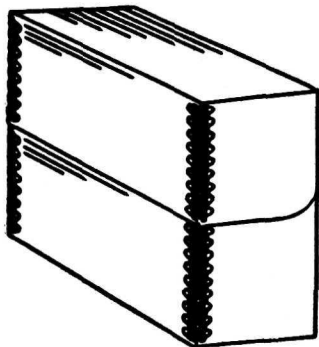


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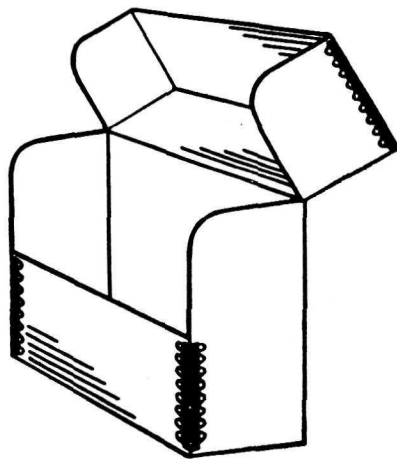
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News Notes

H. B. FANT, *Editor*

National Archives

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

The annual meeting of the Society will be held in Washington, D. C., on Thursday and Friday, October 11-12, 1956. Headquarters will be at the Willard Hotel. The tentative program includes sessions dealing with such matters as access to records, recent archival developments in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, the records management programs of Illinois and New York, and the publicizing of history and documentary sources. One session will be devoted to presentation of reports on matters of current interest, such as the International Congress on Archives and the Clark papers case. The presidential address will be delivered at the annual dinner, Thursday evening, October 11. Open house visits are scheduled for the National Archives, the Federal Records Center in Alexandria, the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress, and the Catholic University Archives. The Archivist of the United States will hold a reception for out-of-town members the evening of October 12.

The Council held a meeting at the National Archives on May 29. Minutes of the meeting will be published in the October issue of the *American Archivist*.

The following persons have joined the Society as of May 31, 1956:

John Flory, Eastman Kodak Co.; Emma Beatrice Haas, Alexandria, Va.; Mary E. Mahaffey, Harding Memorial Association; Thomas D. Moorman, University of Texas; Doris Williams Pearson, Tau Phi Lambda Sorority; Yves Perotin, Archives of Reunion; McLeod Phanelson, National Archives; Edna M. Simpson, Lompoc, Cal. (U. S. Army); Sanford Irving Smith, U. S. Air Force Motion Picture Film Depository; Robert David Stevens, Library of Congress; Harold Leonard Sunderland, City of Los Angeles Records Management Office; Allen Weinberg, City of Philadelphia Archives Division; and Edward B. Wilcox, Denver, Colo.

Justin Turner of Los Angeles has become a life member, and the Snyder Collection of Western Americana of the University of Kansas City and the Archives Division of the Utah State Historical Society have become institutional members.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

The Supreme Court of the United States has announced its intention shortly to transfer to the National Archives certain series of its important older records. A statement of the nature and extent of the materials involved will be published in the October issue.

The National Archives has completed an 18-minute color and sound 16 mm.

motion picture entitled "Your National Archives." An announcement will be published in this journal as soon as arrangements have been completed for making the film available for screening by public and private organizations on request.

The *Archivist's Code*, which was published in the October issue of the *American Archivist*, has been issued by the National Archives in handsome 2-color format suitable for framing. Copies are being distributed to State archivists and to heads of those archives and manuscript repositories that are on the National Archives mailing list. While the supply lasts, heads of such institutions that do not receive a copy in the initial distribution may request one from the Exhibits and Publications Section of the National Archives.

Between May 11 and June 19 the National Archives and Records Service held records management clinics for Federal field agency officials in key cities throughout the United States. All elements of the NARS paper work management program were reviewed and suggestions for the improvement of practices in the creation, maintenance, and retirement of records were discussed. Clinics were held at Albuquerque, N. Mex.; Columbia, S. C.; Houston, Tex.; Nashville, Tenn.; New Orleans, La.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Los Angeles, Calif.; St. Louis, Mo.; Portland, Oreg.; St. Paul, Minn.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Detroit, Mich.; Cleveland, Ohio; Richmond, Va.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Hartford, Conn.; Providence, R. I.; and Baltimore, Md.

A new 23-page pamphlet in the series of records management handbooks entitled *Applying Records Schedules* has been issued. Copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 20 cents per copy.

Franklin G. Floete, Des Moines, Iowa, businessman, was appointed Administrator of General Services by President Eisenhower on February 8, 1956. Mr. Floete succeeds Edmund Mansure, who resigned. Mr. Floete comes to the General Services Administration, of which the National Archives and Records Service is a part, after serving more than 2 years as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Properties and Installations. His keen interest in the records management and archival activities of the Federal Government ensures continued outstanding progress in these areas with which the agency he heads is concerned.

Theodore R. Schellenberg, Director of Archival Management, was awarded a 1955 merit citation by the National Civil Service League. Dr. Schellenberg's citation reads as follows:

Dr. Schellenberg has shown administrative as well as professional competence of a high order in carrying out complex and important records programs for many government agencies. The notable contributions which he has made to archival techniques during his Federal career have been characterized by originality, inventive imagination, and vigorous leadership.

Charles A. Sterman, formerly with the Office Methods Staff of the Navy Department, is now chief of the Current Records Branch of the National Archives and Records Service.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Several additions have been made to the collection placed in the Library of Congress on long-term deposit by the Naval Historical Foundation. Included are 20 papers, 1795-1845, of Josiah Fox, a naval architect who had an important role in designing the frigates authorized by Congress in March 1794 and who was employed by the Navy until 1809; 41 letters received by Capt. Horace Bucklin Sawyer, 1813-38, who served as a midshipman on board the *Constitution*; some 45 papers of Commodore James Barron for the years 1831-49, while he was commanding officer of the Philadelphia Navy Yard; and about 650 papers of Commander Arthur Stanley Riggs, primarily concerned with his work as editor and author, and including correspondence, 1946-52.

The papers of Albert Kendrick Fisher, one of the founders of the United States Biological Survey, have been received. The collection, about 7,500 pieces, contains notes, scrapbooks, material on field trips and the fight for game laws and conservation, and correspondence with leading biologists, ornithologists, and conservationists.

The Library has received the papers of the late Samuel Whittemore Boggs, geographer of the Department of State, 1924-54, and an authority on the cataloging of maps and international boundaries. They number about 4,000 pieces.

The papers of Oscar Terry Crosby, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under President Wilson, public utility executive, proponent of a world federation and an international police force, explorer, and author, have been received. The 1,500 items range in time from 1878 to about 1944, and include journals, articles, notes, and correspondence. The correspondence chiefly concerns Crosby's efforts in the interest of international law and order.

The Library has been given the papers of the late Mary Church Terrell, noted Negro leader, educator, author, and lecturer. The more than 14,000 pieces of correspondence, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, articles, speeches, photographs, and miscellaneous printed material cover her career from 1897 to 1954.

Julius A. Krug has given the Library approximately 20,000 of his papers covering the years he was with the Federal Communications Commission, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the War Production Board (1942-45), and the period he served as Secretary of the Interior (1946-49).

The Library has received additional papers of the family of Charles S. Hamlin, who was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, 1913-14, and Governor of the Federal Reserve Board, 1914-36; and of the late Sen. George W. Norris, supplementing, for the period 1897-1912, papers already in the Library.

The *Information Bulletin* of the Library for March 19, 1956, pays tribute to Katharine Edith Brand, who for reasons of health has resigned her post as head of the Recent Manuscripts Section. Miss Brand was the privately supported custodian of the Woodrow Wilson papers from the time they came to the Library in June 1939 until April 1944, when she was appointed to the staff of the Library as specialist in contemporary American history. Since October 1950, she has been head of the Recent Manuscripts Section. She is now a member of the editorial board of the *Society of American Archivists*.

FOREIGN NEWS

Austria

Although the documentary holdings of the present Austrian State are not completely organized or effectively housed, they range in scope from the ninth to the twentieth centuries, and the importance of Vienna as an archival center should not be underestimated. The prospects for a central public records office and a central institute for archival research in Vienna are discussed by Arthur J. May of the University of Rochester in the July 1955 issue of the *Journal of Central European Affairs*.

Canada

The Public Archives of Canada formally opened its new Federal Records Center Building on April 3. A. M. Willms is chief of the center, W. W. Bilsland is in charge of the accessions division, and D. T. W. Shadd is head of the reference division.

The center has over four acres of floor space. In addition to offices, reading rooms, cleaning rooms, sorting rooms, and a microfilming department, it has 35 large filing rooms, the largest of which can hold the contents of 1,600 four-drawer filing cabinets. Total capacity of the building will be the contents of between 40,000 and 50,000 four-drawer cabinets.

The center offers safe, economical storage for the vast number of files that must be retained for a time, but are no longer required by departments for day-to-day use. Technically known as "dormant" files, these papers will be looked after by a reference staff that will make them available if and when they may be required.

The center also will enable the Public Archives to attack the problem of getting rid of the great accumulation of "dead" records that is stored away in offices, attics, and basements all over Ottawa. This accumulation contains some material of permanent value that must be retained, but experience suggests that as much as 80 percent of the Government's "dead" files can be eliminated.

France

Charles Braibant, Director of the Archives of France and Honorary President of the International Council on Archives, has announced that the sixth international course on archival techniques will begin in early January 1957. The course has been shortened from 5 to 3 months for the better accommodation of foreign archivists and students. The Archives Nationales has printed a 10-page brochure, *Stage Technique International D'Archives*, descriptive of the curriculum. Inquiries should be addressed to Albert Mirot or Robert-Henri Bautier, Archives Nationales, rue des Francs-Bourgeois, 60, Paris 3^e, France.

Great Britain

A bibliography of the writings of Sir Hilary Jenkinson, compiled by Roger Ellis and William Kellaway, is a leading feature of the Michaelmas 1955

issue of *Archives*, the semiannual periodical of the British Records Association. Offprints, while in stock, can be had for a shilling each from Mr. Ellis at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London, W. C. 2.

Other features of this issue of *Archives* are H. S. Cobb's "The Archives of the Church Missionary Society"; H. M. Colvin's "Architectural History and Its Records"; A. E. J. Hollaender's "Guildhall Library"; and Joan C. Lancaster's listing of record society publications exhibited in 1954 and 1955 during the Anglo-American Conference of Historians at the Institute of Historical Research. The attitude the magazine will take toward the new *Journal of the Society of Archivists* is now officially stated: "*Archives* looks forward to many years of competitive co-operation."

L. B. Wilkinson's "Notes on the Coronation Records of the Fourteenth Century" appears in the October 1955 issue of the *English Historical Review*.

The Friends of the National Libraries promotes the acquisition of notable books and manuscripts by the British Museum, the National Library of Scotland, and the National Library of Wales. Many other collections, such as those at university and local level, get incidental aid in the best national sense. The society prides itself on having shared in the acquisition of such material as the Codex Sinaiticus, the Paston letters, the Earnock collection, the Bohun Psalter, the Sherborne Cartulary, and the Garisbrooke letters of Charles I. The organization is now seeking additional memberships at a minimum subscription of a guinea a year. Inquiries may be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Friends of the National Libraries, British Museum, London, W. C. 1.

India

One of the major activities of the National Archives of India during the final quarter of 1955 was the compilation of information on "archival assets" and on organizational changes in the administrative departments of the Government of India. A *Handbook of Indian Archival Repositories* and a *Guide to Materials of Indian History Abroad* are in preparation.

V. G. Dighe, historical archivist of the Government of Bombay and a recent visitor at the National Archives in Washington, is studying historical research methods at Harvard University on a Rockefeller grant.

Italy

In November 1955 UNESCO's executive board chose Rome as the site for a proposed International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property.

The system of Italian State Archives is analyzed in the January 1956 issue of *Italian Affairs*, a magazine disseminated in English by the Documentation Center of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic. In addition to a central archives at Rome, 9 regional headquarters are situated at Turin, Genoa, Milan, Venice, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples, and Palermo. In 61 provincial capitals, archival institutions hold sections of the State Archives. Subsections are established or may be established in any communities "which have had an illustrious history and which now are preserving

valuable documentary material." By an act of 1950, documents up to the year 1900 are open to the public.

The Central State Archives (the Italian National Archives proper) will soon occupy one of the buildings in the architectural grouping which embraces the Palazzo dei Congressi, where the Tenth International Congress of Historical Sciences met last September. About 25 minutes by bus from the center of Rome, the site was originally laid out during the Mussolini regime for a projected world's fair that was not held because of World War II.

Spain

At the invitation of the Department of State, Francisco Sintes Obrador, Director General of the Spanish National Archives and Libraries, recently completed an extensive tour of American libraries, archives, and museums.

Students of Hispanic American history who plan to use the resources of the internationally known repositories at Seville, Madrid, and Simancas, should read "An Introduction to Bibliographical Tools in Spanish Archives and Manuscript Collections Relating to Hispanic America," by E. J. Burrus in the November 1955 issue of the *Hispanic American Historical Review*.

Union of Socialist Soviet Republics

A United Press despatch from Moscow, dated March 28, relayed a report from Soviet news sources that speakers at a conference at Tashkend had stated that lack of access to archive material "accounted for mistakes in the working out of important problems in the history of the peoples of Central Asia." The archivists of five central Asian soviet republics were said to be studying plans for opening their holdings to researchers and historians. Such a relaxation, if attained, may not apply to foreigners.

Venezuela

The discovery of interesting documents relating to the Republic of Venezuela has been related recently in the press of that country. Most notable was the locating of the signed copy of the first constitution entitled "Federal Constitution of the State of Venezuela," which was approved on December 21, 1811. It was among the papers of the Academy of History and will be placed on exhibition in the National Capitol. Another find was an original signed letter of Simon Bolivar, which did not come to the attention of the late Vicente Lecuna, the great Bolivarian scholar. It is a short note to Sr. Pompa, which is in the collections of Rafael Larco Herrera, an ex-president of Peru and a noted philanthropist and historian.

Announcement has been made of two important publications. One is an index of the documents in the archives of the liberator, Bolivar, of Marshall Sucre, and of José Rafael Revenga. This work is under the direction of Angel Gresanti, who has noted that the collection comprises 243 volumes, rather than 241 as appeared in an earlier publication. The second forthcoming publication is a collection of documents relating to Venezuela, copies of which were secured from the National Archives of Colombia by Horacio Gardenas Becerra. In-

cluded are royal cédulas, royal orders, and other important documents relating to the colonial period of Venezuela. These volumes will be published by the Faculty of Humanities and Education of the Central University of Venezuela.

The data for this note was supplied by Miss Muna Lee of the Department of State.

DELAWARE

The Public Archives Commission on May 2, 1956, officially opened the John Dickinson Mansion, a historic shrine, on Kitts Hummock Road near Dover.

Mrs. Louise F. Farr of California has given the commission several Delaware-related manuscripts, 1745-1857, and the D. A. R. chapter at Lewes has given a microfilm of the diaries of Mrs. Lida B. Houston, Oct. 1863-Apr. 1864, and Nov. 1873-Sept. 1875.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Columbia Historical Society's books and collected materials, under the curatorship of Meredith B. Colket, Jr., have increased to about 200 cubic feet. These may soon be housed in the Heurich Mansion on New Hampshire Ave. near Dupont Circle, willed to the Society as a headquarters by the late Mrs. Christian Heurich. U. S. Grant, III, president of the Society, indicates that early occupancy depends on the passage of a bill now before Congress by which the D. C. government would forego the \$3,000 annual tax on the premises.

The March 20 meeting of the Columbia Historical Society was held at the Catholic University of America, where Archivist Henry J. Browne, secretary of the Society of American Archivists, made a report on the materials relating to the history of the District of Columbia to be found in the university's archival and manuscript holdings.

Individuals who live near Washington or who go there to carry on research will find useful the fifth edition of *Library and Reference Facilities in the Area of the District of Columbia*. Compiled jointly by the District of Columbia Library Association, the Washington chapter of the Special Libraries Association, and the Library of Congress, the new directory describes some 249 library and manuscript collections. It can be bought from the Card Division of the Library of Congress for \$1.35.

FLORIDA

Elizabeth C. Baldwin has become executive secretary of the Florida Historical Society to succeed Merlin G. Cox, who has resigned to teach at the University of Florida. Rembert W. Patrick, professor of history at the University of Florida, has succeeded Julien C. Yonge as editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Mr. Yonge was editor from 1924 to the autumn of 1955.

ILLINOIS

The services of the Cromwell Library of the American Bar Association at 1155 East 60th St., Chicago 37, are available to State and local bar associations and to members of the American Bar Association. The facilities include a photocopying service for legal material and a clearinghouse service that provides information on unpublished legal theses or dissertations and on unpublished results of continuing legal research projects.

Harry E. Pratt, authority on Abraham Lincoln and State historian of Illinois since 1951, died in Springfield last February. As State historian he served as secretary to the Illinois State Records Commission, which controls the disposal of Illinois records. He had been a member of the technical advisory board that recommended the employment of the National Records Management Council to perform the survey described by Margaret C. Norton in the January issue of this magazine. From 1936 to 1943 Dr. Pratt served as executive secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association. His widow, Marian Bonzi Pratt, the last executive secretary of that association and one of the coeditors of its monumental *Works and Writings of Abraham Lincoln*, has been appointed acting State historian.

INDIANA

Irene M. Strieby, who has headed the Eli Lilly and Co. Library since 1934, has been given the responsibility for establishing the Lilly archives and for coordinating information services of the company. Mrs. Strieby, a member of the Society of American Archivists, will be succeeded in the library by Louise C. Lage.

MARYLAND

Although a file of letters from authors and some related documents will go to the New York Public Library, the bulk of the late H. L. Mencken's papers and collected materials will remain in Maryland, housed in a special H. L. Mencken room in the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore.

Mrs. William Hugh Harris has presented to the Maryland Historical Society a large collection of letters, newspaper clippings, and miscellany of her father, the late Edwin Warfield, Governor of Maryland, 1904-8, and president of the Maryland Historical Society, 1913-20. The society announces that the repair of its manuscripts is proceeding steadily, thanks to the good will of patriotic societies. Several years ago the National Society, Daughters of Founders and Patriots, voted \$5,000 toward the cost of the restoration work, now nearly complete, on the Calvert papers. The Maryland Society, the Daughters of Founders and Patriots, and the Maryland Chapter, Daughters of Colonial Wars, are currently contributing funds to advance the Maryland Historical Society's preservation program.

MASSACHUSETTS

"We looted the State House of \$23,000." That is the language used by two enterprising reporters in a *Boston Traveler* story of April 11 telling how poor-

ly the present quarters of the Massachusetts State Archives are adapted to the protection of the Commonwealth's records.

A prized collection of manuscript poems, letters, and notes of Emily Dickinson has just been given to Amherst College by Millicent Todd Bingham, the daughter of Mabel Loomis Todd, the original editor and publisher of Emily Dickinson's poetry.

The Massachusetts Historical Society has published part 2 of the microfilm of the Adams papers.

MICHIGAN

Persons "capable of producing satisfactory manuscripts in broad fields in the history of education in Michigan" may apply up to March 1, 1957, for the John M. Munson fellowships, ranging from \$500 to \$2,500, sponsored by the Michigan Historical Commission. Accepted manuscripts will be published by the commission in its series of volumes on Michigan education. Supplemental to the fellowships, variable grants in aid will be given to help defray the expenses of research and writing. Application blanks and full information may be had from Lewis Beeson, Executive Secretary, Michigan Historical Commission, Lewis Cass Bldg., Lansing 13.

MINNESOTA

Lucile Kane, curator of manuscripts at the Minnesota Historical Society, is author of "A Guide for Collectors of Manuscripts" in the January 1956 issue of *History News*, published by the American Association for State and Local History.

A unique survey of Minnesota's governmental operations is under way. A self-help plan has been devised calling initially for utilizing 33 task forces, one for each area or agency being surveyed. In studying use of personnel, salaries, operating procedures, morale, long-term needs, and legislative implications, each of the task forces, such as that for the State Historical Society, is made up of five members: (1) a chairman, who is the State Department of Administration's budget examiner who normally deals with the area or agency; (2) the administrator who normally heads the area or agency; (3) an experienced employee named by the rank-and-file area or agency employees; (4) a technician borrowed from a State area or agency other than the one under survey; and (5) a member of the State legislature. The basic task-force reports will be subjected to cross-departmental analysis by function, and the whole program is to be completed within about the current fiscal year, at little if any added cost to the taxpayer.

MISSOURI

August R. Suelflow, director of Concordia Historical Institute, the official records agency and archives of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, announces that Carl S. Meyer has succeeded George Dolak as secretary to the

Board of Governors and has replaced Arthur C. Repp as editor of the *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly*.

During the last calendar year the Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library at Saint Louis University acquired microfilms of the Barberini, Borghese, Borgia, Chigi, Palatine, Regina, and Urbino collections of the Vatican Library and of the contents of the Archivio di San Pietro, a recent annex to the Vatican Library. The film library staff has prepared a 7-page mimeographed statement suggestive of the research potential in the 664,000 feet of film now available at the St. Louis depository.

NEBRASKA

Donald F. Danker, Archivist of the Nebraska State Historical Society, has announced that the society has received a collection of the papers of the late Samuel R. McKelvie, Governor of Nebraska, 1918-22, and member of the Federal Farm Board in President Hoover's administration.

At the luncheon session of the 77th annual meeting of the Nebraska State Historical Society at Lincoln, Oct. 1, 1955, Clifford L. Lord, director of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, praised the work of local historical societies in general. His paper, "Clio's Cadres," is printed in the December 1955 issue of *Nebraska History*, an issue that carries also director James C. Olson's interesting report on "The Nebraska State Historical Society in 1955."

NEW YORK

To foster improved records administration and techniques, a new organization has been formed known as the Association of Records Executives and Administrators. Officers and committee chairmen of the association are:

president, A. A. Deter, Linde Air Products Co.; vice-president, Charles H. Wissman, Socony Mobil Oil Co.; secretary, Robert W. Humphrey, New York Stock Exchange; treasurer, Vincent J. Santo, Port of New York Authority; programs, Elizabeth G. Lee, Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey; membership, W. B. Warren, Port of New York Authority; and public relations, Maxwell S. McKnight, Standard-Vacuum Oil Co.

All communications should be addressed to the secretary at 11 Wall Street, New York, N. Y.

After several years of research and testing, the National Records Management Council has developed what it calls Integrated Paperwork Control, a system that "integrates all processes connected with the life span of business records from beginning to end." A pamphlet explaining IPC can be had upon request to the Council, 555 Fifth Ave., New York 17, N. Y. For the eighth consecutive year, the Council is providing an opportunity for students enrolled in graduate schools and college and university faculty members to compete for fellowships for study and research in records management and archives administration. Successful applicants for three fellowships will serve for a 3-month period beginning July 1, 1956. The stipend is \$1,000 each.

Our last issue mentioned the election of Mona Sheppard as a vice president

of Leahy and Co. The March 1956 issue of *Coronet* carried Peter Wyder's article about her, "She Hates Gobbledygook."

Practicing archivists who may have had trouble in locating a particular document will understand the predicament of the staff of the Chase Manhattan Bank of New York City. An Associated Press dispatch of March 22 reported that, although 18 insurance companies acting as surety had covered the loss of a million-dollar United States Treasury note owned by the bank but missing since March 6, "a search through many millions of sheets of paper will continue until the note — which is theoretically negotiable — is found."

By a legislative enactment of last year, the State Judicial Council in New York has been superseded by a Judicial Conference. Intended to cut court delays, the conference recommends on organization, jurisdiction, procedures, statistics, and other matters of court administration. Chief Judge Albert Conway is the present chairman.

In February Governor Harriman vetoed a bill that would have permitted business organizations to destroy certain records after 3 years (unless otherwise required by law to be kept) provided microfilm copies were retained. The Governor felt that, "Legal sanction for doing away with records that are three years old could have unfortunate results. Nor would the substitution of reproductions . . . serve any good purpose unless the originals are required to be preserved for a substantial time."

After over 13 years as curator of the New York State Historical Association and its Farmers' Museum at Cooperstown, Janet R. McFarlane has resigned to become director of the Albany Institute of History and Art. She will, however, be one of the several guest authorities at Cooperstown during the annual seminars on American culture, sponsored by the association this year, July 1-7 and July 8-14.

NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Department of Archives and History has purchased from the Moore County Historical Association, Inc., the Alston House (also known as the House in the Horseshoe) in Moore County. The county association will restore and operate the house as a historic site under the general supervision of the department's historic sites division.

OHIO

James H. Rodabaugh of the Ohio Historical Society, Columbus 10, is editor of a new *Directory of Historical Societies in the United States and Canada* recently released by the American Association for State and Local History. The last previous edition came out in 1944.

PENNSYLVANIA

The *Philadelphia Daily News* for Mar. 2 and the *Philadelphia Inquirer* for Mar. 4, 1956, published photographs of City Archivist Charles E. Hughes, Jr., in connection with the rediscovery of the original title documents proving the

city's ownership of Independence Square. Material that had been lost sight of for two decades, "some 150 deeds, patents, and title papers extending back to 1720," was found safely reposing in three insignificant-looking containers at the city's record center, 1801 Vine St.

TEXAS

Actress Mary Bell, a member of the Whitis family, has given a collection of Whitis papers to the Austin Public Library. They include a transfer of property to Mirabeau B. Lamar, daily records of Austin's weather, 1858-80, and records of the Whitis School, 1899-1921.

VERMONT

Mary Greene Nye died on Feb. 21, 1956, at the age of 84. In her active years she had edited three volumes of State papers in the office of the Secretary of State of Vermont. She attended the meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Colorado in 1947. In her retired years she had published an *Early History of Berlin, Vermont*, her home neighborhood.

VIRGINIA

The George C. Marshall Research Foundation has received \$150,000 from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to assist the work of the foundation in compiling and publishing General Marshall's public and private papers. The State of Virginia has donated a 2-acre site at Lexington for the foundation's library and museum; and President Eisenhower has endorsed the foundation's objectives.

A trunkful of deeds, correspondence, and documents apparently accumulated by a member of the George family of Virginia was found recently in a closet in the Richmond city hall. Although one of the deeds was signed in 1685 and at least two of the land patents date from 1729, most of the documents relate to the Civil War period. The material will probably be transferred to the Archives Division of the Virginia State Library.

The manuscripts division of the University of Virginia Library has acquired the astronomical notes and data, 1920-48, of the university's Leander McCormick Observatory. Other acquisitions include 1,500 letters of William Pitt Fessenden and additional manuscripts of John Esten Cooke's writings.

The Alexandria Association, a nonprofit organization founded in 1952 and devoted to the preservation of Alexandria's historic buildings, records, and antiquities, arranged an exhibition, "Our Town — 1749-1865," that was open daily at Gadsby's Tavern from April 12 to May 12.

The maturing of the major restoration activities undertaken by Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., has enabled the board of trustees to encourage the staff to devote more emphasis to the lives and interests of people who lived in the Williamsburg locality. A bulletin issued in April by Edward M. Riley, director of research, indicates that the Research Department now employs

nine resident historians, each working on various special projects, but increasingly in demand by the public as consultants in problems of historical authenticity. Manuscripts are not now being bought for Colonial Williamsburg archives unless they directly relate to Williamsburg, but added reliance is being placed on the microfilming of valuable manuscripts elsewhere in order to assemble a wider selection of research materials at Williamsburg.

WASHINGTON

William B. Greeley of Seattle is chairman of the Pacific Northwest Committee on Forest History, a regional committee that is cooperating with the American History Foundation in encouraging the collecting of appropriate materials for the writing of forest history.

WEST VIRGINIA

During the legislative session of 1955 the executive committee of the West Virginia Historical Society persuaded the legislature to create a centennial commission to plan an appropriate celebration of the State's hundredth year. The committee was also active in drawing attention to the need for a building at Charleston to house the State Museum and the State Department of Archives and History, which now occupy rooms in the capitol. At its annual meeting at Buckhannon last fall, the society resolved to continue pressing for a museum-archives building and to urge the legislature to provide enlarged facilities for the historical materials in the West Virginia University Library at Morgantown.

WYOMING

Wyoming law requires all negative prints made by the State microfilm department to be stored in the State Archives. To facilitate the making of facsimile prints from the film, an enlarger has been installed in the Archives. Dorothy K. Taylor, microfilm administrator, announces that all the books used for recording articles of incorporation and trade marks, 1873-1954, are being microfilmed. The first 14 handwritten, permanently bound volumes were accessioned by the Archives after filming.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The custodian of audiovisual or special collections of any kind will find in the October 1955 issue of *Library Trends* a grouping of nine informative articles about techniques in the care, preservation, and use of such nonbook materials as maps, manuscripts, newspapers, prints, pictures, photographs, musical scores and recordings, films, microfilms, and other facsimile publications. In his introduction to the issue, the editor says that the growing appreciation of archival and records management techniques on the part of librarians has been "substantially enhanced by the summer training institutes on archives and manuscripts collections conducted by Ernst Posner in Washington."

In 1954 a study by a joint committee of the American Bankers Association, the Association of Reserve City Bankers, and the Federal Reserve System, reported that on an average banking day in 1952 some 29,000,000 checks were written. If the rate of growth in the number of accounts and in the use of checks were sustained, it was estimated that 14 billion checks would be written in 1960 and 22 billion in 1970. For the past 2 years the American Bankers Association's technical subcommittee on mechanization of check handling has been studying the picture. Lack of dimensional uniformity in the shape of checks is only one of the problems. The technical subcommittee's chairman, John A. Kley, vice-president of the County Trust Co. of White Plains, has nevertheless come up with a progress report in the February 1956 issue of *Banking*. Mr. Kley predicts that "while a time table cannot be specifically pinpointed, it is quite safe to say that mechanical check processing will be a reality in the near future."

The Dearborn Glass Co. of Bedford Park, Ill., is offering a patented glass product called "Tru-Site." The glass is said to prevent light reflection and to permit clear visibility from any angle. Such non-reflecting glass may have utility for exhibits and displays, as well as for ordinary picture framing. The product is said to be marketed through local glass dealers and picture framers.

Hunter Photo Copyist, Inc., of 595 Spencer St., Syracuse, N. Y., is offering a compact flat-bed copying machine. The device has a floating lid with 1-1/2" clearance between lid and platen, which permits insertion of the material to be copied. One model, used with a separate processing unit, is said to be capable of reproducing a document in about one minute.

Another manufacturer, Cormac Industries, Inc., 80 Fifth Ave., New York City, is selling a single unit portable photocopier known as the Cormac Scout. Weighing only 19 pounds, this device has overall dimensions of 9-1/2" x 9-1/2" x 22" and sells for \$249.

The Microcard Foundation, Box 2145, Madison 5, Wis., can furnish for \$25 a pocket size microcard reader, weighing only 7 ounces. The unit is equipped with an adjustable lens and can be operated on either 110-volt current or on battery power.

LATE NEWS

Wayne C. Grover, Archivist of the United States, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree at Brown University's 188th commencement on June 4. In conferring the degree upon Dr. Grover, President Barnaby C. Keeney, officiating at his first commencement as Brown's president, said:

As Archivist of the United States you have served since 1935 in the Archives, which a member of our faculty had a hand in establishing. You have devoted your great energies and talents modestly and quietly, first to organizing the Archives and, second—and just as important—to making them available conveniently to scholars and others who have need for their contents. In honoring you we honor the patient and devoted labors of all librarians and archivists on whom learned faculties depend.

