

# Reviews of Books

RICHARD G. WOOD, *Editor*

*National Archives*

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*Archivum: Revue Internationale des Archives.* Published under the auspices of the International Council on Archives. (Paris, France, Presses Universitaires de France, 1951, première année, numéro 1. Pp. 143. 600 fr. in France, 700 fr. elsewhere; de luxe edition 1,000 fr.).

This number, the only one for 1950, is the initial number of the international journal on archives that grew out of the First International Congress on Archives, held at Paris in August 1950. It relates entirely to the Congress, an admirable account of which was given by Margaret Norton in the January 1951 issue of the *American Archivist*. It includes transcripts of the proceedings of the four plenary sessions devoted to the control of archives, microphotography, private (economic) archives, and bibliographical publications relating to archives.

This preliminary number of *Archivum* is entirely unrepresentative of the journal as planned, and purposely so. But it is a vital number because it contains the discussions that resulted in the review's creation. Specifically, it contains a report on the possibility of an international journal, based on a questionnaire sent to delegates of all countries and prepared by Emilio Re, inspector general of the State Archives of Italy; an effective presentation of the nature of an ideal international journal by Robert-Henri Bautier, archivist, Archives Nationales, France; and a resolution for the establishment of such a journal by Charles Samaran, honorary director of the Archives de France.

M. Bautier felt that such an international journal should contain basic articles not only on specialized archival subjects but also on specific archival source materials for history in specific depositories. He felt that such a journal should also contain a bibliography, perhaps annual, of the principal finding aids and inventories currently published; rules and regulations of archival establishments in different countries; and notices of meetings, communications of the International Council on Archives, and other news items. Articles, he thought, could appear in one of five stated languages, but partially to overcome language barriers, an article in one of the languages might be accompanied by brief résumé in one of the other languages.

This journal could render an outstanding service to those research students whose studies take them beyond the confines of their own country. I refer particularly to students of diplomatic history, of European history, and of genealogy. These students often cannot find without much correspondence the finding aids available on their subjects, the extent to which microfilm and photostatic facilities are available in the larger archives, and the extent to which correspondence files of the foreign or other offices of the major European countries are open for inspection. Perhaps a series of comparative studies relating to

archives of different countries, each carried on cooperatively, might be enlightening both to researchers and to archivists. Such studies could give the details not to be found in a general guide.

One is impressed with the fact that the journal was founded by men of sound ideals who sought a journal of the highest professional standards and one that would have world-wide recognition. Its experienced French editor, André Artonne, feels that it will be an indispensable finding aid and guide. M. Artonne is aided by an editorial committee of the highest caliber: Sir Hilary Jenkinson (England), Dr. D. P. M. Graswinckel (The Netherlands), and Dr. Lester K. Born (United States). The appearance of the 1952 number will be awaited with much interest, for in a true sense that number will mark the real debut of *Archivum*.

MEREDITH B. COLKET, JR.

#### *National Archives*

*A.B.C.D. Archives, Bibliothèques, Collections, Documentation*. Volume I, nos. 4 and 5 (November-December, 1951. January-February, 1952). (Paris, 1951-1952. Pp. 89-122; 123-146. France. 1200 fr. Foreign, 1800 fr. yearly.)

This most recent archival review to make its appearance for the benefit of all archivists comes to us from France. Its alphabetical title *ABCD* is an abbreviation for *Archives, Bibliothèques, Collections, Documentation*. The *ABCD* is a timely contribution for the study and better understanding of world-wide archival problems as it is essentially devoted to the presentation of international archival practices and problems faced by archivists, librarians, and others in related fields.

The *ABCD*, published six times annually, contains a wide selection of articles. Its scope is such that it should interest archivists, librarians, and others in related professions. It is published under the auspices of the Professional Association of French Archivists, the Association of French Librarians, the Association of Conservators of the Public Records of France, and the French Union of Institutions for Documentation. Most of the contributors are French, but the articles focus upon the formulation of techniques of classification, terminology, and documentation adaptable for world-wide use.

The fourth and fifth issues of *ABCD* contain a variety of material that should be of particular interest to archivists. The fourth issue (November-December, 1951) is devoted to the Eighteenth International Conference on Documentation, held in Rome last September. Each of the many groups represented at the conference held sessions to discuss current records problems, and the results of the discussions were summarized in brief speeches. Several of the speeches should be of particular interest to American archivists as they touch on problems that have not been completely solved. Paul Poindron, in an address entitled "Technical Means—Application of Documentation" expressed the hopes (1) that standardization of microfilming with 35 mm. film be universally accepted, (2) that individual rolls be clearly documented to eliminate errors, and (3) that the use of terms "microphotography" and "photomicrography" be clearly distinguished. (The former term coincides with National

Archives usage of the term "microfilming" while the latter refers to photography with the intermediate use of a microscope.) In another address Mme. Dodet, discussing "Bibliography and Analysis," stressed the importance of the standardization of bibliographical citations and the adoption of uniform analytical methods in conjunction with UNESCO. Still another speaker, R. Wilner, suggested in "Problems of General Classification" that the study already begun to harmonize the differences in numerous classification schemes be continued in order to obtain as soon as possible the adoption of a universal classification system. Similar suggestions were made also in regard to the work on a universal decimal system, which is nearing a degree of completion.

In the fifth issue *ABCD* (January-February 1952) the archivist of Greece, C. Constantinidis, gives an illuminating account of the conditions and problems facing Greek archivists. Interestingly enough, most of the Greek records are of the modern era, few dating earlier than the 1820s. In 1940, at the time of the Italian invasion, Greek archivists worked diligently to evacuate some 100 cases of the most valuable documents and records. These were hastily crated and transported to the Bank of Greece. Here, strangely enough, work on the records continued without interruption during the German occupation. In contrast to this happy situation, the internal strife, 1946-49, between differing political factions and ideologies resulted in the destruction of a number of documents that had been preserved through the centuries in isolated convents and monasteries. Similarly, other records of this type had earlier been destroyed during the prolonged occupation by the Turks — some 400 years. Exceptions to this wanton destruction are to be found in the islands, where many records have been preserved. For example, the archives on the island of Crete, which was never really subdued by any conquerors, contain copies of records relating to the Venetians and the history of Crete, 1182-1669. M. Constantinidis' chief complaint is the lack of trained archivists to care for all of these records. "Termites and the humidity have been working more diligently and effectively than the meager staff at his disposal." Many more qualified people are needed to classify and index records that for the most part have remained unattended.

It is encouraging to note that the problems faced by all European archivists due to the destructiveness of two world wars are gradually being resolved. Records, documents, and manuscripts damaged during these wars are being restored and classified; and, whenever possible, lost records are being replaced with facsimiles and the like. The spirit of international archival cooperation that prevails, the iron curtain countries notwithstanding, has been effectively translated into action. One of the best ways for archivists to obtain public support and recognition for their achievements has been through well-planned exhibits. Jacques Lethève in his article "Exhibitions in Libraries in 1951" stresses the view that by discreet selection of historical documents, whether they be personal or national in origin, a means has been found to attract the public and to imbue it with the realization that records are the true documentation of a nation's heritage.

These two issues of *ABCD* contain other articles and addresses that are not here described. Suffice it to say, they are as interesting as those already men-

tioned, and those who can read French would do well to obtain copies of this review. It is indeed a valuable contribution to the needs of all archivists.

ALEXANDER P. MAVRO

*National Archives*

*Lancashire County Record Office Report for 1951.* ([Preston, England]), 1952 [?]. Pp. 24.)

This report represents a departure from the usual report of its type. Statistics of the year's activities in the office and in connection with the Festival of Britain are given in narrative form. A list of the accessions, gifts from some 60 individuals and institutions, is arranged alphabetically by donor. As is to be the practice in future reports, one type of county archives, in this case the probate records, is discussed in some detail. The report closes with a brief account of the activities of William Prynne, keeper of the records in the Tower of London under Charles II, and some humorous sidelights on office routine. The frontispiece is a portrait of a seventeenth-century Lancashire clerk of the peace and there are three photostats illustrating recent acquisitions. The report is intended to encourage interest in the records of the county, an interest no doubt stimulated by the Festival of Britain and by the work of the National Register of Archives, which is making a concerted effort to locate and catalog family papers and other records now in private hands and to secure their deposit in London or in local repositories.

ELISABETH G. KIMBALL

*Princeton, New Jersey*

*Catalogues of Presbyterian and Reformed Institutions*, by Thomas H. Spence. (Montreat, N. C. Historical Foundation Publications, 1952. Pp. 39.)

Calling attention to the value of school catalogs as archival material, Mr. Spence begins this publication by stating that "catalogues may eventually be accorded their rightful place in American literature." He points out that, although they are "official publications which constitute the bases of potential contracts with students, recruiting emissaries of no inconsiderable usefulness, [and] the objects of minutely exhaustive examination by accrediting agents when the institution involved is an applicant for recognition by such bodies," still they are "among the least likely type of printed materials to be preserved."

In Part I of this booklet, Mr. Spence illustrates the value and utility of school catalogs by presenting short sketches drawn from information in catalogs of institutions affiliated or associated with the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. Among the subjects discussed are the origin and aims of schools, physical accommodations, social activities of college students, the changing attitude of school officials toward athletics and sports, the cost of education, and information on curricula, credits, and degrees. The sketches are heavily footnoted with references to various school catalogs.

Part II consists of a list of the catalogs of past and present educational institutions affiliated or associated with the Presbyterian Reformed Churches,

copies of which are in the Historical Foundation, Montreat, N. C. Arranged under the five categories of colleges, schools, theological seminaries, universities, and other institutions, the list gives for each entry the name of the institution, the church with which it is or was affiliated or associated, the address, the date of the institution's establishment, explanatory notes (when deemed helpful), and the dates of the catalogs in the possession of the Historical Foundation.

MABEL DEUTRICH

*National Archives*

*A Brief Guide to the Record Groups in the Archives Department of Colonial Williamsburg*, prepared by the Archives Department of Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. (Williamsburg, Va. Colonial Williamsburg, 1951. Pp. 8. Processed.)

This small publication provides an excellent guide to a unique group of records that may well be of increasing importance. Colonial Williamsburg was one of the first restoration projects in the United States to be undertaken on a large and exact scale. The records described here are those accumulated, after a disposal schedule for nonrecord materials, from the time Colonial Williamsburg began as an organization 25 years ago. From the preface to the guide it is evident that the work is intended chiefly as a guide to employees of the organization for their use "in developing the second quarter-century" of the project.

The logical arrangement of the series of records and their grouping by general subjects, as well as their clear though brief descriptions, enables one to see at a glance the type of material that is available. Although correspondence apparently makes up most of the records, there are also copies of legal documents, including contracts and leases; financial records; records maintained by architectural and construction firms during the process of restoration; and pamphlets, art work, and negative photographs used or considered for use in publicity for the project. The description of the records gives evidence of the tremendous amount of detailed work, planning, and skill that has been necessary to put Colonial Williamsburg on the touring agenda of virtually every person in the country. These records, as a result of their arrangement, accessibility, and description, may well serve as an example for other organizations planning a similar project. It is evident that colonial Williamsburg believes that its records should be *used*.

MARY JOHNSON

*National Archives*

*Annual Report of the Historical Commission of South Carolina to the General Assembly of South Carolina at the Regular Session of 1952*. (Columbia. Printed Under the Direction of the State Budget and Control Board, 1952. Pp. 15.)

In South Carolina official State archival activities are the responsibility of the State's Historical Commission. From this report it is evident that South

Carolina is burdened with problems common to many State archival agencies — a small and underpaid staff to whom the lack of an adequate salary scale and a system of salary increases offers scant economic incentive, inadequate space for the State's noncurrent records, and lack of facilities for rehabilitating the records. The report passes from these discouraging subjects to more optimistic topics. In the discussion of documentary publication strong emphasis is placed on the Commission's plans for publishing the colonial records of South Carolina and on the issuance, in March 1951, of the first volume under this plan. This series will doubtless duplicate a number of the early documents published in the past by the Commission, but the comprehensive publication of all the State's colonial records in a standard set will be an important accomplishment in making available valuable historical source materials.

Although only lightly touched on, another point in the report is encouraging to those interested in the proper preservation of South Carolina's official records. This 1952 report reiterates from previous reports the statement that the present building can accommodate no more records, and says that "the work of the Commission in caring for the records of other State departments as they cease to be of current use has come to a standstill." And it urges the acquisition of a warehouse for temporary use and the construction of an additional building. The reader will take heart from this clear indication that South Carolina archivists are not only looking backward, antiquarian-wise, to the records of South Carolina's honorable past, but are also fully perceptive of the value of later and less hoary records.

BESS GLENN

#### *National Archives*

*Danske Gesandter og Gesandtskabspersonale indtil 1914*, by Emil Marquard, published by the Rigsarchiv (Copenhagen, I. Kommission hos Ejnar Munksgaards Forlag, 1952. Pp. ix, 493 20 Kr.)

Despite its title this publication is a guide to documents in the Rigsarchiv relating to envoys of Denmark. Part I covers the period to 1648 (pp. 3-58), Part II the period from 1648 to 1914 (pp. 61-471). Under each part the countries to which envoys were sent are arranged alphabetically under continents (Part I deals naturally with Europe only); thereunder the envoys and the documents relating to them are arranged chronologically. One notable exception is made to the alphabetical arrangement. In both parts, under Europe, Germany (Tyskland), with its congeries of large and small states, stands first, followed in Part I by France (Frankrig) to Sweden (Sverig) and in Part II by Belgium (Belgien) to Austria-Hungary (Östrik-Ungarn). This was done not only because descriptions of records concerning Germany occupy much more space in the book than those for any other country (Part I, pp. 3-32; Part II, pp. 61-235), reflecting the mass of documentation in the Rigsarchiv relating to envoys sent there, but also because until 1864 Denmark was closely connected with Germany owing to the fact that its King, as Duke of Holstein and Lauenburg, was a German prince.

Under each country the representatives are grouped, when feasible, accord-

ing to rank as follows: Envoys, residents, secretaries of legation, attachés, and others. In the first period, a simpler age, there is usually only one list under a country, and the same is true of the smaller missions in the later period. In the later period, when the system of diplomacy was more developed and the documentation is more ample, an envoy's name and title are followed ideally by date of instructions, full power, letter of credence, arrival and presentation of letter of credence, recall, presentation of letter of recall, acknowledgment of recall, and departure. If other documents are missing, the dates of the first and last despatches are given.

It is interesting to compare this compilation to the *Repertorium der diplomatischen Vertreter aller Länder seit dem Westfälischen Frieden* (1648), vol. I (1648-1715), to which Marquard contributed the Danish section. In the latter volume the arrangement is strictly alphabetical, Brandenburg-Preussen to Trier (pp. 103-119), and thereunder chronological. It lists only heads of missions and fewer documents relating to them. Thus Henrik Villumsen Rosenvinge appears as envoy to England with a letter of credence dated December 19 (29, new style), 1651, and a letter (*Rekreditiv*) of September 29 (October 9, new style), 1660, acknowledging the receipt of the letter of recall. The volume under review provides the same information regarding Rosenvinge and in addition lists other documents, reflecting his goings and comings while Oliver Cromwell was master of England. After the Lord Protector's death, new letters of credence were issued for Rosenvinge — one in May 1659 to the English Parliament and one in June 1660 to the King of England. Unlike the *Repertorium* this volume does not convert dates to new style and give them in the old style as well, nor does it indicate that old style is used, supposedly up to the time when Denmark adopted the Gregorian calendar.

The compilation may also be compared to the *List of Documents Relating to Special Agents of the Department of State, 1789-1906*, compiled by Natalia Summers and published by the National Archives in 1951. This *List*, covering a limited field, is much more precise. The chief series of State Department records are described and below the names of the agents, alphabetically arranged, are given the pertinent series (credences, instructions, despatches, and so on) and the individual documents therein. The *Danske Gesandter* does not relate individual documents to series, which are mentioned only in a general way. A footnote in the introduction states that Marquard's notes, providing references to the sources, are available in the Rigsarchiv. The compilation then approaches more closely in form the Department of State's *Historical Register* (1874) than Mrs. Summers' *List*.

Had Marquard lived to finish his work, it might have been different. There is no reason to doubt, however, that Erik Kroman, who carried it to completion, faithfully pursued the plan laid down. Europeans plainly take a different view of what information is suitable to publish concerning records. In 1855 the Department of State issued a *Catalogue of Manuscript Books* . . . in its custody, which went so far as to show location of records by room and case number! This would hardly be done now. But the practice of relating individual documents to volumes and series seems well established, for it has

the effect of keeping the user's feet on the ground and making him less dependent on the archivist. It may also have the effect of making the compiler of a finding aid more careful. Furthermore, it will tend to encourage the production of historical works more precisely documented and inspiring greater confidence.

Viewed in the broad sense, *Danske Gesandter* is particularly welcome at this time when reminders of the continuity of history are heartening. Denmark has had only two royal houses since the fifteenth century. Its relative stability over the centuries is reflected in the richness (not completeness) of its foreign office records. The editors of the *Repertorium* selected 1648 as the initial date for their first volume, which was published in 1936. Marquard, however, was able to start his volume with documents dated early in the sixteenth century. This compilation will be useful to archivists and historians in the many countries, including our own, which have exchanged envoys with Denmark. We need more compilations of this sort.

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