

# Reviews of Books

RICHARD G. WOOD, *Editor*

*National Archives*

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*Historical Editing*, by Clarence E. Carter. (National Archives, *Bulletins*, No. 7. Washington, United States Government Printing Office, August 1952. Pp. 51. \$0.20.)

No one is better prepared from long experience to write authoritatively on this subject than Dr. Carter. His straightforward and mellow exposition is well organized and effectively presented, and although he states that he is addressing his advice primarily to the novice, the well-seasoned editor will also profit by reading it. In logical order Dr. Carter discusses the various stages in historical editing from the search for relevant documents, canons of selection, and textual criticism, through the tasks of transcription, arrangement, annotation, collation, and preparation of copy for the printer, to the final work of proofreading, processing of page proof, indexing, and book manufacture. Each stage of the process is pointed up by apt illustrations, and the author's economy of words greatly enhances the usefulness of the essay. A few examples of the soundness of his advice may be cited as representative of the work as a whole. In the search for relevant documents, he says, a knowledge of bibliographies, guides, calendars, and so forth, is indispensable; but such aids are no substitute for examination of the documents themselves. To be satisfied with "good enough" does not make for superior editing. In the selection of documents on a limited period or area, certain definite principles must be established and then applied with some flexibility. Whatever he may do to elucidate the material for the user (and the approach of the historical scholar ought to have precedence over the indefinable interest of the layman), the editor's fundamental objective is to provide the most authentic and accurate text.

Dr. Carter has the happy faculty of imparting certain admonitions in brief, pungent sentences that will hold fast in the mind of the thoughtful reader. "The intelligent editor does not make a fetish of chronology." "The printer is not a mind reader." "The good proofreader is a complete skeptic." Some editors do not assume enough intelligence on the part of the reader concerning peculiarities and inconsistencies in spelling, punctuation, and phraseology that are characteristic of the period as well as of the particular writer of the documents. Such editors, young and old, should reread the statement that the use of the word *sic* "adds very little to the document and detracts from the appearance of the printed page."

The most heartening quality of the exposition is that spirit of reasonableness which is the fruit of experience. In some stages of historical editing there are a right way and a wrong way with no alternative; but in others the discretion of the editor should be exercised and sound judgment will provide a satisfactory conclusion, without resolving the conflict of opinion between two equally

intelligent editors. This human aspect of editing, so to speak, explains much of the difference between the superlative and the mediocre editorial product. We shall have an increasing number of the former if more of our fledglings ponder Dr. Carter's advice and directions in this excellent essay.

LESTER J. CAPPON

*Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.*

*Calendar of the Speeches and Other Published Statements of Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1910-1920*, compiled by Robert L. Jacoby. (Hyde Park, N. Y., General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Service, Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, 1952. Pp. vii, 160. Processed. \$1.25)

During his many wartime visits to Hyde Park President Roosevelt showed his keen interest in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. From time to time he would talk with members of the staff about their writing projects. Almost invariably he would end the conversations by remarking, "Fine! This will be Publication Number One of the Roosevelt Library." Of course, when a staff member went jubilantly to Fred Shipman, who was then the director of the library, Shipman was forced to dampen his spirits by pointing out that this would be the third or fourth Publication Number One.

In the years since, the library staff of necessity has concentrated upon the enormous task of arranging and grouping the papers, most of which were not transferred to the library until 1947. Hence it is only now that (aside from annual reports and the like) the library has issued what might be called Publication Number One. It is one in which President Roosevelt would have taken much pride, and which students of Roosevelt, Progressivism, and the Navy will find of great use—a guide to the public papers and addresses of Roosevelt during the first years of his public life. Similar finding aids for later periods will follow.

The *Calendar* "lists all those speeches and other public statements that are known to have been made by Franklin D. Roosevelt" during his campaign for the New York State senate in 1910, his term as State senator, 1911-13, his term as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, 1913-20, his campaign for nomination as United States Senator in 1914, and his campaign for the Vice Presidency in 1920 (to his resignation from the Navy Department, August 9, 1920). It excludes only titles and numbers of bills and resolutions he introduced into the State senate, since these have been already published, and routine published letters that he signed as Acting Secretary of the Navy. It includes speeches, press statements and interviews, published letters, newspaper and magazine articles, and statements at legislative hearings.

Although Mr. Jacoby has diligently searched for pertinent material in the Roosevelt papers and scrapbooks, in archives, and in newspaper files, some of it was impossible to locate. For example, there are no copies or newspaper reports of many of Roosevelt's early speeches; and the stenographic notes on his State senate debates have never been transcribed. Some additional material will doubtless be found from time to time, but what already exists is so

voluminous that further discoveries will probably provide little new information on Roosevelt.

Mr. Jacoby has arranged the items in the *Calendar* chronologically; he cites the location of each item and summarizes its contents. He has included a detailed index. Both he and his supervisors, Edgar B. Nixon and Martin P. Claussen, are to be congratulated upon this auspicious beginning of the Roosevelt Library publication program.

FRANK FREIDEL

*University of Illinois*

The Pilgrim Trust. *Twenty-First Annual Report* (Westminster, Pilgrim Trust, University Press, Cambridge, [1951?]. Pp. 55, illustrations, and index.)

Of special interest to archivists in the 1951 report of this foundation, established in 1930 by Edward S. Harkness, are the pages dealing with the subsidies awarded by the trust to projects for the preservation of books, manuscripts, and historical records. Although the report includes sections on art and learning and on social welfare, most of it deals with preservation activities, which include preservation of ecclesiastical and secular buildings as well as of historical records. The remaining sections deal with trust meetings and financial data. This well-indexed, easy-to-use report has handsome illustrations and fine typography.

Eight awards were made for historical records work in 1951 — two to purchase rare book and manuscript collections; two to repair and restore libraries and to install proper equipment to house their collections; two to catalog archives; one to subsidize publication of old records; and one to make a library usable for the public. The grants were made to the British Museum, a cathedral, a university, two national missionary societies, a private society, and a parish. This diversity of recipients shows the broad program that the trust supports.

The British Museum was enabled to purchase 12 manuscripts and 83 books from the Earl of Leicester's library at Holkham Hall and a fine collection, including manuscript notebooks, copybooks, autographed letters, and 170 books, from the library of Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

In 1947 Canterbury Cathedral had received funds to rebuild its library. In 1950 and 1951, the trust gave additional money to provide an air-conditioning system, more study space, and a photographic room. The Pepys Library at Magdalene College being in serious condition, the college was awarded £3,000 to restore bindings, to unfold and repair maps and prints, and plans were made to return the collection to its original library chamber.

The Methodist Missionary Society received an additional £2,000 grant to provide money for an archivist to arrange and catalog its papers and to further equip the muniment rooms in its new headquarters. The Church Missionary Society likewise received a grant for cataloging its records. The Stair Society received aid from both the Pilgrim and the British Carnegie trusts to ensure

publication of some of the proceedings of the supreme court of Scotland. Cranston Library, Reigate, was aided by a £500 award. Preservation projects at the Durham, Winchester, and Ripon cathedral libraries and archives, and a survey of ecclesiastical archives, all previously supported by the trust, were completed in 1951.

RAYMOND B. CLARK, JR.

*Maryland Hall of Records*

*Guide to the Caernarvonshire Record Office*, by W. Ogwen Williams, county archivist, with a foreword by Brigadier W. H. Wynne Finch. (Caernarvonshire, Wales. County Records Joint Committee, 1952. Pp. xv, 45. 2 shillings.)

This is an excellent example of a guide to the contents of a record office. Fortunately, many of the English counties have established such offices and a number of them have issued guides or calendars. Perhaps the most elaborate of these county record offices is the Essex office; likewise its publications are the most adequate and satisfactory. Caernarvonshire is, it is believed, the first of the Welsh counties to follow the Essex example and issue a guide to its archives.

An introduction of some six pages gives an account of the organization of the county and some history of its records and record keeping practices. The county was formed by Edward I in 1284, but from that year to 1535 it was administered by royal officials directly responsible to the Crown. Consequently, such records of this period as have survived are preserved in the Public Record Office in London. But it is to be noted that microfilms of the Great Session Records and of other early records have been secured for the Caernarvonshire Record Office.

Briefly, the records preserved in the record office are classified under the following headings: court of quarter sessions and the justices of the peace, (1541 to date), lieutenancy, coroner's courts, county council, deposited records, and miscellaneous. Under the first heading are included records of the court in session, administration, enrolment, clerk of the peace, and finance. These records are the most important because they have to do with the court of petty sessions, 1861-1940.

Some of the deposited records are of much interest, and it is good to note that municipalities, estates, and solicitors are encouraged to turn over their documents to the record office for proper arrangement, preservation, and calendaring. Perhaps the most important deposited records are those of Caernarvon boroughs. These are chiefly records of the eighteenth century. Of private documents deposited, mention may be made of those of the Poole family, and the collection of bonds, deeds, and other documents relating to the township of Rug, 1545-1715.

Altogether, this *Guide* is an admirable index of the material collected in a county record office, and an excellent guide to their use.

ARTHUR ADAMS

*New England Historical and Genealogical Society*

[Pakistan] *Administration Report of the Central Record Office, North-West Frontier Province for the Year 1949-50*. (Peshawar, Pakistan. Government Printing and Stationery Office, North-West Frontier Province, 1951. Pp. 13. 5 Re.)

Colony of Mauritius. *Annual Report of the Archives Office for the Year 1951*. (Port Louis, Mauritius. J. Eliei Felix, Government Printer, Mauritius, 1952. Pp. 19. \$0.25.)

The North-West Frontier Province is one of the seven provinces of Pakistan, an independent state created upon the withdrawal of the British from the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent.

S. M. Jaffar, first custodian of the official records of the North-West Frontier Province, continues to serve as director of archives. He also holds an appointment as convener of the regional survey committee for the Province and Frontier States. This committee began to function regularly in 1949. Its primary function is to survey and salvage manuscripts and documents in private custody. In addition, it surveys materials of general cultural importance such as coins, sculpture, and inscriptions. As a result, considerable material has come to light. Manuscript materials seen but not acquired have been entered in a "Guide to the MSS. and Archives in Private Custody in the North-West Province and Frontier States." The convener reports that valuable information has been derived from contacts made on the survey, much of which will be used in a history of the North-West Frontier Province.

Six new positions were allowed at the Central Record Office during the year. The preservation section handled 19,679 documents, and its work included flattening, fumigating, repairing, mounting, and binding records. Over 500 volumes of the proceedings of various departments of the Punjab government (1850-1900) were received from the office of the deputy commissioner of Peshawar. These, along with many others, were arranged, classified, and checklisted.

Four more research scholars used the archives than was the case in 1948-49, and research was carried on in such fields as economics, animal husbandry, and the literature and history of the North-West Frontier. Arrangements were made on a reciprocal basis to borrow manuscripts and documents in the possession of libraries and learned institutions in Pakistan and foreign countries for the use of scholars at the record office. The library of the record office contains approximately 3,500 volumes, and there is an archival museum consisting chiefly of examples of repair work performed by the agency, official records brought back from New Delhi before the partition, manuscripts received from private sources, and photographs.

Records held by various offices of the provincial government were inspected and suggestions were made regarding their repair and preservation. Courses of instruction relating to the keeping, preservation, and use of records are offered by the record office. Effort is being made through publications, radio talks, the press, and literary activities to popularize the science of archives.

Mauritius is a mountainous island, of volcanic origin, in the Indian Ocean

about 500 miles east of Madagascar. The Mauritius Archives Office is the official repository of (1) records of the former French administration, turned over to the first British governor of Mauritius under Article 31 of the Treaty of Paris, 1814; (2) records of agencies of the British administration since 1810; (3) records of the former land courts; (4) notarial deeds and other documents deposited in the archives under law; (5) certain cartographic materials; and (6) copies of every book and periodical published in Mauritius.

The staff consists of the archivist, A. Toussaint, an assistant archivist, and eleven other persons. Among the year's accomplishments are the refitting of wooden and metal presses in the stack area, the disposal of 275 old tin boxes, the acquisition of 60 leather-board record cases, the binding and repairing of 291 units of records, the preparation of 6 typewritten inventories of record groups, and the consolidation of all records relating to land.

During the year, 239 applications for copies of documents were received and 1,176 persons made use of the archives. It is interesting to note that fees are charged for searches made by the staff as well as for reproductions of documents. The Mauritius Archives, incidentally, is reimbursed for reproduction services performed for other agencies. Among the items illustrative of Mauritius history and reproduced for circulation were two theses on the French history of Mauritius by students of the École des Chartes, Paris, and the diary of Hastie, the British agent in Madagascar, 1817-24.

When the High Commissioner for Madagascar visited the Archives on April 23, records pertaining to early relations between the two islands were displayed. The legislative council appropriated money to begin a bibliographical survey of Mauritiana. It is intended that this survey will trace and record as fully as possible, in six installments, every piece of printed, manuscript, and cartographic material relating to Mauritius and its dependencies from the year 1500 to the present in the national and foreign depositories.

Work on a three-story building to be used jointly by the archives and the registration office is scheduled to begin in 1952. The report ends with a list of publications printed in Mauritius in 1951 and received in the archives office.

SARA D. JACKSON

#### *National Archives*

Lincolnshire Archives Committee, *Archivists' Report, 1951-52*. ([Lincoln, Lincolnshire Archives Office, 1952]. Pp. 71. 2s. 6d.; 2s. 10d. with postage.)

Eloquent of the rich and varied historical resources of the English counties is this latest report on the Lincolnshire Record Office. For archivists elsewhere it provides another illustration of the effectiveness of a broadly representative foundation for the administration of such institutions. In the constitution and management of this office is blended both official concern for efficient records preservation (represented by the archives committee drawn from the Lindsey, Kesteven, and Holland county councils and the Lincoln city council) and scholarly interest in the collection and care of all types of records, both public

and private (represented by the technical and advisory sub-committee, made up of university, church, library, and learned society representatives).

The bulk of the present report is given over to a description of accessions, including the very large and rich collections of family papers presented by Lord Monson and the Earl of Ancaster. These acquisitions have kept the staff busy arranging a multitude of documents and preparing guides. Archivists will be interested in the classification scheme for the Monson papers, outlined on pp. 35-36. For historians, the title deeds, estates' surveys, rental accounts, building plans, property inventories, accounts and vouchers, to mention but a few types of papers produced by the Monson family from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, are a rich mine for research in social and economic history. Records of a more personal type — diaries, marriage settlements, recipes, menus, garden notes, grocers' accounts, Eton school bills, cricket-club score books, "Grand Tour" papers — show how family pride among the landed aristocracy serves the modern scholar by enabling him to recreate the atmosphere of other days and other ways of life.

Historians of the colonial period will find something of interest in the papers of the first Lord Monson, first commissioner for trade and plantations, of the Hon. Charles Monson, deputy paymaster general, and of Lord Metcalfe — some of whose papers, along with those of other families, were acquired at various times by the Monsons. In the Ancaster papers (some dating back to the medieval period) there is a similarly rich texture of historical data — social, economic, and political, — including material relating to the West India and East India trade and colonial affairs in New York.

The Lincolnshire archivists are to be commended on the form of their publication, which provides detailed, well-organized, and usable information on the various accessions.

LEWIS H. THOMAS

*Archives of Saskatchewan*

*Rijksarchief te Brugge: Inventaris van het Archief van de Franse Hoofdbesturen in West-Vlaanderen 1794-1814*, by Jos. de Smet. (Brussels, Archive Generales du Royaume, 1951. Pp. 246.)

The author is adjunct-conservator of the National Archives in Bruges. In 1930 he published an important article on the French administration of West Flanders, and in 1931 and 1933 he added two more articles on this subject. He is eminently qualified to produce the present inventory, which is very well organized and is provided with a historical introduction. Altogether 4,259 packages, bundles, registers, and folders have been enumerated. The index and the table of contents are comprehensive, filling respectively pp. 229-235 and pp. 237-246.

The French completed their task of occupying what is now Belgium at the end of the year 1794. In November they divided the former county of Flanders into two arrondissements: East Flanders, with Ghent as its capital, and West Flanders, with Ypres as its capital. On October 1, 1795, the southern Netherlands were annexed by France, and the whole region was



divided into nine departments. West Flanders then became the Department of the Lys (Leie), named after the river Lys, for one of the principles of the French revolutionists was to disregard the names of former provinces and to honor nature rather than custom. Bruges became the capital of the new department. From 1800 to 1814 the region was known as the Prefecture of the Lys. The documents in the local archives were preserved in a suitable building, known from 1815 to 1851 as the Provincial Archives, which in 1851 became the National Archives. But it was not until 1904 that the so-called modern papers (meaning those dated after 1793) became the property of the federal government.

In this work the administration of all the bureaus from 1794 to 1814 is carefully discussed (pp. 5-21). The inventory itself begins on p. 24 with the papers collected in the first year (1794-95). In the second part (pp. 32-99) the period 1795-1800 is covered, and the third part, 1800-14, requires 128 pages. The papers of the first period are divided into 14 sections, including those of the 10 bureaus. Those of the second period are for the most part cataloged under the following headings: secretariat, bureau of taxation, domains, public works, agriculture and commerce, education, police, administrative functions, and military affairs. Finally, the remaining documents are classified in categories somewhat similar to those for the second period.

ALBERT HYMA

University of Michigan

*Répertoire des Microfilms de Complément Conservés aux Archives Nationales et Communicables au Public; Avant-propos par Michel François, Conservateur-Adjoint, Chef de la Sous-Section, Microfilm Archives Économiques, Archives Privées.* (Paris, Imprimerie Nationale, 1951. Pp. 6, [9].)

This pamphlet is a short-title catalog describing some 45,000 feet of microfilm available for consultation in the Archives Nationales and known as the "Microfilms de Complément." The collection is intended to supplement the holdings of the Archives and is to be distinguished from microfilm made in order to provide security copies or permit reduction in bulk. Along with the two last uses of microfilm, its use for the purpose of supplementing the holdings of an archival agency represents, in M. François' view, the most effective application of microphotography to archives.

The "Microfilms de Complément" had their inception in 1940, when it was decided to return to Spain the *fonds* of the Archives of Simancas that had been in French custody since the period of the First Empire. The further decision was taken to make microfilm copies of these records for retention in Paris. Since that year, other materials have been reproduced from a wide variety of sources and repositories. They range in date from the eleventh to the twentieth century. They include a few copies of inventories, but they consist mainly of copies of the full texts of records, subsumed under four categories — family archives, business archives, foreign archives, and miscellany. For each entry in the catalog are given inclusive dates, present location of originals, dates of accession of the microfilm, classification symbol in the



Archives Nationales, conditions of use, length of film, format (16 or 35 mm), and type (positive or negative).

A short-title catalog presents a challenge to the reviewer, if his review is not to run to disproportionate length. Selection of items for mention becomes more than ordinarily difficult. The present review will notice several items of interest not only for their substance but also for the light they shed on the history and use of archives. Of such interest is the item describing a series of inventories, made under the direction of German occupation authorities, 1940-44, of materials relating to Germany in French archives and libraries. The originals of these inventories are deposited in the Niedersächsisches Staatsarchiv in Hanover. Another item describes the archives of the Comté d'Asti, which were ceded to Italy under the Treaty of 1947. Another describes diplomatic records relating to France in the Public Record Office in London, copies of which were received in exchange for copies of comparable documents in the Trésor des Chartes. Still another describes copies of the records of the Allied Military Tribunal at Nuremberg and of the Office of the Chief of Counsel for War Crimes. Finally, it is interesting to note the inclusion in the collection of reproductions of documents initially assembled for major historical and literary expositions, including both library and archival materials.

M. François is to be commended for a very useful publication, and the appearance of similar listings of motion-picture film and of sound recordings in the Archives Nationales, as promised in the foreword, is awaited with interest.

LESTER W. SMITH

### *National Archives*

*Vom Wesen und von den Arten des Archivgutes*, by Wolfgang Leesch. Westfälische Archivpflege, Heft 1, edited by the Verwaltung des Provinzialverbandes Westfalen (Archivberatungsstelle). (Muenster, Westfalen, Aschendorff, 1951. Pp. 31, 8. Illustrations. 3.30 DM.)

*360 Jahre Regensburg. Eine Festgabe, mit Beiträgen* von Karl Zuhorn und Hans Thiekoetter, edited by [Verlag Regensburg]. (Muenster in Westfalen, Regensburg, [1951]. Pp. 63. Illustrations.)

These two publications from Muenster, the ancient capital city of Westphalia and of the Muensterland, the "larder" of the industrial Ruhr-area to the south, should be of some interest to archivists and historians.

Leesch's essay is a good restatement of those matters which are basic to adequate archival management: a clear definition of archives; the essence of archival organization (principle of provenience); and the description of the major categories of archival materials. To aid in the description of the latter the author has furnished illustrations of sixteen instruments, most of which are located in the state archives at Muenster.

The pamphlet is intended for immediate use by archives personnel and as such is undoubtedly quite valuable in training. For the foreign expert the definition of such terms as "urkunden," "amtsbuecher" and "akten" is perhaps the most valuable part of the brochure.

Since 1890, when Franz von Loeher published the Muensterland (Pader-

born), his great *Archivlehre*, much has been accomplished in respect to the establishment of the essential value of archives and also to the refinement of archival methods; but, as for instance Ernst Posner (in: *Drei Vortraege zum Archivwesen der Gegenwart*, Stockholm, 1940; espec. p. 36) and Fritz Hellwig (in: *Die Dokumentation und ihre Probleme*, Leipzig, 1942) have pointed out again, the hazards are continually threatening. It is especially reassuring to witness renewal and persistence of effort from a city such as Muenster, which is barely on the road to binding up its latest wounds.

The Regensberg-Festgabe is even more heartening as evidence of undaunted courage and dedication to man's spiritual nature. The Regensberg firm is the oldest of the two important publishing houses in Muenster, the other being the Aschendorff firm, which was founded in 1672. In 1950 the House of Regensberg celebrated its 360th anniversary and the pamphlet announced here was published on that occasion. The archivist and historian will be impressed by the number of original documents, preserved in the firm's archives, on which Hans Thiekoetter, Muenster's city librarian, could base his history (pp. 21-45) and which are listed on pp. 49-51. Of further interest are these additional contributions: genealogical tables of the firm's successive owners; a list of geographic locations of the firm's establishments from 1591 to 1950; a list of works published by the firm. A chronicle of events in the life of the firm during the Hitler regime is worthy of special mention. Regensberg had great difficulty in maintaining itself in the face of censorship and confiscation. A letter from the courageous Bishop of Muenster, Clemens August Graf von Galen, to the firm's owner, in which the bishop assumes all responsibility for the publication by the firm of the papal encyclical of March 14, 1937, is reproduced (p. 42), and is accompanied by a good photograph of Cardinal von Galen.

ICKO IBEN

*University of Illinois*

*Archivo de Don Bernardo O'Higgins*. Volumes VIII-X. [Archivo Nacional.] (Santiago: Imprenta Universitaria, 1951. 3 vols. Pp. xiii, 459; xvii, 372; lxii, 433.)

These volumes continue the documentary series of which seven volumes were reviewed in the *American Archivist*, 12: 389-391 (Oct. 1950). Their editorship and plan are the same as those of their predecessors. Volume 8 contains correspondence of O'Higgins with San Martin and others, 1817-23, and a "Plan for Treasury and Public Administration, 1817." Volume 9 comprises correspondence of O'Higgins and San Martin, 1823-42; letters of various Chileans to San Martin, 1817-46; and nos. 1-16 and extraordinaries of the *Gazeta del Supremo Gobierno de Chile*, 1817. Volume 10 reproduces nos. 1-37 and extraordinaries of the *Gazeta de Santiago de Chile*, 1817-18. These materials add value to the collection issued under the direction of the Archivo Nacional.

ROSCOE R. HILL

*Washington, D. C.*