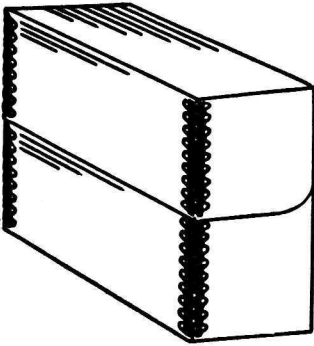


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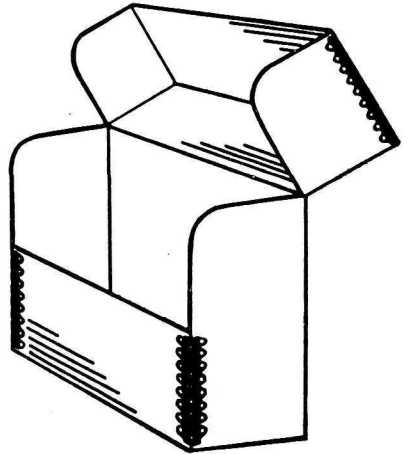
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Reports of State Archivists

By HENRY HOWARD EDDY¹

Pennsylvania Division of Public Records

THE *Comparative Study of State and U. S. Territorial Laws Governing Archives*, compiled by Mary Givens Bryan, Archivist of Georgia and chairman of our Society's State Archives Committee, made generally available last year in mimeographed form, helps greatly in the attempt to secure reports from State archivists. Even with that useful study, however, it is not easy to discover what is developing in the archival agencies of the nation. The first and most obvious difficulty is, of course, that almost exactly half of the States publish no report from their archives. This lack of publication is sometimes, though not always, evidence of the utter lack of a State program for records care. Persons familiar with the workings of State governments will identify other reasons, slightly less obvious.

In many States the brutal fact must be faced that while budget officials may recognize the necessity for protecting records they do not recognize equally the importance of printed reports. In Alabama and in Tennessee, for example, the archives are housed in splendid buildings, but since administrators find that they can check management sufficiently with periodic typed reports, publication does not appear essential.

In other States, especially some with the largest populations, the State archival agency is engaged in a prolonged struggle to establish a modern program, to attain stature as something more than a genealogical agency, and to secure adequate staff and quarters. During such a development, the publication of plans that must perforce remain tentative becomes particularly ill-advised, for rival agencies are alert, watchful for opportunities to promote competing programs. It can be said that such State archives as publish reports are in general established agencies with ample budgets and the power to command their own destinies.

¹ The author has been State Records Officer and chief of the Public Records Division, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, since 1948. He was Vermont State supervisor of the Historical Records Survey, 1940-42. Between 1943 and 1948 he was employed for varying periods with the National Archives, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, the New York State Department of Archives and History, and the North Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Less generally appreciated is the difficulty which arises from current uncertainty regarding the relationship between records management, paperwork, and the more conventional programs which remain typical among the States. What would be proudly trumpeted as an archival triumph by one State is by its neighbor shrugged off as mere records management, meriting no report. It is happily true that in North Carolina, Maryland, Wisconsin, and certain other States, new programs for records management have been blended neatly into agencies long established; but elsewhere the story is different. Notably in Michigan and Rhode Island there are successful records management programs fathered by the National Records Management Council and directed by the respective State Departments of Administration. In each of these States an effective disposal program is active and a records center operates with efficiency, but there appears to be regrettably slight connection between the management of this fine work dealing with recent records and the agency for State archives. During 1955 neither State submitted a report on its archives; Michigan, however, published in July 1954 a 16-page processed booklet entitled *Records Management Program*; and the Rhode Island development is explained clearly by Howard A. Kenyon's article, "Government Looks at Records Management," in the *Proceedings of the First Annual Conference on Records Management*, published by New York University in 1955. Doubtless other similar reports lurk in obscurity. It is sad that we cannot agree as to just what archives work is.

At the other extreme stand certain of the State historical societies that purport to be archival agencies while reflecting in their publications very little as to their archival activities. Notable in this respect is the Nebraska State Historical Society, resplendent in a new building, which reports in *Nebraska History* for December 1955 a sweeping program including work with a variety of private manuscripts but evidences no concern whatever with public records. The archival field yet remains fluid; we appear incapable of defining more than its approximate limits. Just possibly, however, when we do have those limits neatly established we shall discover that much of the joy of professional experimentation has been lost.

Fourteen States from which reports are usually submitted failed to send in reports during 1955: Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming. For most of these, this was the off-year between biennial reports.

Twenty-two States submitted no reports whatever or reports so

fragmentary as to be without meaning: Alabama, California, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia.

Reports from the 12 States and 2 Territories that did send in their summaries this year demonstrate the usual wide divergence in content, style, and format. To conserve space, this very rapid run-through emphasizes factual content with a minimum of comment as to form.

The ARKANSAS History Commission has charge of official records and in 1953 was provided with \$50,000 to construct a vault but nothing for equipment. A subsequent budget cut made necessary saving \$3,600 by omitting to appoint an archivist. Among 14 plans for future development, is the following statement: "Selection of records from the great mass of those in custody now of the Secretary of State (at that official's request) for archives. Here is a great potential source for enrichment of our MS. collections." The Arkansas report is dated January 29, 1954.

In CONNECTICUT, State and local archives dating back to 1636, minutely indexed, are in the custody of the State Library. Control over local records rests with the State Records Examiner, Harold S. Burt, who annually visits 169 town clerks' offices and 119 probate offices. The Library Building, which dates from 1910, is now crammed, and an active campaign is afoot to obtain both a bomb-proof vault and a records center. A program for records management in the State government is beginning.

The program of the GEORGIA Department of Archives and History is presented in 17 mimeographed pages supplemented by bulky appendixes. This report is unique in that it was prepared by the State Archivist, Mrs. Bryan, expressly for presentation to her fellow archivists at their 1955 annual meeting. It sketches the Archives from its founding in 1918 and shows expansion within the last 5 years to provide extensive microfilm facilities, a records center, and a second Barrow Laminator, outsize for repairing maps.

From INDIANA, where the archives is located within the State Library, an annual report of 6 typed pages covering the fiscal year 1954-55 shows a records intake totaling 66 drawers, 4 volumes, and over 2,000 items. Currently a combination of weeding and microfilming is cutting down the volume of records within the Archives itself. The microfilming program is modest but apparently effective.

For KANSAS, the State Historical Society, in the Spring 1956 issue of its *Historical Quarterly*, reports an archival program of notable scope. There is much microfilming but apparently no attempt either to promote or to regulate the destruction of official records. The Society furnishes to the public certified copies of census records without charge and, as might be anticipated, does a rushing business. In 1955 it issued 15,107 certificates, chiefly to persons seeking retirement and social security benefits.

At the MARYLAND Hall of Records expanded activities have made space in the fine building inadequate, and hope stirs for a records center in a new State office building and even possibly for a second, at Baltimore. The relatively new records management program at Annapolis has become stable in personnel and procedure and is showing results in disposals promoted, in disposal schedules operating, and in an increase of microfilming. Unfortunately, legal restrictions have nullified plans for saving space through the destruction of permanent records after filming. Microcopies have been ruled inadequate for evidential purposes, but this impediment may yet be removed by the legislature.

In MASSACHUSETTS an Archives Division and a Public Records Division operate separately, but both under the Secretary of the Commonwealth. That officer, in his report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1955, comments very briefly on activities in each of these divisions. It appears that the Massachusetts Archives is chiefly an office for the routine recording of certain instruments and that it lacks both the staff and the space essential for getting control over the older records and providing adequate service on them. The Supervisor of Public Records works with custodians of records in the cities and towns, approves the ink, carbon paper, typewriter ribbons, and stamp pads used on records, and inspects and approves safes and vaults. He has also certain responsibilities regarding binding. In neither division does the program sound vital or inspiring.

In the 1953-55 biennial report of the MISSISSIPPI Department of Archives and History, William D. McCain, leaving to become a college president after serving for over 17 years as Department Director, summarizes accomplishments during his regime and charts a program for future development. Notable features in current archival activity in Mississippi are the acquisition of 24 rolls of microfilm containing Spanish records, 1781-98, a shift to flat filing for all private manuscripts, and a flourishing hope that a records

center may shortly be authorized in the recently-vacated Old Capitol at Jackson.

In NEW JERSEY the State Archives has been chiefly engaged with records management. Microfilming of records has been extensive, disposal and retention schedules have been established for many agencies, a small records center has been put in operation, and there is hope for a larger center. In October 1954 the Archivist left to enter the employ of the Lockheed Aircraft Corp., and at the end of the fiscal year he had not been replaced.

The VIRGINIA State Archives operates as a division within the State Library. Three pages of the Library's *Report* for 1955 show very active use of records, especially of those on microfilm, and an intake during the year of public records totaling 140,033 items and 493 volumes, and of numerous private manuscripts as well. Continuing is a heavy program for restoring records volumes, a work paid for by several patriotic societies. Currently operating and to be completed next year is a project for locating and microcopying the colonial records of Virginia now existing in British repositories.

From WASHINGTON comes a letter stating that prospects for archival work there appear improved by the transfer of the staff (an archivist, an assistant archivist, and two microfilm operators) to the Department of General Administration from the Department of Public Instruction. It is obvious that in Washington, as in many other States, records administration dominates the archives.

In WISCONSIN a relatively recent records administration setup has been successfully united with the long-established State Historical Society. The new program is under the direction of a competent alumnus of the National Archives, Jesse Boell. Clearly Wisconsin uses the Federal records pattern, cut down to State size. No report is printed, but 7 pages of compact typing tell of many disposals stimulated, of notable accessions from important State agencies, of continued success in the operation of the interesting regional depositories for local records, of assistance afforded to State agencies with problems of records management, of expansion of space available for archives, and of the launching of a records center providing 4,000 square feet for economical and efficient storage of less permanent records. At Madison records management is really in its stride.

From HAWAII comes a letter and a processed annual report of three pages covering 1954-55, with three additional quarterly reports bringing the story through March 1956. The hard work of settling into the new building continues, extensive reorganization of

both collections and established procedures is gradually putting the work on a more strictly archival basis, and a much-needed program for guiding records disposal in the governmental agencies is under way.

ALASKA, so young, so sparse, and so frigid, can scarcely be expected to possess extensive archives, but from Alaska comes one note worth attention. The *Annual Report of the Governor of Alaska* for 1955 refers to the accession by the Historical Library and Museum of a "Skookum Paper," dated 1881, which called upon all Indians to refrain from making "Hoochinoo." Obviously this was an antifreeze.

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The Society of American Archivists Reports for the Year 1955-1956¹

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

October 10, 1956

The Council was called to order at 4:30 p.m. on October 10, 1956, in President Posner's suite at the Willard Hotel. Present were the vice president, treasurer, secretary, and editor; and Council members Leon de Valinger, Jr., David Duniway, Wayne Grover, Dolores Renze, and Alice Smith.

The President brought the members up to date on the project of a manual for users of archives and manuscript collections being undertaken by Dr. Brooks. There was also discussion of the Council's endorsement of the Louisiana State archives legislation, but no action was considered necessary.

On the question of the publication by the State librarians association touching on the archival function in the States, on which the Council had acted earlier, it was reported that the chairman of the State records committee, Mary G. Bryan, was to meet with the president of the librarians' group, Ralph Hudson, and the Council would be kept informed.

The Council passed a motion unanimously endorsing an earlier decision that had not been published, making G. Philip Bauer of the National Archives editor of the Society for a term of 3 years commencing with the January 1957 issue of the *American Archivist*. The Council then decided that Karl Trever should not only be the subject of a resolution of thanks by the Society but that in recognition of his labor of 6 years for the continuous improvement of the Society's journal he should be awarded a life membership in the Society.

Consideration of the recommendations of the *ad hoc* committee on the filming of Confederate military records in the National Archives was left to the new Council.

The *ad hoc* committee of the Council on the sale of microfilm copies of the *American Archivist* reported, and its motion to permit the sale of microfilm sets of the journal, vols. 1-19, for the price of \$50 was adopted.

A document circulated by a library group concerning the archival function in colleges and universities was referred to the appropriate committee for consideration.

After a report on the status of the directory project by the secretary it was moved that the new editor be instructed to proceed with the completion of the task and be permitted to incur obligations up to \$100 for the employment of help.

The president submitted his report suggesting a national program "to insure

¹ Additional reports will be published in the April 1957 issue.

the care and preservation of our archival heritage." This was to be done through the Society with the help of outside funds. The text was reviewed for minor changes in wording and then the Council passed a motion to accept it in principle. Its implementation was accordingly left to the incoming administration.

The Council moved to have the Society's membership presented with a resolution congratulating Theodore Schellenberg on the publication of his *Modern Archives: Principles and Techniques*.

The acceptance of the final report on the fellowship proposal under study by the Committee on Professional Standards and Training had to be postponed until that group had its final meeting at 9 p.m. that evening. Accordingly at 6:30 the Council adjourned until 10:00.

The Council reconvened at the same place at 10:30 with all members present.

Chairman Radoff of the Committee on Professional Standards and Training was present and explained the last revision made by his committee at a meeting which had just adjourned. He then presented the committee's report to the Council [printed below on p. 65. *Ed.*].

A motion was carried to accept this report as presented. Another motion directed the committee to prepare the necessary constitutional amendment for carrying out the purpose of its report. And a third motion was passed expressing the gratitude of the Council for the committee's long deliberative work. Finally, the secretary was instructed to read the fellowship proposal at the general meeting of the Society on October 11 and to report on the Council's action.

The Council adjourned at about 11:30 p.m.

HENRY J. BROWNE, *Secretary*

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

October 12, 1956

The Council was called to order at 2:15 p.m. on October 12, 1956, in room 801 of the Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., by Lester J. Cappon, newly elected president. Also present were the vice president, treasurer, secretary, and editor, and Council members Mary G. Bryan, Leon deValinger, Jr., David C. Duniway, Wayne C. Grover, and Lucille Kane.

President Cappon brought to the Council's attention information conveyed by Clifford Lord, president of the American Association for State and Local History, that the association's council has under consideration invitations to meet in 1958 at the following cities: Salt Lake City, St. Paul, and Philadelphia. The association, through its president, expressed a desire to meet in the same place as the Society of American Archivists. It was moved by Mr. Duniway, seconded by Mr. deValinger, and unanimously carried: That the president and secretary be directed to coordinate the invitations and present the matter

to the Council at an early date for final designation of the 1958 meeting place. The invitations pending for 1958, from Denver, Colorado, and Jackson Hole, Wyoming, were withdrawn by their sponsors in order to simplify consideration.

The Council was declared in open session at this point to receive a committee from the National Association of State Libraries represented by the following: Ralph Hudson, president, Edna L. Jacobsen from the New York State Library, and Margaret Pierson from the Indiana State Library. Present as representatives from the Committee on State Records of the Society of American Archivists, were Gust Skourdas, Philip Mason, and Lola Homsher. Mary G. Bryan, chairman of the State Records Committee for the Society, introduced Mr. Hudson, State Librarian and Archivist of Oklahoma and an esteemed member of our own Society. Mrs. Bryan then read the *Archives* section of the State Library Association's brochure and the resolution contained in its annual report of 1955, published in July 1956. Mrs. Bryan gave a brief resumé of the background which prompted the Society of American Archivists' resolution of May 29, 1956 (printed in our October 1956 issue, p. 371). Open and friendly discussion ensued, with each committee member expressing his views and acknowledging areas of mutual interest. The desirability of proposing a joint committee of the two organizations to foster a closer relationship was also discussed. Mr. Hudson indicated that he would bring the matter before his board at its midwinter meeting in January. President Cappon expressed appreciation to Mr. Hudson and his committee, as well as the State Records Committee, for meeting with the Council.

After a brief discussion, the Council resumed its meeting, and a motion was made by Mr. Angel and seconded by Mr. Duniway: That the Council reaffirm its position as expressed in its resolution and offer to be represented at the NASL midwinter or annual meeting to confer on the desirability of a joint committee. The motion was unanimously carried.

At this point in the meeting a report was heard from Charlotte Capers, chairman of the *ad hoc* committee on the filming of the Confederate military records in the National Archives. The following, on recognition of the President, requested permission to abstain from discussion because of their official positions in the National Archives: Dr. Grover, Dr. Bauer, and Mr. Angel. The report was received by the secretary and placed on file. Miss Capers explained to the Council that the specific records to be microfilmed are limited to:

1. The *carded* record (abstracts of the original record). These consist of 4 x 8 cards with overlays and appended slips. Their condition is extremely fragile and they present a tedious and difficult 35 mm. flat-bed microfilm project.
2. Index cards, 4 x 8, which would be routine and simple to microfilm.

She also reported that the National Archives is in the process of revising its earlier estimates of the cost of filming the carded records. It is a matter of later information that the index cards for several States have already been filmed and do not present a difficult problem. It is understood that the part of the report relating to costs will be revised. On motion of David Duniway,

seconded by William Overman, the Council voted approval of the proposed program to film Confederate military records as a means of publication and security of essential genealogical records of the National Archives.

On behalf of interested members of the Society of American Archivists, Mr. deValinger presented a request that consideration be given to appropriate means of expediting applications for funds for microfilming records under the Federal Civil Defense Administration's Contributions Program. The subject is of particular interest to those of the profession who are engaged in State, county, and municipal record programs. Presentation and discussion of problems encountered under the various aspects of the program concluded in a motion by Mr. deValinger, seconded by Mr. Angel, with unanimous concurrence of the Council: To empower the president to communicate with the national director of the Federal Civil Defense Administration, offering the services of an advisory committee from the Society of American Archivists to recommend standards and criteria for the microfilming of vital State and local government records and to advise in the matter of screening requests, if desired. The president delegated Mr. deValinger to prepare a letter to the Federal Civil Defense Administrator and to consult with him on the appointment of the advisory committee. The urgency for expeditious action in this matter was emphasized.

The treasurer presented a tentative budget proposal for the year ending June 30, 1957. He directed the Council's attention to the difficulty of making a detailed breakdown of proposed expenditures until later, when the program for the current year can be crystallized. The budget proposal was adopted on motion by Mr. Duniway, seconded by Mr. deValinger, subject to necessary adjustments of detail at a later date.

On motion of Miss Kane the meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

DOLORES C. RENZE, *Secretary*

Approved: LESTER J. CAPPON, *President*

Date: *October 25, 1956*

November 5, 1956: The foregoing minutes have been circularized among the officers and Council and reflect additions and corrections as expressed in writing to the secretary.

BUDGET PROPOSAL, YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1957

	Yr. ending 6/30/55 <i>actual</i>	Yr. ending 6/30/56 <i>estimated</i>	Yr. ending 6/30/56 <i>actual</i>	Yr. ending 6/30/57 <i>estimated</i>
1. Cash on hand July 1	\$ 3,194.47	\$ 4,973.88 (incl. sav. account)	\$ 4,973.88	\$ 6,817.06 (incl. sav. account)
RECEIPTS				
2. Membership dues	2,991.05	3,200.00	4,271.97	4,000.00
3. Publications	2,867.83	2,500.00	2,525.64	2,500.00
4. Interest on bond	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
5. Interest on savings account			20.00	60.00
6. Ann. meeting surplus	363.28	(incl. \$100 adv.)	123.27	100.00
7. Other	40.54		2.00	
Receipts (annual)	\$ 6,287.70	\$ 5,725.00	\$ 6,967.88	\$ 6,685.00
Receipts (total)	9,482.17	10,698.88	11,941.76	13,502.06
EXPENDITURES				
8. Administrative		1,000.00		1,000.00
President's Office			25.00	
Secretary's Office	139.60		279.04	
Treasurer's Office	113.11		125.91	
Committees and Special Projects (Directory)	90.50	750.00	90.06 (\$300 obligated)	1,750.00
9. Torch Press	3,982.74	4,100.00	4,318.78	4,500.00
Editor's expenses	89.64	100.00	151.91	150.00 (incl. pur. back issues)
10. Advance to Comm. on Local Arrangements	92.70	100.00	100.00	100.00
11. ICA Dues			34.00	
Expenditures (total)	\$ 4,508.29	\$ 6,050.00	\$ 5,124.70	\$ 7,500.00
12. Cash balance	4,973.88	4,648.88	6,817.06	6,002.06
Less savings account	2,000.00	2,000.00	3,020.00	3,080.00
Checking Acct. Bal.	2,973.88	2,648.88	3,797.06	2,922.06

LESTER J. CAPPON
President

DOLORES C. RENZE
Secretary

WILLIAM D. OVERMAN
Treasurer

Approved by the Council October 12, 1956.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR 1955-1956

The past 12 months in the Society's history may be remembered as the year of the flood—the flood of materials mailed to the membership by an administration as verbose as it was brief.

First to be mailed was a new leaflet on the Society's purposes. The text contained a misprint on the first page where "committee activities" was made to read "activities committee." We are both happy and sad to report that this error got by the membership without comment. Fifteen hundred of these leaflets have been used — an indication of our members' zeal in proselytizing (or perhaps just in filing for reference). This mailing also included a form calling for information for a directory.

The December mailing to the members carried not only President Posner's progress report but also his proposed 3-year plan for giving the Society a permanent secretariat. Returns on this proposal showed 77 members in favor and pledging a total of \$2,583 over the 3-year period, 62 in favor but unable to contribute, and only an even dozen opposed. This was indeed a heartening demonstration of support; but, of course, the amount pledged was nowhere near the \$10,000 estimated as the desired annual figure. Out of this experiment, however, came the Council's resolution that has been put in the form of a constitutional amendment for your consideration tonight — that a new class of institutional sustaining memberships be established, with dues of \$100 to \$500 per year.

The form calling for information for a directory, sent out earlier, was followed during the year — on the direction of the Council — by two later requests to members who had failed to respond. It can now be reported that about 450 rather full entries returned by individual members have been deciphered and transcribed in uniform directory style. The job has now been turned over for completion to the Society's editor, who is responsible for all official publications. Funds are available and designated for this purpose.

Closely related to the idea of getting a listing and description of members into print was the idea of setting up an employment service in the office of the Secretary. Our President, as one who had for some years been discharging this function informally, suggested that it could be more appropriately performed by the Secretary. Only a few inquiries came in during the initial year, but the idea has real possibilities of development.

Well before Christmas occurred the exciting arrival from the Ford Company of boxes that looked like a do-it-yourself kit for maintaining a Thunderbird. They proved to be the archives of the Society. The contents had been put into document cases for the first time and do not seem to be any the worse for care. The problem of finding a permanent home for these records and the records of other offices and committees would seem to warrant some attention.

At the annual joint luncheon of the Society of American Archivists and the American Historical Association on December 29, 1955, a capacity crowd heard Professor Richard Morris of Columbia University speak on "Archives and the Next Fifty Years." At the 1956 joint session at St. Louis, John P. Harrison of the National Archives will read a paper on "Latin American Archives and the Historian in the United States."

The general incoming mail of the Secretary continued to be mostly alluring advertisements from the nation's hotels and badge makers. Fortunately his

name was misspelled in the convention guide book so that he could discard all such mail without scrutiny. He is grateful to his two immediate predecessors for not forwarding what came to them by misdirection and more seriously for their ever-ready counsel.

One function of the Secretary is to report the actions of the Council and to execute its will. Of interest here may be the diplomatic relations of the Society as they came out of the Council meetings. Protest was made to the Association of State Libraries over a too all-inclusive statement on State libraries' jurisdiction over State records. Consultation with representatives of that group is in the offing and should remove any misunderstanding.

A happy agreement was made with the American Association for State and Local History concerning the 1957 meeting at Columbus, Ohio. The Council changed the dates from October 7 and 8, which would have been simultaneous with the SLH meeting in the same city, to the end of the preceding week, October 3-5. An exchange of announcements was made with the association before the two conventions of this week. Of particular interest to southern members was the appointment by the Council of an *ad hoc* committee under Miss Charlotte Capers on the filming of Confederate military records in the National Archives, and this committee is about ready to make its final report.

A long endorsed project of the Society seems to be now attainable. The Council approved in general an outline by Philip Brooks of a manual for users of archives and historical manuscripts. Dr. Brooks was instructed that the Society, subject to the approval of its board of editors, would publish this manual under its auspices. Dr. Brooks reports his work well under way, materials gathered, several chapters in partial draft, and detailed outlines tested on probable users. He hopes to have a completed manuscript by the next annual meeting.

It should be mentioned here also that after much brain racking, soul searching, and thought pilfering President Posner has submitted and had approved in principle at yesterday's Council meeting "a program to insure the care and preservation of our archival heritage." The implementation of this program for persuading a foundation to lend support to our profession will have to be left to the new administration.

Coming down to the near future, the Council last night endorsed the proposal of the Committee on Professional Standards and Training on the question of designating fellows of the Society. The report was accepted with a vote of commendation to Dr. Radoff's committee, which was instructed further to prepare a constitutional amendment for submission to the 1957 convention to put the idea into effect. The Secretary was directed to read the committee's report at this assembly in order to acquaint the members with the proposed action.

The other regular committees of the Society showed equal devotion in their work this year. They were reconfirmed or realigned last fall. As always, owing to various circumstances, some have borne fruit this year while others are in the not too gratifying middle of things.

Dolores Renze and 18 area chairmen sparked the all important membership committee. The year's membership included 579 individual members, 80 institutional members, 9 life members, 6 honorary members, and 282 subscribers to make a total of 956 as against 860 a year ago. The membership committee also assembled for the nominating committee information about past officials and committee chairmen who have served the Society.

Brief summaries of the work of the other committees follow.

The Audio-Visual Records Committee has not yet completed its definitive study of techniques for the care of record copies of film and sound recordings. Five important writings on the subject were, nonetheless, made available to interested members of the Society. This committee regrets that its resources are not drawn upon more fully by the general membership.

The Committee on Bibliography under Lester W. Smith has prepared a listing of 520 items, printed in the October 1956 issue of our journal. It has continued to be selective in the fields of record management and foreign archival publications. This committee has also answered inquiries from other bibliographers.

The Committee on Buildings and Equipment gave advice particularly to the Jewish Research Institute in New York City and the State Records Center at Lansing. It completed an extensive questionnaire for the use of the Third International Congress of Archivists and answered a number of other inquiries.

The Committee on Business Records, under chairman Robert Lovett, completed an extensive report on current practices in the handling of business records in libraries, which is to be published as an article in the *American Archivist*.

The Committee on College and University Records has been recruiting members in its appropriate circle and answering inquiries, and on October 10, 1956, it brought together about two dozen members in a special meeting to discuss its peculiar problems.

The Church Records Committee, under the Rev. Edmund L. Binsfeld, has submitted a preliminary critical bibliography of 105 titles. It hopes soon to complete and publish the work and to this end it solicits aid from the general membership.

The Committee on Municipal Records has had the cooperation of the American Municipal Association. The March 1956 issue of the association's publication carried a message formulated by the committee's chairman, Charles E. Hughes, Jr., which reached and got a reaction from cities throughout the country.

The Committee on Labor Records so far has been frustrated in its attempt to obtain the blessing of labor's hierarchy for the circularizing of labor organizations. This is the only part of its work in locating and describing labor records that remains to be accomplished.

The Committee on Preservation Methods is in the midst of collecting data on the problem of salvaging water-soaked documents.

The Committee on Records Management got well along in its project to

gather information on the record management programs in State and local governments. Forty-one States and three Territories replied, but information chiefly from local units remains to be collected.

The Committee on State Records, under Mary G. Bryan, has revised the handbook on State and Territorial laws governing archives and has supervised the preparation of four further reports on microfilming, disposal and destruction laws, salary schedules, and replevin laws. Its annual dinner meeting on October 10, 1956, was a huge success.

The Secretary submits that these reports — and they have come in from every committee — are an indication of great vitality in this Society. It is apparent that in the year just ended our retiring president has been particularly successful in exploiting this vitality. Neither father figure, nor healthy invalid, nor constant golfer, he has still made the 20th year the best of our Society's life. May his spirit of imaginative and scholarly leadership continue long among us! It has been a real pleasure for the Secretary to be so closely associated with him and with Bill Overman and Karl Trever, with the members of the Council and committee chairmen, and with the ever helpful Torch Press. A group more dedicated to its cause than this Society does not exist in these United States. That cause is the cause of truth in many of its less glamorous and more tedious aspects.

HENRY J. BROWNE, *Secretary*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TRAINING

For some years the Society of American Archivists has considered the possibility of electing as fellows of the Society of American Archivists certain members selected for this honor by an agency of the Society. After several discussions by the Council, the task of determining the advisability of such a class of members, the criteria for their selection, the method of nomination and election, and other related problems was assigned to the Committee on Professional Standards and Training by President Grover. This committee was asked by President Radoff and again by President Posner to continue its study.

Your committee has understood from the beginning the controversial nature of the proposal. Its deliberations in meetings and by correspondence have been slow, even pedestrian, but we have felt that the committee at least should finally be of one mind. Majority and minority reports would serve only to remove the controversial issues from the committee room to the convention hall, where such differences as had existed within the committee would inevitably be multiplied.

We are, therefore, especially pleased to report unanimous agreement on all the important problems involved as well as on some others that are of secondary importance or purely procedural in nature. We feel confident that the recommendations in the body of our report will furnish a sound basis for a beginning at least and that procedural difficulties that may arise after our proposal has

been put into effect ought not to be serious enough to require the attention of our committee.

Although it was not perhaps a part of the task assigned us, we should like to state, first of all, that we were unanimous in our feeling that general membership should remain open to anyone interested in our Society for whatever reason and that some of us felt strongly that unless open membership is maintained, no special class of "fellow" ought to be created.

1. Your committee is in favor of the election of certain members of the Society of American Archivists to a special class of membership, those so elected to be known as Fellows of the Society of American Archivists.

2. The number of members so designated should not be less than 10 percent or more than 15 percent of the total membership reported at the last general meeting of the Society.

3. Election of fellows should be by a majority of all the members of the Committee on Professional Standards and Training, so long as that committee shall be composed only of past presidents of the Society of American Archivists.

4. No member of the Society should be elected a fellow who has not been a member in good standing of the Society for at least 5 years immediately preceding his election. Moreover, in selecting candidates the committee ought to be guided by certain criteria, as follows:

Advanced educational experience, realistically appraised, in an area of knowledge recognized as essential for an archivist.

Professional experience, ordinarily of 5 years, which should include the exercise of responsibility and should demonstrate the possession of qualities of initiative, resourcefulness, and professional morale.

Writings of superior quality and usefulness.

5. No member of the Society of American Archivists duly elected a fellow should be deprived of this designation so long as he remains a member in good standing of the Society.

MORRIS L. RADOFF, *Chairman*

News Notes

H. B. FANT, *Editor*

National Archives

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

As most members of the Society know, Karl Trever, editor of the *American Archivist* for the past 6 years, and Richard G. Wood, book-review editor for 13 years, have resigned their positions. The Society owes both a great debt of gratitude for their long and unselfish service to the magazine. Mr. Trever, who is still on the staff of the National Archives, has given and will give the new editor his help and advice during the transitional period; and Mrs. Buck and Mr. Fant will provide some continuity on the editorial staff. The new editor repeats Mr. Trever's plea for articles and news notes. The *American Archivist* can be a useful and interesting publication only in so far as Society members and others interested in the archival and record fields cooperate to make it so.

At the International Congress on Archives in Florence, Italy, September 1955, the official delegates of the Society were Solon J. Buck and David C. Duniway. Other members of the Society who attended were Robert H. Bahmer (representing the National Archives), William J. Barrow, Elizabeth H. Buck, Hector Garcia-Chuecos, Philip M. Hamer (representing the National Historical Publications Commission), and Elizabeth E. Hamer.

The following members have joined the Society since May 31, 1956:

Sister Mary Amata, Saint Clara Convent, Sinsinawa, Wis.; Lawrence A. Carnevale, Federal Records Center, New York City; Mary Hester Cooper, University and Educational Archives, University of Kentucky; Boyd Cruise, New Orleans, La.; Dakota Microfilm Service, Denver, Colo.; Robert G. Harris, representative; Roy Sylvan Dunn, Associate Archivist of the Southwest Collection, Texas Technological College; Ivan D. Eyler, Federal Records Center, Fort Worth, Tex.; Forest History Foundation, Inc., St. Paul, Minn.; Elwood R. Maunder, representative; Dora J. Gunderson, Mercy College, Detroit, Mich.; Phebe R. Jacobsen, Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.; Robert L. Jacoby, Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, N. Y.; H. G. Jones, State Archivist, Raleigh, N. C.; Walter Lee Jordan, Tennessee State Archives; Katherine Lambert, Federal Records Center, Fort Worth, Tex.; Rev. Damian E. McGovern, Chancellor, Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa.; Mildred E. Pilger, Federal Reserve System; Irving A. Polster, Archivist, City of Newark, N. J.; John F. Schmidt, Bethel College Historical Library, North Newton, Kans.; Herbie L. Simmons, Regional Director, National Archives and Records Service, Atlanta, Ga.; Orus C. Steely, Federal Records Center, Fort Worth, Tex.; H. J. Swinney, Director, Idaho Historical Society; David E. Turner, National Archives; William H. Work, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg; C. George Younkin, Federal Records Center, Fort Worth, Tex.; and E. J. Zubres, Wolverine Tube Division of Calumet & Hecla, Detroit, Mich.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

Organizations interested in borrowing for official purposes projection prints of the National Archives color-sound motion picture (16 mm.), entitled "Your National Archives," should address their requests to the Regional Director, NARS, General Services Administration, for the region in which their organization is located:

Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island	Region 1 U. S. Post Office & Court House Boston 9, Mass.
New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware	Region 2 250 Hudson St. New York 13, New York
District of Columbia, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands	Regional Office Building, Region 3 7th and D Sts., S.W. Washington 25, D. C.
North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida	Region 4 50 Seventh St., N. E. Atlanta 5, Ga.
Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio	Region 5 219 S. Clark St. Chicago 4, Ill.
Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota	Region 6 2306 E. Bannister Rd. Kansas City 14, Mo.
Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma	Region 7 1114 Commerce St. Dallas 2, Tex.
Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico	Region 8 Bldg. 41, Denver Federal Center Denver 2, Colo.
California, Arizona, Nevada, and Hawaii	Region 9 49 Fourth St. San Francisco 3, Calif.
Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska	Region 10 Naval Air Station Seattle 15, Wash.

Prints of this film may be purchased by organizations and individuals for \$74.70, including reel and shipping case, through the Exhibits and Publications Section, National Archives, Washington 25, D. C. Persons wishing to purchase prints are requested to enclose check or money order in the proper amount with their orders, since special arrangements have been made with the Motion Picture Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, for the processing of prints on order of the National Archives.

National Archives *Bulletin* No. 8, "The Appraisal of Modern Public Records," was published in October 1956. This 46-page work, by T. R.

Schellenberg, Director of Archival Management, discusses the values of public records "in relation to the evidence they contain on the organization and functioning of Government bodies and the information in them on persons, things, and phenomena that were the concern of such bodies." Although it sets forth "no exact standards by which the value of records may be judged, it suggests certain broad approaches that should be taken in appraisal work." Readers of the *American Archivist* can obtain single copies on request from the Exhibits and Publications Section, National Archives, Washington 25, D. C.

Preliminary inventories recently issued and available on request from the Section describe the records of the Federal Communications Commission, the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, the Price Department of the Office of Price Administration, the United States Shipping Board, and the House of Representatives Select Committee to Investigate Real Estate Bondholders' Organizations, 1934-38.

The Photoscience Laboratory at the National Archives has recently been moved into commodious new quarters. Remarkably well equipped and laid out in a manner to permit efficient, economical operations, it provides the agency with one of the best facilities of its kind in the country.

On Constitution Day, September 17, 1956, Franklin G. Floete, Administrator of General Services, announced that in the lobby of each new Federal building constructed under the lease-purchase program specially designed exhibit cases will be installed for the display of parchment facsimiles of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. In announcing the program, Mr. Floete said:

By displaying the great documents of American history in Federal buildings throughout the country, Americans everywhere will have a better chance to renew the inspiration that flows from the knowledge that American liberty under law is our most cherished national possession. In their original form, the documents are written testimony that our independence and our enduring form of Government were the products of the unflagging zeal of Americans who knew that the price of liberty is unshakable devotion in war and in peace. The lesson is as true today as it was at the founding of the Nation and the Republic.

Lease-purchase, by providing the first Federal construction for civilian buildings since the eve of World War II, has likewise furnished us with the opportunity for the wide distribution of these historic charters. Now vast numbers of people will be able to see them, in authentic form, for the first time.

The August 24, 1956, issue of the *Federal Register* contained a 51-page compilation revising and bringing up to date the "Guide to Federal Record Retention Requirements," first published in the *Register* for April 8, 1955. The guide deals with Federal requirements for the retention of records by private persons, business establishments, and other organizations.

In a decision dated October 5, 1956, Judge Gunnar H. Nordbye of the United States District Court for Minnesota ruled for the Hammond heirs in the Clark papers case. Judge Nordbye ruled that the Clark notes, in his opinion, were rough working papers that had never become records of the Government. No decision has yet been made as to an appeal.

A project to publish a scholarly and comprehensive edition of the papers of James Madison, sponsored jointly by the University of Chicago and the University of Virginia, was officially established on October 1, 1956. The Board of Editors consists of Leonard D. White and William T. Hutchinson, representing the University of Chicago, and William M. E. Rachal, representing the University of Virginia. The project is being financed by grants from the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation and by an appropriation from the Virginia legislature. This action completes the establishment of publication projects for the papers of Benjamin Franklin, John and John Quincy Adams, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison, as recommended by the National Historical Publications Commission in its report to the President in 1951. Custodians of archives and manuscripts are requested to inform the appropriate editors of any papers of these five leaders that have not already been called to their attention.

At the invitation of the Guatemalan Government, T. R. Schellenberg, Director of Archival Management, represented the National Archives of the United States at the inauguration of the new Government Archives of Guatemala during the week of September 13-20. Guatemala is the fourth Latin American nation to construct a building for the specific purpose of housing its permanently valuable records, an indication of the recent emphasis given by our sister American republics to the cultural and administrative importance of efficient archival management.

Dr. Schellenberg had the pleasure of meeting the President of Guatemala, Carlos Castillo Armas, on Saturday, September 15, at a reception in the Presidential Palace. The following Monday, at the first ceremony to be held in the formal conference room of the new Archives, Dr. Schellenberg presented to José Joaquín Pardo, Director of the Archivo General del Gobierno, microfilm copies of important diplomatic despatches, 1824-1906, sent by our ministers in Guatemala to the Department of State. The exceptionally full newspaper coverage given the presentation of the microfilm indicates how warmly Guatemalans appreciated this gift from our National Archives.

By invitation of the Government of Puerto Rico, Oliver W. Holmes of the National Archives staff spent the month of September in San Juan advising the administration how best to carry out the law passed December 8, 1955, establishing the Archivo General de Puerto Rico. Established first as a part of the University of Puerto Rico, the Archives was, by an executive order of the Governor dated June 19, 1956, transferred to the recently established Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, the Director of which is Dr. Ricardo Alegría. Plans were made for amendments to the law, for building facilities, and for organization and programing. Dr. Holmes also spent a few days early in October in the Virgin Islands, chiefly in studying land-record problems.

John P. Harrison, formerly Latin American specialist at the National Archives, has become an assistant director for humanities of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York City.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Verner W. Clapp resigned recently as Chief Assistant Librarian of Congress to become president of the Council on Library Resources, Inc. (noted below under the heading District of Columbia). In his honor the Library will sponsor the Verner W. Clapp Publication Fund, a revolving fund to be used "to publish facsimiles of historic and rare materials in the Library's collections" and other appropriate materials. Other personnel changes of interest to the archival profession are the following: The recent head of the German National Museum at Nuremberg, Edgar Breitenbach, now an American citizen, has been named acting head of the Division of Prints and Photographs for a year. Russell Smith, recently on the staff of the University of Virginia's Alderman Library, has been appointed to the Manuscripts Division. David W. Hirst has left to teach at the University of Maryland.

The Library has received a substantial addition to the papers of Senator George W. Norris, approximately 20,000 pieces dating from about 1885. About 12,000 papers chiefly 1930-47, of the late Wendell Berge, official of the U. S. Department of Justice, have been given to the Library by Mrs. Berge. The Library has received from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare some 1,200 papers of the Cuban Educational Association of America, an organization formed in 1898, under the leadership of Gen. Joseph Wheeler and Gilbert K. Harroun, treasurer of Union College, to advance "the educational interests of young men from Cuba and Puerto Rico whose families and fortunes were prostrated by the Spanish-American War." Older material received includes a small group of documents concerning attempts by British sugar planters and merchants in the West Indies to secure a revision of the Molasses Act, 1750-51; notes by Thomas Jefferson, apparently unpublished, on work done in 1783 on his orchard at Monticello; a personal memorandum book kept by Isaac Shelby as Governor of Kentucky, 1792-94; and, as an addition to the Andrew Stevenson papers, some 300 letters and invitations he received in 1837, while serving as U. S. Minister in London.

A cooperative project of the Library and the Colorado Historical Society has resulted, after a decade, in the microfilming in Europe of some of the Western Americana there, especially materials concerning the range cattle industry.

TRAINING COURSES

The American University in Washington, D. C., is continuing the program of intensive summer institutes which was initiated in 1945 with the cooperation of the National Archives and the Maryland Hall of Records and which has been sponsored since then by those two agencies and the Library of Congress.

In 1957 the following two institutes will be offered: Eleventh Institute in the Preservation and Administration of Archives, June 17-July 12; Director, Theodore R. Schellenberg; and Fourth Institute on Records Management, June 3-14; Director, Herbert E. Angel. A folder describing the two institutes and any additional information desired may be obtained by writing to Institutes

on Archives Administration and Records Management, American University, 1901 F St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The National Plan for Civil Defense Against Attack is a 118-page booklet released by the Federal Civil Defense Administration in mid-summer 1956. The Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., sells the booklet for 55¢ a copy.

The Dakota Microfilm Service, 9655 West Colfax Ave., Denver 15, Colo., is marketing the Microdealers Continuous Film Processor, Model DK 1635, a universal 16/35 mm. continuous processor designed especially for the critical archival requirements of permanent microfilm. The machine is approximately 10' long, 1½' wide, and 12' high.

David Kaser of the University of Michigan points out in the June 15, 1956, *Library Journal* that the conventional home model 2" x 2" blower-cooled slide projector can be used as a microfilm reader, if the operator is careful to avoid scratching the film. In several models, he says, film threaded through the slide changer and fed manually will cast a legible image on the screen.

FOREIGN NEWS

Germany

With a Ford Foundation grant of \$69,000 to finance the microfilming and editing of German materials, the American Committee for the Study of War Documents has projected the publication of a guide to historically important German documents of the period 1867-1919. Reginald H. Phelps of Harvard University is the committee's chairman, and Sidney Wallach, 381 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y., is the executive director.

Under the heading "Archivalisches" a contributor to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* of July 19, 1956, points out that as the central collecting agency for documentation on current history, the Federal Archives at Koblenz should receive the documents repatriated by the Western Allies. Calling attention to a decision of the Federal Government at Bonn that "all files of the Foreign Office which can be spared, at least those until 1920," are to be deposited at Koblenz, the writer asserts that from a research point of view this date is much too early. But to the Foreign Office of West Germany even this date apparently seems too recent. The West German Ministry of Defense, moreover, still refuses to deliver to the Federal Archives papers left by important German military leaders and given back by American authorities.

France

A study entitled *American Missions in French Archives; a History of the Procurement of Reproductions*, by Henry P. Beers of the National Archives staff, is soon to be published by the Louisiana University Press. It deals mainly with the American exploitation of source materials in the ministerial archives

in Paris, but it also mentions some materials procured from departmental, local, and other French archives.

Guatemala

The opening of the fine new building of the Archivo Nacional de Guatemala occurred during the week of September 13-20, 1956. Much credit for Guatemalan archival progress during the past two decades is due the director, José Joaquín Pardo.

Great Britain

Sir Hilary Jenkinson's presidential address before the annual general meeting of the Society of Archivists, entitled "The Future of Archives in England," is published in the April 1956 issue of the society's journal. A feature of the October 1956 issue is an interim report by Ida Darlington on methods available in the United Kingdom for the lamination of paper documents; Miss Darlington outlines five methods but especially recommends the process and machine devised by W. J. Barrow.

The British Institute of Recorded Sound, 38 Russell Sq., London W. C. 1, has in its collection about 25,000 sound recordings, now in process of being card indexed. Its new *Bulletin*, the first issue of which appeared as the Summer 1956 issue, will contain bibliographies of sound recordings, information about archives of recordings, and news about the institute's activities.

India

The following printed materials relating to the work of the Indian Historical Commission have recently issued from the National Archives of India at New Delhi: the commission's *Proceedings*, vol. 30, part 2 (160 p.) and vol. 31, part 2 (188 p.); *Summaries of the Papers* at the commission's 32d session at Patna, February 1956 (13 p.); and an *Index to Papers' Read* at the commission's sessions, 1920-1956 (97 p.).

U. S. S. R.

Though Hebraic scholarship in Russia is believed to have suffered severely in the period since 1917, two members of the faculty of New York University were this past summer able to find 14 valuable collections of Judaic and Hebraic manuscripts still in the U. S. S. R. One collection is in the Lenin Library in Moscow, six collections are in the Leningrad Library, and seven are in the Institute for Oriental Study at Leningrad.

CALIFORNIA

The California Historical Society has announced that a cumulative index to its *Quarterly* will be published in 1958.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Opportunities for fresh studies in the Anglo-American background made the theme of the fourth meeting of the Conference on Early American History, held on October 27, 1956, at the Folger Shakespeare Library. At one of the sessions, Francis L. Berkeley, Jr., of the University of Virginia discussed "The Collection of Documents Abroad by Microphotography, and Their Value."

A new nonprofit educational research organization, the Council on Library Resources, Inc., has set up its national headquarters at 1025 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Verner W. Clapp, recently Chief Assistant Librarian of Congress, will serve as president and executive head.

IDAHO

The Idaho Historical Society is being revitalized. H. J. Swinney, formerly director of interpretation at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, has become the society's new director. Merle Wells of Boise, now working on a new history of the state of Idaho, has become consultant historian. Dr. Wells has been for 6 years associate professor of history and dean of students at Alliance College, Cambridge Springs, Pa.

ILLINOIS

Thornton W. Mitchell, project director of the National Records Management Council, has supervised the Illinois Records Management Survey, scheduled for completion this month. In an article in the June 1956 issue of *Illinois Libraries*, Mr. Mitchell asserts that the Survey's method of stopping the creation of unnecessary records rather than of merely controlling their flow, is, "For the first time . . . being tested on a broad scale on a government-wide basis."

At Allerton Park, a country estate 26 miles west of Champaign, the University of Illinois sponsored an institute November 11-14, 1956, on the nature and development of the library collection. During its varied 4-day program, "The Role of the State Library" was discussed by Harold F. Brigham, director of the Indiana State Library; and "Non-book Materials" by Harold Goldstein, head librarian of the Davenport, Iowa, Public Library.

Northwestern University is sponsoring a 12-session seminar, beginning February 19, "designed to present a practical approach to the many aspects of an integrated records program." Instruction will be conducted by Vera A. Avery of the Encyclopaedia Britannica staff and Freda Kraines, Records and Library Supervisor, Chicago Park District. Dinner will be served at the beginning of each session. For full information write Henry E. Theobald, Assistant Dean of the School of Commerce, Northwestern University, 339 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago 11.

INDIANA

At Earlham College, T. D. Seymour Bassett has been promoted to the position of associate professor of history and college archivist.

The Archives Division of the Indiana State Library has acquired the papers of Thomas Taggart, prominent Democratic Party leader and United States Senator; and the papers of Harry S. New, United States Senator and Postmaster General in the Coolidge administration.

KENTUCKY

Charles F. Hinds was appointed secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Historical Society on June 11, 1956, succeeding the late Bayless E. Hardin. Mr. Hinds is a 1950 graduate of the University of Kentucky, where he is now working toward his master's degree in history. A veteran of World War II, he has taught for 3 years in a Louisville high school.

The Margaret I. King Library of the University of Kentucky has recently received several important collections of manuscripts. Two groups of papers given by the Means and Seaton families of Ashland, Kentucky, include the records of the Means family's contribution to the development of the iron industry in northern Kentucky and southern Ohio. Another collection, papers of the Hunt and Morgan families, contains letters and records of the John W. Hunt who conducted a mercantile business in Lexington from about 1796 to his death in 1841, some Civil War and later letters, and a number of antebellum business letters of Hunt's grandson, John Hunt Morgan of Confederate fame. The family of John Fox, Jr., author of *The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come* and other novels, continues to add to the Fox papers, which include letters from many well-known authors of the first decade of this century. Although the cataloging of these collections is not complete, they have been arranged and are available for the use of scholars.

LOUISIANA

Copies of Louisiana's important new record law, Act No. 337 of the 1956 legislature, may be obtained from the secretary of state at Baton Rouge. The title of the legislation indicates its scope: "An Act to create a State Archives and Records Commission and to define the powers and duties thereof; to create and establish an Archives and Records Service and define the objectives and responsibilities thereof; to authorize a State Archives and Records Center; and to outline the duties of the State and local officials with regard to the management of records and archives." The survey reports by John C. L. Andreassen and Edwin A. Davis, reviewed in the October 1956 issue of this magazine, were helpful in the initiation of this act.

Since the appointment of Vergil L. Bedsole as Archivist in 1947, the Department of Archives and Manuscripts of Louisiana State University has acquired in 9 years more than four times as many manuscripts and related items as it acquired in the 11 previous years. Holdings have been strengthened in many fields, including such specialized ones as steamboat commerce, medicine and surgery, lumbering, and the sugar industry. Significant other additions have been many papers pertaining to Louisianians prominent in public life. In the 18 months ending June 30, 1956, the new additions totaled 500,000 items.

MARYLAND

One of the main objects of the newly formed Prince George's County Historical Society is to collect and preserve historical material related to the county. The society, with a membership of over 200, uses Riverdale Mansion, maintained by the Maryland Park and Planning Commission, as its headquarters.

MASSACHUSETTS

Albert West, executive vice president of the Massachusetts Civic League, is the recently appointed State archivist.

A capital outlay program that includes an item of \$1,005,000 for the preparation of plans and the construction and equipment of an archives building on the State House grounds has been passed by the General Court and approved by Governor Herter. The suggested specifications provide for an air-conditioned, 3-story structure, generally underground, with the top floor slightly above ground level. The two lower floors are to contain the stacks, and the top floor is to contain the archival search and service rooms and a museum.

Percy Macomber is the director of the Sir Isaac Newton collection at Babson Park, a suburb of Wellesley

At the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum in Springfield, Ruth A. McIntyre is transcribing for publication, possibly on microfilm, the first of six volumes of 17th and 18th century manuscript accounts of the Pynchon family. The museum's director is Juliette Tomlinson.

The 16th annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History convened at Old Sturbridge Village, October 7-9, 1956. Advance programs conspicuously advertised the slightly later dates of the Washington meeting of the Society of American Archivists.

The Institute on Historical and Archival Management at Radcliffe College, June 25-August 3, attracted 16 enrollees, 3 from abroad. Directed by Lester J. Cappon, who was on leave from the Institute of Early American History and Culture, the summer course stressed history rather than method as the common denominator of the several fields under examination.

The Women's Archives at Radcliffe College is expanding its activities. It is established as a research library with growing resources, both published and manuscript, relating to the contributions of American women to American society.

MINNESOTA

The offices and library of the Forest History Foundation, a nonprofit corporation headed by Frank H. Kaufert, have been removed from the Minnesota Historical Society to 2706 W. Seventh Blvd., St. Paul. Elwood R. Maunder is secretary and director. Dedicated to the collection, preservation, and dissemination of North American forest history, the foundation has issued a brochure, "Retracing the Blazed Trail," to tell the story of its purpose and program.

MISSISSIPPI

John Hebron Moore, University of Mississippi, is editor of the *Journal of Mississippi History*, succeeding Sanford W. Higginbotham, who has accepted a position with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Charlotte Capers, Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, at Jackson, reports the recent acquisition of the papers of William T. Walthall, close friend of Jefferson Davis and reputed "ghost writer" of *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*. Among 3,721 items in the collection are correspondence about this work; there are also 88 Davis letters, correspondence about his capture, and correspondence about the yellow fever epidemics of 1878 and 1882 in Memphis and Pensacola.

The Department's appropriation for the biennium beginning July 1, 1956, was \$87,820 — an increase of \$10,720 over its last biennial appropriation.

MISSOURI

The United States Military Personnel Records Center at St. Louis is accommodated in one of the 20 largest buildings in the world. The 6-story structure, equipped with escalators throughout, contains 1,349,148 square feet of usable floor area (approximately half that of the Empire State Building). The architectural programing and design of the establishment, which cost 12½ million dollars to construct, are set forth in detail, with photographs and diagrams, in the August 1956 issue of *Architectural Record*.

NEBRASKA

The 50th anniversary meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association will be held on May 2-4, 1957, at Lincoln, where the association was founded in 1907. The Nebraska State Historical Society is located at 1500 R St. in Lincoln.

NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey Historical Society, 230 Broadway, Newark 4, has a new director. Alexander J. Wall, Jr., has become curator of Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, and Robert M. Lunny, for the past year curator of the Delaware State Museum, has been named his successor at Newark. A native Philadelphian with a graduate degree in history from the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Lunny served in the U. S. Naval Reserve, 1942-53, and was associate director of the Truxtun-Decatur Naval Museum in Washington, D. C., before his Delaware employment. He and Mrs. Lunny will live in Far Hills, N. J.

NEW YORK

On July 15, 1956, Howard W. Crocker, associate public record analyst of the New York State Education Department's Division of Archives and History, issued to county clerks of the State a helpful clarification on "Disposition

of Court Records under Section 89 of the Judiciary Law." A clerk must now furnish the information required by the law and make application to the appellate division of the supreme court of the State of New York in the judicial department in which the applicant's office is located. Although the consent of the commissioner of education is still required for the disposition of noncourt records in a county clerk's office, it is not required for the disposition of the clerk's court records.

During the week of September 23-28 the New York State Historical Association and the National Trust for Historic Preservation sponsored at Coopers-town, for the second year, a short course in the growing specialty of keeping historic houses.

Eleanor Fair of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., 1 Madison Ave., New York City, is chairman of the Special Library Association's committee on the association's own archives.

To aid in the production of a history of its first hundred years, the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States retained Thomas P. Martin, beginning August 1954, as a consultant on the reconstruction (by collecting branch office materials and personal papers) of the archives of its home office, which was destroyed by fire in the society's 53rd year. Dr. Martin was assistant chief of the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress, 1928-48, and thereafter manuscript consultant to the Indiana University Library and visiting professor of history at the university. He will appreciate receiving at his present address, Dunn Loring, Va., information about manuscript materials that might be useful in writing a biography of Elizur Wright, antislavery leader and "father of American life insurance."

Stewart Elwell, with Leahy and Co. since 1955, has become one of its vice presidents. He was formerly chief of the organization and management division of the Small Business Administration and senior consultant to a Hoover Commission task force on paperwork.

C. Stewart Sheppard, dean of the Graduate School of Business and Public Administration, Cornell University, has been elected a director of the National Records Management Council. The council's third annual conference on record management, held in cooperation with the Graduate School of Business Administration of New York University, met on September 13-14, 1956. An article by Robert A. Shiff, "Protect Your Records Against Disaster," in the *Harvard Business Review*, July-Aug., 1956, has been reprinted by the council. The article summarizes the results of tests of record containers under atom bombing and discusses the selection of "vital" records for which special measures of protection should be taken not only against the danger of possible bombing but against the more ordinary dangers of fire and flood.

NORTH CAROLINA

Writing in the Summer 1956 issue of *Military Affairs*, Rear Admiral John D. Hayes, U.S.N. (Ret.), discusses the whereabouts of the papers of naval officers, asserting that the largest group of naval officers' papers outside the

Library of Congress is in the Southern Collection of the University of North Carolina.

An article in the University of North Carolina Library's *Bookmark* for December 1955 describing the general objectives of the Southern Collection has recently been reprinted, with minor changes, as an 11-page booklet.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania Bankers Association has recently issued a 20-page "Schedule of Retention and Destruction of Bank Records." The manual is designed specifically for the use of banking institutions that operate under the laws of Pennsylvania.

The Alumnae Association of Bryn Mawr sponsored a symposium on Colonial Pennsylvania on November 3, 1956, at which Whitfield Bell, Jr., discussed the subject, "Papers of Benjamin Franklin."

The ninth edition of a *Directory of Libraries and Information Sources in the Philadelphia Area* (1956. 132 p.) has been published by the special libraries council of Philadelphia and vicinity. Copies may be ordered from Olive F. Whitehead, 204 S. 42d St., Philadelphia, for \$2.50 each.

TEXAS

F. A. Pellerin, curator of the Battleship Texas Museum, is seeking any material pertaining to the first and second Texas navies.

The South Texas Historical Association has established its permanent archives at the Texas College of Arts and Industries, Kingsville.

Archival and newspaper collections of the Texas State Library have been trucked from the Highway Building at Austin "to a frame warehouse in a hard-to-reach site near the northwest edge of town." So says Wayne Gard on the editorial page of the *Dallas Morning News*, Oct. 1, 1956. Apparently the Highway Department needed elbow room in the Highway Building, but Texas has not yet authorized the erection of a suitable home for its State archives. Other influential Texas newspapers, particularly the *San Antonio Express*, are protesting this neglect.

VERMONT

Arthur Wallace Peach, director and editor of the Vermont Historical Society, died on the final day of the society's annual meeting, July 21. The society's secretary, Clara E. Follette of Montpelier, was named acting director until a successor to Dr. Peach could be chosen. Elected to replace him, effective November 1, was Richard G. Wood, National Archives, the review editor of this magazine, 1943-56. Dr. Wood, a New Englander by birth, was educated at Dartmouth and Harvard. He taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Maine and directed the State Historical Records Survey in New Hampshire before entering the Federal service in Washington, D. C.

VIRGINIA

An alumnus of the University of Virginia has presented to its library the manuscript of the 1860 edition of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* and many of Whitman's manuscript poems. A significant collection of Stephen Crane's papers is also coming to the University.

During 1955 while the Virginia Historical Society was increasing its manuscript holdings by 10,585 manuscripts, it cataloged 16,305 manuscripts and repaired 2,075 manuscript sheets.

Michael G. Hall, who recently received his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins, has begun a 3-year research appointment at the Institute of Early American History and Culture. The institute's newsletter for October 1 mentions that the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association administers, at Washington's home, a library open to students and scholars. Besides 3,000 reference books, the library contains about 1,600 manuscripts, about 1,000 photostats of manuscripts, a collection of early views, some blueprints, and a number of maps.

The 13th mailing of George Reese's survey reports on manuscripts in Europe consists of his first reports from Oxford University. In the same mailing William J. Van Schreeven and Francis L. Berkeley, Jr., who comprise the subcommittee on colonial records, Virginia 350th Anniversary Celebration, announce their intention of appealing for foundation aid to extend the colonial record project for 3 years beyond July 1957 and to index the entire series of reports.

WISCONSIN

The building in which the State Historical Society at Madison is housed has been remodeled, and the Winter 1956 issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* is a "re-dedication" issue.

The McCormick Collection, transferred to the State Historical Society in 1951, has been enriched by the recent acquisition of the papers of Cyrus Hall McCormick's wife. The papers were received from the Nettie Fowler McCormick Biographical Association in Chicago, where they were first assembled.

WYOMING

Under the auspices of the State Archives, the Archivist, Lola M. Homsher, and the microfilm administrator, Dorothy K. Taylor, met in June with the county budget officers in Cheyenne, and in September with the county officers association in Casper, for a general discussion and workshop on the problems of microfilming and disposition. The association's legislative committee is working with the Misses Homsher and Taylor for improved legislation, to be suggested to the legislature in 1957.

The Archives has accessioned, for security microfilming later, the brand books, 1899-1954, from the brand division of the Livestock and Sanitary Board; and, to date, for permanent retention, over a thousand 100-foot rolls

of microfilm. State and county records have been surveyed in anticipation of the Federal civil defense microfilm aid program.

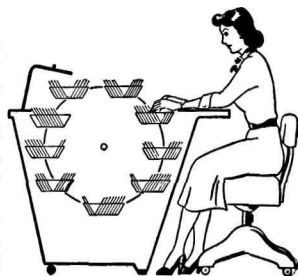
The centralized State Microfilm Department, now well established after a year and a half of functioning, has added three machine rooms, a vault, and a new automatic-feed microfilm camera. Records filmed include: secretary of state's corporation and trademark records, treasurer's warrants, auditor's duplicate warrants, Health Department vital statistics and crippled children files, Livestock Department brand records, Liquor Commission records, Retirement Board records, State hospital clinical records, inheritance tax records, Archives and Historical Department records, World War I records, and Wyoming newspapers.

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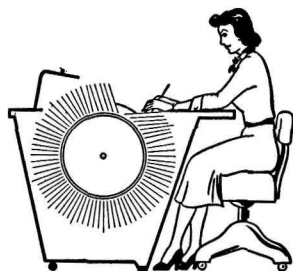


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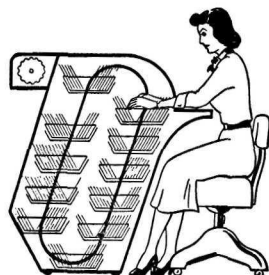


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