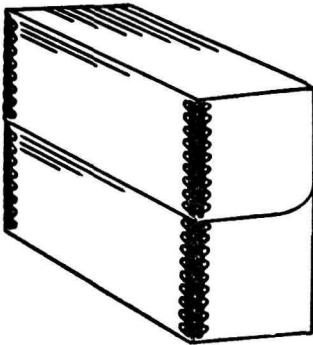


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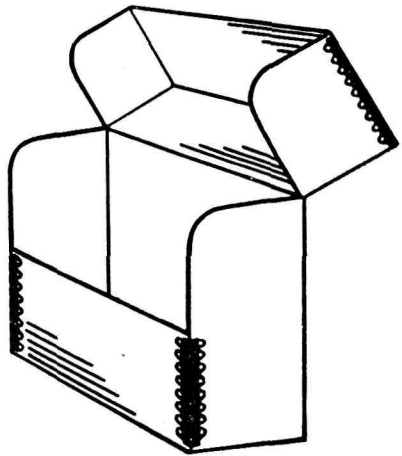
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News Notes

H. B. FANT, *Editor*¹

National Archives

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

Members of the Society often receive inquiries from archival establishments, government agencies, institutions, and business firms that wish to fill positions in archives and records administration. Such inquiries cannot be answered effectively unless there is available in one place information concerning individuals interested in job opportunities. The secretary of the Society therefore has been authorized to act as a clearing agent by bringing together information of value to employers and prospective job applicants.

Any member of the Society interested in employment opportunities should send to the secretary a detailed statement of his academic training and professional experience, indicating the type of position and salary range he would accept and the geographical area he prefers. Such statements will be kept confidential. When the Society receives inquiries from employing agencies, however, he will make appropriate information from these files available to them impartially. Both institutional and individual members of the Society are urged to make use of this placement service.

The following persons had joined the Society as of September 15 last:

Velma C. Howard, Records Controls, Inc.; William D. White, Federal Records Center (Kansas City); Eleanore A. Cammacil, DePauw University; Robert B. Barker, Naval Records Management Center (Clearfield, Utah); Lyman H. Butterfield, The Adams Papers; Joseph R. Leduc, University of Montreal; Alice Benn, Ford Archives; William E. Davis, Jr., California State Archives; and Donald T. Schiapelle, Vincent Boone, Lois C. Aldridge, James V. Hope, Bettie Thompson, Francis E. Knapper, Wilson R. Gaines, Margaret C. Wright, Frances J. Bowen, and Leona M. Davis, all of the Departmental Records Branch, Department of the Army. The Central African Archives, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, is now an institutional member.

Archivists planning to attend the Third International Congress of Archivists at Florence, Italy, September 25-29, 1956, may be interested in possible European tours outlined for the Society's International Relations Committee by Thos. R. Cook & Son and the American Express Co. It is understood that the proposed tour schedules provide ample opportunity to visit major archival repositories in Europe as well as to see other points of historical and scenic interest. Lester K. Born, 1955 committee chairman, 3701 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C., can supply information on these tours.

¹ With this issue Mr. Fant, a long-time member of the Society of American Archivists, replaces Mary C. Lethbridge, who has resigned as editor of this section. The editor of the *American Archivist* takes this opportunity to express his appreciation to Mrs. Lethbridge for her excellent presentation of the news during her editorship and to welcome Mr. Fant to the editorial staff.

In years past, annual reports of officers and committees and minutes of council and other meetings of the Society have been published in a special section of the January issue of the *American Archivist*. Because the editor received only a few of the 1955 documents in time for this issue, those at hand are printed below.

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING

October 10, 1955

The Society's annual business meeting was called to order in the Ball Room of the Andrew Jackson Hotel at 9:00 p.m. by President Radoff with approximately 70 members in attendance. It was voted to dispense with the reading of the secretary's minutes of the 1954 annual meeting since they had been printed in the January 1955 issue of the *American Archivist* and to accept them as printed. The reports of the treasurer and of the Auditing Committee were read and accepted.

Robert Bahmer then presented the report of the nominating committee: for president, Ernst Posner; for vice president, Henry E. Edmunds; for secretary, Henry J. Browne; for treasurer, William D. Overman; and for council member, term ending in 1960, Wayne C. Grover. There being no nominations from the floor, the slate was unanimously accepted.

Christopher Crittenden presented the report of the resolutions committee. The secretary was directed to record the resolutions in the minutes and to send letters of thanks to the following for arranging such a successful meeting: Tennessee State Library and Archives, George Peabody College for Teachers, Tennessee Historical Society, Vanderbilt University, the Andrew Jackson Hotel, and the chairmen of the committees on arrangements and program. A resolution noted the Society's sorrow at the death of the following members and directed the secretary to write to the next of kin: the Rev. Charles A. Costello, Herbert A. Kellar, Maude Jones, and Harriet Smithers.

The proposed amendments to the constitution printed in the July issue of the *American Archivist* were read by Christopher Crittenden, who announced they had been approved by the Council and were therefore to be submitted to the vote of the membership. The changes which regularized the existing policy of acceptance of members merely on the basis of interest in the objectives of the Society, defined institutional membership, and eliminated the Council's voting on candidates were accepted unanimously and without discussion.

The secretary's report was voted to be accepted as briefed and to be transmitted for full publication to the editor of the journal.

The new president was then invited to take the chair. Dr. Posner expressed his gratification for the honor conferred and announced that the next annual meeting, in October 1956, would be held at Washington, D. C. The president also called attention to the proposed itineraries for European tours of archives to precede the Third International Congress of Archivists at Florence, in September of next year, and requested that all those interested should inform

the secretary. The president gave public recognition to the honor bestowed on Elleine H. Stones by the Detroit Public Library for her distinguished service.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

HENRY J. BROWNE, *Secretary*

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

October 11, 1955

The Council was called to order at 9:05 a.m. on October 11, 1955, in room 940 of the Andrew Jackson Hotel, Nashville, by Ernst Posner, newly elected president. Also present were the vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and editor; and Council members Leon de Valinger, Jr., David Duniway, Wayne Grover, Dolores Renze, and Alice Smith.

The invitation received through Erwin C. Zepp from the Ohio Historical Society to convene in Columbus, Ohio, in 1957 was considered; and the Council voted unanimously to accept the invitation. It is expected that the American Association for State and Local History will meet about the same time in Columbus. Denver's invitation presented by Dolores Renze for 1958 was not acted upon.

The treasurer expressed his opinion that presenting an estimated budget for the coming year to the Council at its first meeting after the annual business meeting was unrealistic and impractical and that the estimated budget presented to the members in the journal should be eliminated or deferred until the year's program was outlined. It was ordered that the finance committee, consisting of the president, secretary, and treasurer, should prepare the program for the year and its accompanying budget and should present these to the Council within the next 3 months. A meeting of the Council will be scheduled during the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in December 1955.

The new nominating committee approved by the Council consists of retiring Council member Alice Smith, chairman, Oliver W. Holmes, and Lola Homsher.

The Council authorized the president to designate a delegate of the Society to the Third International Conference of Archivists to be held in Florence in September 1956.

The possibility of seeking foundation funds to foster the work of the Society was discussed, and it was decided to leave the matter to the president for further investigation. Past offers of gifts for the work of the Society caused the president to suggest working out some means of receiving donations, which might be put in a special fund. The Council endorsed this project in principle and authorized the president and the secretary to work out a resolution to this effect that would be mailed to Council members for their approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

HENRY J. BROWNE, *Secretary*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER, 1955

Receipts for the year ending June 30, 1955, were \$6,287.70. Of this amount \$2,991.05 was received from membership dues; \$1,892.94 from subscribers; \$249.14 from the sale of advertising space; \$725.75 from the sale of back issues of the *American Archivist*; \$363.28 net surplus from the 1954 annual meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia; and \$65.54 from interest on bond and other sources.

Expenditures for the fiscal year were \$4,508.29, of which \$435.91 has been classified as administrative expense and \$3,982.74 went for printing the *American Archivist*. Other items charged to editorial expense for reprints, postage, etc., amounted to \$89.64.

The net gain to the Treasury as of June 30, 1955, was \$1,779.41. The finance committee approved the opening of a savings account this past year, in which was placed an initial deposit of \$2,000. This, together with the \$1,000 E Bond and the balance in the checking account as of June 30, 1955, of \$2,973.88, represents the present capital worth of our Society.

The favorable condition of the treasury comes principally from the sizable surplus from the annual meeting in Williamsburg, a further reduction in administrative expense, and a sharp increase in the sales of back issues, which rose from \$264.24 a year ago to \$725.75 this year.

The net gain in membership of the Society is approximately 30. This gain, with an increase of 50 new subscribers, required the printing of an extra 100 copies of the *American Archivist* each quarter. In order to maintain an adequate stock of back issues to take care of new subscribers, we now print over 1,000 copies of our journal each quarter.

WILLIAM D. OVERMAN, *Treasurer*

AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE

The Auditing Committee has carefully checked the accounts of the Treasurer, William D. Overman, for the past fiscal year. It has examined the bank deposit slips, the vouchers and checks, as well as the summary statements, and finds everything correct and in good order.

The committee wishes to comment on the excellent form and good order in which the Society's accounts are kept and to assure the membership that the present bookkeeping system is excellent both for the purpose of auditing and for service to the organization.

While it is not properly the function of the Auditing Committee, it seems permissible to call attention to the fact that the expense chargeable to the offices of both the secretary and treasurer is low because of the large amount of clerical work which has been performed by Dr. Overman and Mr. Edmunds without cost to the Society.

REX BEACH, *Acting Chairman*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

Significant additions to the cartographic holdings of the National Archives include published record sets of aeronautical charts for civil aviation in the United States and its Territories and possessions, 1927-54, and of nautical charts of the shore lines and coastal areas of the United States, prepared by the Coast and Geodetic Survey. Basic maps prepared by the Federal Power Commission showing the power facilities of the nation and their use, 1930-53, also were received.

Of particular interest among photographic records accessioned are 10,000 lantern slides assembled by the Commission of Fine Arts, 1910-50, illustrating the influence of the art and architecture of the past on the development of the Nation's capital; and 4,000 glass negatives showing chiefly monuments, buildings, and sites in Washington. Significant also are some 2,500 film negatives made by the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture to illustrate agricultural activities in all the States, 1930-42.

Other noteworthy records received are top-level administrative and policy records of the Department of Labor and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, documenting recent years of economic and social change brought about by depression and war. Among these are subject and correspondence files of successive Secretaries of Labor, 1933-52, and minutes of the Board of Directors of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, 1932-51.

Also to be noted are the records of two recent commissions: The President's Water Resources Commission, Jan. 1950-Mar. 1951, and the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, Sept. 1953-June 1955.

The National Archives has passed the half-way mark in its program for putting records in their final locations within the building. The purposes of this program are: (1) to give the greatest possible protection to the most valuable holdings of the agency, (2) to consolidate and arrange these holdings according to approved archival principles, and (3) to consolidate vacant space in the building. With respect to those records that already have been moved and consolidated, greater efficiency and economy, especially in reference work, have been demonstrated.

Preliminary inventories recently issued describe the records of the American War Production Mission in China, the American Commission to Negotiate Peace (World War I), and the United States Antarctic Service.

In accordance with the Hoover Commission's recommendations in part 1 of its report on paperwork management in the Government, the General Services Administration has been directed by the President to "serve in a central assisting and advisory capacity, with respect to many significant aspects of the Executive Branch's paperwork management program." Under this directive the National Archives and Records Service of GSA is implementing the recommendations of the Commission's task force with respect to increasing the percentage of non-current agency records held by records centers, closing out uneconomical agency centers, and curtailing the use of legal-size cabinets and documents.

Four of the five Federal records management surveys done under contract, as noted in the January 1955 issue of the *American Archivist*, p. 86, have been

completed. The contractors estimate that adoption of all their recommendations would result in savings of over \$14 million to the agencies surveyed and over \$3 million to other agencies. As of September 30, 1955, the agencies already could see savings of \$512,000 to themselves, while savings of \$3,600,000 to other agencies seemed assured. The total appropriations for these contractor surveys was \$300,000.

For the second straight year, the volume of records in Government agencies has shown a decline, dropping from 21.4 million cubic feet on July 1, 1954, to 20.1 million cubic feet at the close of the fiscal year 1955. This diminution was accomplished by the disposal of 3.6 million cubic feet and the transfer of 700,000 cubic feet to Federal Records Centers, while only 3 million cubic feet were being created. Holdings of the entire Government, including records in the centers and the National Archives, also decreased, from 24.6 million cubic feet to 23.8 million cubic feet. On Sept. 30, the centers held 3,147,000 cubic feet of records.

The National Civil Service League has named Herbert E. Angel, Director of Records Management, National Archives and Records Service, as one of the 10 recipients of the League's first annual career service awards. The winners were chosen because they exemplify in an outstanding manner the primary characteristics of the career service: competence, efficiency, character, and continuity of service. In selecting Mr. Angel, the League said, "It is unusual in the Federal Government for any program within it to be the lengthened shadow of one individual. Yet the records management program of the United States Government has largely been fashioned by one public servant — Herbert E. Angel." Mr. Angel joined the National Archives staff in 1936 and has held his present position since 1950.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress has received, as a gift of the heirs of Theodore J. Pickett, a collection of some 25,000 manuscripts dating from 1777 to 1916. Most of these are business records of the claims agency established about 1825 by James H. Causten, of Baltimore and Washington, and carried on after Mr. Causten's death in 1874 by Col. John T. Pickett. This segment contains extensive correspondence of the Causten agency, which concentrated on the handling of French spoliation claims; it includes, as well, many earlier documents assembled in support of these claims, among them a large group of papers of Fulwar Skipwith, Consul-General of the United States in France during the last years of the eighteenth century, and records of various American merchants engaged at that time in trade with France. The collection also contains personal papers of Colonel Pickett and his son Theodore.

The papers of Lt. Gen. Robert Lee Bullard, about 1,450 pieces, have been presented to the Library by Mrs. Bullard. They include correspondence, diaries, notebooks, and scrapbooks, 1899-1944, which concern General Bullard's military service in the Philippines and Cuba, on the Mexican border in 1915-16, and during World War I, as well as his activities after his retirement in 1925.

The papers of the late literary historian and editor, Frederick Lewis Allen (1890-1954), have been given to the Library by his widow. Numbering about 5,000 pieces, the collection consists of correspondence, diaries, memorandum books, and notes for and drafts of chapters of his principal books and of various uncompleted works. In the latter category there are materials for a biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt and for a study of the American tradition. The series of diaries and memorandum books include a volume for each year from 1933 to 1954. The correspondence, covering a wide range of interests, dates from 1913 to 1953. Among Mr. Allen's correspondents were James B. Conant, Vera M. Dean, Bernard DeVoto, Walter Lippmann, Milo Perkins, Laurence McKinney, George Pfeiffer, and DeWitt Wallace.

Smaller groups of material received by the Library include a series of 37 letters and telegrams addressed to Francis Amasa Walker from 1878 to 1896, which relate principally to bimetallism; 13 letter books (press copies) of Lyman Judson Gage, Secretary of the Treasury in President McKinley's administration, covering the years 1897-1906; and, through the courtesy of Doubleday & Company, Inc., the working materials used in Hugh Gibson's edition (1946) of Count Galeazzo Ciano's diaries from 1939 to 1943, which include photostats of most of the original diaries for those years. Records of the Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics, 1926-30, and addresses, statements, and articles of Gen. Omar Bradley, 1948-53, have also been acquired.

The Manuscripts Division and the Wisconsin State Historical Society have cooperated with 12 other American research institutions in microfilming the papers of President James K. Polk.

The Prints and Photographs Division has published a second edition of *Pictorial Americana, a Select List of Photographic Negatives in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress*.

The cataloging of the Library's collection of paper prints of motion pictures, 1894-1912, has been accomplished by Elizabeth Franklin, librarian of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Hollywood, Calif.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

During the 1955 summer semester, the American University continued the program of intensive summer institutes which was initiated in 1945 with the cooperation of the National Archives and the Maryland Hall of Records and has been sponsored since then by those two agencies.

The Second Institute on Records Management, held from June 20 through July 1, was attended by 44 students from government, business, and archival institutions, including participants from Canada, New Zealand, Libya, Paraguay, Thailand, and the Philippines. Ernst Posner and Helen L. Chatfield served as directors of the institute.

The Institute in the Preservation and Administration of Archives (Advanced), offered for the first time and held from July 5 through July 16, was designed to serve the needs of graduates of the university's basic institute and those of persons with considerable experience in the field. Of the 22 students

in attendance, 7 had bachelor's degrees or the equivalent, 10 had master's degrees or the equivalent, and 2 held degrees of doctor of philosophy.

In 1956 the following institutes will be offered: Tenth Institute in the Preservation of Archives, June 18-July 13; Directors, Ernst Posner and Theodore R. Schellenberg. Third Institute on Records Management, June 18-29; Director, Herbert E. Angel. A folder describing the two institutes and any additional information desired may be obtained by writing Ernst Posner, American University, 1901 F St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

In midsummer the Pan American Union issued a pamphlet entitled *A Brief Introduction to Paperwork Management*. This was the forerunner of an ambitious training institute conducted during the period October 17-November 1, 1955, by Mrs. Olive R. Surgen for the staff of the Union, employees of Government agencies, local students, and visitors from abroad. United States Government experts in the records management field assisted as guest lecturers.

The Graduate School of Business Administration of New York University, in cooperation with the National Records Management Council, held its Second Annual Conference on Records Management, September 19-20. The theme of the conference was "Integrated Controls Over Business Records." Session topics included the management approach to records, the stake of top management in records controls, the human factors in implementing and integrating records controls, new developments in records management, and the future role of records control in management policy. The council also conducted a seminar on "Cost Reduction Through Planned Records Management" at the university's midtown center on Tuesday evenings during the last 3 months of 1955.

FOREIGN NEWS

The Third International Congress on Archives will be held in Florence, Italy, September 25-29, 1956. The topics for discussion will include selection of documents, new archival buildings, and private archives. A circular about the Congress and registration blanks for persons interested in attending the sessions can be obtained from the Secretary's Office of the Organization Committee, III International Congress on Archives, State Archives, Florence, Italy.

The Second International Archives Round Table was held at Namur, Belgium, April 25-27, 1955. Representatives from the following countries (or geographical entities) attended: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany (West), Great Britain, Haiti, the Netherlands, Poland, the Saar, Spain, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia. Charles Braibant, honorary president of the International Council on Archives, served as president of the conference. The conference adopted the following principles:

(1) As an indispensable condition of effective archival service no governmental agency should destroy records without obtaining authorization from competent archival authorities, who are established in the great majority of countries represented.

(2) Government officials should be required to consult archival authorities when they are setting up a service or planning a filing system for bureau records. Experience proves that any filing system that does not take into account the advice of

(3) Archival authorities should be called upon to collaborate, whether by the giving of courses or the organization of lectures, in training the administrative personnel charged with the custody of bureau records and administrative archives. Eventually they should help in training the personnel of business archives.

An international directory of archives will be published in the 1956 number of *Archivum*. The editor, R. H. Bautier, hopes that all archival agencies in the United States will cooperate by supplying the information necessary to ensure excellent coverage of American institutions. A questionnaire is being distributed to those agencies known to the editor, but he wishes to make certain that all agencies know of the directory project. Consequently, the questionnaire he has distributed is reproduced below. If you do not receive a questionnaire directly from Mr. Bautier, please use this reproduction as a basis for your reply before June 30:

1. Name of Record Office:
2. Location in State or County:
Telephone
3. Opening days and hours:
4. Annual closing and holidays:
5. Access free or on payment— Fee:
6. Are requests for information or searches dealt with by mail?
7. Restrictions on the use of records. Date limit for production of records:
8. Facilities for loan of records to other institutions, at home or abroad?
9. Is there a microfilming or photocopying service at the disposal of students or only
for official use?
10. Are there microfilm readers at the repository? Size of films?
11. Are copies of documents made for students' use?
12. Name and title of the Archivist in charge.
13. Names of the principal qualified archivists: their departments.
14. Physical importance of the Repository (length of shelving—either cubic volume
or documentation—or number of archive units):
15. Date of the oldest records and continuous series of records:
16. Is it a purely historical repository or are its holdings increased by periodical ac-
cessions?
17. Remarks:

Australia

The Archives Branch of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of Western Australia, opened its new quarters at 3 Francis St., Perth, on August 31 last. The new facilities will afford better working space and more adequate

storage areas. The opening ceremonies were conducted by Deputy Premier J. T. Tonkin.

By recent legislation the Archives Division will be put under the Library Board and separated from the jurisdiction of the Museum and Art Gallery. Efforts are being made to obtain enactment of a public records act for the State.

Canada

Over a thousand pioneer settlers in Saskatchewan have answered one or more questionnaires distributed by the Archives of Saskatchewan. The completed documents, which deal with 10 topics such as health, housing, and local government in pioneer days, will be retained in the Archives Office at the University of Saskatchewan.

Dominican Republic

Emilio Rodriguez Demorizi has replaced Ramón Luigo Lovatón as head of the Archivo General.

Egypt

Abu-El-Fetouh H. Ouada, Archivist of the Ministry of Education, has recently returned to Egypt from the United States. During a stay of 6 months in this country, he attended the American University summer course in archives administration; spent a few weeks in the National Archives, observing particularly records management and Federal Register Division practices and giving informal talks to groups on the National Archives staff; and also visited archival and records establishments in Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York.

Honduras

Early in 1955 Carlos Somoza was appointed Director of the Archivo Nacional of Honduras.

Nicaragua

In recognition of his services to Nicaragua, a veteran member of the Society of American Archivists, Roscoe R. Hill, was on October 17 inducted into the Society of Ruben Dario at a ceremony at the home of the Nicaraguan ambassador in Washington.

Panama

Ernesto J. Nicolau, newly appointed Director of the Archivo Nacional of Panama, has taken administrative steps looking toward the rehabilitation of the archives in Panama and has presented to the Minister of Government and Justice a report and recommendation for reorganizing the Archivo Nacional.

During the autumn Philip C. Brooks of the Federal Records Center in San Francisco traveled to Panama on a followup to his previous records advisory mission there.

CALIFORNIA

The secretary of state at Sacramento has announced the appointment of William N. Davis, Jr., as historian of the State Archives in succession to J. N. Bowman, who has retired at the age of 80.

Thomas T. Thalken, formerly of the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress, has become Archivist of the Herbert Hoover papers at the Hoover Institute and Library, Stanford University.

A bill on records management for the State is pending in the legislature. Philip C. Brooks, past president of this Society, was among those testifying in its support.

CONNECTICUT

Leonard Labaree, editor of the papers of Benjamin Franklin, reports at the end of the first full year of work that about half of the individual Franklin documents, which total between 25 and 30,000, are already on hand in the form of photocopies. Nearly 100 libraries, historical societies, and other institutions and about 40 private owners have made their Franklin items available for copying. Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., assistant editor of the project, is in England searching out Franklin documents.

On January 16, 1956, the 250th anniversary of Franklin's birth, Yale University publishes a specially prepared volume entitled *Mr. Franklin: a Selection From His Personal Letters*.

DELAWARE

The Henry Francis Du Pont Winterthur Museum fellows are currently engaged in research projects concerned with biographies of John McComb, Jr., the architect, and Titian Peale, the painter, and studies of the interiors of Baltimore town houses (1783-1812), country craftsmen in Bucks County, Pa. (1750-1800), and Washington Irving's role in the development of American Romantic painting. Archival establishments, historical societies, and libraries having records or other materials pertinent to these projects are asked to write to Charles F. Hummel, curatorial assistant of the museum, at Winterthur, Delaware, for a detailed, informative statement indicating the nature of source materials that must be consulted by the fellows in their research.

FLORIDA

Early in 1954 the Florida State University established the Southern Business History Center to develop a research collection of the records of southern business and related secondary materials. The center was created to answer the need for a broad, general collection that would make possible the preparation of histories of individual firms or industries of the region, the investigation of the influence of business developments on other aspects of southern life, and the more complete recognition, in the preparation of business histories, of the relation of broad social patterns and problems to the development or decline of the enterprises involved.

The term business history, as interpreted in the work of the center, includes not only manufacturing and retail selling in the South, but service businesses such as banks, newspapers, agencies of transportation and communication, hotels, tourist enterprises, and many others. The project would emphasize the commercial development of any southern natural resource or agricultural product. It would explore the relations between business and government, between business and its customers, and between business and its employees. It would reach beyond the South in certain respects, as in the study of the financing of southern businesses, the marketing of southern products, and the interrelation between southern business and national conditions. It would include the study of conditions which have aided or hindered the development of any southern business; the ideals, attitudes, and practices of businessmen, their associates, and their opponents; the impact of business developments on southern life, economy, politics, or social structure; in short, any aspect of the history of southern business activity or its relation to other elements of society. The ultimate (and unattainable) goal of such collections as are envisioned would be to have records of pioneer and outstanding firms from each industry and from each geographical area of the South, plus whatever secondary materials might contribute to the understanding of these basic records.

With the center still in its infancy, its collections are only just getting under way. Manuscript records of several nineteenth century West Florida firms have been received, and a biographical file on southern businessmen has been begun. With the cooperation of several other institutions, work has been started on the compilation of a summary catalog of the records of southern business history in repositories elsewhere. The center is conceived as a permanent agency in the institution's research program, and plans have been mapped out for its expansion as rapidly as funds and facilities permit. The response to the center, both from other universities and libraries and from the representatives of business, has been one of cordial cooperation. It is hoped that before many years the center may be able to make a significant contribution to the study of southern business and other subjects within its sphere.

ILLINOIS

A second Map Workshop at the University of Illinois, sponsored by the Library School and the Division of University Extension, July 11-22, 1955, considered such subjects as principles of classification, and the promotion of the use of maps by means of exhibit and display techniques.

KENTUCKY

Microcard Projects of the Louisville Free Public Library has announced that its Evans microcard project has been amended to become the Evans-Sabin microcard project, resulting in a broadened plan to publish source materials for American studies. John Cook Wyllie, curator of rare books at the Alderman Library of the University of Virginia, is now supervising on behalf of the Louisville sponsors the microcarding of about a thousand volumes in the

Thomas Jefferson collection in the Library of Congress. The entire collection will be reproduced on 2,500 microcards, each carrying about 30 to 50 reproduced pages, to sell at a total presubscription price of not more than \$462.50.

MARYLAND

Francis C. Haber, recently reference librarian at the Peabody Institute Library, is the new librarian of the Maryland Historical Society.

MASSACHUSETTS

In our April 1954 issue, p. 189, Secretary of the Commonwealth Edward J. Cronin and State Archivist Richard D. Higgins were quoted on the deplorable condition of the Massachusetts archives. Apparently their hopes for a new archives building have not been realized. The present archival situation in Massachusetts is described in an article by Emilie Tavel in the *Christian Science Monitor* of October 31, 1955, under the title "History — Poorly Housed":

A particular place of prominence at the annual dinner of the Massachusetts Bar Association was reserved at the head table for the honored, though inanimate, guest.

Under glass there rested in simple splendor—not roast pheasant, as you might suspect—but the preamble and bill of rights of the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780.

For almost four hours the distinguished gathering honored the 175th anniversary of this document.

The celebrated historian, Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison, delivered a scholarly disquisition on the instrument as the model for the United States Constitution drafted seven years later. It is reported to be the oldest written constitution still actively governing a people.

When the praises had been sung and the celebration over, the two blue uniformed capitol policemen who had guarded the precious parchment escorted it back home.

They carried it to the fourth floor of Massachusetts' gold-domed State House and turned in at a dingy room whose small white shingle reads "Archives." There they placed the document in a wooden cabinet, turned the key in the lock, and the job was done.

The room is one of three on the same floor where many of this nation's most significant documents are housed. The fourth and final room comprising the archives is located next to the boiler room in the basement where the summer temperature rarely drops below 100 degrees.

The archive rooms were last painted about 15 years ago. Nobody around today can remember when the crumbling plaster was newly applied.

The roof isn't so airtight, either. Standard equipment in the stack room are several drip pails which archivists regularly put out whenever a hard storm strikes.

Atmospheric control is recognized as the sine qua non of preservation. These rooms are not even air conditioned.

Three hundred years of recorded American history are here given very little protection from the relentless encroachments of time, dust and dehydration. Fire is a foe and theft a danger. In the basement room, where Revolutionary papers are kept, even vermin are considered a possible hazard.

Better housed than the state constitution is the 1625 Royal Charter granted by Charles First to the Massachusetts Bay Company. It rests in a small metal vault so constructed, as one news account proudly reports, "that even were the State House

to burn completely, the safe would only fall several stories (about six), keeping the contents intact." Intact, maybe, but hardly an ideal arrangement.

Freshly returned from the annual conference of the Society of American Archivists in Nashville, Tenn., Richard D. Higgins, Massachusetts' archives chief, can't help making comparisons.

"In Nashville," he says wistfully, "we inspected their beautiful new \$2,000,000 three-story archives building, air conditioned throughout with ample room for public display of documents. And they don't have anything like the kind of records we have here."

An original copy of the Declaration of Independence, a copy of the federal Bill of Rights sent to Massachusetts for ratification, pirate records of Captain Kidd, Indian treaties, maps, and the record in Governor Bradford's own clear hand of "Plimouth Plantation," oldest document of English colonization in the world—these are the storied treasures in Massachusetts' keeping.

It isn't as if people here aren't concerned about this situation. Librarians and historians all over the state are alarmed . . .

Ever since 1952 Secretary of State Edward J. Cronin has been insistently pressing the Legislature to take remedial action. Squarely behind him is Mr. Higgins, the Division of Archives and every leading historical society in Massachusetts.

A study commission was appointed in 1953 which recommended a separate building in front of the west wing of the State House which would amply and safely preserve and exhibit the treasures. No action yet has been taken on the proposal.

Somehow the matter has got hung up in a currently vague plan for a new state office building in which space could conceivably be provided for the records.

Meanwhile, papers which document precious waymarks along mankind's path to self-government languish in neglect.

Each year brings more school children to their State House to view the meagre display of documents. And tourism is increasing. But with the capitol closed on Saturdays and Sundays many visitors are disappointed.

In 1845 the Legislature sent a special envoy to France for the sole purpose of copying and gathering early colonial records. Can the 1956 Legislature do less than preserve for future generations this record of its heritage?

The September 1955 issue of *The Business History Review*, published by the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, carries two timely articles: Richard C. Overton's "Can the Records Manager help the Business Historian?" and Arthur Barcan's "Records Management and the 'Paper-work Age'."

MICHIGAN

The Ford Archives has issued as its bulletin no. 3 a handsome illustrated brochure entitled *Fair Lane: The House and Gardens*. As our readers know, Fair Lane houses the Ford Archives.

State archivists will be interested in Philip P. Mason's article in the September 1955 issue of *Michigan History* describing the records of the State Department of Public Instruction, 1853-1930, received by the Michigan Historical Commission last April.

MINNESOTA

Forest History Foundation, Inc., is now a nonprofit corporation that will foster and expand the undertakings that have been sponsored at the Minnesota Historical Society since 1947 to preserve and disseminate historical materials

relating to forests in North America. The Foundation expects to maintain liaison with appropriate repositories in each State or province of the United States and Canada.

MISSOURI

Concordia Historical Institute — the official archives and museum of the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church — has opened a new exhibit, 400 Years of Toleration. Included are several sixteenth-century items, among them an original manuscript by Martin Luther.

The State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, has begun a special effort to collect postcard and photographic scenes depicting the small towns of Missouri.

Among new manuscript acquisitions at the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, are the Kate Chopin papers, 1851-1904, the Arthur Garesche Francis collection, 1787-1827, the Knapp family papers, 1822-1954, and the Desloge family collection, 1815-52. The society has circularized 750 firms in the St. Louis area employing more than a hundred persons each, and is gathering information about the firms and accepting records to augment the society's business history collection.

NEW JERSEY

Fred Shelley, former librarian of the Maryland Historical Society and editor of the *Maryland Historical Magazine*, has succeeded Audubon R. Davis as librarian of the New Jersey Historical Society, Newark.

NEW YORK

Columbia University is preparing for publication a new and complete edition of the papers of Alexander Hamilton. The editors wish to locate any letters to or from Hamilton and any other Hamilton documents that are in private hands. If anyone possesses such documents, the editors would greatly appreciate any information on their whereabouts and availability. Communications may be addressed to Harold C. Syrett, The Papers of Alexander Hamilton, Columbia University, New York 27.

The director of the National Records Management Council has published as number 11 in a series of technical information service bulletins, a paper entitled *Operation Time Capsule: A Technique to Preserve the Memory of Business*.

The Records Management Association of New York, Inc., with headquarters at 299 Madison Avenue, New York 17, is publishing a small but useful bulletin entitled *The Record*. In addition to programs and news notes of the association, each issue contains abstracts of professional papers, published and unpublished, bibliographical information, and general professional news.

The American Committee for the Study of War Documents was organized in 1955. Among its purposes are to promote scholarly use of the German documents captured by Allied forces during World War II; to take up with the Department of Defense and other appropriate Government agencies the

problem of declassifying and microfilming the documents, pending their possible return to the German Federal Republic; and to enlist scholars, colleges, universities, and foundations in support of research in the documents, which cover the period between the two world wars and throw light on the rise of Nazism and other totalitarian phenomena.

At a meeting of the committee in October the following were named members of its executive board: Guy Stanton Ford, honorary chairman; Reginald H. Phelps, chairman; Harold D. Lasswell, treasurer; Sidney Wallach, executive secretary; E. Malcolm Carroll; Oron J. Hale; George W. F. Hallgarten; Hans Kohn; Koppel Pinson; William O. Shanahan; and Raymond J. Sontag. Named as chairmen of subcommittees were Drs. Carroll, Hale, Hallgarten, and Kohn; James P. Baxter III, and Walter F. Dorn.

For further information address Sidney Wallach, secretary, Suite 1423, 381 Fourth Ave., New York 16.

NORTH CAROLINA

Material on the development of Methodism throughout the world will be gathered together and housed in a building now under construction at Lake Junaluska, a few miles west of Asheville. The new structure will provide appropriate storage for both library and archival materials of the Church.

East of Asheville, at Montreat, the Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches has constructed a handsome stone building to house archival, library, and museum materials held by the denomination. Thomas H. Spence, Jr., reports that an illustrated article about the building and its contents is featured in the August 31 issue of the *Christian Observer*.

The State Department of Archives and History, under its newly authorized historic sites program, has started work on two sites—the Alamance Battleground, where in 1771 backwoods “Regulators” fought Governor Tryon’s militia, and Town Creek Indian Mound in Montgomery County. The Department also reports that Fletcher M. Green, head of the history department at the University of North Carolina has been appointed to the Department’s executive board to succeed Mrs. B. T. Williams.

Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger has presented his papers to the Duke University Library. This large collection will be of special interest to students of the Far East and the World War II military operations in the Pacific. Other additions to the manuscript collections include 15 letters, 1779-1806, from William Pitt, 14 volumes of nineteenth century diaries of Edgar A. Bowring, secretary of Great Britain’s Board of Trade, and some 230 letters and papers dealing with abolition of the slave trade and slavery in the British Empire.

OHIO

Western Reserve University’s School of Library Science has a new Center for Documentation and Communication Research. A three-day conference on “Practical Utilization of Recorded Knowledge—Present and Future” is scheduled to be held January 16-18, 1956.

PENNSYLVANIA

Franklin F. Holbrook, librarian of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and editor of the *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, died on August 20.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The South Carolina Historical Society celebrated its centennial May 6-7, 1955. The centennial address was delivered in the chapel of the College of Charleston by Edward McCrady, chancellor of the University of the South.

TENNESSEE

One of the sessions of the Southern Historical Association, meeting at Memphis, November 10-12, was devoted to "The Historian and the Archivist," with Henry T. Shanks, Birmingham-Southern College, designated as the chairman, and Philip M. Hamer, National Historical Publications Commission, the discussion leader. The papers presented included "The State Archivist and the Scholar," by Christopher Crittenden, North Carolina Department of Archives and History; "Aiding the Scholar in Using Manuscript Collections," by Howard H. Peckham, William L. Clements Library; and "A Historian Looks at Archives and Manuscripts," by Frontis W. Johnston, Davidson College.

TEXAS

The collections known under the designation of the Catholic Archives of Texas now are preserved by the recently reorganized Texas Catholic Historical Society, P. O. Box 2009, Amarillo. The custodian is Bishop L. J. Fitzsimon.

The manuscripts and books pertaining to the Protestant Episcopal Church collected by the Church Historical Society since its founding in Pennsylvania in 1910 are scheduled to be transferred from the Philadelphia Divinity School to a new library building now being erected at the Theological Seminary of the Southwest, at Austin, Texas.

VIRGINIA

The Institute of Early American History and Culture announces the appointment of Lawrence William Towner, formerly on the staff of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as associate editor to succeed Douglas Adair, who has joined the staff of Claremont College. Other institute appointments include Wilcomb E. Washburn as research associate and James Morton Smith as editor of book publications.

The prize offered by the Institute of Early American History and Culture for the best book in the Institute's field appearing during the latest competition year has been given to Gerald Stourzh of the University of Chicago for his *Benjamin Franklin and American Foreign Policy*, published in 1954 by the University of Chicago Press.

WISCONSIN

Herbert A. Kellar, coordinator of the Cyrus McCormick Agricultural History Collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin died in Madison on October 11, 1955. Mr. Kellar was a founding member and former officer of the Society of American Archivists.

The Microcard Foundation, formerly of Middletown, Connecticut, is now affiliated with the University of Wisconsin Press. Thompson Webb, Jr., the director of the press, will manage the foundation. Communications intended for the foundation should be addressed to him at Box 2145, Madison 5, Wisconsin.

WYOMING

Rita Ridings, formerly of the University of Wyoming, has joined the staff of the Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department as head of research services.

The new Centralized Microfilming Department of the State received an appropriation of \$100,000 from the 1955 legislature. The department has seven employees, including four operators, one machine room supervisor, one secretary, and the administrator. The department is now filming State department archives and copies of State newspapers in the Historical Department.

