

# Reviews of Books

RICHARD G. WOOD, *Editor*

*National Archives*

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*The People's Right to Know: Legal Access to Public Records and Proceedings*, by Harold L. Cross. (New York, Columbia University Press, 1953. Pp. xi, 405, appendixes, biblio. \$5.50.)

On the dust jacket of this book is a list of classes of persons to whom, it is said, the book will be valuable. Among others, the list includes journalists, lawyers, civic organizations, writers, students, and teachers. Archivists are not mentioned. This omission probably does not arise from the fact that the book is, in considerable part, a well-documented polemic against all those public officials, presumably including archivists, who would deny any citizen (but especially any newspaperman) access to "public information." It is more likely just another bit of proof that the public rarely thinks of public records as being in the custody of archivists.

It is impossible to read very far in this book without being impressed by the tremendous industry, scholarship, and relish for his subject displayed by the author. Mr. Cross is a specialist in newspaper law, who has been counsel to the New York *Herald Tribune* and has for many years lectured at Columbia University on laws affecting journalism. In 1950 he was retained by the American Society of Newspaper Editors to prepare a "comprehensive report on customs, laws and court decisions affecting our free access to public information whether it is recorded on police blotters or in the files of the national government." This book is his report. It is also, says the author, intended to serve as a "manual of arms for my brethren of the bar" and as a "weapon" for newspaper men in need of legal help.

Written by a lawyer whose practice has been in the newspaper field, Mr. Cross' book faithfully reflects the special viewpoints and skills and the characteristic limitations of the profession that he practices as well as of the profession that he serves. He has gathered together an immense number of citations to publications, laws, regulations, and court decisions bearing on the right of access to public records. This information, by far the most valuable part of the book, is contained in footnotes, appendixes, and a bibliography, which in all cover 128 pages. The body of the book is a long and argumentative examination of the current status of the laws in this country on the vast subject of the right of public inspection of governmental records of all types, local, State, and national.

The book is of great value to those seeking legal guidance and precedents on the subject under discussion. It would have been even more useful had the author laid aside his brief and prepared a simple legal casebook and bibliogra-

phy. As it stands, the hortatory passages with which the text is filled serve only to get in the way of one who is trying to hunt a precedent or citation.

Because he has written more than a casebook, mention must be made of Mr. Cross' general point of view. He has not placed his subject in historical perspective, nor is there any systematic or critical examination of either the ethical or public policy issues concerned; indeed, there is little indication that the author realizes the complexity, seriousness, and magnitude of the issues that are involved. In this respect the basic postulates of the book are those of the journalist ("the press is only an agent of the people"), who takes it as axiomatic that governmental records, being public property and concerned with public business, should at all times be open to inspection by any citizen and that restrictions or prohibitions on such right of free access must obviously stem from bureaucratic inertia, stupidity, or worse. In areas where such a policy obviously flies in the face of common sense the issue is ducked by the use of vague phrases such as "common law principles of confidentiality," or "state secrets," or by the simple device of saying that some official records — such as those containing business secrets, medical information on individuals, and civil service examinations — are really "private records, which for one reason or another are present in Government offices." The author pokes fun at what he calls the "morbid judicial fear of the record-inspector agitated for mere pastime, whim or fancy or idle curiosity" and says he has never seen or heard of examination of court records for such unworthy purposes. Yet seven pages later he furnishes a list of types of records of court proceedings which it may be proper to "seal" in certain instances, such as records of adoption proceedings, divorce proceedings, and disbarment proceedings. In a word, the author's position is that all official records ought to be open to public inspection except, perhaps, those that ought not to be made public.

It is unfortunately true that archivists, most of whom have an even larger and more immediate interest in the subject of this book than either lawyers or journalists, have also not squarely faced up to the necessity of policy formulations in this field. Standards, if any, are likely to be whimsical and ad hoc, and there seems to be very little conscious realization of the new developments of the past generation that require of us a close new look at the whole problem. Our lifetime has seen the movement by governmental units at all levels into activities that create huge quantities of records of a quite new type — records that contain the most intimate details of the lives of millions of our citizens. Relief, pension, medical, housing, lending, and public assistance programs; universal military service, veterans' aid; rationing; fair employment adjudications; State and Federal income tax legislation; and widespread loyalty-security investigations are examples of governmental activities that have resulted in making an official record of many of those things in our lives that have hitherto been regarded as unassailably private in character.

When, about 20 years ago, American archivists began briskly to accession records as soon as they became "noncurrent" in government offices, it was natural that little thought was given to the questions that would ultimately be posed by the assumption of responsibility for materials so recent in origin and

in many cases so novel in character. Today deeply troubling questions arise more and more frequently as the archivist tries to discharge his responsibility to scholarship, which wishes to exploit the riches in our new archival holdings.

Not much is left of privacy in our society and not many persons seem concerned to protect what is left. It is time for all persons who have responsibility for giving access to records of any kind to take thought as to whither we are drifting.

HERMAN KAHN

*Franklin D. Roosevelt Library*

*Charters of Freedom: the Declaration of Independence, 1776; the Constitution of the United States, 1787; the Bill of Rights, 1791.* (Washington, National Archives Trust Fund Board, 1952. Pp. 14 [unnumbered]. 25 cents each; in lots of 500 or more 20 cents.)

On December 15, 1952, the 161st anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights, the three most precious historical documents of this Nation were carefully enshrined with appropriate ceremonies in the National Archives. Now for the first time readable facsimiles of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are made readily available in a publication easily within the means of everyone.

Although the documents themselves have been reproduced a little less than one half their original size the work has been so skillfully done that nothing is lost. Moreover, the method of reproduction utilized has faithfully captured the ink blots, the cracks, creases, and very texture of these old parchments and transferred them to durable matte-finish book paper. Accompanying each facsimile is a popularized résumé of the document's historical background. The brochure is further enhanced by illustrations relative to the documents, such as the Barry Faulkner murals of the presentation of the Declaration of Independence and of the Constitution, sketches of the Liberty Bell, Federal Hall in New York, and an unusually fine view of the National Archives Building.

Of particular interest to archivists is the section of the brochure entitled "The Story of the Documents," which relates in a straightforward manner, devoid of tradition, the peregrinations, mistreatment, and final enshrining of the documents over the fireproof, shockproof, and bombproof vault into which they can be lowered at a moment's notice. Those responsible for the compilation of this publication have, through the medium of a superior engraving method, the use of attractive illustrations and format, and good descriptive text, produced an example of documentary reproduction which will long serve as a model.

LEON DEVALINGER, JR.

*Delaware State Archives*

*The Formation of the Union; an Exhibit.* (Washington, National Archives Trust Fund Board, 1952. Pp. 30, illus. 25 cents.)

A promise made when the cornerstone of the National Archives building was laid has been fulfilled in the exhibit described in *The Formation of the*

*Union.* In laying the cornerstone, President Hoover said that in the Archives Building would be assembled "the most sacred documents of our history, the originals of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States." These and other documents in the exhibit are described in this comprehensive catalog here reviewed.

The catalog is divided into five sections. The first group of documents, called "The Cause of America," begins with the Articles of Association, October 20, 1774, and ends with the engrossed Declaration of Independence, signed August 2, 1776. "A Firm League of Friendship" carries the story of the formation of the union from the Articles of Confederation: Benjamin Franklin's Sketch, July 21, 1775, to Maryland's Ratification of the Articles of Confederation, February 2, 1781. The section entitled "Liberty, Sovereignty, and Independence Absolute" opens with a letter announcing the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga and closes with the Proclamation of Peace. "A More Perfect Union" carries the story of this young country from a plan for the government of the western country, March 1, 1784, to Washington's inaugural address, April 30, 1789. A brief last section, "The Great Principles of Civil and Religious Liberty" includes North Carolina's proposed amendments to the Constitution, August 1, 1788, as the first document, and New York's ratification of the Bill of Rights, March 27, 1790, as the last.

The catalog describes in some detail the 52 documents exhibited. Included in the description are the title of each document, the date, a characterization of form, size, number of sheets or pages, and other data such as signatures and seal. Enough historical background is given for an understanding of what the document means in the formation of the union. A few passages are drawn from the text of some of the items. Eight facsimile reproductions carry the feeling of the exhibit to the hundreds of people who may read this catalog and never have the privilege of walking around Exhibition Hall to view this magnificent group of documents basic in the history of our Nation.

LUCILE M. KANE

*Minnesota Historical Society*

*Fair Lane; Ford Motor Company Archives.* [Bulletin No. 1.] (Dearborn, Mich., 1953. [Pp. 24], illus.)

*Rules Governing the Use of Ford Motor Company Archives.* [Bulletin No. 2] (Dearborn, Mich., 1953. [Pp. 12], illus.)

*Ford Documents and Photographs; an Exhibit (Fair Lane).* (Dearborn, Mich., Ford Motor Company Archives, 1953. Pp. 32.)

*Speaking of Yesterday; an Explanation of the Ford Motor Company Archives Oral History Project,* by Owen W. Bombard. (Dearborn, Mich., Ford Motor Company Archives, 1953. Pp. 8.)

These four brochures describe the general location and housing of the archives of the Ford Motor Co., with a historical background; the rules governing their use; their well planned organization; and the company's oral history program. The subject matter is so well presented that these pieces are not for skimming; they are pure cream.

The serious researcher and the progressive archivist will be interested to read that the holdings fall into three categories: the strictly archival material, which consists of documents and photographs; the contents of the library, which is composed of secondary material; and the reminiscences recorded by the oral history program. They will be pleased to discover that — though descriptions and explanations are brief — they are so specific that readers will find themselves well oriented to the archives before approaching them for research.

The rules are concisely set forth in four general divisions: general policy, application for access to records, limitations in use of records, and clearance of materials. The brochure on the exhibit of documents and photographs is complete beyond anticipation. It presents the material as it has been allocated to the specific area of the subject. Each presentation is in narrative form, followed by a list of the documents and photographs that support it.

Upon reading the description of the oral history program, the researcher and archivist will immediately be struck with the realization that in the Ford Motor Co. archives is a wealth of dramatic, human interest material — rare indeed. He will be impressed with the care that has been exercised in the recording and transcribing interviews. He will thoroughly agree with the arguments presented in support of such a program, especially when he reads that the Ford Motor Co. has utilized a quantity of the reminiscences for current programs. He will, however, consider still more pertinent the observation once made by Montaigne — which has been included in the argument — “The only good histories are those written by those who command in the events they describe.”

VERNIE WOLFSBERG

*St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company*

*An Evaluation of Document Restoration Processes*, by W. J. Barrow. (Richmond, Virginia State Library, 1953. Pp. 13.)

Here is a concise and yet comprehensive explanation of the various techniques that can be used for the protection of documents and similar material of importance. William Barrow, who has been closely associated with archives for many years, has carefully analyzed with scientific thoroughness the processes involving silk chiffon, tissue, cloth, and cellulose acetate support. He sets forth the disadvantages of the older techniques, with specific illustrations to substantiate his observations, and gives a complete explanation of the cellulose-acetate-film laminating process and its advantages — if used intelligently.

Mr. Barrow first considers the process known as silking. This involves the fastening, by means of an adhesive, of thin, transparent silk to one or both sides of a document. He contends that although silk does provide physical strength, it cannot be considered a permanent remedy on account of the inherently temporary characteristics of thin silk, as well as the deteriorating effects of the alum used in some mounting pastes. In addition, there is also the problem of such destroyers as insects, mold, and bacteria.

He then surveys the tissue process. This is somewhat like silking excepting

that a thin tissue is pasted to the document. Again the danger of improper paste is emphasized, and the loss of visibility due to the tissue. Although it appears that progress is being made in the field of plastic film with an adhesive coating, applied by heat and pressure or pressure alone, he cautions against its use on documents of exceptional value. Sometimes the film and adhesive separate after a relatively short time, leaving the adhesive in the fibers of the paper. The result may be a stain difficult if not impossible to eliminate. The limited tear-resistance of cellulose acetate film is also a sufficiently dubious factor to exclude this technique as a satisfactory one.

Mr. Barrow then presents his own preference. He favors the de-acidification of the document by means of a chemical bath; then lamination between two sheets of cellulose acetate film, plus two sheets of tissue, with the use of heat and pressure. Thus the document is rendered free from the injurious acids which are frequently absorbed over the years. It is strengthened by combining the film with the tissue at the same time that it is made resistant to bacteria, fungi, insects, and atmospheric pollution by virtue of the film.

HAROLD W. TRIBOLET

*The Lakeside Press*

*Annual Report of the Public Archives Commission of the State of Delaware, Fiscal Year July 1, 1951 to June 30, 1952.* (Dover, Hall of Records, 1952. Pp. 65, illus.)

*Annual Report of the Historical Commission of South Carolina, 1951-1952.* (Columbia, State Budget and Control Board, 1952 [?]. Pp. 22.)

Each of these reports presents a very interesting and concise statement of accomplishments during the period covered, with the necessary fiscal explanations. It is patent that good reports measure accomplishments against failures of expectation or of responsibility. Both of these reports are strong in this respect.

It is interesting to note that in both Delaware and South Carolina there is a keen awareness that State records are big business and that there is a considerable dollar savings to be made in their proper management. In the case of Delaware a records examiner has been appointed, who presumably will hereafter devote his full time to surveying State records, in order to recommend practices that will prevent the creation of unnecessary records and expedite the disposal of useless ones, thereby realizing for the State an annual cash dividend.

It appears that both States are plagued with lack of space and lack of adequate staff (a perennial problem in the field of archival economy); South Carolina has a special problem in its need for expanding and revising the basic legislation controlling the preservation of the record resources of the State. Experience has indicated all too often that the legislative effort required to solve this complex problem is generally devoted to other activities and will only be directed to the matter of records, indispensable or otherwise, as a sideline when business is not so brisk.

Both reports are very well presented and both leave the impression that the

authors appreciate their responsibilities and the problems of definition and promotion that are inherent in their chosen field of endeavor.

LEO L. GERALD

*National Archives*

*Biennial Report, 1951-1952, of the Public Records Commission to the General Assembly of the State of Vermont.* ([Montpelier?, 1952.] Pp. 28.)

In a State where records date to colonial times and where no program for centralized preservation existed for at least 140 years, the 1951-52 report of the Vermont Public Records Commission to the general assembly must have been greeted with considerable satisfaction. Although the staff is small and has changed frequently, the director presents an imposing picture of accomplishments achieved under difficult conditions. Included is a detailed accounting of microfilm now available; a list of destruction requests and the action taken by the commission; the law establishing the commission, whose membership includes the secretary of state, the state librarian, and the president and custodian of the Vermont Historical Society; and the operating budget. The budget will amaze many who would not believe that for so small a sum so much work could be accomplished.

Of general interest is the account of the proposed addition to the Supreme Court building. This will provide stack space for the State library and the historical society and greatly increase the quarters of the Public Records Commission, which now performs its many functions in one very crowded room. The plans include sizable vaults on three levels for permanent archives; storage space for semiactive material; a room for public consultation of records; space for repairing, preserving, fumigating, cleaning, and photographing; and ample work space. Clear reproduction of the plans enhances the text. It is hoped that the general assembly has provided the funds for this needed addition.

MILDRED P. MCKAY

*New Hampshire State Library*

*Calendar of Maryland State Papers, Number 4; The Red Books, Part 2.* [Maryland Hall of Records Commission *Publication* No. 8.] (Annapolis, 1953. Pp. x, 331. \$3.)

Readers of the *American Archivist* are already familiar with the so-called "Rainbow Series" of the Maryland State archives preserved in the Hall of Records at Annapolis. The first volume in the printed calendar of the papers comprising this series was issued in 1943. It, as well as each of the succeeding volumes down to the present number, has been reviewed in these pages. The present volume is published as part two of the calendar covering the Red Books segment of the Rainbow Series. Francis L. Berkeley, Jr., in reviewing part one in the July 1951 issue of the *American Archivist*, discussed the history of the series and described the nature of its colorful components. Very little need be added to his remarks.

Part two was prepared by the same industrious collaborators who produced

the preceding volume, namely, Gust Skordas, Roger Thomas, and Mrs. Cary T. Peebles, all members of the Hall of Records staff. It covers volumes 11 through 20 of the series of 33 volumes, bound as 50, which, by virtue of their binding, comprise the Red Books segment of the Rainbow Series. The documents listed in the calendar are almost without exception military in character. They extend over a period from 1766 to 1822 but are most heavily concentrated in the years 1776 and 1777. Part three, to be published later, will complete the calendar.

The calendaring procedures naturally follow the recommendations set forth by Morris Radoff, the Archivist of Maryland, in his "Practical Guide to Calendaring" published in the April and July 1948 issues of this magazine. The compilers, however, have decided not to supply the first names of any figures of national importance in part two, thus broadening considerably the policy that governed the preparation of part one. Part two differs from part one also in that it does not supply the State name identifications for well-known cities or bodies of water and in that the lists of names within individual items are alphabetically arranged unless such an order might jeopardize an important historical relationship.

Calendars similar to these issued by the Hall of Records are rarely encountered in this day and time. Archivists and curators of manuscripts shy away from their production, fearing the cost and, I suspect, the sheer tediousness of the work. Yet neither of these obstacles should be regarded as insurmountable if the characteristics of the material that is being handled demand this type of finding medium. A calendar was certainly the most sensible solution to the archival problems posed by the Rainbow Series; Mr. Radoff and his staff have conscientiously and capably filled the need.

JOHN MELVILLE JENNINGS

*Virginia Historical Society*

*The Colonial Records of South Carolina; the Journal of the Commons House of Assembly May 18, 1741 — July 10, 1742*, edited by J. H. Easterby. (Columbia, Historical Commission of South Carolina, 1953. Pp. x, 620, index. \$12.50.)

It is good news that the Historical Commission of South Carolina is printing the journals of the Commons House of Assembly as the first phase of its new and extensive program of publication. The volume reviewed here is the third of the new series; the two previous ones contain the journals for the years 1736-39 and 1739-41.

In view of the fact that the British Empire was then at war with Spain, the journal for 1741-42 is considerably although by no means exclusively concerned with military matters. There is included, for instance, the full text of a long report by a committee appointed to look into the causes of the failure of the joint expedition with Georgia against St. Augustine in 1740. This report includes appendixes and takes up over 160 pages. On the other hand, the commons house considered other matters, such as the distribution of funds and

supplies to the sufferers in the Charleston fire, negotiations with the Indians, and measures against slave uprisings. It also took steps to encourage new settlements in the province, to build roads and establish ferries, and to make creeks and rivers navigable. The scholar will find here more in the way of source material than he might ordinarily expect. In many cases the texts of reports, memorials, and petitions are given in full.

The various and very difficult problems involved in editing and publishing historical documents make responsible criticism far from easy. Doubtless for what he considers good reasons, the editor, like many others, has left this volume virtually free of annotation. It is not easy to disagree with the contention that the object of publication is to make historical material available rather than to annotate it. Nevertheless, the general historian of the colonial period would certainly be greatly aided in his use of such a volume by a reasonable amount of annotation as well as by a more generous introduction.

The index has been compiled with obvious care and system. It includes names, places, and subjects and is preceded by a full explanatory note on its method. Space limitations, acknowledged by the editor, have produced many main entries with a large number of page references unaccompanied by modifications. For example, in the case of William Bull, Sr., the Lieutenant Governor, there are over 50 references without modification. To save the scholar real trouble, it might be possible in future volumes to employ modifications in this and other individually important cases without adding greatly to the length of the whole index.

In connection with the index the editor may also want to consider employing general subject heads more frequently. On occasion these are lacking when clearly desirable. For instance, a report of the committee on "the State and Condition of the Artillery and Warlike Stores" is listed under Reports (where few would look for it) but not under artillery, warlike stores, fortifications, or any other general subject head that could be discovered. The historian approaching the volume with some broad problem would be greatly aided by heads of this sort.

The volume is attractively brought out. It is pleasantly bound in linen cloth and is of large size (11" x 7½"). The paper has a 25 percent rag content and the type is 11½-point Caslon Oldstyle. This durable paper and large and most readable type face are very great assets indeed.

This is, of course, a most valuable historical publication. It makes available not only a basic source for the history of one of the oldest States of the Union but also a substantial source for general colonial history.

EDWARD A. HOYT

*State Papers of Vermont*

*Archivalia Mexicana*, by Manuel Carrera Stampa. [Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Publicaciones del Instituto de Historia, Primera Serie, Número 27.] (Mexico, Editorial Jus, S. A., 1952. Pp. xvii, 276. \$12.mex.)

*Archivalia Mexicana* is a brief introductory survey and guide to records in the numerous archives scattered throughout the United Mexican States. Sr.

Carrera Stampa has compiled a small volume which reveals the rich patrimony in archivalia of his native land. In fact this is a type of reference work which should be prepared for each of the Latin American countries.

Part one is devoted to general considerations. The great number of the existing archives, the neglect which they have suffered, and the extensive losses of records which have occurred are indicated. The importance of the archivalia for the history of the country and the need for the development of archivology are emphasized. There is also a brief statement regarding the several types of archivalia, which include general or national, state, notarial, municipal, ecclesiastic and other types.

Part two contains a fairly full account of the archives and their archivalia in 31 institutions in Mexico City. These include the Archivo General de la Nación and other archives of the executive power, those of the Federal District, of the judiciary, of the legislative power, of the Archbishopric of Mexico, and of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. The description of each archive gives its location and hours of service, as well as some data on its history and the condition of the records. Then in each case there is a somewhat complete indication of the dates, the classes and the importance of the archivalia in the depository. The available finding media are indicated and citations are given for publications and articles dealing with the archives.

In part three there is a more summary listing of the many archives in the several states of the Republic, with descriptions in some cases. These archives include state, municipal, notarial, ecclesiastical, and other types. The fuller statements refer to archives which the author has visited or about which there are descriptive articles in print. For most states there is also a list of towns which are presumed to have interesting and valuable collections of archivalia.

The appendixes comprise the Regulations of the General Archive of the Nation (1946), the Regulations of the General Notarial Archive of the Federal District (1947), and the Regulations of the Public State Archive of Campeche (1941). There are also a bibliography of manuscripts and of printed books and articles dealing with the Mexican archives and an excellent index. The volume is dedicated to the memory of José Toribio Medina, the great Chilean bibliographer. Sr. Carrera Stampa has made an important contribution to Latin American archivology.

ROSCOE R. HILL

*Washington, D. C.*

*A List of the Records of the Parish of St. Marylebone (1683-1900) in the Town Hall and of Records Relating to St. Marylebone (1726-1935) in St. Marylebone Public Library. ([London], Metropolitan Borough of St. Marylebone, 1952. Pp. 25. Processed.)*

This modest unbound publication, an important addition to the growing literature on British archives, is a carefully annotated list of records relating to St. Marylebone in the custody of the town clerk and the borough librarian. Most of the 849 volumes in the town hall were produced by the vestry be-

tween 1729 and 1900, after which the vestry was succeeded by the modern borough council. Groups of special interest are the rate books (246 vols.), which contain the names of the taxpayers and the rates and purposes of the local taxes they paid; and the records of the turnpike trustees, charged with the responsibility for the improvement and maintenance of major highways in the eighteenth century (40 vols.). The 261 volumes (plus a few bundles and odd pieces) on deposit at St. Marylebone's public library are quite miscellaneous, although most are of the public record variety. Included are the records of the St. Marylebone charity school for girls, 1750-1932; of the justices of the St. Marylebone division of the County of Middlesex and London, 1822-1935; and of the Royal Botanic Society of London, 1838-1931.

ROBERT E. BURKE

*Bancroft Library*

*Hand-List of Additions to the Collection of English Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library, 1937-1951*, by F. Taylor. [Reprinted from the *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*, vol. 34, no. 1, September 1951.] (Manchester, John Rylands Library, Manchester University Press, 1951. Pp. 50. 2s. 6d.)

The John Rylands Library of Manchester, England, has in its 50 years of existence gathered together fine collections of books and manuscripts in wide fields for research.

Founded in 1899 by the widow of the businessman John Rylands as a memorial to her husband, it was in the beginning intended primarily as a working library for theological students, in line with the late Mr. Rylands' main intellectual interests. The acquisition of the famous Althorp collection of Elizabethan, Latin, and Greek items greatly extended its scope, until it inevitably became a primary source for the history of printing as well as for the study of humanism and the textual study and exegesis of the Biblical texts. The acquisition in 1901 of a famous collection of manuscripts from the Bibliotheca Lindesiana, containing many Latin manuscripts and featuring sumptuous examples of Persian and Arabic calligraphy and Chinese graphic art prompted further collection of such materials, as well as the building of an equivalent body of Western manuscripts (*cf.* H. B. Charlton, "The Jubilee of the John Rylands Library," *John Rylands Library Bulletin*, 32:147-156, March 1950).

As this part of the library grew, its keepers undertook to compile lists of these manuscripts. In 1911 was published the *Catalogue of the Greek Papyri* and in 1921 the *Catalogue of the Latin Manuscripts*.

The first catalog of the English manuscripts, which became the largest group of this part of the library, was prepared in 1928 by Moses Tyson, the then keeper of Western manuscripts. Entitled *Hand-List of the Collection of English Manuscripts . . . 1928*, it was followed in 1935 by the *Hand-List of Additions . . . 1928-35*, and in 1937 by the *Supplementary Hand-List of Western Manuscripts, 1937*. The present list is the fourth.

This list well illustrates what has come to be the character of the English

manuscripts collection. A number of the 250 acquisitions here described supplement materials already in the library, such as the Indian and East India Co. records (nos. 926-935) to be found in the Melville papers and the Pitt papers; and volumes of records of the Moravian Church (nos. 1054-1087), including transcripts from the Herrnhut and British archives, proceedings of church conferences, and much biographical information.

Several large groups of correspondence introduce new topics for research, such as the Hibbert-Ware papers (nos. 989-1038), of which many relate to Dr. Samuel Hibbert-Ware, the geologist and antiquary, and many to the life of the Hibbert-Ware family of Lancashire in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Another is the Wedgwood correspondence (nos. 1101-1110), from which a study could be made of the private and business life of that illustrious family. The consular correspondence of Viscount Mount-Stuart at the Court of Turin (nos. 1145-1148) covers a critical and interesting period from 1776 to 1783. The Nicholson papers (nos. 1041-1053) include many business letters from American firms to James Nicholson, a nineteenth century Liverpool merchant, as well as much family correspondence. The Stanley correspondence (nos. 1092-1095) includes boyhood letters of the famous Dean Stanley and much correspondence of Edward Lyulph Stanley, educator and social reformer, one of whose correspondents was the American author, Sarah Anne Ellis Dorsey.

The trend toward local history is strongly evidenced in this list, in which appear a number of collections relating to the neighboring county of Chester, though Lancashire is not neglected. The Nicholls manuscripts (nos. 916-925) consist of notes of the Cheshire antiquary William Nicholls, who died in 1809, and provide a wealth of genealogical and armorial data. In the H. Hulme local history papers (nos. 971-985) are to be found pedigrees, poll books, and miscellaneous materials relating to districts of Cheshire. Individual accessions of commonplace books, rent books, account books, parish registers, estate books, leasehold books, and the like add to the richness of local history data.

Of literary and religious manuscripts such as were predominant in earlier lists a few have been added; for example the 14 letters and manuscripts of Fanny Burney's family, an eighteenth century theatrical calendar, a volume of sermons delivered by the Puritan divine William Benn, and various diaries and journals.

In the arrangement of the list Mr. Taylor has followed the general plan of his predecessor, giving for each collection described a statement of its size and the dates covered, together with a more or less detailed statement of subject matter and nearly always a statement of former ownership. Those of us plagued by the mysterious origins of our own collections find this highly commendable. The index includes references to all personal and place names, to a few titles, and to the names of religious denominations, but to comparatively few subjects. There are, however, such form entries as: Account books, Diaries and journals, Genealogies, Medical papers, and Sermons, which in some cases can serve as subject references.

On the whole this volume and the three earlier ones constitute an excellent guide to the Rylands manuscripts, a tool of which its makers can be proud and of which scholars, archivists, and librarians will make good use.

DOROTHY V. MARTIN

*Burton Historical Collection*  
*Detroit Public Library*

*Lists of the Records of the Court of Arches, Deposited for Temporary Safe Keeping in the Bodleian Library in 1941*, by M. D. Slatter. (Oxford[?], December 1951. Pp. iii, 26. Processed.)

The title of this little descriptive records inventory fairly well suggests its contents. The work of M. D. Slatter, sometime archivist to the Leicester Museum, it covers the surviving records of the Court of Arches. The records described extend, with a few exceptions, from 1660 to 1913. These exceptions include one act book, 1635-36; three sentence books, 1560-61, 1622-23, and 1639-40; and seven muniment books, 1565-1662.

The introductory pages of the inventory contain a brief history of the Court of Arches, which functioned primarily as a court of appeal for the lower ecclesiastical courts of the province of Canterbury and took its name from the arched roof of St. Mary-le-Bow Church in London, where the Dean of Arches presided over the courts under his jurisdiction. The table of contents gives the descriptive title of each list, including act books; acts of court; assignation books; sentences; decrees; commissions; appeals; process books; libels, articles, allegations, and interrogatories; answers; depositions; muniment books; original exhibits; papers exhibited; nineteenth-century cause papers (numbered); nineteenth- and twentieth-century cause papers (unnumbered); nineteenth-century administrative papers; bills of costs; bonds; miscellaneous books relating to proctors; miscellaneous papers relating to proctors; commissions for the admission of advocates and proctors; and records of other courts. Each list is prefaced by a description of the category of record covered and some information as to the arrangement and physical condition of the documents; then follows a numbered list of the books or bundles of documents, with the covering dates of each.

The records described in these lists document a significant part of the history of the administration of justice in England. Researchers in that field will surely welcome Miss Slatter's work. The archival profession will recognize it as evidence of one more conquest of official neglect.

RAYMOND P. FLYNN

*National Archives*

*The Archives of York Diocesan Registry; Their Provenance and History*, by J. S. Purvis. [St. Anthony's Hall, *Publications*, no. 2.] (London, Academic Development Committee, York Civic Trust, St. Anthony's Press, 1952. Pp. 16. 2s. 8 d.)

This is the second of two booklets (two more are announced) bearing wit-

ness to the important work being done in rehabilitating local archival collections and in making them accessible to scholars by the St. Anthony's Hall scheme, supported by the munificence of the Pilgrim Trust. Diocesan registries, because of the peculiar legal position of the registrars and the private nature of the documents in their possession, have been notoriously conservative in discouraging a wide use of their treasures by competent persons. In recent years the diocesan registry at York has reversed this policy. "It is the purpose of these pages to forward this new policy, by giving some account of these Registry archives, their nature, their value to the student in historical research, their history in the past, and the uses to which it is proposed that they shall be put in the future."

Following his purpose, the author includes sections on a general account of the archives, their provenance and history, the arrangement of the general index now being compiled, and a description of the archives. The third and fourth sections of the booklet are the most detailed and useful. Some indication of the contents of this exceptionally rich collection may be gathered from a listing of the 10 main groups: archbishops' registers (51 vols. from 1214, complete from 1265 to 1878); convocation records (175 parcels from 1534); terrier and tithe awards (324 bundles from 1600); benefice papers (525 bundles, 5,852 pieces, 50 vols., and 119 boxes from 1515 to 1942, the majority being post-Reformation); peculiars (from 1661 to 1852); visitation books and papers (424 books and bundles from 1563); books and papers of courts and causes (358 vols. and 177 bundles, now boxed, containing 12,893 files from 1302 to 1875); parish register transcripts (200,000); marriage licences (300,000); and miscellaneous records, including precedent books and papers (172 books and bundles from 1389 to 1560). The principles of the filing system are explained in analyzing the contents of the 10 main groups.

This is a useful booklet, clearly written. In order to appreciate the significance of the collection it describes, it should be read in conjunction with C. R. Cheney's *English Bishops' Chanceries, 1100-1250* (Manchester University Press, 1950).

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*Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings*, vol. 26, pts. 1 and 2 (1949); vol. 28, pt. 1 (1951). (New Delhi, Government of India Press, 1950, 1952. Pp. 105, 35; iii, 282.)

These volumes of proceedings of the annual meetings of the commission at Cuttack in 1949 and Jaipur in 1951 continue to reflect the progress both in collecting and in making available for study materials on modern Indian history. Foreign archivists and scholars will be especially interested in the efforts made to preserve the records of the former princely states, to seek out significant manuscripts in private hands in India, and to microfilm for the National Archives of India materials relevant to India in foreign archives.

The records of the former Viceroy's Political Department, supplemented

by the archives of the political residents at the numerous princely and "agency" capitals, most of which have been assembled in New Delhi, probably represent the greatest opportunity for research on India's nineteenth-century history. It is to be hoped that the work of cataloging and arranging these materials will be completed in the near future. The great bulk of these records are intact, but some were destroyed, and many post-1880 confidential files were moved to the office of the United Kingdom High Commission at the time of partition. Of almost equal interest are the archives of the various princes whose states have been merged either into new princely "unions" or into the adjacent provinces (now all states within the new Republic of India). The commission's efforts to preserve these records *in situ* and have them properly cared for and made available for study have in large part been successful. In some cases, records of the smaller states will be brought together at some appropriate spot, e.g. Patiala. Records already well housed and cared for, as at Bhopal and Alwar, will not be moved.

Both volumes contain detailed reports of the search for private documents of historical interest. Because of the ravages of damp and insects, such searches are likely to be disappointing in India. Nevertheless, many interesting collections have been brought to public notice, especially some relating chiefly to the Mogul period. Of particular interest are finds in Berar of Persian manuscripts of the seventeenth century in the family papers of Raja Udaram; Modi and Marathi manuscripts of Bhawani Kalu, Dewan of the Bhonslas of Nagpur; and Persian manuscripts of Rajarm Pant Walke, Dewan of the Nizam. Mention should also be made of the family records of the Nawabs of Murshidabad and of the Jagat Seth family in Bengal.

These reports also bear witness to the modernization of the Indian Archives establishment in Delhi, which is now well equipped for the preservation and photographic reproduction of records. Approximately 200 rolls of microfilm from London and 100 from the French and Dutch archives are now available for use by Indian students, who need no longer make the journey to Europe to consult such records. This program of acquisition of records not available in the original in Delhi will continue. It is only regrettable that the National Archives in Delhi is not being used more and that the progress of the well-conceived publication program cannot be faster. Archivists and scholars interested in what is being done in this field should follow not only these annual reports of the commission but also the periodical *Indian Archives*.

HOLDEN FURBER

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*A Guide to the India Office Library*, by S. C. Sutton. (London, Commonwealth Relations Office, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1952. Pp. iv, 62, illus., appendixes, index. 3s. 6d.; cloth, 6s. 6d.)

This valuable little publication will be useful to any Indologist or prospective student of Indic studies who plans to use the vast resources of the India Office library. It will also be useful as a guide to India Office publications,

particularly catalogs descriptive of India Office library holdings, which are available in other libraries. Mr. Sutton has carefully organized this *Guide* to include historical sketches of the development of the India Office library as a whole and of each section and subsection of the library's holdings. These he lists as (1) Printed Books, with subsections entitled European printed books and Oriental printed books, (2) Manuscripts, including European and Oriental manuscripts, (3) Drawings — European and Oriental, (4) Photographs, and (5) Miscellaneous Properties, including gramophone records, coins, lantern slides, textile samples, epigraphical material, and reading exhibits.

Of primary interest to any who plan to use the India Office library in the near future is the information contained in this *Guide* pertaining to the reorganization and modernization since 1936 of the library's cataloging system involving not only the ultimate replacement of the old "Green Catalogue" descriptive of the library's European printed books with a new card catalog, but also the publication of a number of new printed catalogs descriptive of various sections of the printed books and the manuscripts. At the date of publication of the *Guide* (1952), the new card catalog of printed books in European languages was one-third complete. A subject catalog in which subjects will be listed in alphabetical order — i.e. *Abbasid*, *Abhidhamma-pitaka*, *Abor Expedition*, and so forth — is in preparation and, when printed, will provide scholars with entries for all books, pamphlets, scrapbook cuttings, and official publications in the India Office library. It will further contain an appendix listing official and nonofficial serial publications and an alphabetical author index. A new exhaustive catalog of the library's Sanskrit and Prakrit printed books is also in preparation with a volume covering entries alphabetically listed under the letters *A* to *G* already printed. The second volume, *H* to *K*, is now in the press. This catalog will be completed in two additional volumes.

The *Guide* is even more detailed in its descriptions of European and Oriental manuscripts than in its printed book section. Besides enumerating existing and contemplated catalogs of the several subsections of manuscripts, it provides brief descriptions of the chief collections in the library's possession, such as the Francis manuscripts of Sir Philip Francis, the Stein collection of Sanskrit birchbark manuscripts from Kashmir, and the Hodgson collection of Tibetan manuscripts in 320 volumes, including the *Tanjur* and *Kanjur* and many more.

A copy of the library rules is useful, and appendixes listing the chief collections of manuscripts and the principal publications of the library including prices possess value. In criticism, one wonders why the author chose to use *Tippoo* instead of *Tipu* and *Deccan* instead of *Dekkan*, while in virtually all other Asiatic names — i.e., *Mughal* rather than *Moghul* — he chose to use the orthography of the language concerned.

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Government of Northern Ireland, Public Record Office. *Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records for the Years 1949 & 1950*. (Belfast, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, [1952]. Pp. 266. 6s. 6d.)

This report records the further attempts on the part of the Public Record Office to build up its research collections on Ireland either in original or reproduced form. Three sources are being exploited: the Public Record Office in London, private and local collections in Northern Ireland, and official government records.

The Deputy Keeper of Records indicates that he is faced with the two perennial problems of archival institutions, space and budget. He foresees the need either of providing some other means for storing records of marginal research value or of instituting a disposal program. Because of high costs of printing the complete index of documents is no longer attempted.

Detailed descriptions are provided for five collections recently accessioned. Covering for the most part the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, these records provide extensive data on historical, social, economic, political, and local aspects of Irish history. The major part of the *Report* is devoted to a name index of documents dated before 1800 and accessioned from 1945 to 1948. A few subjects and place names are included, but for the most part the index will be of greatest use to the genealogist or family historian.

HOMER L. CALKIN

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*Guía de los Archivos de Madrid*, with an introduction by Francisco Sintés y Obrador. (Madrid, Ministerio de Educación Nacional, Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas, 1952. Pp. x, 592.)

According to Francisco Sintés y Obrador, Director General of Archives and Libraries of Spain, this volume is a "census of documentary materials," by which he means to say that it is a brief survey of the archives of Madrid. It is in fact the first step in an extensive program of the Dirección, designed to produce a complete description and inventory of all the archives of Spain. The volume includes the archives of the governmental offices in Madrid and those of the ecclesiastical authorities and private philanthropic societies. It does not include archives of private individuals, especially of the nobility, nor the municipal and ecclesiastical archives of the province of Madrid.

The governmental archives are listed in groups corresponding to the Cortes, the superior administration, and the various ministries. Under each of these headings the descriptions of the archives found in the different offices are given. Each entry comprises three sections: a general statement, a history, and a statement on the organization and classification of the documents and occasionally a bibliography of materials about the archive and a section entitled conservation and cataloging. The general statement gives the location and purpose of the archive; the hours when it is open; and whether the documents may be consulted and the regulations governing their use. Often the name of the person in charge is indicated and whether he belongs to the archival corps.

The section on history presents the salient features of the life of the archive. That on organization and classification of the documents is usually the most extensive, although the length varies greatly in the various entries. In each case, however, it affords a satisfactory brief description of the types and classes of records found in the archives. The descriptions of the ecclesiastical and other archives follow the general pattern indicated above, although the information is much more sketchy in character.

The reports on the archives were prepared by different individuals, usually members of the staff of the archives but occasionally other persons designated by the Dirección General. The index gives the name or names of those who drafted each entry. The volume was published in time for distribution at the First Ibero-American Congress of Archives, Libraries and Copyright, which was held in Madrid in October 1952. The *Guía* is a most useful introduction to the many archives of Madrid.

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*Arkiv- och Biblioteksfilming; Betänkande Avgivet av 1949 års Sakkuniga Rörande Arkiv- och Biblioteksfilming.* [Statens Offentliga Utredningar 1951: 36. Ecklesiastikdepartementet.] (Uppsala, Appelbergs Boktryckeri, 1951. Pp. 113, 1, supp., biblio.)

This volume is the official report of a committee of five experts authorized by the Swedish Parliament and appointed in 1949 by the head of the Ecklesiastikdepartement to investigate the possibility of the systematic employment of microfilming in Swedish archival institutions and libraries. The present Royal Archivist, his predecessor, Professor Bäckström of the Kungl Tekniska Högskola, a State commissioner, and the librarian of Uppsala University constitute the committee.

The directive from the Ecklesiastikdepartement, which recommended the appointment of the investigative committee and served as its working guide, prefaces the report. It points to the four problems that plague all custodians of research material — preservation, protection, space, and availability to searchers — and to the fact that in the United States microfilming has become the foremost aid in solving them. It then indicates the specific phases of problems to be considered in the investigation.

In an introductory section, "Historical and Present Considerations," the committee reviews experiences to date with types of cameras, reading machines, and sizes and kinds of film (including film strips and microcards), and surveys the current application of microphotography at home and abroad. Since the United States has had the greatest practical experience, a large portion of this section is devoted to the projects that have been undertaken in this country. A consideration of the technical, administrative, and legal problems involved concludes this introductory part.

The members of the committee next present their understanding of what

can be accomplished in Sweden through microfilming. Here consideration is given to specific records that it would be desirable to photograph.

The conclusion reached as a result of this very thorough study is that "modern film technique has a great task [mission] to fill in archival and library administration" by (1) making books, archives, and manuscripts more readily available; (2) lessening the difficulties of extra-urban loans; (3) supplementing the measures now used to preserve valuable collections from destruction through disintegration or catastrophe; (4) enriching research collections more inexpensively; and (5) saving space and administrative expense. Accordingly, a 4-year work program is suggested, and recommendations and estimated requirements (fiscal and other) for its execution are presented. It is emphasized that the recommendations are considered of the "utmost urgency" because of the international situation, and hope is expressed that the matter can be decided in the 1952 session of Parliament so that work may begin as soon as possible.

Appended is a separate study by Professor Bäckström on the question of the permanence of photographic archives (pp. 75-108), with a related bibliography (pp. 109-[114]), in which the author has succeeded admirably in "collecting in concentrated form the most important experiences" on the subject.

It seems likely that this careful, painstaking, and very competent study will render service far beyond that originally intended. It should not only enable Sweden to undertake its program with confidence but also contribute valuable factual information and a helpful approach to long-range planning anywhere a large-scale microfilm program is contemplated. No similarly comprehensive study has been undertaken previously. The survey of the technical questions involved and the practical experience gained to date will be of particular interest to technicians and administrators everywhere. In the United States these sections of the report will doubtless be of greatest interest.

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