

Reviews of Books

RICHARD G. WOOD, *Editor*

National Archives

Pioneer's Mission; the Story of Lyman Copeland Draper, by William B. Hesseltine. (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1954. Pp. xiii, 384.)

The name of Lyman C. Draper is one of the best known in the realm of American historical manuscripts; but hitherto the man has been not much more than a name, attached to the most famous collection in one of the Nation's principal repositories. Now Professor Hesseltine has transformed the name into a highly individual human being, and it is safe to say that no archivist—for such, in essence, Draper primarily was—has ever had a better or a more absorbing biography. In the course of documenting the wars of the Old West, Lyman Draper also documented himself minutely, and his abundant papers—medical prescriptions, financial memoranda, literary work sheets, and clippings, as well as notebooks, diaries, and an enormous correspondence—have permitted Mr. Hesseltine to paint a full-length portrait in which the last wart is clearly revealed. The brief eulogistic sketches by W. A. Croffut, R. G. Thwaites, and L. P. Kellogg were of course of slight utility for the writing of a life on this scale, and it is therefore based on primary sources to an exceptional degree. But the work of assimilation has been performed with entire success: every chapter is neatly constructed, the narrative has an easy flow, and there is not a dull paragraph.

The story that now emerges is an extraordinary one; the reader is recurrently astonished, or even brought to the verge of incredulity, at the things done or suffered by the corresponding secretary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Unfortunately Mr. Hesseltine did not find his subject particularly sympathetic and has let his narrative take its coloring from the negative aspects of Draper's career. He calls Draper, at various times, "a gnome-like little man," "a vain little man . . . avid for praise and recognition," a "typical American promoter," who "missed no opportunity to advertise himself," and "an innovator rather than an originator," whose 384-page biography will only "serve as a footnote to the intellectual history of America." It is undeniable that Lyman Draper's life-long ruling passion was to write the history of the pioneer heroes of the Old Frontier in the grand Victorian manner, and to achieve the same kind of fame and rewards as Macaulay, Bancroft, Prescott, Motley, and Parkman. It is equally obvious that his achievement was of a very different kind and that this failure to obtain his heart's desire would naturally have resulted in a deep-rooted frustration and psychosomatic disturbances. That the best biographer he is likely to have should spend most of his book in rubbing it in is not necessarily unjust, but is certainly unkind.

The allowance that Mr. Hesseltine fails to make is that Draper was born, not into a lettered and well-to-do Eastern home like Prescott or Parkman, but into the physical poverty and cultural deprivation of a frontier farm. The hardships of the war just over when he was born in September 1815 probably had much to do with his spindly frame and vulnerable nervous system. His primary education was of the spottiest, particularly since his father Luke Draper was the kind of farmer who moved often and prospered nowhere; and when in his nineteenth year he entered a small Baptist college at Granville, Ohio, he found classical syntax of small interest or relevance. He encountered no first-rate mind or powerful personality during his formative years. With such handicaps, it is small wonder that he did not become the Western Macaulay; the marvel is that he conceived and dedicated his life to an intellectual ideal and was the only man of his generation who glimpsed that ideal and strove to organize his existence toward its fulfillment.

Draper "wanted to write, yet each effort to put words on paper made him nervous and physically ill" (p. 224). Taken absolutely, this is nonsense: Draper covered uncounted reams of paper with writing in a variety of kinds, and wrote and published with facility so long as the matter in hand was not a portion of his grand design, or was not history in the grand manner. Mr. Hesseltine is of course right in diagnosing a neurotic reaction, but he should have defined it as a kind of mental block in the face of a specific task, to which the subject feels himself inadequate or the grandeur of which overwhelms him. Political editorials, annual reports, lectures on education, critical essays, and epistles *ad infinitum* simply flowed from Draper's pen; but the life of Daniel Boone or of George Rogers Clark, after a few painful chapters, inevitably sent him to the hydropath.

And so, in default, he could be nothing more than the most indefatigable collector of books and manuscripts, interviewer, editor, and organizer of historical materials, exhibits, and activities — in other words, the outstanding archivist — of his time and place. These abilities, seldom overpaid today, received much lipservice but small remuneration in Draper's time. One could wish that Professor Hesseltine had been more willing to accentuate the positive and to present Draper's faults of omission as a somber undertone rather than as strident and overriding blues.

DONALD H. MUGRIDGE

Library of Congress

The University of Virginia Library, 1825-1950; Story of a Jeffersonian Foundation, by Harry Clemons, with a foreword by Dumas Malone. (Charlottesville, University of Virginia Library, 1954. Pp. xx, 229. Illus. \$5.)

Harry Clemons, librarian of the University of Virginia's library from 1927 to 1950, has written an unusually balanced history, with half of the volume recording the first century and only half the following 25 years. This is noted here quite seriously. Too often the proportions of American institutional histories are not so well balanced, frequently because of no fault

of the historian but rather because of the almost universal institutional failure to preserve any archives at all.

Jefferson, the founder, did understand the value of historical records and as a personal archivist insisted on an orderly preservation of his own papers. He gave much attention to keeping the early minutes of the university's board of visitors and to the letters and papers connected with the University of Virginia's beginning. In his time, probably during the university's first session, it acquired the Lee papers, presented by Richard Henry Lee, Jr. The value of these was realized, though somewhat dimly, but in any event they were preserved.

An active program of manuscript collecting and organization had to wait over a century, until 1930. In that year William Mynn Thornton, first dean of engineering, wrote a broadside that the university distributed by first class mail to 20,000 recipients, announcing that it was prepared to offer its aid in the preservation of archival materials for the State. A similar appeal in 1861 by a Virginia history professor, George F. Holmes, begging deposit of "Memorials of the American Disruption" had fallen on deaf ears. In 1929 the library had only 2,177 manuscript pieces. But the 1930's were different from the 1860's and for numerous reasons the new appeal bore fruit. For one, Lester J. Cappon was named archivist as a library official. The Carnegie Corporation helped financially and the Historical Records Survey, beginning in 1935, awakened interest and did much spadework. A new library building in 1938 promised safety to family records. These have been received from 300 families. Other manuscripts of all sorts have been steadily acquired, in the fields of business, literature, and historical interest. They have been almost entirely gifts, and mostly of Virginian association. They reached, in 1950, the extraordinary figure of 3,504,100 pieces. These have been administered since 1945 by the present archivist, Francis L. Berkeley, Jr.

Mr. Clemons writes of course on many other aspects of the library's growth, crowding in details but keeping perspective too. And Dumas Malone has done a warmly appreciative foreword on the author—written unknown to Clemons—in which Professor Malone delightfully characterizes Harry Clemons both as a personality and as an intellectual force.

JOHN H. MORIARTY

Purdue University

The First Half Century; North Carolina Department of Archives and History Record of Achievement 1903-1953. (Raleigh, 1953. Pp. 26.)

Your States Records; Historical Commission of South Carolina, Columbia. [Information circular 3] (Columbia, The Commission, 1954. Pp. 29.)

These brochures are statements of accomplishments of the State archival agencies of the two Carolinas. The North Carolina brochure was published to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Department; the South Carolina publication is a transcript of two telecasts presented on October 29 and December 10, 1953, in connection with the State University and Station WNOK, for the information of the general public.

The North Carolina brochure contains an impressive picture of a painting of the late Robert D. W. Connor, the first Secretary of the Historical Commission (1903-1921), who became the first Archivist of the United States, pictures of the State Library Building and the area formerly occupied by the Commission, and pictures of the State Education Building and of the areas now occupied in that building. Other pictures shown are of Fort Macon in the restoration and preservation of which the Department has cooperated, the Hall of History, and a scene from "The Lost Colony," presented yearly at Roanoke Island. Two documents are also reproduced. The paper is glossy, the print easily read, and the booklet is written in the language and style that almost any layman can understand.

The reviewer particularly likes the presentation of the "Program of the Department," which is summarized ". . . to preserve the records of our past and to make our people more conscious of the heritage that is theirs." This is just what the Department is doing.

The South Carolina publication reproduces the discussions of the television panel, which consisted of the secretary of state, a member of the staff of the university, members of the Commission and its staff. The panel discussed in detail how the records are being preserved, arranged, indexed, edited, reproduced, and published. Documents such as the Journal of His Majesty's Council for South Carolina, 1748-1749, and reproductions of the Journal of the Commissioner of Indian Trade, 1710-1715, and the Journal of the Grand Council, 1671-1680, were exhibited on television. The brochure contains pictures of the Commission's building and areas within it. These should encourage the legislature to appropriate funds for a building and new equipment. The brochure is informative and one can imagine the telecast was effective.

SARA D. JACKSON

National Archives

Committee on Departmental Records Report. Presented by The Chancellor of the Exchequer to Parliament, July 1954. (London, 1954. Pp. 88.)

This excellent report should be required reading for both archivists and records management specialists in this country. It is the work of a committee appointed in 1952 to review and recommend improvements in the preservation of the records of the British Government departments. The committee was well qualified for its task. Its members were familiar with records practices in Government and industry as well as with research needs.

The report begins with an account of the laws and practices governing the preservation of records in Great Britain during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It tells how records are now selected for preservation and how destruction schedules are prepared and executed. The schedules are drafted in the various departments by departmental officers who are expected to keep out of them records which "can reasonably be considered of legal, historical, genealogical, or antiquarian use or interest, or which give any information not to be obtained elsewhere."

The schedules are then examined by the inspecting officers — the Deputy Keeper of the Records and at least two others. Since these officers cannot examine all of the papers scheduled, they preface their approvals with the statement that before destruction all the documents will be examined by departmental officers who will pull out any document likely to have value as a precedent or to be of historical or legal importance.

Although the schedules cannot be carried out until they have been before Parliament for at least 40 days, neither House has in fact the power either to amend or reject them. Final action on the schedules is taken by junior officers who have the responsibility for reviewing the records, stripping from them those they deem of historical or precedent value, and destroying the others. No review of their work is made. Actually many years can and do pass before it is known whether they have kept too much or too little.

Among the weaknesses that the committee points out the following is the most serious. Major responsibility falls on junior officers who do their work without records guidance or review and who have no standards to help them in their selection of records for preservation.

In addition, the work of preserving and destroying records has no connection with the current administrative duties of these officers. It is frequently postponed indefinitely or done only when lack of space requires it. As a result, masses of unusable records are accumulating in the departments and the Public Record Office.

The committee does not advocate that added responsibility for the selection of records for preservation be given the Public Record Office. It quotes the former Deputy Keeper of the Records, Sir Hilary Jenkinson, that archivists, like historians, should not be concerned in this task, which should be left to the administrators.

The committee points out that it is impossible for anyone, particularly the historian and the archivist, to forecast later historical use of records. In the case of the archivist, it points out that his principal duties are to care for and service his records. It believes that knowledge of nineteenth century and earlier records is not good equipment for making decisions on modern records. These decisions can be made more satisfactorily by the actual administrators, who have a much better understanding of the values of their records than those who have had no part in the creation and use of them.

Correction of present weaknesses lies, in the committee's opinion, in moving responsibility for the selection of records from junior officers to records officers high in the administrative scale.

Though the committee does not propose for the Public Record Office responsibility in selection it does propose that the office be accorded departmental status, with important advisory and coordinating functions in the selection of records for preservation. To this reviewer it is not clear how the Public Record Office with no real authority for selection of records will have more influence than it has had in the past with definite statutory responsibility.

The report proposes that records be reviewed first when they are no more than 5 years old so that those no longer needed can be destroyed. Those re-

maining are to be reviewed when they are 25 years old. This is a practical way of effecting destruction first of those records which are of short-term administrative value and then allowing a cooling off period for the others. With the passage of 25 years the administrator is able to see what has outlived its usefulness and what should be preserved for a longer period or permanently.

It is interesting to observe how problems that we share with the British are being solved in this country in some cases along parallel lines to those suggested in this report and in others by sharply divergent means. The latter can often be traced to the differences in our governmental systems.

Our system, for example, makes necessary as well as desirable the requirement that the Congress have a check upon disposal of records. The greater autonomy of the British departments makes it unlikely that central records responsibility such as that given to the General Services Administration and the National Archives and Records Service would be acceptable. The committee gives to the administrator responsibility, which since the establishment of the National Archives has been reserved for the archivist in this country, for selecting the records to be preserved for posterity.

The report nevertheless recommends for the Public Record Office an organization similar to that under the Archivist of the United States. Serving under the Keeper of the Records would be the Deputy Keeper (the senior archivist) on the one hand and a records administration officer on the other. The latter and his staff would be responsible for dealing with the agencies on their records problems, advising the departments, and coordinating their records work. The records management officers proposed for the departments are similar to those in our own departments.

The report suggests that the most effective pressure for elimination of records comes from lack of space. The committee is unconcerned about monetary savings that might result from more disposal, believing instead that the destruction of unnecessary records is well worth any additional cost it may entail.

The committee discourages the use of records centers, regarding them as an encouragement to the postponement of decisions and the retention of more useless records. This would probably be the case with centers operated independently by each department. The one with the most space would be likely to keep the most records. Centers operated by one agency for the use of all can, however, aid current operations and insure more orderly retention and disposal. They can also be made a means of controlling inordinate demands for space.

It is not possible in a brief review to discuss all the points of interest in this report. British archivists and others feel that there is far too much useless material in the Public Record Office; there are 200,000 linear feet of records, dating from the Norman Conquest. The National Archives has almost 1 million cubic feet, dating only from the American Revolution. The British departments have about 600,000 linear feet as against our 23 million cubic feet. This suggests that, even allowing for differences in size, the British have been more selective in records retention than we.

The committee is concerned about the mounting volume of Government records pertaining to individuals. It recommends that a group under the auspices of the Public Record Department be given the task of determining what core should be preserved out of the masses of records pertaining to military service, pensions, national insurance, businesses, and ships' passengers and crews. The Society of Genealogists, among other groups canvassed, has agreed to the impossibility of retaining all of these records permanently or using them if they were all retained.

The report is an important addition to recent writings on archival and records management. While it is not concerned with so broad a field as was the Hoover Commission report of 1949 on records management, it reaches a number of conclusions similar to those of the Hoover Commission. It is to be hoped that it will be followed by equally thorough studies in other areas of records management.

ELIZABETH B. DREWRY

National Archives and Records Service

Manual on Document Reproduction and Selection. Compiled by F. Donker Duyvis and others. [FID Publication No. 264.] 2 vols. (The Hague, International Federation for Documentation, 1953. No continuous pagination; loose-leaf. \$2.50 for nonmembers; \$2. for members.)

The editorial note prefacing the first of two loose-leaf ring binders comprising the *Manual on Document Reproduction and Selection* in its present form states: "This *Manual* . . . is a first attempt to come gradually to a comprehensive survey of the many devices and processes for the reproduction and selection of study and research documents." Ralph R. Shaw writes in his introduction: "Even though it represents only an introduction to an approach to the beginning of constructive thought on this subject, the description of tools which are available is the essential minimum requirement, and it is that end which this *Manual* seeks to achieve." With financial support provided through a contract from UNESCO, F. Donker Duyvis as chief editor of the *Manual*, supported by three general coeditors, Eugene B. Power, Walter Schürmeyer, and H. R. Verry, and assisted by a large number of coeditors for special sections, has undertaken to organize a vast general field. Moreover the study attempts to supply generic descriptions of many diverse processes, to describe and illustrate equipment, sometimes with actual examples of the product and with manufacturers' literature, to compile directories of European and American manufacturers and products, to assemble bibliographic data on recent publication, and finally to produce a series of definitive essays on significant problems.

This is not a small task. Even in its present status the *Manual* is not a small achievement. The treatment is bilingual in part, with English predominating and French in parallel for headings and certain sections. The contents are arranged under a plan in which overtones of decimal classification are readily discernible. Introductory brief chapters are followed by a section, Reproduction, in which the greater part of the data included in the present

issue is concentrated. Other major headings include Document Reproduction Materials, Costing, Standardization, "Miscellaneous," Selection, Training, and Index. The last three headings are contained in part two, not included in the reviewer's copy, which was dated November 15, 1953.

The professional or even the amateur faultfinder can enjoy a field day, in fact a succession of field days, with this *Manual*. He may point to omissions, exclaim over his failure to discern a rigorous general editorial policy, expose a manifest lack of balance wherein some subjects of relatively minor importance are given far more space and detailed treatment than major subjects, and enjoy a host of inconsistencies. When his laughter has subsided, however, he may begin to wonder and perhaps even to comprehend that before him lies a remarkable potpourri of information. If, indeed, detailed, completely adequate data are not provided in many instances, the bibliographic notes that follow most sections indicate a variety of references not compactly listed elsewhere. The critic must perforce equip himself with material to justify his views, but he is entreated by the editors to supply these data for inclusion in supplements that will be issued periodically, at least once a year.

The *Manual* is not yet an encyclopedia although in some sections it partakes of the nature of an incomplete essay in this direction. It is not a book to be read in order to secure a general view of the field that it engages to cover. However, it is hard to imagine anyone, however well read in the subject matter or experienced in documentation, who will not find something new, interesting, and valuable in the present pages. In years to come, if continued according to plan, the *Manual* will progressively increase in value, and, it is to be expected, will improve in presentation.

This *Manual* has been compared to Robert C. Binkley's *Manual on Methods of Reproducing Research Materials*, and certain sections, in arrangement, scope, and even presentation, are reminiscent of some of Binkley's work brought up to date. Before doing more than riffle the pages, the user is cautioned to read the "Editorial Note" 15E1 and "How to use the Manual" 19E1. His reward will be in direct proportion to his diligence.

VERNON D. TATE

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Records Management;—How To File Correspondence Records. (Washington, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Plant and Operations, 1954. Pp. 22.)

This publication is a revision of O. P. O. Publication No. 9, "How to File and Find Correspondence Records," issued in October 1951. There is a clear and concise pattern shown for beginners in this field or anyone responsible for creating an alphabetical filing system. It was not the intention of the pamphlet to give detailed information for large offices with intricate problems, but it would be of assistance to anyone with little or no experience in good records management.

It deals with planning and installing a system of arrangement, filing, and

finding the records, and it has helpful hints on keeping orderly files. Exhibits are arranged at the end of the pamphlet with special notice made of the use of color in filing systems, a modern development. The simple charge-out system outlined has been very successful in even large file departments—proving the theory that the simpler the system the better it works.

The new trend seems to be to place more emphasis on records retention and destruction, and this pamphlet should be an aid to better education of employees.

FRANK E. NELSON

Medford, Massachusetts

Les techniques de protection des biens culturels en cas de conflit armé, par H. Lavachery et A. Noblecourt. (Paris, UNESCO, 1954. Pp. 222, 48 pp. of plates. \$5.50.)

This is a manual of techniques and plans developed since 1939 for the protection of cultural resources such as museums, libraries, archival institutions and their contents, monuments, and historic and artistic buildings and sites, in the event of war. It was compiled by Henri Lavachery of the University of Brussels, honorary curator-in-chief of the royal museums of art and history of Belgium, and André Noblecourt, engineer, technical adviser to the office of security of the museums of France and president of the Security Committee of the International Council of Museums (referred to in the text as L'I.C.O.M.), at the direction of UNESCO's international committee on monuments, artistic, and historic sites, and areas of archaeological excavations.

Issued as the eighth volume in the series *Musées et Monuments*, the stated purpose of the manual is to serve as a means through which the special knowledge and experience of experts (chemists, physicists, engineers, architects, and technicians) can become more widely known and can be put to use by persons officially responsible for safeguarding our cultural heritage, as expressed in monuments, buildings, historic sites, and the contents of our cultural depositories.

The text is divided into seven parts. Part one enumerates the risks that threaten cultural institutions and works of art, either as the direct result of military operations (8 pages are devoted to the effects of atomic bombs) or as the indirect result of damage attendant upon attempts to safeguard them. Part two summarizes the national and international aspects of the problem of protection. It stresses the need for national peacetime inventorying of cultural properties and the development of specific plans for their protection, including construction of shelters and acquisition on microfilm (for evacuation or security deposit) of adequate documentation to insure the survival of representative works and to assist in restoration of damaged buildings and works of art. On the international plane, it discusses the function of UNESCO and L'I.C.O.M. as clearinghouses for the collection and dissemination of information concerning new dangers and new protective methods and as planning agents for more effective measures of international cooperation, such as the contemplated

establishment of widely separated microfilm depositories in the United States, Australia, Poland, and England.

Parts three through seven deal with specific dangers and methods devised to combat them: protection against fire; safeguarding stationary monuments and edifices; methods of evacuation to insure the least possible damage; problems of storage; air-conditioning; the control of insects, vermin, and dampness in natural shelters; and the reinforcement, construction, and use of shelters. The text throughout is well illustrated with drawings, charts, and tables. The chapters on the protection of movable properties and the use of shelters are particularly well documented with architectural drawings illustrating specific practices used in Holland, Belgium, England, France, Sweden, Italy, Spain, and the United States.

Also appended are 48 pages of photographic plates including 116 separate pictures, many with detailed explanatory legends. These pictures depict in telling manner the actual destruction and damage sustained during World War II by the National Gallery and the British Museum, London, and the Archives d'État, Arnhem, Holland. They portray graphically the use of certain protective devices planned for buildings, monuments, and paintings in the above-mentioned countries. Of particular interest to the reviewer were those showing the use of trap doors in the floors of certain galleries of the Musée royal des beaux-arts, Antwerp, and in the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. The absence of any mention in the text or photographs of the bomb-proof vault provided for the organic documents of the United States in the National Archives suggests that the text had been submitted for publication before the completion of that project. American experience depicted includes that of the Iron Mountain Storage Atomic Corp. of Germantown, Michigan, a private company which has built in a defunct iron mine a series of vaults with a storage capacity of 3,400 cubic meters and a capacity for enlargement to accommodate 11,500 cubic meters.

A foreword, introduction, and list of experts to whom the compilers were indebted for data, a classified bibliography, a subject index, and an index to proper names are included.

The compilers of this manual make no claim for it as a comprehensive or definitive treatment of the subject. Rather they hope that it will serve as a starting point from which will evolve a wider exchange of ideas on protective techniques and that revisions of the text, developing to a greater degree other aspects of the subject and embodying the experience of other nations, will be forthcoming. As some of the volumes of the *Musées et Monuments* series were also issued in English, it is hoped that an English edition of this manual and of subsequent editions will be published. If so, perhaps a notable shortcoming of this issue, the impossibility of reading some of the legends on the charts and plans except with a glass, will be corrected.

Designed principally as a tool to be used by a specialized group of persons in the event of war, this handbook contains much technical information that can be used to advantage in peacetime. It will also appeal to the general reader with a knowledge and appreciation of cultural resources and a curiosity

concerning the measures being devised for their protection and continued preservation.

HOPE K. HOLDCAMPER

National Archives

Lancashire Record Office Report for 1953. (Preston, Lancashire County Council, 1954 [?]. Pp. 24.)

Lincolnshire Archives Committee. *Archivists' Report, 29 March 1953-24 March 1954.* (N.p., n.d. Pp. 72. 2s. 6d. plus postage.)

Both these reports show that an amazing amount of work has been accomplished by small staffs. This becomes more apparent since both show the degree of interest taken in early records, where problems of deciphering and of physical condition are always time-consuming.

In both reports the emphasis on early records has been permitted to obscure trends in the preservation of records and manuscripts of later and even of recent date. Lancashire, for instance, has received from the Whitefield Urban District Council, the Pilkington and Whitefield rate books, 1840-1947. The list of accessions shows that other recent records had fallen into, or are customarily held in, private hands. Instances are the Rochdale coroners' records, 1936-37, and the Middleton petty sessions records, 1859-1920. These are now in the Lancashire Archives.

Lincolnshire has adopted a policy under which, in addition to responsibility for the Archives, the archivists visit local depositories and private collections to list and describe their contents. No doubt the institution has weighed the risks involved in the extension of its activities beyond its immediate holdings. The extent to which this policy has been implemented can be appreciated from the report on a visit paid to the office of a solicitor still in practice. During this visit even the clients' boxes were surveyed: "About a quarter of these was examined as a sample." The conclusion reached was that the contents of these boxes dealt with cases in law and the administration of property and were therefore of potential historical interest.

That such a search should have been made is a tribute to the public spirit of the clients, whose privileged concerns were thereby subjected to the eyes of visiting archivists, but one wonders whether enthusiasm will not lead to wasteful use of space, a major consideration to archivists everywhere. Would it not be better where a roving commission exists, or is regarded as advisable, to work towards the preservation of registry-office and court records, where many of these transactions are of legal record and in forms more susceptible to storing, than to secure personal records of land transactions, which are usually more fragile and more expensive to store? Space and the elimination of redundancies and duplications are certainly major considerations in most archival depositories today.

NORAH STORY

Public Archives of Canada

Dominion Archives of New Zealand. *Preliminary Inventory No. 1, Archives of the Governor-General*. (Wellington, Department of Internal Affairs, April 1953. Pp. 12.)

Dominion Archives of New Zealand. *Preliminary Inventory No. 2, Archives of the New Zealand Company*. (Wellington, Department of Internal Affairs, October 1953. Pp. 16.)

Dominion Archives of New Zealand. *Preliminary Inventory No. 3, Archives of the Army Department*. (Wellington, Department of Internal Affairs, October 1953. Pp. 16.)

With these three inventories, the Dominion Archives in Wellington has begun the publication of detailed finding aids which will eventually cover all its holdings. The records in the Archives are arranged in archive groups, each of which consists of the archives of an independent administrative body. The groups are divided into series of related documents, which are composed of separate volumes or bundles. The individual documents are generally arranged in the order in which they were received in the agency of origin. Each inventory describes an archive group. It begins with an introduction that includes a short history of the administrative unit that created the records and a briefer history of the archives themselves. This is followed by the series entries, each of which consists of the series title, date span, file designation, physical description of the records, measurement in feet and inches, and one or more sentences detailing the type of record and sort of information contained therein. Since the series are listed in conformity with the arrangement of the archive group, they reflect its organization.

Preliminary Inventory No. 1 describes the records of the office of the governor of New Zealand from 1840 to 1899. As the representative of the British Crown, he was corresponding with his superior, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in London, with officers of the Army and Navy in New Zealand, and with lesser officials of the government in New Zealand. This body of records was received directly from the Office of the Governor-General in Wellington in 1948.

The records described in *Preliminary Inventory No. 2* document the attempt of the New Zealand Company to put into practice the theories of systematic colonization expounded by Edward Gibbon Wakefield. Although a few records go back to 1826, most of the files concern the active period of settlement by the company, 1839-50. When the company ceased operations in 1850 and its functions were assumed by the local government, the record-keeping function of the company ceased except in the London office, which was open until 1858. When the company was dissolved in 1858, the records of the head office in London were transferred to the British Government and finally went to the Public Record Office. In 1909 these records, with the exception of all fair copies of documents, original copies of despatches, and unique documents, were presented to the New Zealand Government. So today, many other records of the New Zealand Company, not described in this inventory, remain in London. Records of the agents' offices in Wellington, Nelson, and New

Plymouth remained in New Zealand for use of the commissioners of crown lands, but are now part of this archive group.

In *Preliminary Inventory No. 3* the records listed are mainly those of the Army Department and its predecessors from 1863, when a permanent defense force was established, to the end of the nineteenth century. A few items date back to the militia forces in 1845 and a few date down to 1912. These records were received by the Archives directly from the Army Department.

These inventories appear to be carefully written descriptions of large blocks of records in the Dominion Archives. Each is short enough to be examined in its entirety in a search for records, and the easy-to-follow format speeds the process. While the British influence is discernible in the archival terms employed in New Zealand, the general form of these inventories closely follows that developed in the National Archives in Washington.

FRANCIS J. HEPPNER

National Archives

Documents concernant les îles de Bourbon et de France pendant la régie de la Compagnie des Indes, by Albert Lougnon. (Nérac [Lot-et-Garonne, France], Imp. G. Couderc, 1953. Pp. xxxvi, 202. Indexes.)

The islands of Bourbon and France were, in the eighteenth century, and even earlier for the first one, small French possessions in the Indian Ocean, some 500 miles east of Madagascar; the French India Company was responsible for their administration and development. Bourbon is now the French Department of La Réunion while the other is the British Colony of Mauritius.

The readers of this magazine are well aware of the tremendous work undertaken by local archivists after the institution in 1952 of the Departmental Archives, as Yves Pérotin, Chief Archivist of La Réunion, wrote an article on this subject (*American Archivist*, 17:257-262, July 1954). The program includes the publication of inventories. The present book is the first issue of that series, although it is not actually an inventory of the repositories of the two islands.

A. Lougnon, a French scholar, is most interested in the history of La Réunion, and while on leave in France, he devoted his time to making catalogs of all he could find in the various Archives of Paris, in connection with the islands of Bourbon and France under the administration of the French India Company.

It would be asking too much to expect to find in this book an exhaustive survey of all the documents relating to this subject. Such a work would be a most reliable source of information, but no one man could possibly do all this. M. Lougnon has made thorough investigations only in certain parts of the Archives (about 34 volumes); elsewhere the work is less complete. All the same the catalog covers some 2,510 entries collected from 180 registers and some 30 files.

M. Pérotin, in the introduction, develops a good historical sketch of the island's Archives. He also adds to the book three comprehensive indexes.

Eight pages of his 16-page preface are devoted to *minutiers* (extracts from the notary papers), which could not be inserted into the text; this is a precious addendum to the book.

The catalog is divided according to the different repositories, the largest lot being provided for by the Archives Nationales. There we have:

Fonds des Colonies: Orders of the King, correspondence relating to India, Bourbon (an exhaustive survey), France (also exhaustive), and a few other collections — *Fonds de la Marine* and a few miscellanea.

Other archives include those of the following ministries: *la France d'Outre-Mer*, *la Marine* (maps and plans), *les Affaires Etrangères*; and also the archives of the *Lazaristes* (Vincentian Fathers), once responsible for the spiritual welfare of those people.

As for the entries, they are in general, it would seem, copies of the titles of the documents as presented in the registers, with the number of pages; no analysis of their contents is given. Therefore those interested in these researches know where to look for the documents, but the actual research work they must do for themselves, which is a good thing.

M. Lounnon's catalog is a most valuable guide for future historians. As such it deserves its place in the forthcoming inventories of local archives. It is a painstaking, steady, and elaborate achievement in full accord with the best traditions of scientific research.

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Departamento do Arquivo do Estado de S. Paulo. *Documentos interessantes para a história e costumes de São Paulo, Ofícios do Capitão General . . . 1765-1766*. Vol. 73. (São Paulo, Gráfica João Bentivenga, 1952. Pp. 216.)

Departamento do Arquivo do Estado de S. Paulo. *Inventários e testamentos*. Vols. 34-37. (São Paulo, Gráfica João Bentivenga, 1951-53. Pp. 260, 164, 259, 182.)

Departamento do Arquivo do Estado de S. Paulo. *Documentos avulsos de interesse para a história e costumes de São Paulo*. Vols. 2, 3. (São Paulo, Gráfica João Bentivenga, 1953. Pp. 173, 148.)

Noções de paleografia, by Ubirajara Dolácio Mendes. (São Paulo, do Arquivo do Estado de S. Paulo, Departamento João Bentivenga, 1953. Pp. 123.)

Pequeno histórico e prontuário do Departamento do Arquivo do Estado, edited by Ubirajara Dolácio Mendes. (São Paulo, do Arquivo do Estado de S. Paulo, Departamento João Bentivenga, 1953. Pp. viii, 182. Illus.)

Departamento do Arquivo do Estado de S. Paulo. *Boletim*. Vols. 9, 11, 12, Nova Fase. (São Paulo, J. Bignardi & Cia. Ltda., 1952-53. Pp. 144, 174, 243.)

The Archive of the State of São Paulo in Brazil has suffered greatly because of moves from one building to another. At present it is housed in a very satisfactory edifice, which affords adequate space for all the services necessary for

the care of the valuable archivalia, both colonial and national. Steel shelving is being installed and aluminum containers for the older records are in use. The Archive has been fortunate in having able directors, who have given special attention to the publication of records and information about them. From 1945 to 1951, however, because of the vicissitudes undergone, all publication was suspended. But with the approach of the fourth centenary of the city of São Paulo and the improved location of the Archive, late in the latter year the program of publication was resumed. The items under review represent this activity of the Archive for a period of slightly more than 2 years.

The first item, volume 73 of a series begun many years ago, entitled "Interesting documents for the history and customs of São Paulo," comprises letters of the Captain General Luis Antonio de Souza Botelho Mourão of the year 1766, which are from folios 97 to 191 of the Livro 94 de Correspondencia. Among the subjects treated are: installation of governors; appointment of officials; limits of São Paulo and Minas; organization of villages; number of inhabitants in São Paulo; land problems; mines and mining; military matters; war materials; Jesuits; discords among the religious orders; and leprosy. These documents serve to present many details of the life of the colony.

The second item, four volumes (34-37) of the series, *Inventarios e testamentos*, continues the publication of wills and inventories of estates of residents of São Paulo. These documents are from bundles labeled "Inutilizados" and are of the years 1643-48. They are especially important for genealogy and economic life of the people at that time.

The third item, *Documentos avulsos*, is a new series designed to contain important miscellaneous documents relating to the history and customs of São Paulo, which formerly were published in the *Boletim*. These volumes contain records from Maço (bundle 3), entitled "Bispo capitular, Parocos, Conventos, Recolhimento, Escolas para a Santa Cruzada, 1693-1822." Volume two includes part two of the bundle for the years 1787-1803, and volume three, part three, 1803-22. Part one of the bundle, 1693-1786, was published as volume 10 of the *Boletim*. The documents in these volumes relate to the bishopric, parishes, convents, hospitals, and charities. They are chiefly letters, especially of the bishop of the diocese, together with reports, memoranda, inventories, and other papers. They deal with orders and proclamations, proposals for official appointments, lists of contributions for various purposes, letters of agents of the Crown, requisitions, papers regarding charities, registers of the royal treasury, superintendents, municipal judges, notaries, lawyers, and many other subjects. They serve to reveal many aspects of the life in São Paulo.

The fourth item, *Noções de paleografia*, is the result of a course on paleography given at the Archive, which had some 200 persons registered. The course emphasized the importance of the use of old records and the problems involved in reading and interpreting them. The purpose of the volume is to interest more persons in the care and use of archivalia. The subjects treated include: definition of paleography; evolution of writing; types of letters; materials used in writing; conservation and repair of documents; difficulties in reading and interpreting old records; and Brazilian paleography. There are

examples of Brazilian documents in facsimile. The author holds that all these points discussed are basic and essential to the subject. It may be observed that with reference to repair no mention is made of lamination.

The fifth item, *Pequeno histórico e prontuário do Departamento do Arquivo do Estado*, is a short history of and memoranda about the Archive, containing much valuable information. The central section is the history (pp. 61-87), written by the former acting director Dolácio Mendes. The other sections include: reproductions of photographs of the directors, with biographies (pp. 1-24); list of personnel in 1953 (pp. 25-35); list of former members of the staff (pp. 37-60); and laws and decrees relative to the Archive, 1842-1946 (pp. 89-182). There are also photographs in homage to two benefactors of the Archive and photographs of the various buildings that have been occupied.

The final item is the three numbers of the *Boletim*, new series, in which it is dedicated to the publication of information about the Archive and its services, together with studies and essays especially of a historical character. No. 9 contains "O Marco de Itacurussá," by Antonio Paulino de Almeida, and "A Cidade Esquecida," by Manuel Higinio dos Santos. No. 11 prints "Apontamentos para a história de Fábrica Ferro do Ipanema," by João Lourenço Rodrigues; "Irmandade da Santa Casa de Misericórdia de S. Paulo" by Raul Votta; and "A F. E. B., embaixada de amizade," by U. Dolácio Mendes. And no. 12 is devoted almost entirely to "A exploração de vale de S. Francisco pela bandeira de Nicolao Barreto (1602-1604) e a fábula do invasão do Guayrá," by J. Alberto J. Robbe. There are also two brief articles, "Arquivos municipais," by Antonio P. De Almeida, and "Pequenos, médios e grandes arquivos," by U. Dolácio Mendes.

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