

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Les Archives de l'État en Belgique de 1930 à 1936. Rapports publiés sous la direction de D. Brouwers, Archiviste Général du Royaume. (Tongeren. George Michiels-Broeders, 1937.)

This volume is a detailed report on the archives of Belgium now in the custody of the *Archiviste Général du Royaume* and on the accomplishments of his staff during the years 1930-1936. It comes as the fourth in a series of such reports, the first having appeared in 1914.

The work contains the information customary in such publications, including a list of the honors and distinctions won by the staff, an impressive list of its professional publications, statistical summaries of services rendered on records and a list of all books and articles published in the years 1930-1936 based wholly or in part on researches in the Belgian archives. The core of the book, however, consists of the *Tableaux synoptiques des collections* and accessions lists, which together constitute a working guide to the collections in Brussels and in the branch depositories in eight large provincial cities. Belgium being a bilingual nation, the reports from the branches in Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent and Hasselt are printed in Flemish. Each collection is listed by a descriptive title, followed by an indication of its chronological period and bulk. If an inventory of the material exists, whether in print or manuscript, the fact is noted and the name of the compiler is given. The accessions for the years 1930-1936 are briefly described and the names of the donors are listed.

For most American archivists, however, the chief interest of the report probably arises not so much from what is revealed of the actual content of the Belgian archives as from the incidental information which may here be gathered concerning the policies of a European archival organization. To some of us it will at first come as something of a shock, for instance, to learn that so small a nation as Belgium has found it advisable to institute so large a degree of decentralization of its archives, with eight branches in addition to the central depository in Brussels. Closer examination reveals, however, that this situation is not so anomalous as it at first appears, for the provincial branches are used chiefly as depositories for records resulting from those functions of the central government which we are accustomed to thinking of as local government functions, such as education, sanitation and law enforcement. Thus in Belgium, as in this country, records of that type remain in the localities where they originated; that they remain in the custody of the local governments here and of the central government in Belgium does not result from a difference in archival policy, but from a difference in governmental organization. Similarly, the large quantities of ecclesiastical records which are noted at Brussels and in all branch depositories largely arise, of course, from a church-state relationship which has no counterpart in this country.

To the American reader, perhaps the most striking feature of archival policy in Belgium, as revealed by this report, is the catholicity of the interpretation given to the phrase *les archives de l'état*. The donation of every type of historical record to the national archival establishment is encouraged. Family records, private manuscript collections, business archives and similar materials constitute a large part of the records described in this volume. One wonders whether such an all-embracing type of historical depository would be feasible in any but a small nation. This and other points noted are useful reminders that though the interchange of ideas is highly desirable, each nation must solve its own archival problems in the manner best suited to its own needs.

HERMAN KAHN

The National Archives

Dansk Arkivvæsen by Axel Linvald. (Copenhagen, Levin and Munksgaard, 1933.)

Although Dr. Linvald's volume was first published several years ago, it remains the best treatment in brief compass of the Danish archival system. The outgrowth of an article originally prepared in German for the internationally known *Archivalische Zeitschrift* (Bd. 41), this Danish study embodies the mature reflections of Dr. Axel Linvald, the present chief archivist of the kingdom of Denmark. Himself a historian of note, Dr. Linvald begins with a historical sketch of the development of Danish archives. Danish kings of the Middle Ages carried letter chests in which they kept papers of state as they traveled from castle to castle. Soon it became unnecessary as well as hazardous to continue with such peripatetic archives, and, instead, the royal papers were deposited in castles at Vordingborg and, later, at Kalundborg, stored none too securely with the king's gunpowder and weapons. At the same time arose numerous private and local collections in cities, churches, monasteries and the castles of the nobility. The Reformation brought some destruction, but where royal officials seized ecclesiastical records, much was preserved. Gradually Copenhagen became the center for the archives of the realm, particularly with the removal of the entire Kalundborg collection to that city in 1582. With the era of absolutism dating from 1660 came a broadening scope of administration, resulting in a greater accumulation of archival material from the various branches of the government. The prevailing arrangement of records by subject left much to be desired, but practical experience fostered an appreciation of the principle of provenance. During the eighteenth and early nineteenth century the discarding of records went on apace, hastened apparently by the profit accruing to the custodians from the sale of the paper. In the nineteenth century losses were also suffered in the return of archives to Norway after the separation of 1814 and to Germany after the cession of Schleswig-Holstein.

The turning point in modern Danish history is 1848, when Denmark received a free constitution. More and more it was recognized that the failure

to draw upon the archives for the history of the fatherland led to the result that Danish, unlike German, historiography had not become the source of the national renaissance which it could and should have been. In the summer of 1848 D. G. Monrad set forth the archival program of the future: better quarters for researchers, larger and more scientifically trained staffs and, lastly, the publication of important source materials together with annual reports on the work of the archives. But historians found it difficult to obtain the relatively easy access to the records available today.

So much for history. The organization of the Danish archival system dates from the law of March 30, 1889, which provided for a central record office in Copenhagen for the records of the central administration, together with various provincial archives for local records. The centralization stemming from this law has given the chief archivist (*Rigsarkivaren*), who is at the head of all the Danish state archives, the deciding voice in all financial and administrative questions. He also determines the policies to be followed with respect to the larger problems of archival economy. For the staff of the Danish state archives historians have been preferred. But in order to have a well-rounded group all members must serve in the central archives in Copenhagen as well as in the provincial archives.

The growth of state control, especially since the World War, has filled the shelves of the Danish state archives rapidly and beyond all expectations. Although there are no hard and fast rules for accessions from the central administration, the practice has been to turn over regularly to the archives even comparatively recent items. The provincial archives, however, are authorized by law to receive regularly records from all local authorities, with the exception of the military. Even private papers of historical value as well as commercial and industrial records have been accepted.

Among the archival establishments of Europe that of Denmark is unique since its accessions of relatively recent files have brought it into close touch with the actual administration of the state. Both the officials and the archivists have profited from this arrangement, the former receiving by loan the items needed in their daily routine and the latter arranging the accessions and deciding eventually what may be destroyed as useless. Yet it may be questioned, thinks Dr. Linvald, whether this "Danish system," based upon constant loans, may not in the future prove too heavy a burden, particularly as the functions of government become more complex. During the past, Dr. Linvald observes, as their primary task archivists have preserved what was intrusted to them. In the future, he believes, their most important work may be to dispose of the superfluous. Accessions grow in size and number and the space available becomes less and less. "In reality," he concludes, "one does historical research of the future a poor service by placing uncritically at its command all the papers of our time. Their quantity at present prevents a complete arrangement and

the provision of indexes, etc.; in the future it will make impossible their utilization."

Today the resources of the Danish state archives are available on equal terms to the learned historian and to the ordinary man seeking information about his ancestors. All that is expected of the inquirer is a copy of his book or article when and if it is published. All particulars in the archives are "as a matter of course" at the disposal of all persons, even in cases involving the Danish state. Naturally, the public is restricted in its use of the more recent documents, and the personal papers of the Danish monarchs are practically sealed for the period after 1839. Nor may researchers publish information that might compromise living persons or their immediate relatives.

During the past fifty years the principle of provenance has been adhered to in arranging the various archival collections, which in turn have been studied carefully and made more accessible to the public. Since 1909 certain inmates of the state prisons have been used to prepare name indexes of the numerous protocols found in the provincial archives. Compilations of data bearing upon official careers have been made, and samples of the handwriting of officials, historians and archivists have been assembled to aid in identifying unsigned letters and papers. Since 1894 the Danish state archives has had its own book bindery, which also repairs and preserves old and damaged items. Finally, like other European public record offices, in addition to annual reports, it has issued from time to time various collections of documents of historical value, thus carrying out the final point in Monrad's archival program of 1848.

HAROLD LARSON

The National Archives

SHORTER NOTICES

The National Archives has made available the *Classification Scheme* for the records of the important war Committee on Public Information and the more recent National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement, commonly called the Wickersham Commission. Both reports contain sketches of the records and their classification symbols. The latter commission's records had been held by the Department of Justice until their accession to the National Archives in 1936. Included in the collection are the minutes of the commission, its official as well as unsolicited correspondence, its office memoranda and drafts of its reports in various states of completion.

The records of the Committee on Public Information were received from the War Department in 1937. During the decade of the twenties the collection was reduced from 789 drawers to 172, the number now filed in the National Archives, the general nature of the material destroyed being noted. Not all of the records have yet been transferred to the possession of the National Archives. The classified collection consists of correspondence, news releases, instructions to cartoonists, advertisers and speakers, copy and proofs of various publications, news clippings and reports of the foreign offices of the committee.

Of the inventories of county records produced by the Historical Records Survey three for Illinois have made their appearance in recent months. Unique in this state series is the volume for Champaign County, No. 10 of the publications. A most attractive bit of book-making, this volume is printed rather than mimeographed, is of a size convenient to handle, and is bound in blue with gold title and state seal. The photograph of the courthouse and reproduction of the official county road map add to the general appearance. As for the records themselves, they have no appreciable gaps in them since 1830, the date of the county's organization, and are for the most part safely housed, though in places somewhat crowded.

Work on the survey was begun April 1, 1936 and finished August 31 of the same year. Rechecking was done in June and July, 1937.

The *Inventory* of Stephenson County, Illinois, archives at Freeport indicates that the county records are nominally complete since the founding of the county in 1837. Most of the records are housed in the courthouse built in 1873, but a few are found at the county home and at the coroner's office in a commercial building near the courthouse. The records are not equally well cared for; county officials are undertaking to supply additional equipment. The facilities for the use of this county's archives are considered adequate.

The records of Logan County, Illinois, rich in Lincoln tradition, are listed

in volume No. 54 of the Illinois series. The courthouse in the city which has borne Lincoln's name since 1853 has yielded a number of affidavits relating to the demise of members of the Lincoln family and a few records of cases in which the prairie lawyer took part. Unfortunately most of the records of the county prior to 1857 were lost in a fire that razed the courthouse in that year. With the exception of a few land titles and miscellaneous records rescued from the fire by the county clerk, most of the items found in the archives relate to county business since that time. The materials inventoried are arranged in the standardized form generally used by the Historical Records Survey for the Illinois inventories.

The first *Annual Report* of the Hayes Memorial Library at Fremont, Ohio, has recently made its appearance as a part of a program of conservative expansion of the library as a research organization. Established and maintained by the state of Ohio and the Rutherford B. Hayes-Lucy Webb Hayes Foundation on President Hayes's estate, Spiegel Grove, the Hayes Memorial Library contains President Hayes's library, his papers, pamphlets, etc. The *Report* gives a history of the library, explains its various functions in regard to research and outlines its contents and recent accessions. The Hayes Memorial Library intends for the present to specialize in the period of American history from 1865 to about 1900 for national affairs and in the period from 1840 for Ohio history.

"Sources for Ohio World War History in the Papers of the Food Administration in the National Archives" is the subject of a seven-page article appearing in the October, 1938 issue of the *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*. The author is Almon R. Wright, of the Division of Classification of the National Archives, who has done other work on the Food Administration papers.

Historical significance seasoned with local color and occasional bits of humor is characteristic of a compilation of the Utah Federal Writers' Project, *Origins of Utah Place Names*, sponsored and published by the Utah State Department of Public Instruction. In an introduction to this publication, Maurice L. Howe, state director of the project, states: "Few things reveal better the character of Utah's settlers than the names they have given to their surroundings; and few things hold greater fascination for those of us who come after them than the mystery, the whimsy, the homely philosophy, and, sometimes, the irony that are reflected in these names. . . . It [this publication] is intended to entertain the casual reader and to furnish a valuable reference for the historian." Conflicting theories concerning the derivation of names of counties and towns are given where it has been impossible to ascertain the source. The two most extensive sources for the place names discussed are the

physical characteristics of the locale and the names of outstanding citizens or pioneer families.

The Historical Records Survey has prepared a sixteen-page mimeographed *Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations in Utah*, listing the defunct as well as existing bodies, their location and their directors. The list does not include the establishments of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) but refers searchers to its annual directory.

NEWS NOTES

THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

The third annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists will be held at Annapolis, Maryland, between October 14 and 16, 1939. More detailed notices will appear in future issues of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY, OCTOBER 25, 1938

The activities of the Society since its last annual meeting have been characterized by a gradual transition from the stage of enthusiastic initial organization to a more arduous phase, that of specifically defining the fields and procedures of its program. In the six months which formed our first "annual" period, we approved the organization outlined by the previous year's hard work on the part of the organizing committee, and enrolled as members of a Society which had high hopes. We also assumed the responsibility of making our efforts productive toward its constitutional goal "to promote sound principles of archival economy and to facilitate co-operation among archivists and archival agencies." At the end of our second "annual" period, which has lasted sixteen months, it behooves us to survey critically the extent to which we have met that responsibility.

The council of officers and other elected members authorized by the constitution is vested with "the government of the Society, the management of its affairs, and the regulation of its procedure." The concrete and detailed contributions to archival knowledge which we hope the Society will make and their dissemination among the members and the public, must come from meetings, publications and committees. This report will treat briefly the work of each of those units.

The council met during the first annual meeting at Washington in June, 1937, and again during the American Historical Association's meetings at Philadelphia in December. These meetings, of which the minutes have been published, were concerned chiefly with organizational problems and with the establishment of the Society's publications.

The agent of the council for the routine administration of the Society's correspondence and for such matters as the collection of dues, the care of the mailing list and the co-ordination of committees is the secretary. Since he is also chairman of the Committee on Membership, he is in a position to observe the growth and character of the interest shown in the Society's activities. The membership has grown from 125 individual and 4 institutional members in December, 1936, to 262 individual and 30 institutional members at present. This includes the 27 individuals and 8 institutions elected to membership by the council at its meeting yesterday. We have lost two members by death, Dr. J. Franklin Jameson and Dr. Tikhon I. Lavrischeff. Four have resigned.

A particular effort has been and will continue to be made to enlist the participation of all state archivists or the persons holding the nearest equivalent positions where no state archivists exist, the custodians of important historical manuscript collections and the archivists of foreign countries who have many problems similar to ours. The key persons in official archival work in twenty-eight states are now members or represent institutional members. The great proportional increase in institutional members is especially valued. Altogether letters or leaflets explaining the Society's purposes and organization were sent to more than four hundred of these and other persons in 1937 and to a more select list of some three hundred in 1938.

Meetings are vital to such an organization as ours, not only for the material actually presented and discussed in formal sessions, but also for the opportunity members of the profession have to meet informally and exchange experiences and ideas. The first annual meeting was attended by 149 members or representatives of institutions, and by a number of visitors. More than a hundred are registered here. In both meetings, the breadth of the Society's interests has been illustrated by the scope of the subjects dealt with in the papers read.

Between its two "annual" meetings the Society held a luncheon conference in conjunction with the American Historical Association's annual session at Philadelphia in December, 1937, which was attended by about a hundred persons. A group of members of the Society met at Seattle at the same time in conjunction with the Pacific Coast Branch meeting of the American Historical Association and a meeting of the state directors of the Historical Records Survey, to hear four papers on archives and historical manuscripts, which were published in the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* for January, 1938. In addition, the District of Columbia members of the Society held two meetings. It is the policy of the council to encourage the gathering of local groups, but it requests that their organizers inform the secretary of their plans and activities. It does not appear that the Society is large enough to warrant formal organization of local chapters.

Arrangements have been made for a joint luncheon with the American Historical Association at Chicago, December 29. Dr. Robert C. Binkley has agreed to address the gathering.

Most significant in the accomplishments of the Society has been the establishment of the quarterly journal, *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, which was preceded by the *Proceedings* volume covering the Providence and Washington meetings. The inauguration of a regular periodical has given the Society not only a medium for the publication of a variety of material, but has also given it a concrete symbol of permanence. The success of the journal has been due in large measure to the labors of Professor Theodore C. Pease as editor, and to the subvention for editorial expenses granted him by the University of Illinois. The cost of publication has been met by funds received as membership dues and subscription fees. It is significant that an increase in membership, espe-

cially of institutions, has been caused by the establishment of the journal, and that THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST has attracted considerable attention outside the Society's membership. It is reviewed or noted in various other journals and bibliographies.

The committees of the Society have had varying degrees of success, depending largely upon the assiduity of the chairmen, upon whom most of the work necessarily devolves. Their relative fields have by now been rather clearly defined, and attention has been given to possible overlappings.

I shall briefly summarize the progress recorded by each committee so far, giving them in the logical order suggested by the committee on organization at the Providence meeting. The work of the Membership Committee has been referred to among the activities of the secretary, but the valued assistance of the other members, Miss Grace Lee Nute, Dr. Charles M. Gates, Dr. Milton H. Thomas and Dr. James W. Moffitt should be acknowledged.

Dr. William D. McCain was recently appointed chairman of the Committee on Public Relations to succeed Dr. Curtis W. Garrison, who resigned from that position. The other members are the Honorable Edward J. Hughes, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, Dr. Lester J. Cappon and Mr. Paul Vanderbilt. Dr. McCain visualizes a program calling for the study of relations of archivists with legislatures, with municipal, county and state officials and with the general public; as well as the collection of material which may be used in newspaper articles, speeches or other means of intelligent publicity.

Dr. James A. Robertson, as chairman of the Committee on Co-operation, has had the assistance of Miss Edna Vosper and Mr. D. L. Corbitt. They have given earnest consideration to the functions of the committee and are anxious to learn from member institutions what the needs for co-operation are and how they can be met. The group proposes to serve as a clearing house for information on archival problems. It has already undertaken a program of co-operation with the Historical Records Survey, in an advisory capacity, on the latter's compilation of a handbook of archival institutions, and foresees the preparation of a handbook on manuscript technique.

The Committee on International Relations has assisted the secretary of the Society in the preparation of a list of foreign archivists to whom information concerning the Society was sent, and both of its members, Dr. Waldo G. Leland and Dr. Roscoe R. Hill, have traveled abroad and gathered information on archival economy and administration. Dr. Leland has just resigned as chairman of that group.

A list of terms frequently used but in need of definition has been drawn up by the Committee on Terminology and sent to a number of persons for comment by Dr. Nelson M. Blake, chairman of the committee. He has been assisted in seeking definitions by the other two members, Dr. Morgan P. Robinson and Dr. Ruth Ketring Nuremberger. It is hoped that the list will be given further publicity and that all members of the Society who have comments will

give them freely to Dr. Blake. The list is arranged in groups so that any person can select a small number of words related to his particular field to work upon.

The report of the Committee on the Training of Archivists was read at this meeting by Dr. Samuel F. Bemis, and I need not discuss it here beyond saying that in its preparation he had the counsel of the remainder of his committee, Dr. R. D. W. Connor, Dr. Theodore C. Pease, Dr. Ralph H. Lutz and Dr. Herbert E. Bolton.

Miss Margaret C. Norton explained at this meeting the work of her Committee on Classification and Cataloguing, which has co-operated in the preparation of the new edition of the catalogue rules of the Illinois State Library and has considered other pertinent problems. The other members are Mr. John R. Russell and Dr. Roscoe R. Hill.

The Committee on Equipment and Mechanical Techniques has worked so far mostly by the participation of its members in the work of allied organizations. Dr. Robert C. Binkley, the chairman, now plans serious study of a special problem, the comparative advantages of various types of boxes or other containers for the preservation of manuscripts. Dr. Vernon D. Tate and Mr. Arthur E. Kimberly have taken part in scientific developments of which a good deal was heard in another session of this meeting.

The chairman of the Committee on the Reduction of Archival Material, Mr. Emmett J. Leahy, has compiled an analysis of provisions made in various foreign countries for the disposal of valueless records and has filed a copy of his paper in the office of the secretary, where it is available for consultation. He and a second member, Miss Helen Chatfield, appeared as individuals before a Congressional committee considering a proposed revision of the federal legislation covering the appraisal and disposal of records. The whole committee, consisting of the two persons already mentioned and Dr. Alexander C. Flick, has studied types of materials that come up for consideration for possible destruction, and has written a general discussion of it under the headings of routine form matter which accumulates year after year, extra copies of record material which are not intended to go into official files and other types which must be appraised each according to its special circumstances. Miss Chatfield and Mr. Leahy have developed an especially practical viewpoint on this problem in working on the reduction of archival material in the Treasury Department and its outlying offices. Both of them, it may be added, are to study these procedures in Europe next spring.

Dr. C. C. Crittenden, in his report, has outlined certain immediate objectives for the Committee on the Publication of Archival Materials. The plan has been drawn up in consultation with the other members, Dr. Randolph G. Adams, Dr. Solon J. Buck and Dr. Luther H. Evans. Immediately, Dr. Crittenden feels, the committee should "stimulate and aid the publication of archival material. Throughout the country are vast quantities of such material which ought to be made available to the public in published form, and the com-

mittee should promote such an accomplishment in every way possible. Non-archival or partly non-archival manuscript collections ought to be included in this phase of the committee's work." He hopes that moral encouragement can be given, and that financial aid can be sought, from federal, state and local governmental units, from the foundations and from private individuals. A second immediate objective of that committee is the standardization of form for the publication of archival materials. Through the Historical Records Survey the committee has secured the services of Miss Porter Cowles, of the University of North Carolina Press, who has undertaken a project which it is planned will result in a manual of style.

The Society has a Committee on Motion Pictures and Sound Recordings, on which Mr. John G. Bradley, chairman, has enlisted the co-operation of Mr. John E. Abbott and Professor Frederick C. Packard. So far this group has only indicated that it might be a clearing house for the exchange of information. Its members are participating in various projects of other organizations in the motion picture field.

Mr. S. W. Boggs, chairman of the Committee on Maps and Charts, has begun his work by tackling the problem of definition. The first result is a request that the committee's name be simply the Committee on Maps. This and other phases of the report are concurred in by the other members, Dr. W. L. G. Joerg, Mr. Lloyd A. Brown and Miss Clara Egli. Mr. Boggs has outlined a number of problems in (1) the differences between archival maps and other archival materials, and (2) the differences between archival maps and non-archival maps. He proposes to have the committee explain these problems in an article or pamphlet to be prepared in the coming year.

In the last few months a Committee on Business archives has been appointed, with Mr. Oliver W. Holmes as chairman, and Dr. Henrietta Larson, Dr. William D. Overman and Dr. Herbert A. Kellar as members. The group has had little time for activity so far, but Mr. Holmes has suggested a nine-point program, including the collection of information on archival work on business records and of data on trade and management associations in their relation to record problems; the development of means to prevent wanton destruction of business records; and the stimulation of interest on the part of business organizations and officials.

The Society has had one other committee, a special one appointed to study the work of the Historical Records Survey. Due to the absence from the country of Dr. Waldo G. Leland, who was appointed chairman, no other members were named, and no report has been submitted.

In conclusion I would say that the membership and the work of the Society is gradually evolving from its commendably enthusiastic organizational period to a more substantial phase. It is apparent at this meeting that everyone present is here for a purpose. There is not only earnestness but real substance to the materials published in the *Proceedings* and THE AMERICAN ARCHI-

VIST. And the committees are gradually working into programs of study and production which will extend as continuing projects over a long period of time. I think the Society can well be pleased to have reached this stage so soon, but am sure that it must not relax its efforts in a spirit of complacency. It is still very young and still has many rough places to be smoothed out. In working toward that end, I wish to express my appreciation of the co-operation of all the members, and particularly of the officers and council members, the editor and the committee chairmen.

PHILIP C. BROOKS, *Secretary*

More than sixty members of the Society and others interested attended the joint luncheon held with the American Historical Association during the annual meeting of the latter organization in Chicago on December 29, 1938. Dr. Robert C. Binkley, of Western Reserve University, spoke on "Strategic Objectives of Archival Policy." He emphasized the need for recognition of the usefulness of historical records to the public as well as to the professional scholar, and emphasized the importance of the public relations of archival institutions. Dr. James A. Robertson, of the Maryland Hall of Records, presided over the meeting and led the discussion, which was largely devoted to business archives. Dr. William D. Overman, of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society and a member of the Society's Committee on Business Archives, discussed the need of showing how business records can be used, and how business organizations can protect their own interests by preservation of records. Dr. Solon J. Buck, of the National Archives, pointed out that the makers of archives must be instructed as to how to select materials for preservation, and how to keep them. Others who took part in the discussion were Dr. James F. Kenney, director of research in the Public Archives of Canada; Miss Margaret C. Norton, of the Illinois State Archives; Dr. Thomas P. Martin, of the Library of Congress; Dr. Lester J. Cappon, of the University of Virginia; Dr. Edwin A. Davis, of Louisiana State University; Howard E. Colgan, of the Historical Records Survey; J. Edward Boell, of the Historical Records Survey; Miss Alice E. Smith, of the Wisconsin Historical Society; Prof. Theodore C. Pease, of the University of Illinois; and Dr. Philip C. Brooks, of the National Archives.

Four members of the Society of American Archivists attended the luncheon at the White House on December 10 at which President Roosevelt discussed his plans to give all his "correspondence, public papers, pamphlets, books, etc.," to the United States government upon his retirement from public life. Under the plan a building will be erected at Hyde Park, New York, to house the materials adequately, and the title to the building and its contents will be vested in the government, under the primary responsibility of the archivist of the United States, upon the passage of the necessary legislation by Congress.

The President stated that while he knew that the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the New York State Library, Harvard University and the New York State Historical Society would be glad to have the collection, he wished to have it placed where it would be kept intact and where he could work with it during his lifetime and assist in its maintenance. Members of the Society who were present at the luncheon were R. D. W. Connor, archivist of the United States and member of the council of the Society; Julian P. Boyd, librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and treasurer of the Society; Alexander C. Flick, state historian of New York; and Randolph G. Adams, director of the William L. Clements Library.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The Archivist of the United States announces the appointment of Vernon D. Tate, formerly chief of the Division of Photographic Reproduction and Research, as chief of the new professional Division of Photographic Archives and Research and the resignation of G. Leighton LaFuze, formerly in the Division of Classification, to accept a position as professor of history and political science in the John B. Stetson University. Emmett J. Leahy, of the Division of Treasury Department Archives, is making a round-the-world tour, during which he will study the archival activities of various foreign countries.

Among noteworthy groups of records recently received by the National Archives from the Adjutant-General's Office are correspondence and other papers of the secretary of war and of the headquarters of the Army, 1800-1903; original records of discontinued military posts, units and geographical commands, 1835-1912; original muster rolls, 1818-1865, and strength returns, 1812-1898, of volunteer troops in various wars; manuscript documents and maps used in compiling the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*; and records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872. A selection of military maps and maps resulting from geographical explorations and surveys, most of which fall between 1789 and 1894, is in process of transfer from the Office of the Chief of Engineers.

The transfer of most of the records of the Office of Indian Affairs through 1921, with some series extending through 1936, has now been completed. Received with this material were records of the former Alaska Division of the Office of Education, 1883-1931, and of the Board of Indian Commissioners, 1869-1933. Other recent transfers include records of the Bureau of the Mint and of its predecessor, the United States Mint, 1792-1932; national bank examiners' reports with related correspondence, 1863-1930, and records relating to Federal Reserve notes and currency, 1914-1936, from the Office of the Controller of the Currency; correspondence and other papers from the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, 1879-1930; practically all the records of the Forest Service, 1898-1915, including the significant "Pinchot files";

correspondence of the Hydrographic Office of the Navy Department, 1862-1925; and records of the United States Shipping Board relating to harbor facilities, protection against submarines, co-operation with Allied nations, recruiting of merchant sailors, litigation and administrative matters, 1917-1925.

Among the records in the custody of the National Archives are many millions of folded documents that should be unfolded and flattened to prevent unnecessary wear. To speed up this work on the old pension records received from the Veterans' Administration, a Works Progress Administration project employing over 350 workers has been set up; and during the first month of its operation over a million and a half documents were treated.

As a method of training and stimulating the interest of members of the staff of the National Archives, that institution has inaugurated a series of inter-office informational circulars known as the "Staff Information Circulars." They will be issued from time to time and will deal with archival history and economy in general and the National Archives in particular. The writing of experts both within and without the institution will be drawn upon. The first issue contains an article on "Archival Training in Prussia" and as supplements a decree concerning admission to the archival service by the Prussian *Staatsarchiv* and the regulations of the Prussian Institute for Archival Science and for Advanced Studies in the Historical Sciences. This material was translated by Dr. Andrew C. Albrecht of the Historical Records Survey staff.

The three-day holiday meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, scheduled to open at Stanford University, California, on December 28, 1938,¹ included in its program a joint conference of organizations interested in state and local historical study. The desire for such a meeting was an outgrowth of the new interest in local history that has been stimulated by the activities of the Historical Records Survey. The meeting was called on the initiative of Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Scammell, field supervisor of the Historical Records Survey.

It was expected that as part of the program Major General Albert J. Bowley, commanding general of the Ninth Corps Area, would describe the activities of the Survey of Federal Archives for Northern California, which is at work on a history of the area under his jurisdiction. General Bowley was instrumental in establishing this project and his interest in the archives under his control has contributed much to its success. In order to facilitate the necessary research for the project General Bowley has allowed records from outlying posts in his area to be brought in to headquarters at the Presidio, where they are available to Survey investigators. The ambitious nature of this work, using the

¹THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST went to press before a report of this meeting could be secured.

military and civil archives of an extensive area as source material for a history, has already attracted nation-wide attention.

This meeting is expected to stimulate interest in local historical studies and encourage amateur historians to realize upon their opportunities.

The appointment of William J. Van Schreeven as principal archivist in the Virginia State Library has been announced. Mr. Van Schreeven, who has been in the Classification Division of the National Archives for two and a half years and has pursued graduate studies in history at Columbia University, began his duties at Richmond on January 1, 1939.

ABSTRACTS OF ARCHIVE PUBLICATIONS

WESTERN EUROPE

Archivalische Zeitschrift

Volume 41 (1932)

ERDMAN, CARL, Vatikanische Analekten zur Geschichte Ludwigs des Bayern (Analecta Vaticana for the history of Louis the Bavarian). A. Z. 41:1-47 (1932).

The *Assistent am Preussisch-Historischen Institut* at Rome presents an inventory of 129 documents pertaining to German history of the fourteenth century. The inventory is well annotated and supplied with an index and bibliography of other publications concerning this collection of documents.

BOCK, FRIEDRICH, Der älteste Kaiserliche Wappenbrief (The oldest imperial letter of heraldry). A. Z. 41:48-55 (1932).

An analysis and description of this letter dated February 8, 1338. A copy found recently in the Geheime Hausarchiv at Munich led to the discovery of the original in Biblioteca comunale at Bologna.

WALTER, ANTON JULIUS, Die echten und die gefälschten Privilegien des Stifts St. Florian und ihre Stellung in der Verfassungsgeschichte (The authentic and the forged charters of the St. Florian chapter-house and their relation to constitutional history). A. Z. 41:56-105 (1932).

A detailed account of these forgeries and their historical background by the *Wissenschaftlicher Beamter an des Nationalbibliothek* at Vienna. The forgeries illustrate a phase of the contest between secular and ecclesiastical authorities in the thirteenth century.

THEIL, VICTOR, Papiererzeugung und Papierhandel vornehmlich in den deutschen Ländern von den ältesten Zeiten bis zum Beginn des 19. Jahrhunderts. Ein Entwurf (Paper manufacturing and merchandising from the most ancient times until the beginning of the nineteenth century in the German speaking countries. An outline). A. Z. 41:106-151 (1932).

The author treats practically every aspect of his subject except prices. Special emphasis is placed on the shortage of raw material in the paper industry.

DEMETER, KARL, and PANTLEN, HERMANN, Grundsätzliches zur Aufbewahrung und Kassation moderner Wirtschaftsakten. Zwei Vorträge aus dem Reichsarchiv (Fundamental principles in the preservation and sifting of modern economic records. Two lectures delivered at the Reichsarchiv). A. Z. 41:152-166 (1932).

Dr. Demeter, *Archivrat*, assigns the rapid accumulation of economic records to increasing governmental control of private industry. He suggests that the material be classed in four divisions: descriptive, critical, decisional and purely official. *Archivrat* Pantlen considers the problem of sifting. He states that the material should be considered from the point of view of both general history and the history of localities, industries and single firms. Again, the question whether the documents contain direct, first-hand information or summarizations made from direct evidence should be taken into account. Finally the material should be considered from technological as well as general economic aspects.

ROGGE, HELMUTH, *Zeitgeschichtliche Sammlungen als Aufgabe moderner Archive* (The collection of contemporary material as a task for the modern archival establishment). A. Z. 41:167-177 (1932).

Archivrat Rogge emphasizes the value of collections of contemporary materials such as have been collected at the Reichsarchiv. He contends that the archivist's duty compels him to collect handbills, posters and other material which may reveal the forces operating in contemporary society.

GLÜCK, PAUL, *Graphologie und Geschichtsforschung* (Graphology and historical research). A. Z. 41:178-194 (1932).

The *Staatsarchivdirektor* of Bamberg claims that signatures, when studied scientifically, disclose traits of personality and also enable the archivist to detect forgeries. He urges that signatures be reproduced in special volumes and made accessible to research workers.

STOIS, MAX, *Das Recht des Staates an privaten Archivalien* (The state's right to archival material in private possession). A. Z. 41:195-215 (1932).

The *Staatsoberbibliothekar* at Munich describes the decrees of the various German provinces which protect all objects of important scientific, historical and artistic value. However, he notes that, because of the vagueness in definitions, the decrees have never been applied in a definite manner.

BERGMANN, ALFRED, *Warum ist Christian Grabbe nicht lippischer Archivar geworden?* (Why didn't Christian Grabbe become the archivist of Lippe?) A. Z. 41:216-237 (1932).

The *Bibliothekar am Goethe- und Schillerarchiv* at Weimar states that the poet Grabbe was disqualified as an archivist in 1826 as a result of the efforts of German scholars to have the position placed under some civil servant who had completed his professional training.

LINVALD, AXEL, *Das Archivwesen Dänemarks* (Archive economy in Denmark). A. Z. 41:238-281 (1932).

A survey of the origin and development of archival practice in Denmark by the *Raadstuearkivar* of Copenhagen. The survey is in five sections: history, organization, administration, arrangement and municipal archives of Copenhagen.

MEISNER, HEINRICH OTTO, *Internationale Archivorganisationen* (International archival organizations). A. Z. 41:282-289 (1932).

Staatsarchivrat Meisner of Berlin-Dahlem discusses the various international meetings of archivists held since the first international congress of librarians at Paris in 1900. The greater part of the article is devoted to the work of the "Committee of Nine," a group of expert archivists established in 1931 by the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations. The most important problems dealt with by the committee are the following: uniform terminology, the publication of a *Guide Internationale des Archives*, the exchange of archival news and reference tools, the accessibility of archives and the requirements for admission of researchers to the archives.

KUPKE, GEORG, *Die Inventarisierung der nichtstaatlichen Archive in der Provinz Pommern* (Inventorying the nongovernmental archives of Pomerania). A. Z. 41:290 (1932).

A brief description of the work of an historical commission in the province which

is engaged chiefly in preparing inventories of church records. The article is by the *Staatsarchivrat a. D. Stettin*.

SCHMIDT-EWALD, WALTER, *Der gegenwärtige Stand der sächsisch-thüringischen Archivgeschichtsforschung* (The status of research relative to the history of the archives of Saxony and Thuringia). A. Z. 41:290-293 (1932).

The *Staatsarchivrat* briefly outlines the history of the archives in these provinces. The situation is unusually intricate because the authorities which originated the archives were the many petty sovereigns of almost countless principalities.

KRIEG, THILO, *Zur Geschichte des Coburger Landesarchiv* (On the history of the provincial archives of Coburg). A. Z. 41:293-296 (1932).

The *Vorstand* of the *Coburger Landesarchiv* describes the large collection of letters (1770-1905) written by the leading families of the duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. He calls attention to other material in his establishment and the permanent exhibition which includes material covering the period 1169-1913.

GRANZIN, MARTIN, *Das Torgauer Stadtarchiv* (The municipal archives of Torgau). A. Z. 41:296-297 (1932).

Stadtarchivar Granzin calls attention to the valuable material in this repository which consists of municipal registers, council proceedings, bills, statutes and tax lists in practically complete series from the sixteenth century.

HELLEINER, KARL, *Fortschritte im kommunalen Archivwesen Österreich* (Advance in the communal archive economy of Austria). A. Z. 41:297-299 (1932).

According to the *Stadtarchivar* of St. Polten, the local governments of Austria are becoming increasingly interested in caring for their archives. Instead of forwarding them to a central repository the archives are administered, in some localities, by itinerant experts.

BRACKMANN, ALBERT, *Die deutschen Stadtarchive* (The German municipal archives). A. Z. 41:299-303 (1932).

The *Generaldirektor* of the *Preussische Staatsarchive* emphasizes the value of municipal records to students of government and administration as well as to local historians. He emphasizes the need for the strict compliance with rules requiring the deposit of noncurrent records. He warns against the tendency to make the archives an adjunct of the library or museum; each municipality should have an independent archival administration.

SCHÖFFEL, PAUL, XI. Deutschland. A. Z. 41:304-07 (1932).

The title indicates that Schöffel, the *Archivassessor* of Munich is to review German archival literature. However, the article is a review of the *Archivstudien* in honor of Woldemar Lippert which was described in the April issue of this journal (pp. 104-106).

The remainder of this volume of the *Archivalische Zeitschrift* (pp. 309-328) consists of a number of memorials in honor of deceased archivists.

ANDREW C. ALBRECHT

ABSTRACTS OF ARCHIVE PUBLICATIONS

EASTERN EUROPE

Czechoslovakia

Časopis Archivní školy (Journal of the Archives School) is the official journal of the State Archives School (*Státní Archivní škola*), conducted by the Czech State Archives (*Archiv Země České*) in Prague. This journal is published under the auspices of the Ministry of Schools and Public Education (*Ministerstvo školství a Národní Osvěty*) and the Czech Academy of Arts and Sciences (*České Akademie Věd a Umění*) and is also the official organ of the Society of the Archives School (*Společnost Archivní školy*), which was founded April 7, 1923. The publishing of an archival journal appears in the constitution of the society as one of its aims. The organization of the society and the archival training course are patterned after those of the French *École des Chartes*, and *La Société de l'École royale des Chartes*; and the journal is similar to the French journal, *Bibliothèque de l'École des Chartes*.

Časopis Archivní školy, XII (1934)

The first number of this journal appeared in 1923 as an annual. The captioned issue, published in 1936, is the latest copy procurable in the United States. The table of contents shows that it is composed of four main parts: I. Articles (*Clánky*), consisting of historical studies based on archival material; II. Literature (*Literatura*), consisting of book reviews; III. Summaries and Abstracts (*Přehledy a Výtahy*), consisting of analyses and abstracts of archival journals; and IV. Reports (*Zprávy*), consisting of reports of archival activities made by archivists and directors of various national, provincial and municipal archival establishments of Czechoslovakia, as well as news notes regarding archival activities, publications and archivists of other countries. This last section is, by far, the most interesting to American archivists.

I ARTICLES

BARTOŠ, F. M., *Zápisky v breviáři kněze Antocha z Přelouče z let 1422-1432* (Notes in the breviary of the priest Antoch of Přelouč for the years 1422-1432). Pp. 99-110.

MATOUŠ, BOHUSLAV, *Státní konference* (State conference, 1809-1848). First installment. Pp. 1-62.

ROUBÍK, FRANTIŠEK, *Pokus o soupis archivů v Čechách r. 1848* (Experience in inventorying archives in Bohemia in the year 1848). Pp. 90-98.

This article gives a short history and a résumé of the results of the survey of archives conducted in 1848 in Bohemia by the historico-philology faculty (established in 1846) of the Vienna Academy of Arts and Sciences.

TŘÍSKA, KAREL, *Černínský archiv v Jindřichově Hradci* (The Cernin archives in the Jindrich Castle). Pp. 63-90.

A history and description of this collection of archives, some of which date from the fourteenth century.

II BOOK REVIEWS

BATTELI, JULIUS, ed., *Exempla scripturarum*, v. 3, *Acta Pontificum*, Vatican Library, 1933. 36 pp., 40 illus. Reviewed by Zdeněk Kristen, pp. 111-115.

GROSS, LOTHAR, *Die Geschichte der deutschen Reichshofkanzlei von 1559 bis 1806*. Vienna, 1933. 498 pp. Reviewed by Josef Matoušek, pp. 116-129.

SCHOLZ, RICHARD, ed., *Marsilius von Padua. Defensor pacis*. Hannover, Hahn, 1932. 639 pp. Reviewed by F. M. Bartoš, pp. 129-133.

III SUMMARIES AND ABSTRACTS

Archeion, XII (1934). Summarized and abstracted by Em. Janoušek, pp. 133-140.

Archivalische Zeitschrift, IX-X (1934). Summarized and abstracted by Miloslav Volf, pp. 140-149.

Archiv Radjanskoj Ukrainy (Archives of Soviet Ukraina), 1-3 (1932), 6-7 (1933). Summarized and abstracted by Miloslav Volf.

Historico-archival journal of the Central Archival Administration of U. S. S. R., published in Charkov since 1923.

IV REPORTS

MARŠAN, ROBERT, *Za studiem českých prameňů historických v archivech lucemburských* (A study of Czech historical sources in the Luxembourg archives). Pp. 154-159.

A study of and a guide to Czech historical materials in four archival establishments of Luxembourg: (1) State Archives (Archives du Gouvernement), (2) historical section of the Institut Grand-Ducal de Luxembourg, (3) manuscript division of the National Library and (4) the municipal archives of Luxembourg.

JANOŠEK, EM., *Další správy o patrimoniálních archivech* (More reports on patrimonial archives). Pp. 159-170.

A report on the condition, preservation, arrangement, inclusive dates and descriptions of patrimonial archives in various sections of Czechoslovakia, which were surveyed during 1934 by and are under the jurisdiction of the Czechoslovak State Archives of Agriculture (Ceskoslovenský Státní Archiv Zemědělský).

JENŠOVSKÝ, BEDŘICH, *Ze státní školy archivní* (From the State Archives School). Pp. 170-173.

A detailed report of the director of the State Archives School on the sixth archival course completed in July, 1934, giving the names of the faculty and students, the subjects taught and the curriculum for each of the three years comprising the full archival training course as set up in this school. The course of training was reorganized in 1934, at the behest of the Society of the Archives School in co-operation with the Czechoslovak Museum Association, to include training for museum service by adding such subjects as pre-historic archeology, history of art and historical archeology, Czech numismatics and museum economy.

PROKEŠ, JAROSLAV, *Z archivu ministerstva vnitra v Praze* (From the archives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Prague). Pp. 173-175.

A report of the activities during 1934 in the archives of the Ministry of Internal

Affairs, giving changes in personnel, rearrangement, inventorying and cataloguing of records, official publications and professional activities of the staff.

JENŠOVSKÝ, BEDŘICH, *Z archivu země České* (From the Czech State Archives). Pp. 175-180.

The title of this institution was changed in 1934 from *Zemský Archiv Český* to *Archiv země České*. The official report by the director of the Czech State Archives gives a description of the new archives building completed in 1933, which is considered one of the most modern in Europe; the removal of records and administrative offices into the new building, which will entail considerable reinventorying and recataloguing; changes in personnel; the heuristic survey being conducted in Italian, Spanish, Austrian, German and the Vatican archives for Czech historical sources (reproductions or copies of these discovered archives are being made and collected to complete Czech collections); repair and preservation methods; research and reference service; and repair and preservation work. No publications were issued during the year because of the work entailed in moving into the new building. The State Archives School is now housed in the new building of the Czech State Archives.

MORÁVEK, J., *Z archivu Pražského hradu* (From the Municipal Archives of Prague). Pp. 180-181.

This is an official report for the years 1930-1934, giving a detailed statistical report and descriptions of records, maps and charts, photographs, and books accessioned; a discussion of the reproduction of records for the use of searchers, the binding, inventorying and indexing of records; and a list of historical studies published during 1930-1934, which were based on records preserved in this archival establishment.

MACHÁČEK, FR., *Archiv města Plzně* (Municipal Archives of Pilsen). Pp. 182-185.

This is the first report for this establishment since 1926. The accessioning, reorganization, inventorying, cataloguing and use of records; a new method of filing and preserving parchment documents; the activities of the division of manuscripts and literary monuments; and the professional and educational activities of the staff are reported in detail.

ČEPELÁK, VÁCLAV, *Archiv města Hořovic* (Municipal Archives of Hořice). Pp. 185-188.

A report of the archival program in progress in the Municipal Archives of Hořice, with a description of the records, seals, books and manuscripts housed there, which in some cases date from the thirteenth century.

JENŠOVSKÝ, BEDŘICH, *Z Československého ústavu historického v Římě* (From the Czechoslovak Historical Institute in Rome). Pp. 188-192.

This institute was established in 1921 and is directed by a commission appointed for five years by the Ministry of Schools and Public Education. The report for the years 1930-1934 gives the names of receivers of stipends, the subjects of research, and the status, results and publications of special studies. The special reference library of the institute in Rome in 1934 consisted of 5,900 volumes.

Třetí říše a archivy (The Third Reich and the Archives). Pp. 192-193.

A brief explanation of the role of archives in verification of Aryan racial purity of government officials, doctors, attorneys, etc., called for by German laws passed during 1933. *Hamburg im Dritten Reich*, a pamphlet published by the Hamburg

State Archives, is designed to serve as a guide in genealogical research. Of a staff of thirty-two in this particular institution, nineteen are engaged in making genealogical searches, for which prices are quoted.

Nařízení mad'ar. králoského ministerstva kultu a vyučování č. 9,300/1935-III. (Ordinance of the Magyar Royal Ministry of Culture and Religion, No. 9,300/1935-III). P. 193.

Abstract of Ordinance No. 9,300/1935-III, passed January 19, 1935, relating to museum, library and archival administration.

LANDAU, BORIS, Die moskauer Diplomatie an der Wende des XVI. Jahrhunderts. *Jahrbücher für Kultur und Geschichte der Slaven*, x (1934), pp. 100-144.

FELDMANN, PAUL DIELS-FRITZ, Reste eines handschriftlichen und eines gedruckten čechischen Kancionalis. *Ibid.*, pp. 163-174. Reviewed by Miloslav Volf, pp. 193-195. Luigi Schiaparelli. Pp. 195-200.

A life sketch of the eminent Italian archivist and founder of the *Scuola per Bibliotecari ed Archivisti paleografie*, at the University of Florence, who died January 26, 1934. A detailed bibliography of Schiaparelli's archival publications is included.

Kardinál Franz Ehrle. Pp. 200-202.

A life sketch of Cardinal Franz Ehrle, former prefect of the Vatican Library and cardinal archivist and librarian of the Curia Romana, who died March 31, 1934.

Z Československé archivní společnosti (From the Czechoslovak Archival Society). Pp. 202-207.

A report of the activities of the society during the years 1933-1934 in such matters as theoretical and practical archival economy, the organization and preservation of manuscript materials, recommendations for the reorganization of the curriculum of the State Archives School, co-operation with the Czechoslovak Museum Association and the safeguarding of patrimonial archives under the jurisdiction of the Czechoslovak State Archives of Agriculture. The report also lists the authors and titles of papers read at regular meetings of the society.

OLGA P. PALMER