

# Reviews of Books

RICHARD G. WOOD, *Editor*

*National Archives*

---

*A National Program for the Publication of Historical Documents; a Report to the President by the National Historical Publications Commission.* (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1954. Pp. viii, 106, incl. appendixes. 50 cents.)

The National Historical Publications Commission by act of Congress is directed to encourage governmental and nongovernmental agencies and individuals to preserve and publish documents "important for the history of the United States." As part of its responsibilities, it makes plans and recommendations for such activities. This report, received and praised by President Eisenhower, suggests a national program for further publication of source material, a program of the utmost value for historians and citizens of the United States.

The report reviews publication achievements of the past and then proceeds to outline an ambitious and much needed program for the future. What is envisioned is not only publication of documents "about our political and military history but also about our economic, social, and intellectual developments." Chief attention is devoted to publication of the papers of American leaders, but other kinds of documentary publication are also suggested.

After a survey of scholarly opinion in which recommendations were received from 150 persons, the Commission here lists the names of 361 leaders in various fields whose papers are worthy of consideration for publication. It specifically lists 112 to which it has given special attention. Fortunately it is able to report definite progress with the papers of Jefferson, Franklin, the Adams family, and others, but it notes that work on papers of Madison and Hamilton has not as yet reached the publication stage.

The Commission hopes to see further publication in specific subject fields. After pointing out that the Government's documentary publication activities have declined in recent years, it asks for action upon the documents of the Continental Congress, papers concerning the ratification of the Constitution and its first 10 amendments, and records of the First Federal Congress; and it suggests also attempts to fill the gaps in the published collected papers concerning "all aspects of the history of the Government." As the volume of documents is tremendous, the Commission realizes that microfilm publication will in many cases be the best and perhaps the only answer.

The cost of such a program will not be low. This obstacle, however, should not be insurmountable in a country which is producing wealth at the rate of 300 billion a year, nor in a country which has been wise enough to establish a National Historical Publications Commission. No obstacle, in fact, should be

allowed to block a vast publication program which, throwing light upon the country's past, would enable its citizens to choose wise courses of action in the future. The Federal Government in the past has financed publication on a large scale. It should again do so under the wise guidance of the Commission.

The excellent list of existing documentary historical publications of the Federal Government, printed as Appendix D of the report (pp. 98-106) is not only evidence of past activities but also a useful guide for students. But the papers and documents to be published loom much larger. That so much remains to be done is a challenge. The individual papers of prominent Americans yet to be fully collected range from names beginning with "A" to those starting with "Y," from men whose occupations were as varied as diplomat, social worker, and paleontologist. The archivists, historians, and public leaders of the Commission have aimed high but not too high. They outline a "must program." Historians and archivists will recommend this informal report to their legislators and to all public-spirited citizens. And they will be doing a public service.

BOYD C. SHAFER

*Washington, D. C.*

*Harvard Guide to American History*, compiled by Oscar Handlin, Arthur Meier Schlesinger, Samuel Eliot Morison, Frederick Merk, Arthur Meier Schlesinger, Jr., and Paul Herman Buck. (Cambridge, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1954. Pp. xxiv, 689. \$10.)

More than 40 years have elapsed since Channing, Hart, and Turner published their *Guide to the Study and Reading of American History* (1912), but so ably did they plan and execute the work that their successors have followed its main outlines. The longer time span of the present work and the tremendous output of American historical scholarship during the past four decades have necessitated a much longer book, even with the omission of most of the material on the teaching and reading of history that constituted part 3 of Channing, Hart, and Turner. Although their work is now replaced, it will always remain a valuable historical document in itself and it is entirely appropriate that the *Harvard Guide* should be dedicated to their memories.

Of the six parts into which this volume is divided, the first two deal with the status, methods, and presentation of American history, and with materials and tools; the last four consist of a chronological bibliography from the earliest times to 1950. Having aimed to construe their subject "in its widest sense," the editors were confronted with the problem of selection from the works both of the older and the more prolific recent scholarship, in order to hold to practical limits. The result of their efforts will serve well a variety of users. Numerous cross-references correlate the reference books, comprehensive documentary publications, and classified source and secondary works in part 2 with those on special subjects treated chronologically and topically in the second half of the *Guide*; and the 140-page, double-column index provides very adequate coverage of personal names and subjects. While the *Guide* itself is a reference tool, the first two subdivisions contain a large proportion of readable

text. The present reviewer will direct his attention to part 2, on materials and tools, because of their particular interest to archivists.

The three chapters comprising this part, on the materials of history, aids to historical research, and historical sources, provide extensive and detailed treatment of manuscripts (25 pp.) and public documents (35 pp.). In contrast to the two-page account of manuscript sources in the *Guide* of 1912, the subject is elaborated (always with strict attention to the minimum essentials) to include guides; handling, care, and preservation; calendaring and indexing; deciphering; dating; copying; and editing and printing. The distinction between archives and manuscript collections is clearly drawn, and every archival establishment or manuscript repository is properly admonished to issue a printed guide. Although the reference works of the National Archives deserve and receive special emphasis, the sweeping statement that it is "the most important depository of archival or other manuscript material in the United States" will doubtless be questioned. Guides to American collections outside Washington are conveniently listed by State. These include some of the reports on public archives published in the *Annual Reports* of the American Historical Association during the first decade of the twentieth century, but a statement about the Historical Records Survey's inventories of county archives appears in a later section on colonial, State, and local public records (pp. 126-127). The *Annual Reports on Historical Collections*, published by the University of Virginia Library since 1930, are missing from the comprehensive list of guides by State. Under guides to foreign manuscripts, those formerly in the Royal Institution of Great Britain (p. 88) are not identified as the Carleton (British Headquarters) papers, now owned by Colonial Williamsburg.

The discussion of the care and preservation of manuscripts warns against the use of methods applicable to the classification and cataloging of printed books and stresses the principle of *respect des fonds*. In citing Victor H. Paltsits' quotation on the application of this principle, from the Dutch archivist S. Muller, it would have been helpful to point out that an English translation of the notable *Manual* by Muller, Feith, and Fruin has been published (New York, H. W. Wilson Co., 1940). There is a concise exposition on the repair of manuscripts, with an evaluation of the laminating process; the use of manila folders is recommended for filing, but acid-free folders are not specified. Compilation and publication of calendars are advised; that they are "cheap" to produce is more likely to be denied than confirmed. The sections on dating, copying, editing, and printing of manuscripts should answer many a scholar's doubts as to the best solution of his particular problem, especially if he will apply the concluding motto: "Accuracy without Pedantry. Consistency first, last, and always."

Public records — colonial, Federal, State, and local — and guides to them are presented in a treatment considerably expanded but similar in scheme to that used in the compilation of 1912. The analysis of these records is preceded by a concise essay on the value of public documents for the historian. Throughout part 2 a number of subjects are worthy of note as evidence of broader con-

temporary perspective of materials included among the sources of history — pictorial records, physical survivals, sound recordings, place names, and historical fiction, poems, songs, and plays. The *Harvard Guide* is, as its predecessor was (and its predecessor of 1896 by Channing and Hart), an invaluable manual and tool of reference. As the editors themselves maintain, it “will best have served its purpose if it is quickly outdated by the writings of those who use it”; but from another viewpoint it will endure as a great historical achievement of mid-twentieth-century scholarship.

LESTER J. CAPPON

*Institute of Early American History and Culture*

*Guide to Selected Readings in Records Management* (New York, Technical Information Service, National Records Management Council, 1954. Pp. 27. \$2.85.)

*Records Management Bibliography* (Washington, Records Management Division, General Services Administration, June 1954. Pp. 41.)

The appearance of two comprehensive bibliographies on records management at the same time definitely indicates the important place this managerial tool has taken. It becomes even more apparent when one recalls that only a few years ago it was somewhat difficult to find worthwhile materials in this field, except for the products of the Hoover task force or of newly founded consulting firms. Both GSA and NRMC have performed an excellent service to management in listing “selective” materials on the subject. The council, in the preface to its publication, states that its selectivity was based upon value, up-to-date status, and availability of the materials. For the most part, GSA has adhered to these same requirements. The bibliographies cover the entire field of records management from the creation of records to their final disposition, and each includes over 500 items, covering both private and governmental publications.

The General Services Administration has divided its publication into four major groupings: Records Management — General; Creation of Records; Current Records Management; and Non-current Records Management. Each grouping is further subdivided into related subjects. The companion report, though not using the same major groups, covers the same material in subject sequence, with the addition of such topics as archives administration, testing and training for records operations, records management periodicals, and a more extensive section on rehabilitation and repair of records. The only other difference in outline format is the use of different terms to introduce similar materials, for example, the council’s use of *business history* for *program documentation*, *office manuals* for *instruction management*, *reports control* for *reports management*, and *photo-reproduction processes* for GSA’s terms *microphotography and other reproduction processes*. The materials listed by the council are presented by title, with an index by author in the last part of the book. The GSA listings are strictly by author or agency preparing the article or publication. The



standard form of material information is followed in both instances, with GSA providing more detail for its item descriptions.

As for material content, both bibliographies are in agreement regarding subject data. With very few exceptions, the same articles and publications appear in both reports. There have been some omissions of important titles, but these should be expected in such an overall coverage, and such omissions will probably be corrected in future listings. The only basic differences in the reports are in (1) the method of listing, in which instance the council's approach is far more effective for locating materials, and (2) the method of production — printing as opposed to processing, — which, while not of great significance, does make the council's publication more attractive. Whether these factors compensate for the greater cost of the council's bibliography is a matter for the reader to decide. Either bibliography, however, is effective and satisfies the need for a central source of available materials in records management.

WILLIAM BENEDON

*Lockheed Aircraft Corporation*

*Guide to the Manuscript Collections of Colonial Williamsburg*, compiled by Lynette Adcock. (Williamsburg, Va., Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., 1954. Pp. 58. Free.)

It was inevitable that a manuscript collection should be a byproduct of the intensive research carried on in the work of Colonial Williamsburg. The needs of the Institute of Early American History and Culture and the interest and generosity of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., have developed the byproduct into a collection of major importance for the historian of the colonial period. The most important segments are Mr. Rockefeller's two main gifts, the Carleton and the Blathwayt papers. The former are generally known as the British Headquarters papers, for they are essentially the archives of that department while it was under the direction of Sir Guy Carleton during the years 1782 and 1783. Besides his own correspondence the collection, which occupies 107 volumes, includes such choice segments as captured American letters, no less than 69 of them by Washington.

The Blathwayt papers are essentially the archives of the Secretary of the Lords of Trade and Plantations for the years 1675-96, and of the Secretary at War for 1683-1701. The subject matter is primarily American and concerns all of the American colonies, particularly the West Indies.

Some of the smaller collections of Colonial Williamsburg have the same wide geographical spread. Among these are the papers of Benjamin Huntington of Connecticut, covering the years 1761-99, and of Rhode Island merchants. Naturally most of the smaller lots relate to Virginia. These include stray volumes of local archives and the narrative account of Capt. David Edward Cronin, Federal Provost Marshal at Williamsburg in 1864, of the homes, families, and family archives of the town.

Of the maps in the Williamsburg collection the most interesting are the remarkable series made by or for Lt. Col. John Graves Simcoe during the Revolution.

Not mentioned in this guide, but of great importance, is the collection of microfilm of early American newspapers that has been built up at Williamsburg. As one would expect, the guide is mechanically superb and is provided with an excellent index.

CLIFFORD K. SHIPTON

*American Antiquarian Society*

*Reconstructed 1790 Census of Delaware*, by Leon de Valinger, Jr. [*Genealogical Publications of the National Genealogical Society*, no. 10.] (Washington, National Genealogical Society, 1954. Pp. 83, map. \$3.) (Reprinted from the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Sept. 1948 — Dec. 1953.)

The loss of the 1790 census schedules for Delaware (and five other States) has long distressed historians and genealogists. Researchers wanting information on the names and residence of individual inhabitants of the "First State" in the first decade of the new United States have been forced to turn to other sources, such as probate and marriage records, church files, deeds, private archives, and tax lists. In order to ease their task, Mr. de Valinger, State Archivist of Delaware, has compiled the pamphlet under review.

Based on the tax lists for 1790 (or the nearest available year), this publication consists of a list of the names of "taxables," that is, heads of families or estates, arranged alphabetically by "hundred" (political subdivision) in each of the three counties. As the useful introduction points out, the list cannot be so complete as the original census schedules, which also listed persons not owning property and which enumerated women, children, and slaves. Nevertheless the 8,000 or so entries must include a large proportion of the 11,783 free white males over 16 who were reported in the summary of the 1790 census. The reconstruction, which appears to have been painstakingly compiled and edited, will certainly be of great value and interest to researchers in Delaware history.

The reviewer would suggest only that the introduction might have included more information about the assessment lists that were used (are they all in the State Archives?) and an identification of the early nineteenth-century map which serves as a frontispiece.

ROBERT CLAUS

*United Nations*

*The Preservation of Relics and Records; Report to the British Transport Commission* (London, 1951. Pp. 46.)

*Historical Records of the British Transport Commission*, by L. C. Johnson. (Reprint from the *Journal of Transport History*, 1: 82-96, November 1953.)

On January 1, 1948, the railroads, inland waterways, road transport firms, and other transportation agencies of Great Britain passed under the control of the British Transport Commission, the British Government agency created to hold, maintain, and operate them on behalf of the public. We can imagine the

implications to Government archivists if such an event were it to take place in the United States, an event much more remote at present, unquestionably, than on several occasions in the past. In November 1947 the newly organized commission had asked the private companies to express their views on the best means of dealing with the collections of museum objects and records for which the commission would be assuming responsibility. Eventually a committee to represent the various interests was formally constituted under the chairmanship of the deputy secretary of the commission to study and report on the problem. The first title listed above is this committee's report of its recommendations. The second title is a reprint of an article by L. C. Johnson, Archivist of the British Transport Commission, reporting on the progress of the "Archive Department" since July 1951, when it was activated by the commission. The two publications together present a valuable picture of archival aims and achievements to date in one major area of British socialized industry.

Part 1 of the committee's recommendations, covering the "relics" and looking toward a permanent British Transport Museum, will interest museum experts, but archivists will turn to part 2, which treats of the "records." The Coal Industry Nationalization Act of 1946 had specifically designated the records of the National Coal Board as public records and had brought them under the control of the Public Record Office, but there were no similar provisions in the Transport Act of 1947. The Public Record Office was not represented on the committee preparing this report, but its advice was sought and given. Its recently expressed conception of three stages in the life history of records, each to be handled separately administratively, is apparently accepted by the British Transport Commission, which has also accepted the procedure of schedules, prepared by the transport executives but to be approved by the Public Record Office, as a means of controlling the flow of records through these stages. The older records, which have reached the third stage, are not to pass to the Public Record Office but are to be maintained by the commission in an archival repository of its own, a decision that seems to this reviewer to be the right one. These records deserve to be treated as more than an appendage to a depository of political records.

The report recommends creation of a British Transport Records Office, to be housed as soon as possible in a separate building, and to be under the charge of "a qualified Archivist and staff," who will "establish a close liaison with the Public Record Office, so that the benefit of their views and experience can be obtained in current contact." The several categories of historical records are reported upon, and, for each, recommendations are made as to what should immediately be transferred to the custody of the Archivist. Finally, an advisory council is recommended to watch over both the museum and the record office, with membership from each of the executives under the Transport Commission and a few representatives from appropriate outside organizations, including the Public Record Office.

In Mr. Johnson's article we see the pattern of this important new archival enterprise as it has taken shape 3 years later. The main repository has been

established at 66 Porchester Road, Bayswater, London, in a building of the old Great Western Railroad, adjoining its Royal Oak Station. The Great Western had already established in this building its central record office, the largest among those of British railroads. Branch repositories are in York and in Scotland. The holdings include at least three main categories of material (1) the archives of hundreds of once existing companies that have come under the British Transport Commission, (2) documents and manuscripts of nonarchival character that have been accessioned because they relate to transport matters and supplement the archives, and (3) books and periodicals concerning transport history. In developing a comprehensive scheme for organizing materials in the first category it was decided wisely that "company identity must rank prior to subject grouping." The plan thus involves a great number of company groups, identified by code letters. Within these groups the records are arranged by classes likely to be common to all companies. For example, class 1 comprises minutes and reports to the directors or other governing body, class 2 the stock and share registers, class 3 agreements, contracts, estimates, and plans, and so on through the pattern. A loose-leaf ledger termed the "Inventory Summary" makes readily available a brief picture of the repository's holdings by groups. As an adjunct to this Inventory Summary is a "Location Register," which records physical items in greater detail. A supplementary card index permits a still different approach of subject-heading character.

This article contains an excellent brief description of the holdings, which after only 2 years' intensive work are impressive indeed. The largest category, and most important probably, is that of the minute books, of which some 12,000 have now been brought together by the Archivist. Correspondence does not yet seem to be a major item, and its control is not clearly indicated. A considerable library has been built up from older books in the custody of predecessor companies, including notable collections of timetables and guidebooks.

Clearly, an intelligent and energetic beginning has been made in the building of an archival institution that will ultimately preserve the main record of the contribution of transport to British social and economic history since before the Industrial Revolution. Will socialism preserve the records of business history better than the combination of library collecting and company archives upon which we obviously must expect to depend in the United States?

OLIVER W. HOLMES

#### *National Archives*

Public Archives of Canada, Manuscript Division. *Preliminary Inventory, Manuscript Group 19, Fur Trade and Indians 1763-1867*. (Ottawa, Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery, 1954. Pp. 30.)

Since 1950 the Public Archives of Canada has published 16 inventories of its record groups and manuscript groups. The inventories of record groups cover official records, and those of manuscript groups relate to private papers and other nonofficial material. Each inventory is published in English or French according to the language of the original documents. This inventory

is predominantly in English. It parallels in subject interest *Preliminary Inventory, Record Group 10, Indian Affairs* (June 1951) and *Fonds des manuscrits antérieurs à la cession* (1954).

The preliminary inventory under review consists of six sections, namely, A., Fur Trade: General; B., Fur Trade: Companies and Associations; C., Fur Trade: Masson Collection; D., Fur Trade: Post Records and Journals; E., Red River Settlement; F., Indians; these sections are followed by an appendix and an index. Since virtually all of section A consists of the papers of individuals or families the arrangement could have been improved and simplified by merging it with B, which is comparatively small, under the heading Fur Trade: Individuals, Families, Companies, and Associations. It is singular, too, that the Masson collection was entered as a section of the inventory while the Selkirk papers were relegated to the appendix.

The Public Archives of Canada, lacking original documents in many cases, embarked a number of years ago on an extensive program of copying from originals to supplement its holdings. The notes in this inventory to the effect that some papers are typescript, photostat, transcript, photograph, or microfilm copies may be a disappointment; and originals may be preferred by some persons doing research. The convenience of having all these papers in a single location, however, cannot be overlooked or minimized.

Of the few papers listed in the Indian section, those of Joseph Brant, the Seven Nations, the Six Nations, and the St. Regis Indians are most likely to be of interest in this country.

It is stated in the introduction that not all material relating to the fur trade and Indians has been included but that selections were made in accordance with the significance of the papers as a whole. The microfilm of the Hudson's Bay Company papers, 1670-1870, for example, was not included but constitutes a separate group.

MARSHALL D. MOODY

*Department of the Army*

*Directory of Saskatchewan Ministries, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and Elections, 1905-53*, edited by Lewis H. Thomas and others. (Regina and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Archives Board, 1954. Pp. xiii, 132, maps, notes. \$1.75.)

This publication succeeds in providing "a convenient and authoritative historical record of the names" of public men of Saskatchewan during the entire half century of its provincial history. Since the data accent top executives and legislators, they reflect government at a policy level. Although statistics are presented without comment, a reasonably astute student with some acquaintance with parliamentary government should be able to draw some significant though limited conclusions about the operation of the province's political machinery and the character of its leaders. In determining the broad trends of public opinion, the maps of the electoral districts should be particularly helpful.

As is to be expected, the book will prove a most welcome finding aid for

the users of the provincial archives and of papers still in the custody of the departments. The names of officers and the dates of their incumbency, as well as the morphology of the various governmental agencies and the resulting changes in nomenclature, always constitute good leads, not merely to public papers and documents but also to private collections. Although certain names appear in several of the 13 lists, one can easily make one's own cross-references.

A sequel covering judicial and municipal officers should be most appropriate and welcome.

HERMAN J. DEUTSCH

*State College of Washington*

*Danske Adelsbreve fra Tiden Indtil 1660; Facsimiler af Breve fra Adelsmaend og Adelsdamer, fra Rigsarkivets*, assembled and edited by Erik Kroman. [*Danske Adelsbreve*, Samlinger 3.] (Public Records Office, Copenhagen, 1953. Pp. xi, 28, 28 numbered photolithographic reproductions.)

Archivists particularly and other scholars generally will be interested in examining this publication as an example of the achievement of excellence in form of presentation and arrangement as well as high standards in editing and transcription of the "ancient" Danish. Within this tastefully bound volume is an example of archival publication of which the author and the Danish archival profession should be proud.

The volume is prefaced by a short discussion by Axel Linvald of the Public Records Office, in which he notes that the volume is a continuation of a series of publications of this character in which documents in the Public Records Office of significance for state and folk history are being reproduced in facsimile. The publication is divided into five principal parts: the introduction (pp. vii to xi); facsimile reproductions of 28 letters (nos. 1-28); transcriptions of the letters in "ancient" Danish (pp. 3-15); translation of the letters into modern Danish (pp. 19-27); and an alphabetical list of the letters by author.

In his introduction the compiler summarizes briefly the significance of letters of the nobility as reflecting something of the culture of the times. He notes that the facsimiles reproduced in the book are fairly representative of letters written during the period of the fifteenth through the seventeenth centuries. Kroman discusses his arrangement of the letters in ascending chronological order, by noblemen for the period 1409 to 1658 (about 200 years) and by noblewomen for the period 1556 to 1660. He assures the reader that the facsimiles are faithful reproductions. An annotated listing of the facsimiles concludes the introduction, in which the writer of each letter is identified as to his professional or other occupation, and the probable or known reason for writing the letter is indicated.

The photolithographic reproductions of the letters are indeed an example of excellence of reproduction as well as taste of presentation. Each letter is numbered and identified.

Kroman's transcription of the contents of each letter from the "ancient" into modern Danish, he says, has been achieved with relatively little modification of

the original. Hidden meanings and obsolete or obscure words are clarified in footnotes. Each transcription is preceded by a brief statement as to its contents and particularly the personal or specific "archive" to which the letter belongs.

The editor achieves what appears to be a careful, scholarly rendering of each letter into modern Danish, and a comparison of the modern with the "ancient" Danish reveals the magnitude of this task. This accomplishment speaks well of the research and linguistic abilities of the editor and once more points up the professional attributes necessary for an archivist besides merely his custodial abilities.

Those of us who have followed the growing excellence of publications such as this feel justifiable pride in the profession as a whole and appreciate the fact that, with understandably limited financial resources, a small country such as Denmark maintains such high standards of research and publication. We would do well to examine such publications, perhaps not so much for their content as in the spirit of learning of new techniques and forms of presentation and arrangement.

HERMAN R. FRIIS

*The National Archives*

*Erhvervshistorisk Årbog; Meddelelser fra Erhvervsarkivet*, vol. 6. (Aarhus, Denmark, Rosenkilde og Bagger, 1954. Pp. 153.)

Like other things in the contemporary world, the yearbook of the Business Archives (Erhvervsarkivet) in Aarhus, Denmark, is growing in size; this volume is the largest to date. Most of its space is occupied by historical articles. The brief annual report of the Archives (pp. 149-153) treats such matters as its serious space problem, accessions, arrangement, and the activities of staff members with respect to education and publications. During the year (April 1, 1953-March 31, 1954) the Archives received a total of 6,065 volumes and bundles of records. Most of these bear twentieth-century dates and are continuations of earlier accessions. The new records were given a temporary arrangement while the staff completed the arrangement of certain groups of papers previously accessioned (a list of which is provided). The reference library of the Archives increased its holdings by 1,280 volumes.

CARL L. LOKKE

*National Archives*

*Inventaire des Archives des Familles de Knyff de Gontroel et de la Roche*, by Marie-Rose Thielemans. (Brussels, Archives de l'État à Mons, 1954. Pp. 136.)

This inventory was prepared by an archivist-paleographer of the Belgian State Archives at Mons. The archives described include not only those of the families de Knyff de Gontroel and de la Roche but those of 16 other families related to them through marriage. The relationship of the families is presented in a concise but apparently comprehensive manner in the introduction to the



inventory. The archives cover a period extending from the close of the fourteenth century through the nineteenth century.

In describing family archives Belgian archivists frequently divide the records into two main groups: those pertaining to persons and those pertaining to estates. This plan has been followed in this inventory except that since the business and office papers in the de la Roche collection constitute the most important mass, a third section has been included for these papers. The records described in the sections pertaining to persons and in the section describing business and office papers are arranged by names of families; those in the sections pertaining to estates are arranged geographically. The entries are described only by title, but the titles are more descriptive of the contents than those in inventories produced by the National Archives of the United States. But description only by title makes it difficult for the reader to determine which of the entries are of greatest historical value. The plan of organization and description, however, is well suited for use by the genealogist and the local historian. Such use is further facilitated by two alphabetical lists of names and places: the first listing names of fief-holding families, proprietors of estates, lessors, creditors, and debtors that appear in the files but are not mentioned in the inventory; the second containing names and places mentioned in the inventory.

An explanation is given for the detailed listing of entries and the compilation of the lists. Because most of the archives at Mons were destroyed in 1940, these family archives acquired more than usual interest when they were deposited in 1952. The disappearance of the *fonds* of the Supreme Council and the registers of the aldermen of the State led the author to make the detailed lists.

The volume of records in an entry is given in terms of pieces, bundles, envelopes, registers, notebooks, and so forth. There are 1,058 entries in the inventory. According to the introduction, the family records under discussion are contained in 98 portfolios and 4 pasteboard boxes. A check of the entries shows that there are approximately 750 bundles, 200 envelopes, and numerous other single documents and volumes in the collection. It appears obvious that most of the bundles are very small, but which if any of them are large is not apparent. Ample justification for the detailed inventorying is given, but it is believed that the inventory would be of increased value to prospective inquirers if some approximation of the volume of specific entries were given.

MABEL E. DEUTRICH

#### *National Archives*

Northamptonshire Archives Committee. *Report of the Archivist, 1st January 1952 to the 31st March 1953*, by P. I. King, County Archivist. (Northampton, J. Stevenson Holt, Ltd., Printers, 1953[?]. Pp. 7.)

Northamptonshire Archives Committee. *Annual Report, 1st April 1953 to the 31st March 1954*, by Frank Lee, Chairman (appending Report of Archivist

by P. I. King). (Northampton, J. Stevenson Holt, Ltd., Printers, 1954[?]. Pp. 8.)

Northamptonshire Archives Committee. *Summary Guide to the Northamptonshire Record Office*, by P. I. King, with a foreword by Frank Lee. (Northampton, J. Stevenson Holt, Ltd., Printers, 1954. Pp. 24. 1 s.)

Worcestershire. *Eighth Report of the County Archivist (Annual Report for 1952-53)*, by E. H. Sargeant. (Worcester[?], 1953[?]. Pp. 10.)

Worcestershire. *Ninth Report of the County Archivist (Annual Report for 1953-54)*, by E. H. Sargeant. (Worcester[?], 1954[?]. Pp. 12.)

Worcestershire Photographic Survey Council. *Fourth Annual Report, 1953-54*, by H. Ashwin. Worcester[?], 1954[?]. Pp. 7.)

Worcestershire Committee, Historical Manuscripts Commission, National Register of Archives. *Sixth Annual Report, 1953-54*, by P. G. Feek. (Worcester[?], 1954[?]. Pp. 7.)

These short pamphlets come from the Midlands of England.

At the beginning of 1952 — so lately as that — the Northamptonshire Record Office was established at Lamport, a small place 10 or 12 miles away from Northampton, to take over archival functions previously exercised by the Northamptonshire Record Society, which will presumably continue to flourish as sponsor of "Northamptonshire Past and Present." Earmarked for possible removal from Lamport Hall to more accessible Delapré Abbey, the Record Office operates under the Northamptonshire Archives Committee, a composite authority assisted by a technical and advisory subcommittee of wide talents. Having inherited from the Record Society more than four score collections and the results of valuable cataloging, the new archival management during the first year verified the contents of the Record Office and expanded the indexes. In the second year it encouraged the shelving of boxed records and promoted the compilation of a summary guide.

For a shilling plus postage anyone may acquire the newly issued summary guide to the Northamptonshire Record Office. Into this capsule of essential information, the County Archivist has pressed the history of his Record Office, the schedule of its hours and rules, the identity of its important finding mediums, and descriptions of its six principal classes of holdings. Students are boldly advised to acquaint themselves with the worthwhile printed materials in the Northampton Public Library, the County Library, and Peterborough Museum, "before turning to manuscript material, much of whose purport and significance is otherwise likely to be missed."

In Worcestershire, not farther away than one intervening county, the outstanding accomplishment portrayed in the eighth and ninth annual reports of the County Archivist is a complete physical rearrangement of the records. Over a million items, calculated to weigh 67 tons, were redeployed with only 11 per cent of available staff time spent on moving them. An undoubted advantage was the presence of maneuver space, or "elbow-room," as Mr. Sargeant so aptly terms it. He asserts candidly that most of the records had to be moved

twice, first out of the way into the open area provided by two new muniment rooms, and second into their proper destination, to conform with a predetermined scheme. Eventually he could say: "We now know in bulk what records we hold (a task which took three years), why we hold them (classification — another two years), and we now have them shelved in classified order (seven years after the archivist's appointment in 1947)."

The fourth annual report of the Worcestershire Photographic Survey Council, telling how systematic photographic coverage of the county is being brought about, reveals that 40 percent of the 3,600 photographic prints now in the Shirehall collection at Worcester were added in the twelvemonth. In Worcestershire the local committee on the National Register of Archives has issued its sixth annual report, and trawling for unaccessioned records still moves slowly on. With such local activities the County Archivist maintains extensive liaison.

Several years ago, in a paper read in Kentucky and later published in the *American Archivist*, Leon De Valinger, Jr., the State Archivist of Delaware, discussed the value of periodic reporting in the archival field. It suffices here to say that the half dozen annual reports under review, like the preliminary Northamptonshire guide, are worthy examples of brevity and clarity. The fact that they are acceptably printed gives them attraction that they might otherwise lack.

H. B. FANT

#### *National Archives*

*A Handlist of the Records of the Bishop of Lincoln and of the Archdeacons of Lincoln and Stow*, compiled by Kathleen Major. (London, Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press, 1953. Pp. v-xv, 122. \$2.60.)

This handlist catalogs the principal classes of one of the most extensive collections of ecclesiastical records in England. The general character and content of the Lincoln diocesan records have previously been described by Miss Major in her paper read before the Royal Historical Society in 1938 and printed in its *Transactions*, 22: 39-66 (1940). The availability, arrangement, organization, state of preservation, and facilities for inspection of the Lincoln muniments, as for other ecclesiastical archives throughout England, are described in the useful "Survey of Ecclesiastical Archives," typescript copies of which are available in London at the Institute of Historical Research, the British Museum, and the Public Record Office. So far as Lincoln is concerned, the present handlist forms a necessary and sufficient complement to the survey.

Most of the documents classified in the handlist were formerly in the custody of the registrar but in 1947 were committed to the Lincolnshire Record Office. Accordingly Lincoln, with its trained archivist and more commodious archives has, like Durham and York, recently improved its facilities for research among ecclesiastical records and has established a research center roughly comparable to the prewar and now remodeled archives at Canterbury and Lambeth Palace.

"The basis of this handlist was the skeleton typescript list which Canon Foster drew up"; however, following the discovery or the transfer of documents to the collection, considerable additions and some rearrangements have been made. The handlist comprises six sections: administrative records, court records, visitation records, miscellanea, records of the archdeaconry of Lincoln, and records of the archdeaconry of Stow. The first four sections contain an inventory of the bishops' records; the muniments of the two archdeaconries are similarly separated into administrative, court, and visitation records. The inventory begins with the rolls and registers of the bishops of Lincoln, running, with some gaps, from the institution rolls of Bishop Hugh (1209-35) to the *Sede vacante* register of 1910. Attention should be called again to the seven newly discovered additional registers, containing predominantly royal writs, for bishops of the fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries. Among a wide variety of administrative records the largest series are presentation deeds, subscription books of oaths taken by the new incumbent upon institution, and transcripts of parish registers. The vast bulk of the administrative records are, of course, post-Reformation in date. The court records seem to be most numerous for the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; and Miss Major remarks that the court books "will repay careful study especially in the sixteenth century when they are more detailed than later on." The visitation records include lists of clergy drawn up from time to time between the early sixteenth and the midnineteenth centuries as well as the important visitation books and papers, the earliest of which is for 1413.

For bound registers or books the number and measurements of the folios or pages are recorded. For each document the reference or call number is given. A succinct explanation of the classification frequently precedes the schedule of documents; in many instances it may be supplemented by reference to the abovementioned article in the *Royal Historical Society Transactions*. For the documents that have been printed or calendared, appropriate citations are made. In this category the reference for a portion of Register XIX on page 11, line 18, seems inapposite, particularly in view of its repetition on page 27, lines 7-16. Presumably when Canon Foster decided that these folios formed a subscription book, he withdrew them from Register XIX.

Formerly archivist to the Bishop of Lincoln and now reader in diplomatic in the University of Oxford, Miss Major is currently the general editor of the notable publications of the Lincoln Record Society and has herself edited the latest volumes of *Registrum Antiquissimum* of that series. Her extraordinary qualifications for the present undertaking are also exemplified in her edition of *Acta Stephani Langton, Cantuariensis Archiepiscopi, A.D. 1207-1228*, published by the Canterbury and York Society. When one must examine a catalog without direct reference to the archives themselves, complete confidence in the competence of the compiler is a desideratum; it is not lacking here.

EDGAR B. GRAVES

Hamilton College

*Publikationen des Oesterreichischen Staatsarchivs. II Serie: Inventare Oesterreichischer Archive: VIII Inventar des Kriegsarchivs Wien* (Vienna, 1953. Two vols. in one, pp. xviii, 186, 203. \$7.50. Published at Horn, Lower Austria, by Ferdinand Berger.)

This inventory of the Austrian war archives was, somewhat ironically, published in the occupation zone of the great power which is solely responsible for Austria's present demilitarized condition, the U. S. S. R. It is the eighth in a series of inventories that was inaugurated in 1909 with a volume on the archives of the Interior Ministry and that includes three volumes on provincial archives, one in eight parts on the Vienna Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv (1933-40), and one on the Vienna Hofkammerarchiv (1951). The volume under review was compiled by officials of the War Archives, an establishment which, since the reorganization of 1945, has been a section of the Austrian State Archives. The book is in general modeled upon the earlier inventory of the Haus-, Hof-, und Staatsarchiv.

The Austrian war archives was founded in 1711 but, since it then took over the war records of some 150 earlier years, the present inventory covers approximately 400 years. It includes naval and air force archives as well as those of a strictly military character, and, while the emphasis is naturally upon public papers and manuscripts, it also contains useful sections on the War Ministry's map and picture collections, library, and personnel records. It contains for the professional archivist some interesting general sections on the history of the war archives from 1711 on and brief sections on their significance and usefulness. The 72-page index is only mildly useful. It contains too many entries such as Agenten, Truppen-Angelegenheiten, Vereine, and Vortraege, which would seem to be so general as to be almost useless; and although it points the way to some apparently valuable items on such significant figures as Prince Eugene, Radetzky, and Tegetthoff, it contains very little on such others as Maximilian of Mexico and Windisch-Graetz. Austerlitz and Marengo receive one entry each and Novara none.

Austria's war archives are of course of importance to the historian. They reflect a considerable part of the very great role that the Habsburgs played for centuries in war affairs. They throw considerable light upon the period of Nazi occupation. Although they suffered some serious losses and injury during World War II, the major portion of the great collections is still intact.

Aside from returning to Belgium, France, Yugoslavia, Poland, and Czechoslovakia archives taken from them between 1938 and 1945, the greatest problems of the Austrian authorities in the postwar period were the salvaging of damaged materials, the provision of proper archival facilities for the collections in a capital city which has no adequate general archival establishment, and the acquisition of new personnel to replace those lost as a result of the war. All of these problems retarded the publication of the inventory.

E. WILDER SPAULDING

*United States Embassy, Vienna*

*The Fifty-Eighth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records and Keeper of the State Papers in Ireland.* (Dublin, The Stationery Office, n. d. Pp. 119. 4 sh.)

This is the first published report on the Irish Public Record Office to appear in more than two decades. Covering the period from 1931 to 1950, the report consists of three parts: a general account of problems and accomplishments of the Record Office, a detailed accessions list, and finding aids for certain collections.

The Deputy Keeper of Records in Ireland has been faced with difficulties common to many in similar positions. World War II and threats of air raids meant diverting space from records storage to air-raid shelters. More recently, space has become so cramped that accessions will soon be greater than available shelving.

The Irish are to be complimented for keeping up to date the work of checking, arranging, listing, and indexing material received for permanent deposit. The report shows that an excellent program of producing finding aids and publishing important documents is being carried forward constantly. Technology has brought an interesting change to the Public Record Office — the substitution of photostating for hand copying, which had been continued as late as 1951.

The job of the Deputy Keeper in Ireland is probably unlike that of any other archivist. Because of the disastrous fire of 1922 he has had the overwhelming task of building up a collection of records. Through extensive purchases and gifts, the Public Record Office, especially during the period covered by this report, has brought together the originals or copies of many deeds, wills, leases, grants of remission of quit rents, and other legal documents from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries.

The detailed list of accessions furnishes the user with sufficient information so that he would be able to locate desired records. Only three of the accessions are so bulky that measurements are given in terms of feet rather than number of items. As yet, very few government records created since 1922 have been transferred. The problem of large bulk is yet to be encountered.

Calendars of two collections, one relating to the history of Kilkenny and the other to the Irish church, are included in the report. The caliber of the calendars is excellent. Even more important are name and subject indexes, which are adequate in every respect.

HOMER L. CALKIN

*Department of State*