

Reviews of Books

RICHARD G. WOOD, *Editor*

National Archives

Archivkunde; ein Beitrag zur Theorie und Geschichte des europaischen Archivwesens, by Adolf Brenneke, assembled and edited by Wolfgang Leesch. (Leipzig, Koehler and Amelang, 1953. Pp. xix, 542, biblio., index. 22.50 Mark.)

This volume, which in its subtitle modestly purports to be a mere contribution to the theory of European archival economy, contains a fairly exhaustive account of European archival developments and thinking. It is based upon lectures and papers left by the late Dr. Adolf Brenneke, who for many years was director of the Prussian Privy State Archives in Berlin-Dahlem. The ideas in these writings, which Brenneke formulated in the course of a lifetime of service as an archivist in Münster, Danzig, Hannover, and Berlin, were worked over by his student Dr. Wolfgang Leesch, and were supplemented in various ways in order to embody views expressed in archival literature appearing since Brenneke's death in 1946.

The volume is prefaced by a short biographical sketch of Brenneke and by a list of his writings. The main body of the book is divided into two parts, the first concerning itself with archival theory, and the second with archival history.

In the part on archival theory are six chapters that deal successively with the basic concepts or terminology of the profession, the types of materials (considered from the point of view of their origins and organization) with which archivists must deal, the problems of accessioning and selection, the development of the theory and science of the profession, the conflict between the subject-matter and the provenance approach in handling archival materials, and the types of archival agencies that have developed in the course of history. Perhaps the most useful of these chapters to an American archivist is the one on the history of archival theory and science. In it is found a discussion of the practical-inductive principles of classification evolved in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the rational-deductive schemes of arrangement developed in the eighteenth century, the conflicting views of the various Prussian theoreticians on the functions and organization of an archival agency, and the development of the principle of provenance with its varying interpretations and applications during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The last of the theoretical chapters relates to the classification of archival agencies into various types. According to Brenneke the objective of archival history and science should be to ascertain how individual documents came into being and were brought together and how they ought to be brought together. Archival history, then, is a history of the form or the manner in which documents were accumulated and maintained. "Structure and tectonic,"

to use the words of Brenneke, determine the content and the character of an archival agency. The emphasis on the importance of form led Brenneke to formulate certain archival form-types (*Formtypen*) with the help of which he thought the development of archival institutions could be clarified. As a basis for the historical discussions in the second part of the volume, Brenneke developed modes of classifying archival agencies. Thus he grouped such agencies (1) by the origins of their holdings, (2) by the methods or the form in which these holdings had been brought together, and (3) by the organizations represented by their holdings — such as ministerial, provincial, central, or other organizational units.

In the second part of the volume is contained the information developed by Brenneke, and supplemented by Leesch, on the history of archival institutions. Although German developments are perhaps analyzed most thoroughly, attention is also given to those in non-European countries. The first of the chapters in this part relates to archival developments during antiquity and the Middle Ages, the second to those in Germany through 1815, and the third to those throughout the world since the French Revolution. Developments in all European countries, including Soviet Russia, and in Latin America and the United States are covered.

The section relating to the United States contains a fairly well-informed account of the history of the movement for the establishment of the National Archives, and of its organization, principles, and procedures. American archivists will find piquant the reasons adduced for the failure to establish a National Archives until late in the national history of the country. Various organizational changes within the National Archives are correctly analyzed. For example, it is observed that the early functional organization of the agency, with its organizational units for classification and cataloging and the like, resulted in a "kind of division of labor that was suited for purely manual, not for intellectual activities, and led to a duplication of work and to a failure to gain a general or a thorough knowledge of stack contents." Though mention is made of the integration of the National Archives into the General Services Administration, certain of the attendant changes are not understood, such as the role of the National Archives Council, which is no longer existent, which has not reviewed disposal requests of Government agencies for many years, and the regulations of which are no longer binding. The account of the National Archives could have been improved by a review of its issuances of the last few years, which have served to place the agency on a sound procedural and administrative basis. A list of the State archives within the United States is appended. This is grouped into four types: those which are independent State agencies, those which are parts of State libraries, those which are administered by State historical agencies, and those which are attached to other State Government agencies.

A 72-page bibliography is found in the volume. German archivists have a little difficulty with the spelling of American names, as Americans have with the German.

On the whole, this volume should prove very useful to archivists interested

in the theory and history of archival institutions. It is a learned work, containing a wealth of information that is assembled in an orderly fashion and presented in a German that is only moderately involved in its sentence structure and terminology.

THEODORE R. SCHELLENBERG

National Archives

Local Records, Their Nature and Care, edited by Lilian J. Redstone and Francis W. Steer. (London, G. Bell and Sons, 1953. Pp. xiv, 246, biblio., index. \$5.50.)

This is a scholarly contribution to the literature of archives. Designed to supplement Sir Hilary Jenkinson's standard handbook for the theoretically national level (*A Manual of Archive Administration*, published in 1922, revised in 1937), and written to plumb and interpret the nature and care of the valuable local records south of the Scottish border, the new volume is a culmination of purposeful efforts of the Society of Local Archivists, founded in 1947 and now numbering over 150 members.

The first 8 chapters discuss the local record office as an English rather than a British institution. The duties of the local archivist and his relationship to his employing authority, usually a county council or a borough government, are explained. How the English public library may act as a repository for records is illustrated by 18 examples from around the country; and how regional historical societies or special trustees may have prepared the local field in advance of the professional archivist is admitted. What layout and equipment a local record office needs and what it must have in the way of staff and training are developed. Most of the requirements are distinctively English, which means that they lean in the direction of deep learning, but archivists anywhere may well agree that the archival profession "... has demanded, and always will demand a high degree of versatility. In every case, it has required, and always will require, a real interest in the job to be done."

The next five chapters tell about the archivist at work. The injunction to go out and *get* the records is conveyed with due stress on the importance of tactfulness. Some of the essential, or in other words practical, implications of accessioning, classification, and cataloging are explained. The experience of local offices in the successful publishing of documents and pamphlets is set forth as an ideal. Processes, paper stocks, and techniques figure briefly in a chapter on repairs. The exhibiting of documents is considered a profitable factor in the archivist's relations with the public; but too liberal reference service is not advised: "... for example, in most record offices documents of a date say later than 1900 cannot be produced for students without special permission."

Then comes the informative heart of the book, 12 chapters that describe in some detail the principal classes of documentary records to be found outside a central depository such as the Public Record Office. The genealogist, the prospective local archivist, the historian, and the just average educated person, be he Britisher or non-Britisher, can find in these chapters simple and able

essays covering the following categories: records of quarter sessions and the clerk of the peace, county council records, the archives of the City of London, the archives of London's ancient guilds or city companies, records of county boroughs and lesser boroughs, ecclesiastical parish records, other ecclesiastical records — with a separate chapter on archives of the nonestablished churches, — probate records, estate and family archives, and the archives of businesses and societies. The treatment of maps, plans, and engravings embraces matters of form and custody rather than substance.

The book, itself a testament to the fruits of the spirit, concludes with three short chapters on cooperation: first, as to the links between and among the local record offices; second, as to the relationship between the typical local record office and the British Records Association, the initial sponsor and still the mentor of the Society of Local Archivists; and third, as to the similar yet not redundant aims and methods of the local record office as compared with those of the National Register of Archives.

The volume, which is appropriately indexed, is bound in red buckram, lettered in gold. The reader who opens it will find that the editors, Lilian J. Redstone and Francis W. Steer, have rather well integrated the material and ideas contributed by some three dozen archivists whose names (but not institutional connections) are revealed in a list of contributors. Except in the instance of the introductory chapter, specific authorship is not assigned. Currently chairman of the Society of Local Archivists, Col. William Le Hardy wrote the preface out of his genial store of experience as archivist of Middlesex and Hertfordshire. Anyone interested in the problems and exploration of local archives in England may find useful the 12-page bibliography at the end of the book.

H. B. FANT

National Archives

Bibliographie sélective des guides d'archives; supplément au Guide international des archives, tome I (*Europe*), 1934, compiled by Robert-Henri Bautier. (*Journal of Documentation*, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 1-41. March 1953.)

The *Guide international des archives*, vol. 1, *Europe*, was published in 1934 under the auspices of the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation. It recorded in handbook form the answers to 22 questions put to the archival authorities of the countries of Europe with regard to their holdings and services. Questions 4 and 6 had to do with bibliographical matters, asking respondents to indicate the existence of overall guides and other published finding aids.

The bibliography under review, published in the *Journal of Documentation*, is an attempt to bring the answers to these two questions up to date for the countries of Europe, and to provide comparable information for countries outside Europe for the period 1900 to date. A project of the International Council on Archives, the bibliography deserves a vote of thanks from archivists, librarians, and historians everywhere. It is a thorough-going revision of a provisional edition reproduced by Unesco for the ICA in 1950 under the

title, *Répertoire sélectif de guides des archives*. It is issued now under the auspices of the ICA, with acknowledgment to Unesco for financial support in its preparation. M. Bautier, its compiler, has been in a position to draw upon the replies to several questionnaires circulated in the past several years by ICA. But to the data from these, inevitably of uneven character, he has added much information from other sources. The result is a bibliography broad in scope and as nearly current as may be. Entries are given for over 70 countries and territories listed alphabetically, and while there is some variation in terminal dates, a number of imprints of 1952 are listed.

The fact that the United States fell outside the scope of the 1934 edition of the *Guide*, the fact that in 1934 the National Archives of the United States was only getting under way, and the vantage point of the present reviewer combine to warrant special attention to United States entries in this review. The coverage is excellent and as a report of accomplishment might justify something akin to complacency both on the part of M. Bautier and on the part of the National Archives. It is also a source of satisfaction to see an adequate though necessarily brief statement of the work and contribution of the Historical Records Survey.

Inasmuch as the bibliography is intended to cover the period 1900 to date, attention should be called to the omission of several items published in the pre-1934 (and pre-National Archives) period, now largely superseded but of very great significance historically. The landmarks of 1904 and 1907 — the two editions of Van Tyne and Leland's *Guide to the Archives of the Government of the United States in Washington* — should not fail of notice, nor should Leland and Mereness' *Introduction to American Official Sources for the Economic and Social History of the World War* (1926). Parker's *Calendar of Papers in Washington Archives Relating to the Territories of the United States (to 1873)* (1911), published under Carnegie Institution auspices, might also be cited. And a much more recent publication, also privately produced, might well be listed — Billington's *Guides to American History Manuscript Collections in Libraries of the United States* (1952), reprinted from the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, December 1951. Billington's interest is manuscripts, as distinguished from archives, but he lists a few publications of archival agencies. His inclusion in Bautier's compilation would seem further warranted by the complexities of the archival situation in a federal union, and also by the fact that the distinction between archives and manuscripts is not so rigorously observed, so far as accessioning policy is concerned, in Europe as in the United States.

It is perhaps a little ironic that despite the international character of its sponsorship, the bibliography omits notice of several recently published finding aids to materials in the Archives of the United Nations, including its *Union List of UNRRA Film* (1949).

One suggestion would appear to be in order with regard to editorial practice. In a bibliography of this length, the numbering of the items is to be strongly recommended, since it facilitates the use and identification of items.

M. Bautier and the ICA have produced a valuable reference work. It

should be appraised as a greater contribution than its title as a "supplement" to the 1934 *Guide* might imply, since it covers a vastly broader area and a period in which the pace of activity of archival agencies and professional archival associations has been generally accelerating.

LESTER W. SMITH

National Archives

Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the William L. Clements Library, compiled by William S. Ewing. (Ann Arbor, Clements Library, 1953. Pp. ix, 548, index. \$4.)

The appearance of this new and revised *Guide* is very welcome; not only are copies of the first edition now hard to buy, but information is wanted about the library's newer accessions. While filling this need Mr. Ewing and his associates have produced an invaluable guide in itself but have admittedly not supplanted the 1942 edition, completed by Howard Peckham. In the first edition considerably more biographical and descriptive material was included than appears in the present edition; accordingly cross-references are made "to Peckham's guide for fuller discussion" whenever there is an earlier listing.

This edition appears in plain blue binding, is photo-lithographed and has no illustrations — quite a contrast in appearance to the first edition, but offered at a modest price. A preface by Colton Storm includes a chronological and topical description of the manuscript collection as a whole — the larger groups and some notable small collections. The text describing the collection fills 317 pages; this is followed by a name index of 229 pages.

The text follows the condensed style that has become standardized for describing manuscript holdings; when the National Register of Manuscripts becomes a reality these entries may be recorded there intact. The typographical makeup allows each collection to be easily located and read. Entries are arranged alphabetically and numbered, 304 in all, as compared with 172 in the first edition. A few of the additional entries were made by a division of items previously listed together; others represent accessions since 1942.

Each entry gives the name assigned to the collection, (1) the person, family, government agency or corporate body by or to whom the papers were written, or (2) the collector, when known, or (3) the subject of anonymous collections or works. When collections are entered under the name of a person, the years of his birth and death are given, and that is the extent of the biographical information. The size of the collection is given in linear feet of shelf space occupied; if less than one foot, the number of items is given. Subject matter is described, and appropriate cross-references are made to other entries. Publications based on papers, published texts, and mention of items in sales catalogs are listed. Finally, the names of writers of letters and authors and signers of documents are listed alphabetically — this may run from half a dozen names to 20 pages set in double columns.

Within the limits of style and content that the compilers of this edition have set for themselves, scarcely any adverse criticism can be offered. In the

references to Peckham's *Guide* inclusion of the earlier entry number would have been useful. There is no clue to the library's map holdings, and the article in Peckham's *Guide* will not, of course, cover the recent acquisitions. But these matters are of small importance beside the great achievement of an up-to-date and comprehensive guide to the Clements collection.

MARGUERITE PEASE

University of Illinois

A Guide to the Principal Sources for Early American History (1600-1800) in the City of New York, by Evarts B. Greene and Richard B. Morris. (2d. ed., rev. by Richard B. Morris. New York, Columbia University Press, 1953. Pp. xxxvi, 400. \$10.)

This volume, which replaces the first edition of the *Guide* published in 1929, will be welcomed by archivists and historians since it brings up to date (if only temporarily) the information on manuscript holdings of New York City institutions in the field of American history before 1800. As in 1929 there was no comparable work for any other American city, so today this *Guide* is still unique and of special value. Part 1 on printed sources and part 2 on manuscript collections (section A: general and political material; section B: special topics, viz., American law, land systems and land enterprises, American business, ecclesiastical history, and the history of culture) in the new edition are identical with those in the first edition and were evidently reproduced by photo-offset. If the latter statement is correct, the list price of this book is excessive. Part 3, which contains the new material of the revision covering 40 pages, is concerned almost exclusively with manuscript collections acquired during the past 20-odd years. Since it is organized under the same topical scheme as part 2, the user may conveniently refer from the one to the other.

Archivists will be glad to find recognition of their work in a brief essay at the beginning of part 3 (pp. 331-333) on "Recent Inventories of the Public Records." Mr. Morris points out the importance of the early Federal records listed in the *National Archives Guide* (1948) and discusses the valuable work of the Survey of Federal Archives and the Historical Records Survey as revealed in their published and unpublished inventories. He writes with first-hand knowledge and appreciation, for he was director of the Survey of Federal Archives in New York City and Long Island and much of his historical writing is based on research in the public records. The subdivisions on law and land under "special topics" in both part 2 and part 3 are especially rich in archival material; the frequent association of public with private papers is well illustrated in various references to the James Duane papers in the *Guide*. Mr. Morris also comments on the progress made during the past decade in microphotographic reproduction of historical records.

The results of manuscript collecting by New York City institutions since the first edition of the *Guide* was published are amply shown in part 3. Most extensive are the acquisitions of the New York Public Library, the New-York Historical Society, Columbia University, and the Morgan Library, which

have broad fields of interest; but scholars are increasingly aware that specialized libraries often possess some of the choicest nuggets. The directory of institutions, which appears at the end of the introduction to the second edition, includes 10 organizations not previously listed. Among recent manuscript accessions are correspondence and other papers of De Witt and George Clinton, Thomas Jefferson, Edmond Genêt, Philip Livingston, the Otis Family, Benjamin Van Cleve, and George Washington—to mention only a few of the larger collections. Of special interest are two diaries of Washington, one of 1795, “missing” in Kilpatrick’s edition, and the other of 1798, formerly in private hands—both now in the Columbia University Library. Numerous single manuscripts are listed, evidently acquired individually, and the size of most collections is given. The wealth of material, now made better known for research, can only be hinted at in this review.

In his preface Mr. Morris pays tribute to the late Evarts B. Greene, who conceived the original project. In turn, it is entirely fitting that Richard B. Morris should receive our commendation for carrying to completion this expanded new edition.

LESTER J. CAPPON

Institute of Early American History and Culture

An Introduction to the History and Records of the Court of Wards and Liveries, by Henry Esmond Bell. [Cambridge Studies in English Legal History, edited by H. A. Holland.] (London, Cambridge University Press, 1953. Pp. x, 215, biblio., appendix, index. \$6.)

This publication is an eventful contribution to both the legal and archival professions. The Cambridge Studies has sponsored more than a dozen such scholarly works relating to the documentation of English legal history since its inception in 1921 under the editorship of H. D. Hazeltine. The latest book by Mr. Bell, a fellow of New College, Oxford, and a former member of the staff of the British Public Records Office, fills a significant gap in the history of English legal institutions. For some reason the famed Selden Society seems to have virtually ignored this important court in its publication programs. This apparent lack of interest is somewhat difficult to understand when one considers that the land-tenure law of so much of the world still evidences the impact of the other related but perhaps better known legal institutions associated with the development of the common law. Witness, for example, that famous landmark of the law of real property, Tyrrel’s Case, wherein it was held in the Court of Wards in 1557 that the Statute of Uses did not cover a use upon a use.

As its title indicates, this volume serves a dual purpose. It is essentially an authoritative, detailed reference commentary on both the history of the Court of Wards and Liveries and its records. Although not a lengthy volume, it does not make for light or casual reading. The author has in fact prepared a text which is clearly a monument to the scholarship of detail and which accurately and definitively recounts the complex story of the feudal incidents of primer seisin, wardship, marriage, and fines for alienation or livery of

seisin, which the court helped convert into financial exactions for the benefit of the King. The first eight chapters, devoted to the history of the court, cover its origins in the efforts of the Crown to increase its revenues from the fines for livery of seisin and the sale of wardships of lands held in chief after the passage of the Statute of Uses, its officers and the extent and nature of its revenues, its mode of operation and burden of responsibility, and the land-owners' agitation against the court, which culminated finally in its elimination under the Statute for the Abolition of Military Tenures in 1660. The last two chapters deal with the site and buildings of the court and the disposition and treatment of its records after the abolition. These chapters are inter-related and, together with chapter 5 on the administration of livery and wardship, will be of primary interest to archivists. The reader will find therein, among other things, one of the finest chapter-and-verse indictments of official negligence and public indifference concerning the fate of important documentation of public policy. No detailed description of the surviving court records is included, for this information is available in British Public Record Office lists and guides, including one compiled in 1937 by the author.

In short, it can be fairly said that the author has furnished interested scholars with more than his modest title claims and more than could ordinarily be expected from a study of this scope. Many a modern layman, sorely beset with his share of astronomical taxes, could read with real interest and entertainment Mr. Bell's very lucid account in chapter 5 of the brutally efficient collection of these early precursors of today's estate and inheritance taxes.

RAYMOND P. FLYNN

National Archives

Retention and Preservation of Records With Destruction Schedules. (rev. ed., Chicago and New York, Records Controls, Inc., 1953. Pp. 38. \$3.)

Recent articles appearing in the *American Archivist* and various business magazines clearly emphasize the continuing importance of records management in both government and industry. This is further indicated by a recent survey, the results of which were published in the *New York Times*, showing an increase of 50% in the number of consulting organizations concerned with records and other management problems during the last decade. Equally indicative is the number of private concerns and government agencies which have recently undertaken the installation of records programs. Few books have been written concerning this problem, and the many articles and pamphlets currently appearing on the subject are entirely too general. There still exists a great need for comprehensive materials which will collate the data already gathered.

Records Control, Inc., has made a sincere endeavor to present a publication of benefit to records managers and other persons interested in record keeping. Although it succeeds in stressing some of the essentials for proper maintenance of records, it adds little that is basically new. Much of the material presented can be found in Bertha Weeks' *How to File and Index. Retention and*

Preservation of Records extracts records programing from that book, and thus provides a concise and well-organized report of current practices and laws affecting records retention as well as recommendations for the retention of business records not specifically governed by Federal and State regulations. The report also discusses other important aspects of record keeping, such as the applications of microphotography, storage methods for noncurrent records, and the preparation of retention schedules.

One important omission, however, is the writers' failure to mention the latest trend in records storage: the use of low-cost records centers equipped with steel shelving and specially designed cardboard containers. It is through this method of housing records that the most startling savings have been realized, with corresponding gains in protection and efficiency. Neglecting to consider this factor invalidates to a large extent the figures presented in analyzing the comparative costs of microfilming and storage.

The authors have also reduced the effectiveness of this publication by limiting its coverage. Unfortunately, it is aimed solely at private industry, and little if any thought has been given to the records maintained by State and local governments. Public officials, therefore, will find little in the report that can be applied to their own records problems.

Despite these shortcomings, I would recommend this report for inclusion in a records research file because it reaffirms the importance of records management and clearly defines the factors for reviewing records problems. Considered as an orientation to the field, the report can be accepted as a worthwhile contribution.

WILLIAM BENEDON

New Jersey Department of Archives and History

Archivalische Zeitschrift, vol. 48, edited by Ignaz Hösl. (München, Verlag von R. Oldenbourg, 1953. Pp. 240.)

This third postwar annual volume is the first which has been received for review, and it is the last which will be edited by Dr. Ignaz Hösl, retired *Staatsarchivdirektor*, whose health has compelled him to resign. The reappearance after a lapse of 11 years (1939-50) of so important a professional vehicle as *Archivalische Zeitschrift* is not lightly to be passed over, and this notice, therefore, must give considered attention to volumes 46 and 47 as well as volume 48.

Although material sufficient to fill a complete volume was at hand by the end of 1939, and although a friendly interest in the revival was evidenced by the American Military Government, still this periodical rose from amidst the ashes 5 years (the foreword to volume 46 is dated May 1950) after cessation of hostilities. In the interim its sister journal, *Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*, had resumed publication in 1947 (see *American Archivist*, 11: 167-170, 370-373) and the new periodical, *Der Archivar*, started in 1947 (see *ibid.*, 11: 72-74, 261-263) had made a good showing. For one thing, the *Archivalische Zeitschrift* had to find a new publisher to replace the firm of Theodor Ackermann, which had published it for nearly 60 years. The editor

wisely chose not to use only his "any day" material in volume 46 (xii, 230 p.), but to give space to much that reveals its contemporaneity. For example, there is the necrology of Fritz Gerlich, *Staatsarchivrat* at Munich, who died in Dachau in July 1934; an article by Anton Schmid on the Bavarian archives in the Second World War (pp. 41-76); a shorter paper by Heinz F. Deininger on the wartime and postwar fate of the Augsburg archives (pp. 182-192); and a contribution by Rudolf Holzhausen, who has written on the same theme elsewhere (*Europa-Archiv*, 4: 2585-2590), on the sources for research in the history of the Third Reich (pp. 196-206). Articles on *Archivpflege* in Bavaria (pp. 77-92), the new arrangement of the Privy State Archives at Munich (pp. 104-124), the history of the family archives of the Counts von den Leyen (pp. 125-173), and the like, together with reviews of two books, both German, complete the volume, which meets the standards of format, size, typesetting, and content that one associates with the *Archivalische Zeitschrift*.

Volume 47 (1951) devotes pages 1-227 to articles and pages 229-242 to reviews of seven German or Austrian imprints. The writers frequently are not Bavarian, and in two instances they are not German but Austrian. Articles most likely to interest American archivists are those by Walter Goldinger on Austria and the opening of the Vatican archives (pp. 23-52); Heinz Lieberich on legal questions associated with copying in archives (pp. 53-78); Lisa Kaiser on records disposal in Sweden (pp. 113-134); Bernhard Vollmer on photography and microphotography as auxiliary aids to archives (pp. 211-215); and Hermann Kownatzki on limits to the principle of provenance (pp. 217-220). Vollmer's paper synthesizes the accepted arguments, pro and con, on photographs and microfilm; and Lieberich examines, almost entirely in relation to German law, many aspects of the question, "Does archival material provide the basis for copyright?" (He concludes that it does only in so far as it is the product of intellectual activity!) Kownatzki argues, as others did several years earlier (see *American Historical Review*, 34:55-57), that archives should largely travel with the people at the time of mass migration or deportation because archives largely belong to the living people and not to the "dead space" which these people once occupied.

Volume 48, delayed a half-year because of financial difficulties, devotes 35 pages to reviews of 33 titles (a generous third of which are French or Austrian), several pages to necrologies, 40 pages to the histories of three monastic archives, 44 pages to the annotated publication of complete texts of documents from the archive of the Counts of Rechteren-Limpurg relating to the outbreak of war in 1615, 37 pages to an intensive study of the correspondence between Elisabeth of Braunschweig-Lüneburg and Albrecht of Prussia from the point of view of diplomatics and archival practices, and to the *pièce de résistance* of the volume, a monograph by Dr. jur. Joachim Meyer-Landrut entitled "Die Behandlung von staatlichen Archiven und Registraturen nach

Völkerrecht," pages 45 through 120. This last, which cannot be summarized adequately here, and which — along with less extensive papers that have preceded it — should be treated in a separate review, is divided into two major parts: the revindication of archives removed contrary to law in time of war, and the legal status of archives and registries in successor states. Dr. Meyer-Landrut's remark, "... the Allies also have, in numerous instances since 1945, removed historical archives from Germany," is backed up only by a small listing and the added statement, "... this enumeration of requisitioned and removed records and archives is by no means complete. It is entirely possible that additional German records are in Allied hands." As to the present situation in the East, the author says, "... the complete 'de-Germanization' of the eastern provinces is the primary purpose of the occupation policy in these areas" and concludes that this fact must not be overlooked in decisions concerning disposition of archives.

Jointly and severally these volumes illustrate continuation of the prewar policy of publishing as much on phases of German history as on the theory and practice of archival administration. One effect of the times, perhaps, is the publication of an article that had been prepared (but could not be published) as a brochure in 1941, of another that is one chapter of a dissertation, and of a third (Meyer-Landrut's) that is the full text of a dissertation.

LESTER K. BORN

Library of Congress

De Rijksarchieven in Nederland, by D. P. M. Graswinckel and staff. (The Hague, Ministerie van Onderwijs, Kunsten en Wetenschappen, 1953. Pp. vii, 404, index.)

On numerous occasions the desire had been expressed by leading Dutch archivists that a general guide to the 11 collections preserved under the auspices of the national government be issued. But not until it was announced that the Second International Congress of Archivists would be held in the Netherlands in 1953 did the plan materialize. Dr. R. C. Bakhuizen van den Brink in 1854 published the first volume of a work that was to have become the first general guide, and Prof. R. Fruin in 1927 issued the guide for the central collection in The Hague, which was followed in 1932 by an English translation. In 1927 a similar guide appeared for the provincial collection of Gelderland in Arnhem, and in 1933 another work dealing with the archives maintained by the national government in Haarlem, the capital of North Holland. But that was the total, according to Dr. Graswinckel's preface to the present volume. He was thinking of general guides, not the many detailed accounts prepared by a large number of competent archivists which referred to particular sections of national archives or to provincial or municipal archives.

The first three chapters of the work under review deal with the *Algemeen Rijksarchief* in The Hague, which contains documents concerning the nation as a whole. In the first chapter the valuable archives of the States-General from 1576 to 1796 are briefly mentioned, besides the archives of the Dutch East India Company and the Dutch West India Company. Of great importance also are the documents which refer to Dutch commerce in the Near East and the Mediterranean ports. The second chapter is concerned with the second section of the General Archives, namely, the material dealing with events after 1795, when the provinces were relegated to a subordinate position and the federal state ceased to exist. But in the second section are found many papers dealing with colonial affairs, and for this reason they belong to the first section. In the third chapter the papers dealing with the province of South Holland are listed. This is the only province that does not have a separate building for the documents concerning merely provincial affairs. Unfortunately the lack of space in the building called the General Archives in The Hague has made it necessary for the national government to open another building situated at the little village of Schaarsbergen near Arnhem. Here are stored most of the departmental papers to 1910.

The remaining 10 chapters are devoted exclusively to archives of the other 10 provinces: Noordbrabant at 's-Hertogenbosch, Gelderland at Arnhem, Noordholland at Haarlem, Zeeland at Middelburg, Utrecht at Utrecht, Friesland at Leeuwarden, Overijssel at Zwolle, Groningen at Groningen, Drenthe at Assen, and Limburg at Maastricht. In each case a useful introduction informs the reader about the history of the local building and collection of documents and mentions the name of the archivist who prepared for the collective work his particular account. Great care has been taken to indicate how many of the manuscript lists of documents have been published and where the printed inventories may be found. But the reader is not told where any of the original documents have been published. The order in which the 10 provinces are listed may seem puzzling to foreigners; even many Dutch scholars will also express some surprise. The historian might add that Brabant was the chief duchy in the Low Countries, while Gelderland was the other duchy. North Holland was part of the County of Holland, which used to rank with Flanders.

All readers will be very grateful for the excellent and comprehensive index (pp. 359-396); they will also appreciate the notes which explain the nature of certain inventories and of the most complicated provincial governments, as in the case in Gelderland (p. 143).

ALBERT HYMA

University of Michigan

Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1952. (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1952. Pp. xx, 192. Charts and tables.)

Of particular interest to archivists in the 1952 report of the Librarian of Congress is the description of the steps taken to preserve the original Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States prior to their transfer from the Library of Congress to the National Archives.

During the American Revolution the Declaration was moved eight times, as the capital was variously in Philadelphia, Baltimore, York, Princeton, Annapolis, Trenton, and New York. The Constitution, with the Declaration was placed in custody of the Department of State in 1789. Both were moved to Philadelphia in 1790 and to Washington, the new capital, in 1800. Just missing destruction in the War of 1812, they were deposited at Leesburg, Virginia. The Declaration was later exhibited in Washington and at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876.

In 1921 President Warren G. Harding ordered the documents moved to the Library of Congress as a "safe, permanent repository." On February 28, 1924, an appropriate solemn ceremony, devoid of rhetoric or oratory, marked the occasion of the placing of the two documents in their sanctuary.

In his speech of February 8, 1932, at the laying of the cornerstone for the National Archives building, President Herbert Hoover said: "There will be aggregated here the most sacred documents of our history, the originals of the Declaration of Independence and of the Constitution of the United States." The large semicircular exhibition hall in the National Archives Building had been designed to house these documents, but they were not to be enshrined there until December 15, 1952.

On Constitution Day, September 17, 1951, a ceremony to mark the completion of the preservative measures for the two documents was held at the Library with President Harry S. Truman and the late Chief Justice Frederick M. Vinson speaking and with Dr. Herbert Putnam, Librarian Emeritus, Luther H. Evans, Librarian of Congress, the chaplains of the Senate and House, and Dr. Edward U. Condon, head of the National Bureau of Standards also participating. On June 6, 1952, the records of the Continental Congress and of the Constitutional Convention were transferred to the National Archives. The final act took place on Bill of Rights Day, December 15, 1952, when the Declaration and Constitution were enshrined in the Archives.

The National Bureau of Standards was consulted by the Library in 1940 as to the best means of preserving the two manuscripts for future generations. The Declaration especially showed signs of wear and tear. It was engrossed on inferior parchment and had been weakened by exposure to harmful heat and light. Circular No. 505 of the Bureau of Standards describes in detail the methods of preserving the documents. Sealed in 25 x 31 inch slabs of Thermopane, a strong insulating glass, the documents are in enclosures filled with helium, properly humidified, to prevent oxygen and impurities from damaging the parchment and to protect the documents from molds or insects. A special nonacid backing paper of pure cellulose is put behind each sheet of

parchment to counteract any temperature change that might alter the humidity. As an added precaution, two leak-detector cells are sealed into the brass rims of the enclosures. A yellow filter glass reduces the harmful light rays almost 100 percent.

The balance of the Librarian's report maintains its usual excellence and furnishes the archivist through tables, charts, and reports, needed facts about the growth of the Library of Congress and its many unique collections and departments.

RAYMOND B. CLARK, JR.

Winterthur Program Fellow
University of Delaware

Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the Library of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, by Elizabeth C. Biggert. (Columbus, Ohio, Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, 1953. Pp. x, 153, index. \$1.50 paper, \$2.50 cloth.)

Guides to important manuscript collections such as this are welcome to historian and archivist alike, as long-desired tools. Archivists, however, are more concerned with the technical limitations adopted by compilers in order to achieve a finished product, and should be interested in Miss Biggert's excellent plan. She has divided the entries for record groups in two alphabets, one for 114 account books and one for 1,014 general collections. The basis of the entry is the author, if there is but one; otherwise, the provenance. The descriptive entry for the record group characterizes types of records and subjects and provides overall dates. For individuals, Miss Biggert often adds biographical data of use in appraising the content of records. The size of collections is indicated by the number of boxes, volumes, or pieces.

The key to this guide is its careful index. Most headings are specific, although some general subjects are used, such as "diaries" and "travels," etc. Specific indexing produces the major limitation of the guide. In the case of geographical entries, as Miss Biggert points out in her introduction, items relating to Ohio counties or townships may have been indexed under the name of a town, if it has more than 1,000 population. Actually, this policy extends to out-of-State material. Under 31 State and 14 foreign entries, 140 references are listed. In a simple check, 206 additional references to materials outside of Ohio appeared only under names of specific towns such as "Springfield, Mass," while there were no entries for 8 States and 7 foreign subjects for which 24 references were found. For Pennsylvania, 38 out of 40 entries are buried under the names of towns. Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York also have numerous buried entries. The fact that there are 370 geographical entries for places outside of Ohio suggests the need for nationwide geographical guides for each State and country to manuscript sources scattered in collections throughout the land.

Guides naturally reflect the character of a collection. An analysis of the first 400 entries reveal 11 entries prior to 1800. From 1800 to 1825 there are 79 entries, and for the twentieth century, 81. Of the latter, 1 autograph

and 1 business collection cover the history of the State; 7 reach back before 1825, 18 to the period between 1825 and 1880, and 12 begin in the 1880's or 1890's. On the other hand, three-fourths of the entries relate to the period 1825-1880 alone, with special emphasis on the Civil War.

In her introduction Miss Biggert points out some of the outstanding collections, such as those of John Brown and Jay Cooke. She reports the omission of single letters and copies of known records. Entries are included for the archives of the Northwest Territory, and the official correspondence of the Governor is listed in each instance under his name along with any private family papers. There are entries for county records, and occasionally private collections contain official records. The value of this guide will be demonstrated in time by the issuance of a revision.

DAVID C. DUNIWAY

Oregon State Archives

W. J. BARROW

Document Restorer

STATE LIBRARY BUILDING

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