

Reviews of Books

RICHARD G. WOOD, *Editor*

National Archives

Cornell University Collection of Regional History and University Archives.
Report of the Curator and Archivist, 1950-1954, by Edith M. Fox. (Ithaca, Cornell University, 1955 [?]. Pp. 77.)

That Margaret O'Connor, an escaped convict from Sing-Sing, "stout, healthy and uncommonly good-looking" is wanted by the authorities, may sound like an announcement on this morning's TV program; but the escape occurred in 1849, and the broadside which offered all of \$50 as a reward now serves as frontispiece to the always stimulating quadriennial report of the rapidly growing Regional History collection at Cornell. This report follows the practice, already established, of limiting the administrative reports to a mere foreword and devoting the rest of the space to a calendar of accessions. The administrative union between the archives and the collection on regional history seems to be working to the benefit of both; it cannot, unfortunately, be applied in many cases, in regions where local history is seldom a department of a university.

A study of the accessions suggests that an amazing amount of interest and cooperation has been secured, both from local industries and from university departments, all of which seem to have deposited their archives without demur — presumably an evidence of their trust in the archivist. A carping critic might object to the rather fragmentary descriptions of some groups of material, or suggest that some holdings, such as files of school catalogs or church reports, seem so incomplete as to be scarcely worth listing. It is this reviewer's conviction, however, that such listings serve a double purpose: of informing the scholar of the whereabouts of material which he sometimes understands better than does the cataloger and of attracting the benefactions of holders of more complete files of the desired publications.

It is interesting to note that the prospective Union List of Manuscripts has already inspired changes in the cataloging techniques of the two collections. Concerning this list we can all enthusiastically echo the witticism of Curator Edith M. Fox, in her foreword: "Its appearance should result in broad cooperation among collectors, if only because collectors will know what to cooperate about."

ELIZABETH CLARKE KIEFFER

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Guide to the Manuscript Collection in the Toronto Public Libraries, compiled by Donalda Putnam and Edith Firth. (Toronto, Canada, Toronto Public Libraries, 1954. Pp. iv, 116.)

A *Preliminary Guide to the Manuscript Collection in the Toronto Public Libraries* was issued in 1940. Since that time, however, many significant

groups of papers have been added to the important collections relating to the history and administration of Upper Canada. The publication of a new guide including these recent accessions was needed to give an adequate idea of the present holdings. The new *Guide* fills this need admirably, and gives an up-to-the-minute description of the collection.

Among the collections not noted in the *Preliminary Guide* but found in the new enlarged edition are the Peter Russell papers, which contain materials of Revolutionary War interest as well as those relating to Upper Canada. The Canadian materials in these papers are of particular importance; they deal with public accounts, land grants, and Indian disturbances in Upper Canada for the period from 1792 to 1808, when Russell was receiver-general and later administrator of the province. Other collections recently added and worthy of special mention are Sir George Prevost's papers, covering the War of 1812, when he was governor-in-chief of the British colonies in North America; and the Alexander Matheson papers from the E. W. Banting collection, which deal mainly with Hudson's Bay Company affairs.

Some of the recent accessions fall into certain subject groupings. Canadian land survey materials in the Charles Rankin papers and the Josiah Gershom Sing papers from the E. W. Banting collection deal chiefly with land surveys carried out in Upper Canada and the Northwest Territories.

Source material for the history of Canadian railways is represented in the John Harvie papers, consisting of correspondence and business items relating to the operation of the Northern Railway; and the Roderick McLennan papers, relating to McLennan's work with the Intercolonial and the Canadian Pacific railways.

Scientific materials are included in the papers of the naturalist John Goldie and the geologist Henry Youle Hind. Goldie studied and collected plants in Canada and the United States from 1817 to 1819, and his papers include a diary and notebook reflecting this interest. An interesting item in Hind's papers is the manuscript diary of his observations as geologist of the Red River expedition of 1857; much of this material was incorporated with some changes in his *Narrative of the Canadian Red River Exploring Expedition of 1857* (London, 1860), 1:1-81.

Several collections of business papers dealing principally with the building trades and real-estate development in Toronto are included, as are other materials dealing with the history and the civic and commercial growth of the city.

The entries in the *Guide* are alphabetically arranged. Some of the larger collections contain groups of letters and documents belonging to other persons. These may be found by checking the index. The present *Guide* follows the style of the *Preliminary Guide*, with entries in the earlier work reprinted and descriptions of new acquisitions included in the alphabetical arrangement. Sufficient biographical data and information about the manuscript items and collections is given to form an excellent idea of the holdings. An index of personal names and corporate bodies is included at the end of the *Guide*, as

are the regulations governing the use of the manuscript collection. Students of Canadian history will welcome this publication as an invaluable aid.

WILLIAM S. EWING

William L. Clements Library

Guide to the Manuscripts of the Kentucky Historical Society, compiled by G. Glenn Clift. (Frankfort, Kentucky Historical Society, 1955. Pp. 185.)

The author of this *Guide* explains:

The manuscript collection now owned by the Society, together with those items left on deposit, is not extensive and is characterized by very small groups containing five and fewer items. To make the holdings as serviceable as possible, however, it was deemed necessary to compile a descriptive and well indexed *Guide*. Again to gain as much as possible from the collection, single letters as well as circulars and broadsides presenting historical sidelights were listed. Photostatic copies of letters, documents, etc., were included in instances where the originals were not readily accessible. Microfilm holdings were excluded.

The most important single collection, Kentucky Governors' executive office records, was purposely omitted. This collection, comprising 1,200 boxes and 550 bound volumes, has been described in an earlier guide.

In view of the size and nature of the collection, the author's policy was sound. He was able to include a full description of all the holdings in a compact volume. Since this collection contains some material unrelated to Kentucky, the index should prove useful to scholars whose interest is wider than the State. The description of two of the collections or items, chosen at random from the 1,149 described, will serve to show the treatment:

11. ALEXANDER, J. R. FAMILY PAPERS. 6 ALS. 21 p.

Letters to him from his sons R. A. and William Alexander, 1866-1868, from Austin, Texas. These letters concern emigration to Texas of "discontented and broken up Secessionists," Texas statehood, courts, a new Union newspaper at Austin, conditions in Mexico, 1868, and law enforcement in Texas. Cotton production in 1868 is mentioned.

853. SHIELL, HUGH. 10 items.

Account sheets (in account with Maurice Nagle, 1785, with Barclay, Moylan, etc., 1781-82, at Northern Liberty Auction Store, 1782-83); invoice of goods shipped on *St. Helena*, May 24, 1782; sales of rum, 1783; insurance policy, trans-oceanic shipping, Feb. 6, 1782; itemized statement, 7 p., "cost of outfitting ship *Commerce*, Thomas Thruston (?) Master, June-Oct., 1782," at Philadelphia.

The completeness of the index may be gathered from the fact that the latter item is covered by eight entries, including "Rum, sales (1783)." Incidentally, bourbon is not indexed. Slaves and slavery account for 39 entries. Altogether, the compiler has provided a most useful tool, which will save the time of many scholars and should make the collection covered more extensively serviceable than it has been.

JAMES J. TALMAN

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Latin American Archivology, 1953-1954, by Roscoe R. Hill. (Reprinted from *The Americas*, 12:51-75, July 1955.)

Few of us could hope to keep currently informed concerning the archives of the 20 Latin American republics without the periodic reports from Roscoe R. Hill. A half-century of work in Latin American archives makes him admirably qualified for the task. The present report is a followup on that which appeared in the *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 34:256-279 (1954), covering the period 1951 to 1953. To understand more fully what has recently occurred in each archive it is best to consider both reports in relation to that archive. As examples, (1) little information is given on Argentina in the 1955 report, while the 1954 report is more informative, and (2) only a few lines are devoted to Brazil in the 1954 report, while the 1955 report carries information on work in progress, recent publications, and other items of importance.

The archive of each nation is discussed in its alphabetical order in Section 1. Section 2 is devoted to "Other Archives," including the Arquivo do Estado De São Paulo, the Dirección General de Correos of Mexico, and Latin American material in the National Archives of the United States. Section 3 is devoted to "Documentary Publications." Various organizations and individuals publish volumes of records that are contributions to archivology; this is a list of recent items of importance. Section 4, "Other Publications," contains additional titles that will be of interest to the student of Latin American archivology.

This and the earlier report will be welcomed by all who are interested in research in Latin American archives, as well as by archivists. Attention should also be called to the information on Latin American archives that Dr. Hill contributes to the volumes of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*.

S. LYMAN TYLER

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Australia. *Third Annual Report of the Commonwealth Archives Committee*. (Canberra, February 1955. Pp. 9, app. Processed.)

This report includes the fiscal year 1954 in its statistical coverage and the period July 1, 1953, to December 31, 1954, in its description of the archival program. The Archives Committee, with C. E. W. Bean as chairman, is composed of representatives of the chief government departments, of the Prime Minister's office, and of Canberra University College. Its function is to supervise and recommend improvements in the archival system. The Archival Authority, which has physical custody of the archives, is the Commonwealth National Library.

In the period covered, the committee concerned itself with (1) a definition of the relative responsibilities of departments and the Archival Authority in regard to the control of public records, (2) preparation of a recommendation to the Prime Minister that bona fide research workers be granted access to records down to 1929, and (3) a recommendation to the Prime Minister that the question of control of the permanent archives system be studied.

The Archival Authority — that is, the Archives Division of the National Library — worked on accessioning, disposal, reference, and the equipping of repositories in the new National Library building in Canberra as well as those in Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Sydney, and Brisbane. Good progress is reported in the cooperation between the Archives Division and the departments in setting up disposal schedules. In regard to current records, the Commonwealth Archives Committee

believes that records and archives management cannot be dissociated and that now more than ever, the quality of the archives of the future depend on the records management and disposal activities of the department. The archivist, because his work depends primarily on an analysis of the nature and content of departmental records and because his activities cover all departments, is in a specially good position to contribute to a general theory of records management on which practical experiments can be based.

In the opinion of the committee "the most notable single event of the period" was the visit of T. R. Schellenberg of the National Archives in Washington. As a Fulbright lecturer in archives and records management from February 20 to September 3, 1954, Dr. Schellenberg combined an extensive program of lectures and seminars with a tour of Australian archives. The success of this visit has caused the committee to record its support of a greater international exchange of views among archivists.

The appendixes include statistics in narrative and graphic form and further details on some of the activities described in the body of the report.

FRANCIS J. HEPPNER

National Archives

British Manuscripts Project: a Checklist of the Microfilms Prepared in England and Wales for the American Council of Learned Societies, 1941-1945, compiled by Lester K. Born. (Washington, Library of Congress, 1955. Pp. xvii, 179. \$2.)

This checklist describes nearly 5,000,000 pages of manuscripts and a small quantity of rare printed materials, which were microfilmed on 2,652 rolls during 1941-45 for the American Council of Learned Societies, with the cooperation of numerous American scholars and the depositories in England and Wales. Financed by the Rockefeller Foundation, the actual microfilming was done by University Microfilms, Inc. The purpose of the British Manuscripts Project was to preserve valuable historical, scientific, and literary materials from the hazards of war and to furnish American scholars with important research materials.

Printed largely in three-column format, this photoduplicated checklist contains a number of parts. An introduction gives information regarding the inception and management of the project and the preparation of the checklist. A memorandum prepared by Waldo G. Leland in 1940 for the use of a conference of interested experts called together to consult on the project is printed as an annex to the introduction. The checklist itself is arranged alphabetically by name of depository and thereunder alphabetically by col-

lection. The depositories drawn upon include the British Museum, the Public Record Office, Cambridge and Oxford University libraries, the National Library of Wales, and the libraries of a number of noble families of England whose ancestors occupied important official positions or were collectors of manuscripts. A sample of illuminated manuscripts on color film appears at the end. The index is limited to personal and geographic names appearing in the manuscript collections.

This checklist makes available information which has been accessible only in the manuscript catalogs at the General Library of the University of Michigan and the Library of Congress. The checklist is somewhat less complete than the catalogs themselves, one of which is a dictionary catalog. For the individual items are given the depository designation, a brief description, and the roll number. Serial numbers were added by the compiler for use in the index. The material is varied, and some entries are in Latin, Arabic, Persian, or Welsh. Persons using this checklist must have much knowledge to begin with, or else do their work in reference libraries; for neither persons nor the functions of offices are identified.

The material of chief interest for American history is that reproduced from the records of the Colonial Office, in the Public Record Office — papers relating to the English colonies in America during the 17th and 18th centuries, claims of American loyalists for the Revolutionary War, and papers of Sir Jeffery Amherst, the British commander-in-chief in North America during 1758-63. Prints of the microfilm described can be obtained from the Library of Congress. This is a useful guide to one of the largest collections of microfilm ever assembled.

HENRY P. BEERS

National Archives

Handlist of Scottish and Welsh Record Publications. The Scottish Section, by Peter Gouldesbrough and A. P. Kup; *The Welsh Section*, by Idwal Lewis. [*Publications Pamphlet* No. 4.] (London, British Records Association, 1954. Pp. 34.)

The 1951 *Handlist of Record Publications*, published by the British Records Association, omitted Scottish and Welsh items. In the new *Handlist* this omission has now been made good. Essentially the *Handlist* guides us to printings of documents, chiefly official, from Scottish and Welsh institutions, the state and judiciary, and the church, and somewhat fewer from education, trade, and private life.

Under each of 47 large classifications for Scotland, the publication lists the type of record, the dates covered, and a reference if a full or partial modern printing or a printed translation has been made. For example, under Military Papers (no. 40), 26 items are noted, from the muster rolls from the Scottish campaign of Edward I in 1298 A. D., to a list of French prisoners at Dumfries in 1810; most of these are of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Appropriately to the type of record, the arrangement varies slightly; for

instance, Sheriff courts (no. 13) is arranged geographically from Aberdeen to Renfrew and thereunder chronologically.

The Welsh record publications are listed on only one page, in five classifications. This reflects the recency of interest in local history among this people.

These BRA *Handlists* mine the scholarly society series and many learned monographs for pertinent nuggets of the historical record. For all beginning investigators in retrospective civilizations they give ready access to the key documents, saving false starts and loss of time in searches. For the archivist, however, and in particular for the American archivist, these are all secondary sources, useful but rightly suspect as records and of limited and remote interest. As suggestions for archival methodology, though, these *Handlists* offer a good deal. The classifications used are socially basic and flexibly suggestive. The citations are brief enough to give significant economy, similar to those of continental reference books, rather than to our American page-wasting styles. The index, which refers only to types of records, merely supplements the classification and does not analyze the material personally or geographically. These British have methods indeed worthy of our study.

JOHN H. MORIARTY

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Die Schriftlichen Nachlässe in den zentralen deutschen und preussischen Archiven, by Wolfgang Mommsen. (Koblenz, Bundesarchiv, 1955. Pp. xxxiv, 139. Processed. 7.50 DM.)

This is the first in a projected series of publications of the Bundesarchiv of the German Federal Republic, the object of which is to make better known the German national archival collections that have survived the war and the occupation and that remain available to the scholar and research student. The publications are not intended to be complete and definitive works but will serve somewhat the same purpose as the preliminary inventories of the National Archives.

Dr. Mommsen has endeavored to compile what is in effect an index of the several hundred collections of personal papers that were known to be in the various German and Prussian central archival establishments before the outbreak of the recent war and to trace changes of custody and account for losses that have subsequently occurred. As a result of wartime destruction and the postwar dispersal of German archives, existing guides to these collections have become quite useless, and the need for some compilation such as this has been keenly felt.

In part 1 of the work the editor has listed in alphabetical order the known *Nachlässe*, briefly identifying the personage concerned, indicating in what custody the papers were at various times, and, in so far as possible, showing their present location and condition. This information is still necessarily incomplete, as evidenced by the frequency with which such notations as "probably destroyed" or "location unknown" occur. Such gaps are not, however, attributable to the "Iron Curtain," for Dr. Mommsen acknowledges the friend-

ly cooperation of the German Central Archives at Berlin and Merseburg, in the Soviet zone, which have contributed information concerning their holdings. The predominantly military character of the papers is evident from the names and titles listed; statesmen and diplomats rank next in number, followed by a few politicians and educators and a handful of businessmen, journalists, scientists, and lawyers. Rather oddly, papers of naval officers are almost entirely absent. It is interesting to note that most of the *Nachlässe* from the Heeresarchiv that were in the National Archives from 1947 to 1954 (papers of Seeckt, Gröner, Gneisenau, Scharnhorst, Moltke, and others) are now at last restored to the German Federal Republic, although not yet turned over to the Bundesarchiv. These, it seems, were the only material from the Heeresarchiv to escape destruction in 1945. The Stresemann and Holstein papers, which were incorporated in the political archives of the Foreign Office, are not included in the compilation; they are still apparently in British hands.

In section 2 and 3 Dr. Mommsen gives summary descriptions of the contents of the individual *Nachlässe* that have been acquired by the Bundesarchiv, at Koblenz and Frankfurt, since 1952. These include the voluminous correspondence of the writer and publicist Maximilian Harden and the surviving papers of General von Schleicher, most of whose files were seized by the Gestapo following his assassination in 1934 and have since disappeared. There are also small fragments of the papers of General von Fritsch and of the first Reichswehrminister, Gustav Noske. All these should prove of interest to the student of the Weimar Republic.

The care and thoroughness shown in the volume are a credit to its compiler. The only criticism that might be offered is that some indication of the physical volume of each *Nachlass* or major part thereof, if it was known or could be estimated, would further enhance its value.

ROBERT KRAUSKOPF

National Archives

Belgium. Archives Générales du Royaume. *Inventaire des archives du Conseil d'État*, by M. R. Thielmans, R. Petit, and R. Boumans. (Bruxelles, Montagne de la Cour, 1954. Pp. xxxii, 157.)

Belgium. Archives Générales du Royaume. *Inventaire des archives des Tribunaux criminels du Département de la Dyle et de la Cour d'assises du Brabant, 1794-1832*, by Lucienne van Meerbeeck. (Bruxelles, Montagne de la Cour, 1954. Pp. 5-40.)

These two inventories further enhance a series increasingly known for its clarity, logical organization, and practicality for research. Though disparate in length and scope, both embody qualities valuable to the researcher. Introductions present essential background information concisely, the authors explain their method, there are comments upon salient features or peculiarities of the documents, useful textual and footnote references indicate related research aids, and items are listed in a way equally convenient for chronological or topical use.

The first inventory describes documentation accumulated by the Conseil d'État between 1633 and 1794, the year of its final abolition. Thus only about half the total available archives are included, earlier inventories (cited in the introduction) having covered the period 1531-1632. The present work amplifies an earlier compilation of the post-1632 materials. Most of the 2,068 items date between 1633 and 1744. Thirty-two pages of introduction carefully summarize the council's history, indicate fluctuations in its functions and importance, trace the procedures of the council and its secretariat, and outline the history of its archives. This history is concise yet complete enough to become a valuable aid for users of the inventory. References are made to supplementary archives and inventories for the period 1702-16, when the Conseil d'État was temporarily replaced by other agencies. A wealth of historical materials is classified in 6 topical sections, each logically subdivided according to the varied functions of the council. The documents include 21 seventeenth- and eighteenth-century inventories made by the council's own secretariat. Particularly useful are a 39-page *table alphabétique* of personal and place names and a *table de concordance* linking the old and the present systems of numbering the documents.

Lucienne van Meerbeeck's inventory should for similar reasons be useful for consulting the more limited and specialized documentation it describes. Following an informative introduction, occasional footnotes run through the various sections of the inventory, calling attention to certain important matters otherwise hidden behind inscrutable alphabetical or chronological designations. One wishes this practice had been more extensive. Dates given in the French Revolutionary calendar are transposed to their more conventional form.

Although short of a fully analytical inventory, the type of work done under the above titles will, it is hoped, increasingly be applied to the less charted of European archives.

HOWARD C. PAYNE

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Belgium. Archives Generales du Royaume. *Inventaire des archives de la famille van der Noot*, by E. Lejour. (Brussels, Montagne de la Cour, 1954. Pp. 148.)

The old and aristocratic family of van der Noot has long been prominent in Brussels and in the surrounding area which is now the Belgium province of Brabant. Up to the end of the sixteenth century the oldest son of the family usually bore the given name of Wauthier. The first van der Noot represented in the collection is Wauthier III, whose chief claim to distinction appears to have been that he confirmed the family coat of arms. Beginning, however, with his grandson, Wauthier V, the first mayor of Brussels and later the Chancellor of Brabant, many of his descendants achieved distinguished careers, principally in the field of politics and government. Perhaps the most outstanding in that field was Jean-Joseph-Philippe van der Noot, leader of the aristocrats or van der Nootists party, during the Brabançon revolution that led to the short-lived États Belgique Unis late in the eighteenth century. The

family also included many prominent clergymen, soldiers, and at least one writer of distinction, Jean-Baptiste van der Noot, the celebrated Flemish poet.

The van der Noot family archives were acquired by the Archives Generales du Royaume through a series of purchases between 1902 and 1913. Each group was dispersed immediately upon purchase to the various collections that it appeared to supplement or complete, and not until recently was it realized that the collections formed a unit. The group as reassembled amounts to 5 cartons of sealed records, 1 roll, and 87 portfolios. They cover the period from the thirteenth through the eighteenth centuries.

The inventory begins with a long introduction devoted principally to the genealogy of the van der Noot and allied families, beginning with Wauthier III, and to a description of the family properties, the manner in which they were acquired, and their successive owners. The introduction also includes a *tableau des alliances*, which indicates the relationships between the various allied families; and a list of properties, arranged first by family and second by locality. The inventory follows the plan customarily used by Belgian archivists in describing family archives in that the 363 entries are divided into 2 main categories—records pertaining to persons and records pertaining to properties. The *tableau des alliances* and the list of properties cited above provide keys to the arrangement of the entries within the two categories. Various papers among the records that appear to have little relationship to the collection are listed in an appendix. An index to proper names and a table of contents complete the inventory.

This volume is one of several inventories of family archives that have been published within the past few years by Belgian archival institutions, both national and local. The inventories are significant in that they point up one of the fundamental differences between American and European archival concepts. The National Archives of the United States does not accept family archives for deposit. In fact, under the provisions of its creating authority it is probably prohibited from doing so. Whether similar prohibitions exist in State and local archival legislation is not known. It is true, however, that with the exception of the Roosevelt and Truman libraries, which fall into a special category, no large collections of family archives exist in public archival institutions in the United States. Further, if the obvious care with which the inventories were prepared is an indication, European genealogists receive far greater consideration than we American archivists are willing or able to give our genealogists.

LOUISE W. SOUTHWICK

National Archives