time of the funeral; a good print of Gardner's portrait, which was painted on November 15, 1863 (Meserve No. 58); a contemporary print of Hessler's portrait of June 3, 1860 (Meserve No. 28); and a copy enlargement of Warren's portrait of March 6, 1865 (Meserve No. 93). There are also photographs of street scenes in Springfield in 1858 and of the crowd at the second inaugural and 16 views of Washington, D. C., that bear 1866 revenue stamps. Also in the acquisition are Mr. Barrett's photographic negatives of the other portraits in his collection, including four-color separation films and a color transparency of the famous Lambdin painting, a number of lithographed portraits of Lincoln's associates, historical prints, cartoons, and campaign materials.

A collection of 278 items, mostly historic photographs, presented by the National League of Women Voters, has been cataloged and is available for use in the Prints and Photographs Division. It contains more than 100 portraits of women who were active in the campaign to obtain women's suffrage or as members of the League, a selection of unusual news photographs, pictorial material assembled by the League for education purposes, and postcard pictures of a tableau presented on the steps of the U. S. Treasury Building on March 3, 1913, the day the suffrage procession marched up Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol.

Jascha Heifetz, eminent violin virtuoso, presented a collection of autograph musical scores, letters, and early editions of musical compositions to the library on February 21. The letters in the collection were written to Heifetz by such persons as George Bernard Shaw, Chaliapin, Nellie Melba, Medtner, Pierne, Glazounoff, Mary Garden, and Nadia Boulanger. Some relate to musical compositions and others, including the Shaw note, contain comments about his performances.

Jean Hersholt, the actor and book collector, and Mrs. Hersholt in April presented part of their collection of the works of the Danish author, Hans Christian Andersen, to the library. They have willed their entire collection of Andersen manuscripts, first editions, and letters in the Danish language to the library in gratitude for all this country has brought to them. They have also announced that they will give their Andersen materials in the English language to the Andersen Museum in Odense, Denmark.

Also acquired by the library are: a group of manuscripts that supplement the papers of William Short, diplomat and private secretary of Thomas Jefferson; the papers of Leland Harrison, career diplomat and diplomatic secretary to the American Commission at the Peace Conference of 1919; and a part of the papers of Charles L. McNary, United States Senator from Oregon from 1917-44. McNary papers primarily of State interest have been presented to the University of Oregon.

Howard H. Bell has been appointed accessioner and specialist in American literary and social developments on the staff of the Manuscripts Division, and Schafer Williams has been appointed Hispanic manuscripts specialist to fill the vacancy created by the retirement on March 31 of Stella R. Clemence.

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY

The Bureau of Old Age and Survivors' Insurance in April inaugurated a project to safeguard the more than 130,000,000 items in the national employee index file. The documents will be sprayed with a quick-drying transparent liquid plastic to protect them against wear and dirt resulting from frequent handling. It is expected that the process can be completed by two men within a year. Although the plastic coating obtained by the process is considered less durable than a laminated finish, it is expected to furnish adequate protection for social security records at a fraction of the cost of lamination.

TRAINING OF ARCHIVISTS

From York, England, comes the announcement by the Rev. J. S. Purvis, archivist of the York Diocesan Registry, that the Fourth Summer School of Archives and Historical Research will be held at St. John's College August 9-23, 1952. A prospectus giving details of the program and fees may be obtained by writing the York Civic Trust, St. Anthony's Hall, Peaseholme Green, York, England.

Thirty-one young experts representing seven countries of Europe and the Middle East (Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, and Lebanon) recently participated in a technical seminar on the constitution and conservation of archives. According to release no. 158 of *Unesco World Review*, dated February 23, 1952, this seminar, which was held in Paris, was organized by the French Archives Society in cooperation with the International Council on Archives. Its purpose was to help young specialists complete their technical and professional experience in the study and conservation of historical and administrative documents.

COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL
AND SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES

The executive committee of this organization, formerly known as the Joint Committee for the Protection of Cultural Resources in an Emergency, held a meeting on March 21, 1952. The committee is an independent organization composed of representatives of professional associations (including the Society of American Archivists) that have a primary interest in the protection from war or other hazards of the materials of social, scientific and technical progress, of scholarship, and of the American cultural heritage. Represented are the interests of libraries, archives, museums, art galleries, and national research councils.

The committee has a twofold purpose: (1) the preparation of plans to protect existing collections of intellectual and cultural materials from the hazards of bombing, fire and civil disturbance; and (2) the stimulation of plans for the continuance under abnormal conditions of intellectual functions if their interruption or discontinuance might seriously cripple the country's defense. The committee, as an advisory body, will seek to assist organizations and institutions in planning protective measures by gathering and digesting information and disseminating it to individuals, organized groups, and Federal agencies. The committee will have close liaison with the National Security Resources Board, the Federal Civil Defense Administration, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Science Foundation, the Interdepartmental Committee for Scientific Research and Development, and the General Services Administration.

The committee urges the establishment of regional, State, and local committees for the protection of materials of cultural, scientific, and historic importance. An article by Scott Adams entitled "Books and the Bomb," published in the February 1952 *ALA Bulletin*, deals with the committee's work.

Further information about it may be obtained by writing Dr. Burton W. Adkinson, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D. C.

AMERICAN DOCUMENTATION INSTITUTE

The American Documentation Institute held its fifteenth annual general meeting at the Library of Congress, February 26-27. Representatives of 69 scientific and professional organizations, learned societies, and Government agencies attended. In addition to discussing new developments in the field of documentation, the Institute considered a proposal to reconstitute itself as a professional society of those concerned with documentation and the organization and transmission of information. The membership committee recommended the change as one that would recognize the new profession of documentation and would eliminate the present requirement that members be nominated by a designated group of "nominating agencies" named by the board of trustees.

On the afternoon of February 26, Mr. R. L. Zwemer spoke on "Current Issues in Documentation," and Eugene W. Scott of the Research and Development Board presided at a symposium on "Microfacsimile Publication — Microfilm, Microcard, and Microprint." The participants in the symposium were Eugene B. Power of University Microfilms, Inc., Ann Arbor, Mich.; Fremont Rider, librarian of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.; Albert Boni, president of the Readex Microprint Corporation, Chester, Vt.; and Dwight E. Gray of the Library of Congress.

Ralph R. Shaw, librarian of the United States Department of Agriculture, presided at the morning session on February 27, which was devoted to a symposium on "Rationalization of Subject Controls." The other participants were Verner W. Clapp of the Library of Congress, representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science, who discussed "The Nature of Controls and Levels of Controls"; Jesse H. Shera of the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago, who discussed the "Effect of Machine Methods on Organization of Knowledge"; and Mortimer Taube of the Special Libraries Association, whose subject was "Possibilities for Cooperative Work in Subject Fields."

The following were elected as trustees: Dr. Evans, Dr. Milton O. Lee of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Dr. Watson Davis of Science Service, Mr. Power, and Dr. Shaw. The trustees elected the following officers: president, Dr. Evans; vice president, Dr. Lee; treasurer, Dr. Davis; and secretary, George Miles Conrad.

NATIONAL MICROFILM ASSOCIATION

The following note is abstracted from the Library of Congress *Information Bulletin*, March 31, 1952.

The National Microfilm Association, which has been inactive for several years, was reactivated at a meeting in the Library of Congress on February 28, attended by 100 delegates and individuals representing some 35 manufacturing firms, libraries, and other organizations interested in the subject of

microfilm. An exhibit of documentary reproduction equipment, installed in connection with the meeting of the American Documentation Institute, was continued for the National Microfilm Association meeting.

Four papers were featured at the morning session: "16-mm. Reproduction of Records," by Edward Rosse of the Federal Security Agency; "35-mm. Techniques and Uses," by R. W. Batchelder of the Graphic Microfilm Corporation; "Application of 70-mm. film," by George Cameron of the Microtronics Corporation; and "Basic Legislation on Legality of Microfilm," by Daniel F. Noll of the National Archives. At the luncheon meeting the Librarian of Congress summarized the history of commercial and academic microfilming and George A. Schwegmann, Jr., emphasized the need for adherence to strict standards, particularly in the production of microfilms of newspapers and other historical materials. In the afternoon representatives of manufacturers and suppliers of photographic equipment and materials discussed their respective products, including items still being developed. Described were a new low-priced flat film reader in development by the Griscombe Manufacturing Co.; Xerography and a continuous microfilm enlarger and a dry method of making paper reproductions from microfilm in a reading machine, in development by the Haloid Co.; two new reading machines, Bell and Howell microfilm equipment, one of which is combined with a high speed rotary microfilm camera; research in progress in the E. I. Du Pont Co. on a new microfilm base that emphasizes stiffness, stability, and toughness; the extensive line of Kodagraph equipment, including Kodachrome spooled for use in microfilm cameras; the 70-mm. equipment manufactured by the Microtronics Corporation; and several models of slotted cards developed by Filmsort, Inc., for 16-mm. and 35-mm. film, which, with special reading equipment, provide ready reference to records on film.

At the evening business session the following officers were elected: Eugene B. Power, president; Hendrix TenEyck, vice president; and R. S. Ellsworth, treasurer.

Proposed activities of the Association discussed at the meeting were:

Establishment of Standards. If standard practice can be defined in terms that are understood throughout the industry and by the general public as well, the result will benefit industry and consumer alike. Even the standardization of technical terms would be of value. (Copies of the *Proposed Standard for the Microphotographic Reproduction of Newspapers*, developed by the Association of Research Libraries' Committee on Cooperative Microfilming, were distributed to all persons attending the meeting.)

Accrediting. If a seal or other symbol can be devised that will identify firms that subscribe to industry-wide standards the consumer will be protected from irresponsible activities.

Information. There is a need for a clearing house to inform microfilm producers of new products and technical advances; many problems can be solved within the industry through cooperation in the exchange of information.

FOREIGN NEWS

Mexico

Dr. Julio Jimenéz Rueda, director of the Archivo General de la Nación, has retired. He will devote his time to teaching at the National University.

Dr. José Romano Muñoz has been named to the post of director of the Archivo General.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Interesting accessions have recently been made to the holdings of the Department of Archives and Manuscripts at the Catholic University of America. From the Province of the Immaculate Conception, Friars Minor Conventual, have come 20 linear inches of manuscript records of the Fenian movement. These letters, ledgers, and booklets were used in part by William D'Arcy, O. F. M. Conv., in his study of this Irish-American movement, published a few years ago. Bishop William O. Brady of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, presented 31 documents, personal papers of Thomas O'Gorman, professor of church history at the university from 1890 to 1896 and Bishop of Sioux Falls from 1896 to 1921. These manuscripts date from 1821 to 1902 and include materials from Archbishop Ireland that touch not only on the university but on such matters as the Philippine question in 1902. The recent interest in United States-Vatican relations and an exhibit in November of documents and books in the university's library relating to their background occasioned the gift by Dr. Leo Stock of photostats of sixteen documents from the consular records of the Department of State. They date from 1825 to 1865 and were not used by Dr. Stock in his publication, *Consular Relations between the United States and the Papal States, 1797-1870*.

FLORIDA

Dorothy Dodd, a member of the Society of American Archivists, has been appointed State librarian and secretary of the Florida State Library Board. Dr. Dodd joined the State Library as archivist in 1941 and became acting State librarian at the death of W. T. Cash, July 8, 1951.

GEORGIA

The State Budget Commission has approved proposed operating expenses for the Georgia Historical Commission for the first month, thereby putting the commission into business on a full-time basis. The commission was created in 1951 as a part of the office of the Secretary of State. On April 6, 1951, Secretary of State Ben W. Fortson, Jr., appointed the following persons as members: H. A. Alexander, chairman, Atlanta; Milton Fleetwood, Cartersville; Alexander A. Lawrence, Savannah; Joseph B. Cumming, Augusta; and Dr. A. R. Kelly, University of Georgia, Athens. The commission was set up (1) to promote and increase knowledge and understanding of Georgia's history; (2) to promote and assist in publicizing the State's historical resources; and (3) to coordinate the activities of all groups and governmental agencies concerned with historical information and research.

Alexander M. Hitz, Atlanta lawyer and a director of the Atlanta Historical Society, is reindexing the State land records. They consist of headright and bounty grants, lottery grants, and records of surveys and fraudulent and re-

verted lots and fractions. This large and active body of records was recently turned over to the Department of Archives by the Secretary of State.

Three Recordak machines have been installed in the office of the Secretary of State and in the Department of Archives and History. Approximately 290,000 documents in the office of the Secretary of State have been micro-filmed on 14,400 feet of film. The 1951 General Assembly appropriated \$20,000 to the Secretary of State "for cost of housing and safekeeping permanent and valuable State records and for microfilming of permanent and valuable State Records."

ILLINOIS

The highest price ever paid for a collection of Lincoln letters was paid at the Barrett Collection sale at the Parke-Bernet Galleries in February. Fourteen signed letters that Lincoln wrote to his friend Joshua Fry Speed were purchased by the Barrett Lincoln Collection Fund for \$35,000. They will be given to the Illinois State Historical Library.

INDIANA

While doing research in European libraries and archives on the subject of the so-called heresy of "Americanism," Thomas T. McAvoy, C.S.C., archivist of the University of Notre Dame, obtained the collection of papers of the Abbé Felix Klein on the topic. Abbé Klein, who figured prominently in the controversy over "Americanism," 1897-1900, is the sole survivor of the controversy. The papers will be available to scholars after they have been arranged and classified.

KENTUCKY

The Department of History, University of Kentucky, has announced that through the university research facilities in cooperation with the National Historical Publications Commission, it is endeavoring to compile and publish the papers of Henry Clay. Letters both *to* and *by* Clay, other materials of which Clay was the author, and particularly significant items *about* him will be included. If any readers of the *American Archivist* have information concerning Clay documents, they should write to James F. Hopkins, University of Kentucky, Lexington, about them.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts State Archives reported in December that election documents listing campaign expenses of a State official in winning nomination in 1950 were believed stolen from the State House on November 21. The election papers are public documents and may be examined by any person who asks to see them. After signing what proved to be a false name and address in the register, a man who had asked to examine the papers of all candidates apparently extracted one set and disappeared while the archivist was in another room. State police were investigating the loss, according to the Boston papers.

NEW JERSEY

The publishing house of Henry Holt in New York recently turned over 400,000 documents to Princeton University's Archives of American Letters. These papers cover 86 years of publishing and literary history and include letters to, from, and about such authors as Thomas Hardy, William James, and Henry Adams.

PENNSYLVANIA

As part of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Philadelphia Bar Association in March, the wills of seven signers of the Declaration of Independence were placed on exhibition. Public showing of the wills was made possible by an act of the Pennsylvania legislature that authorized the Register of Wills of Philadelphia to remove the documents, with court approval, from files dating back to 1682. Among the wills exhibited are those of Benjamin Franklin, Dr. Benjamin Rush, James Wilson, George Ross, Robert Morris, George Clymer, and Francis Hopkinson.

Also displayed in exhibits arranged by the association, which claims to be the oldest of its kind in the United States, are a number of other priceless documents associated with human freedom. Among these are a draft of the Declaration of Independence, penned by Thomas Jefferson, (on display at the American Philosophical Society) and the James Wilson draft of the Federal Constitution (on exhibit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania). The historical society also is showing other treasures of early American history, including the law library of Abraham Lincoln. Other institutions cooperating in the exhibits are the University of Pennsylvania Museum, Temple University, the Atwater Kent Museum, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Daniel H. Thomas of the University of Rhode Island and Lynn M. Case of the University of Pennsylvania are editing a volume on the diplomatic archives of western Europe. The 19 authors are former students or friends of William E. Lingelbach (emeritus professor, University of Pennsylvania, and librarian and archivist of the American Philosophical Society), in whose honor the book is being written.

A separate chapter will be devoted to the foreign ministry archives of each of the 15 westernmost states in Europe. Other chapters are devoted to the diplomatic archives of Bavaria, the British Labor Party, the League of Nations and United Nations, and UNESCO. A brief history of the archives will open each chapter. A second section will contain a description of the classification and organization of its records, a list of any private papers in its custody, a list of the printed or manuscript guides available, and pertinent suggestions for most effective research in its records. Another section will indicate the records that are open to the private scholar, and the procedures to be followed in obtaining their use, the titles of officials in charge, the facilities and hours of the reading room, the dates of any annual closing, and the facilities available for microfilming. Bibliographies will list any printed materials relating to the de-

positories and the titles of all sizable collections of published documents. Publication is scheduled for 1953.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The South Carolina Historical Commission has recently published the second volume of *The Colonial Records of South Carolina*, expected to run to about 40 volumes. The Commission announces that it is also "endeavoring to compile an inventory of [the unpublished documents in its colonial collection] . . . and to assemble a loan collection of microfilms of the more important ones."

TEXAS

The Fleming Library of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth has sponsored the microfilming of approximately 1,127 of the more important works listed in W. W. Whitley's *Baptist Bibliography*. These items, totaling more than 100,000 pages, are filmed on about 50 reels. Copies of the film have been acquired by the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, and the library of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, which can supply positive prints to other libraries.

WASHINGTON

As a result of studies and recommendations made by the Washington Library Association's Historical Newspaper Microfilm Committee, of which Mrs. Alta M. Grim is chairman, the legislature of the State of Washington has authorized the Washington State Library to establish a microphotographic laboratory and to begin the microfilming of Washington newspapers and has provided an initial appropriation of \$20,110.80 for that purpose. The committee has made the following recommendations to the State Library: (1) the State Library should emphasize the production of master negatives and assume the responsibility for maintaining them; (2) in pricing copies to be sold to other libraries or institutions, a surcharge of 1 cent per foot should be made to aid in amortizing the cost of the original negatives and to provide funds for continuing the project; and (3) because the cooperation of newspaper publishers is necessary for completing the historical project and initiating a program for microfilming current newspapers, publishers should designate representatives to serve on the committee. Only newspapers published in the State before 1900 have thus far been microfilmed.

WISCONSIN

What are believed to be the first accredited courses in the work of historical agencies are being offered this semester at the Library School of the University of Wisconsin, by the staff of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The four courses, to be given one a semester, will cover the fields of historical records including: printed records, private manuscripts, and public archives; his-

torical museums, sites, and restorations; State and local historiography; and the history and administration of historical agencies.

The courses will be taught by the staff of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin under the supervision of a committee of the university's graduate faculty. Objective of the courses will be to give students a knowledge of the history, purposes, scope, and potentialities of national, State, and local historical agencies and to acquaint them with research and writing techniques and the literature, finding aids, and other tools relating to historical work.

The courses are open to graduate students and to undergraduates with 12 points or credits in American history from an accredited college or university. The complete unit of four courses is allowed as a minor field for the Ph.D. degree in American history, and students in art history, anthropology, and geography, may also find the courses valuable. The first course, which began in February, is being given by Dr. Benton Wilcox, Society librarian; Alice E. Smith, chief of research; and Jesse E. Boell, archivist, and will cover the field of historical records.

The museum course will be given in the summer session; the course on historiography and historical agencies in the coming academic year. It is planned to give these courses in this order of rotation in the future. Further details may be had from Miss Rachel Schenk, director of the Library School, University of Wisconsin, Madison; or from Dr. Clifford Lord, director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison 6, Wisconsin.

