

Reviews of Books

RICHARD G. WOOD, *Editor*

National Archives

An Historian's World; Selections From the Correspondence of John Franklin Jameson, edited by Elizabeth Donnan and Leo F. Stock. [American Philosophical Society *Memoirs*. Vol. 42.] (Philadelphia, The Society, 1956. Pp. xi, 382. Illus., appendix. \$6.)

Without doubt this will be the most important book in American historiography to be published during this year, perhaps even during this decade. Two capable scholars (both lately deceased), who knew J. Franklin Jameson well and had worked under his direction, have selected and edited about 500 letters written by him and extracts from his diary through the years 1880-1937. The selection is judicious; the range wide with respect to time, persons, and subjects; the editing precise, restrained, impeccable. The introduction, by Miss Donnan, is quietly brilliant. Great as is her admiration of Jameson and her dedication to his memory, she has her facts in hand and her judgment under control. Our confidence in the editors' judgment and diligence had only increased when we turned the last page. Their final effort, a triumphant success, is a cornerstone for the biography of Jameson and the history of American historical writing that is still to be written. Happily, the Jameson papers are to be in the Library of Congress where no doubt they can soon be consulted generally. The large format of the American Philosophical Society *Memoirs* is not always pleasing to use, but in this case the format seems inexplicably appropriate. The footnotes are at the bottom of the appropriate pages, a fact worth noting only because some publishers now lump scholarly apparatus inconveniently at the end of a volume or even in a separate pamphlet.

The letters themselves have a fullness of thought and an exactness of language that must have made them as welcome to receive as they are to read (or, for some, to reread) today. In rapid sequence we find Jameson's comment on Herbert B. Adams and his friendships around the dinner table and in the seminar with many of the men who were to teach and write history for 50 years. If the illustration used as a frontispiece shows us an austere gentleman, let it be mentioned that in his youth Jameson boxed, played the flute, and took long walks, and that all his life he wrote poetry. The years in Baltimore, where he received the first doctorate in history at Johns Hopkins University and was a fellow and an associate, conditioned and broadened him. He taught at Brown University for 13 years. While there he became, in 1895, the first editor of the *American Historical Review*; he continued to edit it until 1901, as he also did again from 1905 to 1928. Those who know the effort it takes to edit a smaller journal will understand one of the reasons why Jameson wrote no multivolumed history.

After Brown came 4 years at the University of Chicago. Then, in effect,

Jameson and Andrew C. McLaughlin traded positions at the University and the Carnegie Institution of Washington, a most satisfactory exchange for each. Jameson quickly settled into his job as principal spokesman for the profession of history. He resumed the editorship of the *Review* and in 1907 was president of the American Historical Association. Carnegie representatives searched out records vital to American history in foreign capitals, and guide after guide came from the presses. Leland was in Paris, Stock was soon at work on the *Proceedings and Debates of British Parliaments*, Burnett edited the *Letters of Members of the Continental Congress*, and Miss Donnan edited *Documents Illustrative of the Slave Trade*. That important tool, the *Writings on American History*, appeared annually. The *Dictionary of American Biography* was successfully completed and the *Atlas of Historical Geography* appeared. The campaign to erect the National Archives Building began, and Jameson lived to see the finished structure and the thriving institution. (The reviewer notes with pleasure that additional information turned up shows the campaign to have begun a year earlier than was previously thought.)

The projects listed here are only some of the highlights, represented in the letters, of a quarter century of activity at the Carnegie Institution and a decade as chief of the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress. Besides all this, Jameson served on innumerable committees, held uncounted offices, advised on the qualifications of many young scholars (for he had a judicial mind and was outside the academic circle), served as a clearinghouse for ideas and projects, and generally represented history in and from the Nation's capital city.

In the jargon (which assuredly he would have deplored) of this latter day Jameson would have been called Mr. History or the historian's historian. Yet he was Amherst, not Harvard; American-, not German-trained; the touchstone of basic projects, not the writer of a great history; the quiet fellow who did the hard and necessary work, not the founder of a "school" of history. It has been said of Jameson by Waldo G. Leland that he had no predecessor and would have no successor. This book offers abundant evidence that those words were truly spoken.

FRED SHELLEY

New Jersey Historical Society

"A Preliminary Guide to the Archives of Texas," by Seymour V. Connor. (Reprinted from the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 59: 255-364, Jan. 1956.)

Dr. Connor, former Texas State Archivist, warns us in his opening paragraph that this guide "is far from definitive." It purports to survey "the official documentary remains of the agencies of the former governments of Texas," exclusive of the General Land Office, the Attorney General's Office, and the courts. Actually it surveys materials relating to records rather than the records themselves.

In preparing the *Guide*, an analysis was made of the biennial reports of the Archives first as an institution under the Department of Agriculture, Insur-

ance, Statistics, and History, and after 1907 as an administrative division of the State Library. Then a study was made of "Receipts" for the past two decades of material transferred to the Archives from other State agencies. A physical inventory of the package labels for each file was the next step. The records were inspected only in those cases where the labels seemed false or misleading. Where identification required prolonged investigation and research, the term "unidentified" was used. As a result of this process, series have been given such elusive titles as "Main Miscellany" and "Sub-miscellaneous," as well as "Music, Sheets," "Murder Cases," and "Early Morse."

The *Guide* entries, compiled from inventory sheets prepared for each file, are arranged in alphabetical order under the name of the department, agency, or file designation. In the reviewer's opinion, such disregard for the basic archival principles of *respect des fonds* and provenance defeats the compiler's hope that the guide "can become the foundation for a practical and expanding catalogue of the records of the Texas past." Such obviously nonarchival material as broadsides, newspapers, and manuscript collections should be described in a separate finding aid.

To mix metaphors, the alphabetical arrangement becomes a Procrustean bed for such strange fellows as the Nacodoches County records series entry alongside the entries for the Department of Nacodoches Archives for 1728-1836. Furthermore the relationship between other Republic of Texas series is obscured by such widely scattered entries as "Army, Republic of Texas," "Colonization Papers," "Indian Affairs," "Proclamations, Republic," "Seat of Government Papers," and "State Department." Indexes, separated from the series to which they relate and placed under the letter "I," include those to "Campaign Expense Accounts for 1946," "Census of 1880," "Confederate Muster Rolls," and "Executive Correspondence, 1922-1930."

Finally "a practical and expanding catalogue" will need a numbering scheme, no matter how arbitrary, for series, record groups, and guides.

KATHERINE H. DAVIDSON

National Archives

A Basic Town Filing System. (Albany, New York. Division of Archives and History, State Education Department, 1956. Pp. iv, 78. Processed.)

Persons living elsewhere than in the Northeast require warning that this volume uses "town" where they would say "township." To a degree, the town government characteristic of New England spilled into the Empire State, there combining with the county system prevailing elsewhere. New York has 932 town clerks, each of whom should welcome this publication, for it demonstrates understanding of their problems and sympathy with their points of view.

Management techniques for records trickle down slowly. Over a period of 20 years the National Archives has devised and installed disposal schedules and records centers, with simple procedures that have effected huge economies while providing swifter reference service to officials. State archives have be-

gun, one by one, to supplement genealogy with services to sister agencies swamped by their own inactive records. During the past decade New York has developed and operated a plan for the orderly and regulated disposal of inactive and valueless records accumulated in the local offices, and now that State comes up with a neat system for placing the files of town clerks in useful and standardized sequence. This marks a major breakthrough of records management to the grassroots level.

There is every reason to believe that the system outlined is practical. A group of town clerks assisted in its development, and installations have operated with success for over a year in 15 towns with populations of 1,700 to 70,000. Town clerks will find here a tested device for getting and maintaining control over the records in their offices.

The manual will be easy for town clerks to comprehend, for the terms used display no pompous and polysyllabic clarification of substantive functions. For example, filing is defined as "the systematic placing of records in the files according to the established classification plan so that at a later date the records may be found again."

Line drawings are used freely to clarify matters difficult to explain in the text, the arrangement throughout is clear, and the expression is simple, concise, and effective. The theory involved, together with necessary instruction on details, is adequately presented in 28 pages. Another 44 pages suffice to provide folder headings in their detailed entirety, even including suggestions for variants possibly desirable under particular circumstances. Six final pages furnish suggestions on operation. There is even a return slip for notifying Albany regarding completed installations.

For clarity and simplicity of presentation this manual is remarkable. Very tactfully, no suggestion is made that the system proposed must be adopted, but it can be prophesied that its use by New York's town clerks will soon become general.

HENRY HOWARD EDDY

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Denmark. National Record Office. *Central-Administrations Afløeveringer til Rigsarkivet, 1921-45*, by C. Rise Hansen. (Copenhagen, 1956. Pp. xii, 53.)

"This little publication," says Axel Linvald in his foreword, "contains a brief summary of the transfers from the Central Administration [of the Danish Government] to the National Record Office during the 25-year period, 1921-1945. In all it comprises not less than 27,938 records and 81,390 document packages, amounting to approximately 10,700 shelf meters."

Mr. Linvald, State Archivist in charge of the National Record Office, hopes that this publication by Archivist C. Rise Hansen will be useful to the Central Administration's many officials and institutions and that it may lighten the burden of the research historian and investigator looking into these comprehensive unpublished source materials that are so valuable to the history of Denmark and its people. The publication is in reality an abbreviated shelf list, as both Mr. Linvald and Mr. Hansen recognize, and both hope that it will

lead to the preparation of more detailed and comprehensive descriptive lists or catalogs, especially of the more valuable groups. In his introduction Mr. Hansen briefly describes the origin and quality of this large volume of records, and he notes that his publication is at best a summary, constituting a simple yet effective control of the many different series of records. Indeed, each entry description is similar to the form of series entry title used in the preliminary inventories prepared in the National Archives of the United States. The adequacy and usefulness of such a list depends of course upon its completeness and the accuracy with which the records have been arranged. The Danish archivists seem to have met these criteria.

The usefulness of such a simple listing becomes at once apparent to the reader. The organization is essentially by administrative unit, such as the Royal Household, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry for Trade, Industry, and Commerce. Within each of these primary administrative organizations the subdivision whenever possible is by agency. The following is a representative sample:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
Archives of Legations and Embassies		
United States of America		
Journals of the Embassy 1908-22	7	
General Correspondence Matters, 1909-22		81
National Records Office Correspondence Matters, 1914-18		26
Department of Trade Journals, 1917-18	7	

This publication admirably fulfills the requirements of the initial control of the arrangement and description of a large volume and variety of records, but it seems to the reviewer that such control is achievable only if there is close cooperation between the agency of origin and the archivist, as there appears to be in Denmark.

HERMAN R. FRIIS

National Archives

Grundzüge einer deutschen Archivterminologie, compiled by Heinrich Otto Meisner and Wolfgang Leesch. (Beilage zu *Archivmitteilungen*, V Jahrgang 1955, Heft 4. Berlin, Amt für Literatur und Verlagswesen der deutschen Demokratischen Republik, 1955. Pp. 14.)

This report of the Committee for German Archival Language is issued under the auspices of the Public Archives Administration, State Secretariat for Internal Affairs, of the German Democratic Republic in Potsdam. Heinrich Otto Meisner, well known in German archival work, has previously published an article on archival terminology, "Archivalische Berufssprache," in the 1934 issue of *Archivalische Zeitschrift*. Wolfgang Leesch has compiled lectures of Adolf Brenneke, which appeared in 1953 under the title *Arkivkunde*.

The compilers explain in the introduction that the designations for archival concepts are chosen from the standpoint of their fitness and currency and are limited as much as possible to purely German words. Idiomatic designations that correspond to no concept of archival science are excluded. It is proposed

to issue later an alphabetical list of special terms that will show the relation of provincial and transient terms to standard concepts. The compilers make the interesting suggestion that the "task of an international specialized dictionary would be to place in mutual relationships, not concept designations but national concepts whose idea content has been established by definition and also to determine how far concepts and systems of concepts in different languages correspond to one another, how far concepts overlap and to what extent counterparts exist at all in foreign languages should also be determined."

The field of semantics can be perplexing and one might question the compilers' assumption that, "to attain a unified terminology, the standardization of concepts is indispensable whereas the standardization of designations remains a secondary question." A rigid adherence to this statement could lead to a logical impasse. Certainly concepts are the more important, but is it necessary to await the solution of the abstract problem of the standardization of concepts before attempting the more modest concrete problem of the stabilization of terms and designations? The two processes can proceed together and interact. The actual issuance of the present list is a strong argument in this direction.

Regardless of the merits of these abstractions one can approve of the resulting list of terms, which is a welcome aid to anyone reading German archival literature. It succeeds in clarifying many terms for which one goes to a dictionary in vain.

The list consists of 187 entries grouped under the following main headings: Archives and Registry Systems in General and Organization of Archives; Types of Records; Storage of Records; Archival Techniques; Registry and Archival Aids; and Use of Archives.

Because several terms are usually mentioned under one entry, the alphabetical index of terms (p. 13 and 14) adds to the usefulness of the list. Under the main headings the entries are arranged according to various logical schemes. For example, under heading 5, Registry and Archival Aids (subheading Registry), the arrangement appears to be from the general to the specific, so that "Classification Scheme" (*Aktenplan*) is put first and "journals," broken down into types, is toward the end. Section 4, Archival Techniques, is arranged in sequence of processes from the Archives point of view, so that accessioning comes first.

This is a well organized list covering such varying terms as *Konkordanz*, which is defined as a comparative table of old and new labels, and *Archivrecht*, to which a full paragraph is devoted.

JOSEPH MEHL

National Archives

Wiltshire Quarter Sessions and Assizes, 1736, edited by J. P. M. Fowle. (Devizes, Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, 1955. Pp. lxxv, 213, appendixes, index. 1/2/0.)

This volume is the eleventh of transcripts and abstracts of documentary sources for the history of Wiltshire County and guides to such sources published by the Records Branch of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural

History Society. It is the second volume of proceedings in Wiltshire Quarter Sessions to appear in this series. It departs from the prior practice in the publication of local court records of this character by publishing all of the Quarter Sessions records of the county for a single year of the eighteenth century rather than attempting to cover all extant court records in a single volume of selected documents or simply printing as large a chronological segment of them as possible. This method has the obvious advantage of making it possible to introduce interested persons to relatively fresh source material of more recent date than any generally available for other counties. The year 1736 was carefully chosen for this demonstration or introduction, on the theory that the popular unrest connected with the Gin Act controversy would provide an appropriate range of judicial activity. Another procedural innovation is the inclusion of the relevant Assizes records for the same year to complete the story of judicial proceedings in the county and give the reader a good general impression of the operations of these courts in the early eighteenth century.

The editor, who was assistant archivist to the Wiltshire County Council prior to his appointment as Archivist to the Government of Uganda in March 1955, has provided an introduction explaining the documents presented, surveying in considerable detail all the Quarter Sessions records for the county, and furnishing much interesting information on the office of the clerk of the peace and on the custody of the records from 1390 to 1946. The records of the courts, which are described in the introduction, include the basic "great rolls" or Quarter Sessions bundles, minute books, order books, process book of indictments, draft estreats of fines, gaol book, order book for transportations, process book, and estreats of fines and amercements and forfeited recognizances. The proceedings of the Quarter Sessions are arranged chronologically by session: Hilary, Easter, Trinity, and Michaelmas; and the surviving Lent and Summer Assizes proceedings are presented in that order.

The records indicate the most common offense tried at the Quarter Sessions to have been assault and the sentence generally imposed a fine. Burglary and theft appear to have been the principal felonies considered by the Assizes and transportation to America the punishment. While crimes and offenses were the proper concern of these courts, they also engaged in a wide range of administrative activities, including highway maintenance, poor-law regulation, appointment of local officers, and the granting of licenses. The records of the Quarter Sessions and Assize Courts are, in fact, among the most valuable sources for the social life and general history of any locality in which they were held, including colonial America. An excellent example of the fruitful utilization of published court records of this type in the United States is, of course, Raphael Semmes' *Crime and Punishment in Early Maryland*.

This volume is in all respects a fine example of archival craftsmanship and editorial skill applied with professional competence and is a credit to its sponsors and the members of the archival profession involved in its production. The introduction, happily unencumbered by any mass of meaningless footnotes, is a particularly articulate and lucid presentation, of interest beyond the

subject matter to which it is related and worthy of emulation for its technique and comprehensiveness.

RAYMOND P. FLYNN

National Archives

Saskatchewan Archives. *Sixth Report of the Saskatchewan Archives Board*, 1952-54. (Regina, Minister of Education, 1955. Pp. 28.)

In most Canadian provinces the provincial archives have two duties: to preserve provincial government records of value and to acquire and preserve printed and manuscript material connected with the history of the provinces. One of the most efficient provincial archives is that of Saskatchewan; and its latest report, covering the 2 years ending in May 1954, shows how these duties are being carried out.

The governing body of the Saskatchewan Provincial Archives is a small board formed by the provincial government to represent the government and the provincial university. In addition a Public Documents Committee has been established; this deals with the preservation of provincial government records of enduring value and the orderly disposal of the remainder. Previous reports have described the development of such disposal procedures: the preparation and adoption, for each branch of a department, of a comprehensive schedule in which retention dates for various classes of records are established. During the period covered by the report 28 schedules were adopted for government departments and crown corporations. Saskatchewan has a socialist government; hence the appearance of crown corporations, such as "Saskatchewan Leather Products — Shoe Factory and Tannery."

There is a close connection between the Provincial Legislative Library and the Archives, and both have cooperated in filming recent issues of Saskatchewan weekly newspapers. Microfilming is also increasingly used for procuring copies of municipal and school district records, Dominion Government records, and private papers.

In addition to the types of records that have been mentioned, a glance at the lists of accessions discloses that the preservation of business and organization records, sound recordings, and pictures is a function of this Provincial Archives. Certain publications, including *Saskatchewan History*, appear under the auspices of the Archives or have been compiled by members of the staff.

This interesting report is evidence that a great deal of useful work is being accomplished in Saskatchewan by a comparatively small staff.

GEORGE W. SPRAGGE

Public Records and Archives, Ontario

Misiones Venezolanas en los Archivos Europeos, by Joaquín Gabaldón Márquez. (México, D. F., Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, 1954. Pp. 230.)

The volume under review is the eighth in a series published by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, which is devoted to the general

subject of "American Missions in European Archives." Each volume in this series is concerned with a separate country — the present offering with recent archival findings made by Venezuelans in European archives. The purpose of this general series has been to list and publicize the existence of documents relating to each country in question — in this instance, of course, the land of Bolivar. The Pan American Institute, with its international headquarters in Mexico City, hopes by the publication of this series to stimulate more writing of a scholarly nature. The service to scholarship achieved by the institute through the publication of this guide cannot be overemphasized. There is a sizable number of Latin American historians, when one considers the total in all of the American republics, and such scholars will derive benefit directly from this series.

Much patriotic devotion and some personal sacrifice went into the efforts which have produced this guide. Four of the Venezuelan missions to the European archives were official; four others were financed by individuals either solely or in combination with private organizations to which they belonged. The first part of the present guide reports on the official missions; the second describes documents turned up by private scholars. Copies of many of the materials listed are now on deposit in the National Academy of History in Caracas, where, of course, they will have their maximum usefulness. This publication should directly encourage more research and writing in the field of Venezuelan history, covering, as it does, documentary sources from the time of the voyages of Columbus to the political emancipation of Venezuela from Spain. The Venezuelan commission sponsoring these archival endeavors has had in mind, too, that eventually means may be found with which to begin the publication of some of these major archival sources. The field of documentary publication is one in which, incidentally, Venezuela has already made signal contributions.

GASTON LITTON

University of Oklahoma

Manitoba, Public Archives. *Preliminary Inventory, 1955*. (Winnipeg, Provincial Library, 1955. Pp. 52, index.)

This publication contains a general list of items in the Archives Branch of the Legislative Library of Manitoba, Canada, but it is not an inventory of the public records of the Province of Manitoba. Under the direction of the late provincial librarian, J. L. Johnston, the Archives Branch gathered private manuscripts, microfilm and photostatic reproductions, transcripts, and short, typed studies — all relating to the history of western Canada. Of such items listed here, only the papers of the premiers and lieutenant-governors of Manitoba contain records of the province. Some of the items belong to the Manitoba Historical Society, whose manuscript collection has been incorporated with the Provincial Archives; these items are so indicated.

The list is arranged alphabetically by name and subject. Each entry includes a description of the material, its quantity, its date span, and a statement as to

whether it covers original records, reproductions, or secondary studies. An index provides cross references among the items in the list proper.

This inventory, the first to be published by the Legislative Library, includes materials bearing on exploration, the fur trade, early settlement, military affairs, churches, schools, and families in Manitoba and western Canada. It will be useful to researchers studying that area.

FRANCIS J. HEPPNER

National Archives

El Manejo de Archivos y Documentos, by Philip C. Brooks. (Ediciones del Ministerio de Educación, Departamento de Bellas Artes y Publicaciones. Panama, 1954. Pp. xvi, 213.)

This book consists of a series of lectures on the management of archives and current records given by Dr. Brooks under the auspices of the Republic of Panama and the University of Panama, in cooperation with the Institute of Inter-American Affairs. The lectures cover the following topics:

(1) The handling of documents as a prime factor in the improvement of administration — devoted chiefly to a definition of terms, the importance of systematic procedures, fixing responsibility, and other general problems;

(2) The origin, receipt, and control of records — the types of communication which become ultimately written documents and the adoption of rules for handling them;

(3) Mail — how to handle it, from receipt of a communication to final disposition of the subject or inquiry;

(4) Active or current papers — how to handle them efficiently and keep them readily available for consultation while they are of current interest;

(5) Methods of handling papers — the adoption of some particular system of classification, chronological, alphabetical, or other, and the need of manuals, catalogs, indexes, or other guides;

(6) Reference service, or use of the archives — how to handle requests for information without disturbing the orderly arrangement of the papers and how to keep a check on papers withdrawn until they are returned;

(7) Measures for maintaining efficiency in archival management under changing conditions of modern technological improvements;

(8) Withdrawal and storage of inactive records, providing working space for current activities and services, and storage of documents under proper conditions for their physical preservation;

(9) Evaluation of documents to determine which are of greatest importance for future reference, and laws relating to final disposition of old records;

(10) Methods of photographic reproduction of documents, for legal or reference purposes, including microphotography; and

(11) Permanent archives — concerning the preservation of documents of enduring value for posterity and the responsibility of governments for maintaining such archives.

An appendix gives various forms and diagrams for the handling of records, outlines schemes of organization, and lists books and articles relating to archival management.

This course of lectures is logically organized, clearly and forcefully presented, and full of helpful suggestions. It should be of use to everyone entering upon a career in archival administration.

GEORGE P. HAMMOND

Bancroft Library

[France.] Archives Départementales de la Réunion. *Répertoire numérique de la Série L: Révolution-Empire-Régime anglais, 1789-1815*, by E. P. Thébault. (Nérac, Imp. G. Couderc, 1954. Pp. 133.)

In the eighteenth century France had two colonies in the Indian Ocean (some 500 miles east of Madagascar), known as the Islands of France and Bourbon. They were not notable for size (the Île de France had an area of 720 square miles and Bourbon one of 970), but their strategic location on the route to India kept them always in the public eye. Professor Priestley has described the two islands as being "redoubtable fortresses for France and commercial centers of first rank." These fortresses, torn by internal commotions, proved unable to defend themselves successfully during the Napoleonic wars; the British captured them both in 1810. At the peace the captors retained the Île de France and renamed it Mauritius. Bourbon, restored to France in 1815, having changed its name three times between 1789 and 1815, ended with that of Réunion. This island became in 1946 an overseas department of France.

These facts must be kept in mind to appreciate the significance of the prefatory note to the numerical repertory under review. It is signed by the Archivist of Mauritius, A. Toussaint, and the Archivist of Réunion, Y. Pérotin. In this note they announce the simultaneous publication of repertories of similar pattern, dealing with the "revolutionary and imperial archives" of Mauritius and Réunion. This plan of publication, they believe, represents a unique attempt at international cooperation in the field of archives. It stems from the fact that the records of the two sister islands in the period 1789 to 1815 closely complement one another. The Union Jack and the Tricolor stand together in this laudable enterprise.

In this repertory the records of Réunion are grouped under 18 major headings. For example, No. II, Colonial Assemblies, covers series L 5 to L 62; No. V, Foreign Relations, L 306 to L 317; No. VII, Slavery, L 326 to L 331; and No. XVIII, English Régime in Bourbon, L 476 to L 496. The repertory is provided with a brief bibliography (p. 69) and full historical notes (pp. 70-106).

CARL L. LOKKE

National Archives

Great Britain. Historical Manuscripts Commission. *Bulletin of the National Register of Archives*. Nos. 5 and 6. (London, H. M. Stationery Office, 1954, 1955. Pp. 36, 52.)

The National Register of Archives is an overworked, understaffed organization housed in the Public Record Office. Following a report made in 1943 by the British Records Association, the Register was created in 1945 to survey comprehensively all types of manuscript material bearing on national and local history. In its capacity of clearinghouse of information, the Register issues bulletins to acquaint research workers with the existence and accessibility of such documents as may be of use to them. Inspections by the staff of the Register have frequently led owners of documents to place them in suitable repositories, such as the various county record offices.

The "Summaries of Selected Reports" in *Bulletin* 5 bulk rather large, since they cover more than a third of the total number of pages. For quick reference, these summaries are presented in tabular form under the following headings: County, Owner or title, Main Contents, and Remarks. The name of the owner often gives a clue to the type of documents enumerated. For example, the London Missionary Society reports its correspondence and missionaries' journals from the South Seas, Australia, South and Central Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius, India, China, the West Indies, Russia, Greece, and America, 1789-1900. This is item 41 of the selected reports, and under Remarks occurs this pertinent information: "The correspondence includes letters from Livingstone. There are some gaps owing to destruction by bombing." Besides individual owners, the following types of owners are listed in the summaries: parishes, boroughs, schools and colleges, churches, cities, hospitals, business firms, and public utilities.

Bulletin 6, Summer 1955, reports accessions to national repositories, copyright libraries, university and college libraries, county record offices, and other institutions. This list of accessions formerly appeared in the Institute of Historical Research *Bulletin*. The latter publication now lists only migrations of manuscripts, as noted in dealers' catalogs.

The variety of materials listed may be shown from one example, the accessions of the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. Besides listings under the headings of Law and Administration, and Science (including shipbuilding) six types of records are enumerated under History. Among these are German wireless messages during the Battle of Jutland, 1916; letters of Queen Henrietta Maria to the Prince of Orange, 1643; and journals and logbooks of officers and others, 1751-1860.

The limitations and defects of such an accession record are noted in the foreword. Full reports are to be found only at the Register's headquarters in the Public Record Office; not all names of depositors are shown; topographical details are limited unless the region lies outside that where a particular deposit is made; and the scope and variety of the materials listed demands more than an alphabetical list of repositories as an index. It is possible that such a detailed index, to cover several bulletins at one time, will be published. Until then the topographical and biographical card indexes, kept also at the Register's head-

quarters, must be consulted. No approach to the owners of documents should be made except through the Historical Manuscripts Commission. In the case of deposited documents, however, application can be made to the proper custodian.

LIONEL W. VAN KERSEN

Los Angeles Public Library

Spain. Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas. *Boletín*. Nos. 31 and 32. (Editado por el Servicio de Publicaciones del Ministerio de Educación Nacional de España. Madrid, 1955.)

Much current work done in Spain in the fields of archives and libraries is described month by month in this official bulletin. The issues under review include articles descriptive of three archival repositories in Spain; biographical sketches of two Spanish archivists of note; an outline of the fourth technical training course for archivists, librarians, and archeologists, given at Madrid; and an announcement of an advanced course in archival procedure, for those dealing with documents of great antiquity. There are also an article on "Methodology of research in libraries and archives," bibliographies of articles on archives, annotated lists of UNESCO publications and news, and reviews of publications received on exchange, including an extensive resumé of the April 1955 issue of the *American Archivist*. Although the emphasis is on archival and library work in Spain, there is much on current developments in these fields in the rest of the world. The two numbers of this bulletin are adorned with appropriate photographs, embellished with color, and set in a variety of type faces, reflecting imagination and good taste.

GASTON LITTON

University of Oklahoma

Das Staatsarchiv Marburg/Lahn, prepared under the direction of Johannes Papritz, Staatsarchivdirektor. (Marburg, Staatsarchiv, 1956. Pp. 17. Processed.)

There is a wealth of information in this publication on the Staatsarchiv located at Marburg in the Land Hesse of the Federal Republic of Germany. The data were assembled by the officials and employees of the State Archives under the direction of Johannes Papritz, Director of the State Archives and of the Archives School at Marburg, for the new volume of *Minerva*.

The publication contains not only a brief survey of the archival holdings, but also a historical sketch of the State Archives (contributed by K. Dülfer), a selected bibliography of literature pertinent to the Marburg Archives and its holdings, a description of the State Archives Building, information pertaining to the Archives School established in 1949, and the names of the local archives curators or guardians as of January 1956.

Approximately half the publication is devoted to a survey of the holdings of the State Archives. Information is grouped under the following six major headings: Documents on Parchment (Charters), Records, Records in Book Form

(*Amtsbücher*), Maps, Collections, and Library. The bibliography indicates that inventories and guides on the Marburg archives are available. Among those listed are: G. Wrede, *Übersicht über die Bestände des Staatsarchivs Marburg*, Marburg 1938 (in part superseded); Fr. Küch and W. Heinemeyer, *Das Politische Archiv L. Philipps d. Gr. Bd. I-III, Inventar der Bestände*, Leipzig 1904-10, Marburg 1954 (volume 4 in preparation); K. Dülfer, *Gesamtübersicht über die Bestände des Staatsarchivs Marburg*, Band I-III, Marburg 1950-53 (further volumes in preparation).

Archivists and historians the world over will be happy to obtain up-to-date information on the Marburg State Archives presented in this publication.

BERNICE M. DEUTRICH

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The John Franklin Shafroth Collection (1854-1922). State Historical Society of Colorado, Division of State Archives and Public Records, *Bulletin No. VI*. (Denver, 1955. Pp. ii, 16, illus., bibliog. Processed.)

This publication, prepared under the supervision of Dolores C. Renze, State Archivist of Colorado, is a guide to the papers of a former Governor of Colorado, who was also a Representative and Senator from that State. From the introduction one learns that the material was presented in 1950 by Shafroth's son and that additional papers, lent in August 1955, will eventually become part of the collection. A biography, a genealogy, and a chronology of Shafroth's life give concise and helpful information on this important figure.

The collection is divided in three main parts: correspondence, speeches, and scrapbooks. The correspondence, with noteworthy people of the day, covers the period from 1918 to Shafroth's death. The speeches — printed, manuscript, and typescript — are mainly concerned with Shafroth's four great interests: banking and currency, public lands, water power, and woman suffrage. Newspaper clippings and cartoons make up the four scrapbooks, which constitute an excellent "day-by-day study of the press and public reaction to the 'reform Governor of Colorado.'" At the end of the guide is a bibliography of references on Shafroth to be found in miscellaneous sources.

This excellent guide will prove extremely useful to anyone working with this notable collection of papers.

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