

# Reviews of Books

HENRY P. BEERS, *Editor*

*National Archives*

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*Twenty-Sixth Biennial Report of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History, July 1, 1954, to June 30, 1956.* (Raleigh, 1956. 95 p., illus., appendix.)

*Annual Report of the South Carolina Archives Department, 1954-1955.* (Columbia, 1956. 24 p.)

The North Carolina report is that of an integrated State historical agency with divisions of archives and manuscripts, historic sites, museums, and publications. The historic site function was acquired in 1955 under a law that redefined and restated the duties and functions of the Department. The narrative reports of these divisions and the supplementary data in the appendixes, which comprise the major part of the report, fully justify the choice of the cover title, "Expansion and Progress."

Of particular interest here is the report of the Division of Archives and Manuscripts, which consists of the Archives proper and the Records Control Program. Activities of the former included the acquisition of an impressive list of public records and manuscripts, arrangement and indexing of papers to provide better control, and repair and lamination. The Records Control Program is concerned with inventorying records of State agencies, making disposal or retention schedules, and microfilming records scheduled for retention in that form. The work of the program was greatly facilitated by its physical consolidation in a new record center in 1956.

The South Carolina report, in contrast, is that of an independent archival agency whose only extraneous function is the approval of inscriptions on historical markers. But the Department is faced with problems of space and personnel that make a record management program impossible. The lack of space is so serious that "equipment cannot be effectively operated, records already on hand cannot be made available, and . . . offers to transfer records cannot be accepted."

Despite these conditions, the Department could report the repair and lamination of 27,665 pages, mainly of colonial and revolutionary records, the microfilming of 23,067 pages, and the continuation, though at a slower rate than had been planned, of its scholarly publication program.

Both reports contain interesting data on the use of the collections. South Carolina reported 1,589 visitor and 3,266 mail requests. North Carolina reported for the biennium 5,640 users in person or by telephone, of whom 4,884 were genealogical workers; and 4,400 mail requests, of which 4,288 were genealogical in nature.

DOROTHY DODD

*Florida State Library*

*Annual Report on the National Archives and Records Service*, reprinted from the *Annual Report of the Administrator of General Services for the Year Ending June 30, 1956*. (Washington, 1957. 18 p. Free.)

Because it is so extremely condensed, the 1956 report covering the National Archives may somewhat startle those who recall the old days; in 1937, for example, the report filled 175 pages. Reduction in bulk, however, has not resulted from the abandonment of scholarly objectives. Such substantial projects as those of the National Historical Publications Commission, the editing of the *Territorial Papers of the United States*, and the publication of important series of records on microfilm are continuing as matters of routine.

What was good from the old days remains, the record centers and the program for record management added during the decade just past are now fixed in their pattern of operation, and there is developing a commendable maturity. A staff veteran, T. R. Schellenberg, has published the first American manual on archives management. For the first time the successful completion of a stiff course of basic training integrated with work assignments has been established as a requisite for all junior members of the professional staff. For the first time, also, the Supreme Court has surrendered to the National Archives the custody of a substantial body of its original records, proof positive of that Court's confidence in the professional competence of the agency. Notably, too, in a series of 2-day clinics held at 19 cities across the nation, 2,000 Federal record personnel profited by instruction from experts of the Office of Records Management. All these varied accomplishments combine to demonstrate that 21 years after its founding the Archives has come of age.

For all who work with records this is heartening. Certainly there is much else that the reader should note: the fine progress being made with the Federal record centers, the continued investigation regarding microfilm, the feat of the Archives staff in shifting within a single year the locations of nearly 250,000 cubic feet of records. For the archivist who can read between the lines, however, the central and encouraging development documented by the 1956 report is that in America our calling approaches professional status.

HENRY HOWARD EDDY

*Division of Public Records*  
*Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission*

"Recordkeeping Practices of the House of Representatives," by Buford Rowland. (*National Archives Accessions*, no. 53; Washington, 1957. p. 1-19. Free.)

In the first 19 pages of the latest number of *National Archives Accessions*, Buford Rowland recounts the interesting history of the development of modern recordkeeping practices in the office of the clerk of the House of Representatives. He begins his story with the first clerk (whose office was judged overstaffed by an investigating committee and reduced in number to three assistants), when all important papers were laboriously copied into bound volumes. Then he shows how, down through the years, more exacting demands for

information resulted in ever-increasing numbers of documents and greater specialization in the information these documents contained. He concludes with a detailed description of the types of records now accumulating in the clerk's office and the method of filing them.

The most important part of Mr. Rowland's article is the latter section. Any person contemplating research on Congressional subjects would do well to read and assimilate this section before tackling the records themselves. Here he will learn, perhaps for the first time, the distinction between "House documents" and "House executive documents," between "calendar" and "minute book." A knowledge of these specialized terms and of the information to be found in the various types of record may save much research time and effort.

Since this article has obvious appeal both to archivist and researcher, it is unfortunate that it is not more readable. The author is prone to use direct quotations where paraphrasing or original phrasing would have resulted in much greater clarity. In one instance, for example, a quotation dealing with "passing bills by unanimous consent" is used to support the author's argument against the practice of "withdrawal" of bills by consent (p. 10). But the faults of style are relatively minor points and detract only slightly from the very real value of the article.

WILLIAM T. ALDERSON

*Tennessee State Library and Archives*

*North Carolina Genealogical Reference: a Research Guide*, by Wallace R. Draughon. (Durham, N. C., Seeman Printery, Inc., 1956. 231 p. \$5. [Order from the author, 1218 Melody Lane, North Augusta, S. C.] )

This book is compiled for the genealogical researcher and especially for the beginner. The more experienced researcher will also find it helpful because it lists most of the important collections in the North Carolina State Library, the State Department of Archives and History, the University of North Carolina Library, and the Greensboro Public Library.

There are 11 main divisions or chapters, as follows: "Helps in Using This Book," "Hints to 'Young' Genealogists," "Genealogical Records in the Libraries and Archives," "The County Records," "Land Grant Office," "Records at the National Archives," "The Church Records of North Carolina," "Description of Genealogical Record Sources," "Let's Exchange," "Index to Let's Exchange," and "List of Professional Genealogists."

The author has listed both manuscript and printed materials and tells where the materials may be found. There is an outline map of the counties with the county seats indicated. A distinction in the listing is made between the original and microfilm materials, but the author has made no effort to arrange his material either chronologically or alphabetically. No complete listing is made of the records still remaining in the courthouses. There is some information about the county records, such as the earliest marriage records, deeds, and wills in the various courthouses. No estate papers are mentioned, such as estate settlement records, and guardian and apprenticeship papers. Church records

are given two pages with very little pertinent information. The guide gives the names and addresses of persons to whom one may write for information concerning nine of the denominations in North Carolina. But there is no suggestion of what may be found in the church records, such as birth, baptismal, marriage, and death records—the chief interest of the genealogist. In the section immediately following the church records brief information is given about what may be found in many types of records listed early in the volume.

The chapter on "Genealogical Records in the Libraries and Archives" lists many printed sources. It seems, however, that this material was listed hurriedly because there are many careless errors. For instance, on pages 19 and 24 Governor McLean's name is given as Angus "Milton McClean" instead of Angus "Wilton McLean." Governor Ehringhaus's name is given as John C. "Blacher" Ehringhaus instead of John Christoph "Blucher" Ehringhaus. On page 59 John "Gray" Blount is listed as John "Henry" Blount. The papers of John Steele are listed as having been edited by Hamilton when in fact they were edited by H. M. Wagstaff.

Even though there are errors in some of the listings, this book is one of the best on the subject and will be valuable to the genealogical researcher. The information for beginners will be quite helpful, and no doubt will be welcome. It will reveal to them something about the enormous amount of materials available. It will possibly suggest to them how much tedious searching of pages and volumes is necessary to find desired information or prove the lack of it.

Under the title "Let's Exchange" are given the names and addresses of 709 persons who are interested in certain families. This information will be valuable in helping many people who are interested in genealogical research and who are willing to exchange their information for like information in return. This could be very helpful to those who are just beginning their genealogical research.

D. L. CORBITT

*North Carolina State Department  
of Archives and History*

*Public Records of the State of Vermont, 1955-1956; Biennial Report of the Public Records Commission.* ([Montpelier, 1956.] 27 p.)

Washington, Department of General Administration. "Division of Archives," in *First Biennial Report, 1954-1956*, by Robert C. Nesbit. (Olympia, State Printing Plant, 1956. p. 23-27.)

Vermont and Washington are comparative newcomers in the field of State archival and record agencies, but these two reports indicate that the agencies have developed and are carrying out notable programs despite insufficient space and personnel. The reports present interesting and concise statements of needs, plans, and accomplishment for the periods covered. Both States appear to emphasize record disposal programs, with a keen awareness that public records are big business and that there is a considerable dollar saving to be made in their proper management.

In Vermont, the Director's report covers record management, record disposal, form control, assistance to town and county clerks, photostating, and accessions. An idea of the nature and scope of disposal work is given by a list of several hundred destruction requests from some 15 agencies contained in a valuable appendix to the report. Of especial interest is the mention of an option to purchase an office building to relieve the extreme congestion in the present State Library Building and permit moving the operations of the Public Records Commission from "its present basement and hallway quarters."

The report of the Archivist of the Division of Archives in Washington covers the work of the Division in arrangement, elimination of duplicates, record disposal, microfilming, and related activities. Highly commendable accomplishments have been made in reducing the bulk of noncurrent State records, with consequent major savings in space and equipment. Space for a record center is planned in the new General Administration Building.

V. L. BEDSOLE

*Louisiana State University*

Wyoming. State Archives, State Historical Department, State Museum, Wyoming State Historical Society. *Nineteenth Biennial Report, October 1, 1954, to June 30, 1956*, by Lola M. Homsher. ([Cheyenne, Wyo., 1956?] 18 p., illus.)

Wyoming. Centralized Microfilm Department. *First Biennial Report, April 1, 1955-June 30, 1956*, by Dorothy K. Taylor ([Cheyenne, Wyo., 1956?] 28 p., illus.)

The first of these reports from Wyoming consists of a review of the functions and purposes of the Archives, the Historical Department, the Museum, and the Historical Society and a summary of their activities for the biennium 1954-56. The report records the increased public demand for the services offered by these agencies and the steps taken to meet this demand.

The part of the report devoted to archives stresses the use of microfilming. Film produced by the newly created Centralized Microfilm Department is deposited in the Archives and becomes a part of the archival holdings of Wyoming. Emphasis is placed on the economy aspects of the space saving brought about by the use of microfilm and the subsequent destruction of the original records. The author of the report makes the recommendation, "Eventually all important records of the State of Wyoming, Counties and Municipalities should be on microfilm." She further recommends that only positive films be used for reference and that the negatives be stored in a bombproof vault. The report stresses the need for more space in the State Archives and Historical Department and the desirability of housing the Centralized Microfilm Department adjacent to the Archives. The need for State legislation facilitating the filming of county records is also stressed.

The Centralized Microfilm Department was created by legislative action on April 1, 1955. The report from the department reviews the first year's accom-

plishments, explains the purposes of microfilm, describes and illustrates the equipment used by the department, and makes recommendations.

The report, especially the part that lists equipment purchased, should be of value to an organization considering the inauguration of a large-scale microfilm program. Considerable space in the report is devoted to a listing of the merits of microfilm, the "wonder working tool of our time." Some of these statements will bear more weight if they reappear in the department's reports after several years of experience. The report is a useful account, however, from a State that has never been backward in trying out new ideas, whether they be woman suffrage or the large-scale microfilming of governmental records.

DONALD F. DANKER

*Nebraska State Historical Society*

*The Chicago Historical Society, 1856-1956: an Unconventional Chronicle*, by Paul M. Angle. (New York, Rand McNally Co., 1956. 256 p., illus. \$7.50.)

The distinguished director of the Chicago Historical Society has produced an entertaining and readable account of the origins and vicissitudes of that midwestern society in its first century. He has not tried to write a full-scale history but has rather selected newspaper stories, personal letters, excerpts from official society records, and other materials to give a kaleidoscopic view of the organization. The various components march by in close order drill with little interlarding of the author's words. He clearly prefers to let the materials he has assembled and edited speak for themselves, without benefit of his opinion, based on considerable experience, of the wisdom or folly of one or another course of action in the building of a historical society. It should be stated, however, that the author promised neither a history nor a critical commentary on institution-building. He has offered a readable account on the occasion of the centennial of his organization. The illustrations are good and the slipcase deserves a prize, if there is a prize for slipcases.

The Chicago Historical Society began as an exclusive organization with a small, elite membership representing the "best element" in the city. As in many another historical society, a clergyman was the early guiding light. The new society moved along in conventional channels: it adopted a seal, obtained a charter, created a library, sent its librarian about the State in search of historical materials, and listened to countless committee reports. It received substantial help from distant and unexpected quarters—in one case from the widow of Henry D. Gilpin of Philadelphia. It moved several times, and the migrations to its present site are recounted. A President-elect, Abraham Lincoln, was made an honorary member. Lincoln's letter of acceptance was one of the many treasures lost in the terrible fire of 1871. The society suffered a second fire in 1954. Among the best of the documents used in this book are the descriptions of Chicago in 1866 by William Cockran, the society's young librarian, and his letter and that of the assistant librarian detailing the moments in the society's building before the fire devoured it. Not every historical

society can claim the dubious distinction of having employed — and discharged — as librarian none other than the great bibliographer, Charles Evans! The society entertained many prominent visitors, among them the Prince of Wales in 1860 and the Queen of Rumania in 1926. It declined, after having asked for them, to keep Sally Rand's fans; her picture, dishabille, graces the book, however. The society began a drive for funds in 1929, survived the depression, built its building, and entered on larger service to its community.

One is left to wonder, when the book has been read and studied, in just what aspect, other than the title, this is an *unconventional* chronicle. It has been compiled like hundreds of other accounts — from the archives of the organization and related materials, and it is intended for anniversary consumption. It lacks the scope, balance, and thoroughness of Mr. Vail's recently published history of the New-York Historical Society. (Robert W. G. Vail, *Knickerbocker Birthday; a Sesqui-Centennial History of the New-York Historical Society, 1804-1954*, New York, 1954). Perhaps the arts of Madison Avenue, or whatever its sister street in Chicago is called, can be carried too far in the labeling and merchandising of products. A young chap once said that since he liked girls he really didn't want one different, just better. For those who like history and historical societies — they are legion and increasing by the moment — perhaps the same formula should be sufficient.

FRED SHELLEY

*New Jersey Historical Society*

*Manual of Office Reproductions; Reproduction Processes, Systems Duplicating, Imprinting Methods*, by Irvin A. Herrman. (New York, Office Publications Company, 1956, 210 p., illus., advertisements, index. \$3.25.)

Record management specialists will welcome this timely compendium of reproduction, duplicating, and imprinting methods. Concisely digested, it describes the variety of processes available in these fields. Stress on applications and pertinent machines and equipment is especially helpful to those seeking "the one best way" to handle duplication problems peculiar to their organization.

In this compact text Herrman systematically covers every conceivable type of office reproduction problem, carefully describing copying techniques ranging from carbon paper, duplicating, photocopying, imprinting, and "automated" electronic processes. He provides an excellent perspective of the entire field. Especially helpful are his visual charts detailing reproduction and imprinting processes related to the type of work to be accomplished. And the manual illustrates specific types of equipment that are available today. These features add an element of practicality and clarity that the administrator and specialist in record or office management will appreciate. Record management specialists too will be especially stimulated in their search for ways and means to disperse or protect vital records in the face of possible atomic conflagrations.

This manual is satisfactorily indexed and includes a worthwhile list of sources of appropriate equipment and supplies. Perhaps in the next edition it



will be possible to include a selective bibliography of authoritative sources pertinent to each major process and to provide formulas so that one process may be compared with another in terms of cost. These additions would improve this very excellent manual.

J. T. O'CONNELL

*Remington Rand Co.*

*Schedule for the Retention and Destruction of Bank Records*, prepared by the Pennsylvania Bankers Association Procedures and Practices Committee. (Harrisburg, Pa., Pennsylvania Bankers Association, 1956. 29 p. \$1.50.)

This manual has been tailor-made for banks subject to Pennsylvania banking laws, but its general utility and applicability are affected very little by this limitation.

Basically the manual divides all bank records into three classes: (1) permanent records, including those believed to be of major historical, customer relations, legal, and operating significance; (2) records to be retained for 7 years, consisting for the most part of records of original entry, which under Pennsylvania law must be retained in paper or microfilm form for that period of time; and (3) records to be kept for varying periods of time for which minimum and maximum retention periods are recommended. Obviously, banks in other States would have to modify the second class to suit the laws governing their activities and to ensure that there were no records in the third group that in their States should be in the second. Having done that, they could use the manual virtually unchanged.

In addition to listing the records according to the classes for retention, the manual also lists the same records by the bank department or subdivision usually retaining them. This makes for easier application of the schedule.

Since bank records are quite standardized, a minimum of descriptive matter is required; the individual schedule entries are brief and precise.

The Pennsylvania Banking Association published the manual in the hope that it would help standardize policies and procedures in Pennsylvania banks and assist them to achieve economical administration of their records. It should achieve these purposes, not only in Pennsylvania but also elsewhere.

EDWARD G. CAMPBELL

*National Archives*

*Microrecording; Industrial and Library Applications*, by Chester M. Lewis and William H. Offenhauser, Jr. (New York, Interscience Publishers, Inc., 1956. vii, 456 p., illus., appendix, bibliog. \$8.50.)

This is a compendium of information on almost every phase of every branch of microrecording, here brought together for the particular use of librarians, archivists, and those involved in its industrial applications. The contents of many a pamphlet box have been emptied into this volume, and the result is a valuable work of reference, the first of its kind. Its comprehensiveness makes it an excellent investment for any business or institution concerned with — or



likely to become interested in — microrecording. Separate chapters deal with the problems of record retention, the selection of appropriate microrecording programs, film and specialized forms of microrecording, cameras, primary microdocuments, copying, reading equipment, "information classification and retrieval," and storage. An appendix of almost a hundred pages contains a valuable selection from the basic literature of the field.

Because of its technical style the casual user of this book may well require the services of an interpreter for some passages. It is obviously aimed at a specialized audience, but it might have been worked over by a lay editor and made somewhat more useful to the uninitiated. Still, the answer to almost every conceivable major problem in the field seems to be between these covers, and that is a very considerable achievement for the authors.

The bibliographical lists at the ends of the chapters are quite comprehensive. Indeed, they cover substantially the whole literature of the field. But why, one cannot help asking, were these lists not put in some order, at least alphabetical by entry? Some items are undated, and there is no uniformity in the citation of periodical articles — sometimes volume numbers alone appear, sometimes only the dates, and sometimes the pagination is omitted. In view of the not inconsiderable price charged for the volume, the purchaser would seem to be entitled to the simple convenience of orderly and uniform lists.

The authors seem to be fully alert to the latest literature as well as the latest gadgetry. At the current rate of developments in the field, however, this work is going to require frequent revision if it is to remain fully useful. It is to be hoped that the next edition will also see a systematic arrangement of the bibliographical lists.

ROBERT E. BURKE

*University of Hawaii*

*List of Record Depositories in Great Britain.* (British Records Association, *Reports From Committees*, No. 5; London, 1956. 46 p.)

*Directory of Historical Societies and Agencies in the United States and Canada, 1956*, compiled and published by the American Association for State and Local History. (Columbus, 1956. [Order from the Association, P. O. Box 969, Harrisburg, Pa.] 48 p. \$1.75.)

These titles are two more useful additions to the growing number of directories of archival and manuscript depositories. The British Records Association list gives 155 repositories alphabetically by name. The listed institutions include county record offices, public and university libraries, ecclesiastical archives, societies and museums, and some businesses. A location key preceding the list brings together the repositories in each city and town; 51 are listed under London. For each repository is given the following information: address, telephone number, the name of the archivist or librarian, hours, restrictions on the use of records, and microfilm facilities. Sixteen additional repositories, from which no replies were received, are listed by name only. Omitted from the list are local public libraries, the colleges at Oxford and

Cambridge, and the Livery Companies of London, which do not afford regular access to students. The usefulness of this directory is increased by the designation of those repositories that are approved as places of deposit for manorial records and those that have issued guides to their holdings.

The United States and Canada directory was prepared from data supplied by State and local historical societies or agencies. It is a simple directory, arranged alphabetically by State and thereunder alphabetically by society or agency name. The directory provides the addresses of historical societies and other historical agencies, including State, county, regional, city, church, and other societies; gives the title of the officer to whom correspondence should be addressed; and shows which societies have library, museum, or publication programs. Over 1,800 societies are listed for the United States and 117 are listed for Canada. The number of entries is evidence of the need for directories of this kind.

HENRY P. BEERS

*National Archives*

Direction Générale des Archives de l'État. *Les Archives de la République Populaire de Pologne*. (Warsaw, 1956. 31 p.)

This résumé of Polish archival developments since 1939 should be of considerable interest to Western readers. In the first place, it confirms Poland's appalling archival losses during World War II, the most serious losses suffered by any nation at any time in recorded history. According to the estimate given, 90.7% of the Central Government's archives were destroyed or otherwise lost. For the entire country, the loss is estimated at 73.7%. Secondly, it becomes apparent that, archivally too, Soviet Russia has exerted a profound influence; for the Polish Archives Law of March 29, 1951, has followed closely the pattern of the Soviet decree of January 30, 1922. It has introduced into Polish archival legislation the concept of the undivided and unified state's archives *fond*, which includes the entire historical documentation of the country, public archives as well as the archives of socialized business and of private families. The Polish Archives Administration, equipped with this law as a powerful weapon and strictly centralized, enjoys supervisory rights over the records of all state agencies and over those of the entire socialized sector of the state. From a discussion of the actual achievements of the Archives Administration, it can be inferred that, within the new framework, Polish archivists have maintained the high standards that characterized their work during the period between the two Wars.

ERNST POSNER

*The American University*

*Misiones Argentinas en los Archivos Europeos*, by Raúl A. Molina. (Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, Comisión de Historia, *Publicación*, No. 65; Mexico, D. F., 1955. xvi, 152 p. \$2.)

This volume, published under the auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, is the seventh in a series that appears under the

general title of *Misiones Americanas en los Archivos Europeos*. The six volumes that precede concern Mexican, American, Cuban, Brazilian, Colombian, and Chilean missions.

The author and compiler has divided his work into six parts with an introduction. The first 52 pages constitute an illuminating discourse on the birth of the legend of hate, an explanation of how the attitudes of Argentine historians and philosophers toward the movement of emancipation from Spain colored adversely and unscientifically their appraisal of Argentine history, particularly for the colonial period. Having established the need for a revisionist movement in the writing of history, the author describes in part I how the boundary claims and disputes led to a full and scientific investigation of European archives. In part 2 he explains and evaluates the missions encouraged and sponsored by agencies of the central government, the municipality of Buenos Aires, the National Library, the General Archive of the Nation, and other institutions. The third, fourth, and fifth parts deal with the work of the National University, of ecclesiastical investigators, and of individuals in European archives. The last section, of some 440 pages, is devoted to lists of documentary materials. The list of Gaspar García Viñas — enumerating documents in the General Archive of the Indies — requires 368 pages.

The first part of the book provides a broad sketch of the work of many Argentine historians, their points of view, and their position among scholars. Thus on the one hand, the author considers Sarmiento, Alberdi, and Echeverría as representatives of the philosophical school; and on the other hand, Trelles, Mitre, Quesada, and Madero as apostles of the scientific method. Indeed, for students of history in the United States this is the most valuable part of the book. The appraisals and explanations, however much or little they meet the approval of experts in Argentine history, may serve to put the less expert scholar on his guard.

The archivist will find the lists of documentary materials somewhat less helpful. His examination of them will require considerable care to avoid being confused by the arrangement. He will not find an explanatory note of the abbreviations, numbers, and letters used for identification purposes. Above all he may wish for subject headings rather than chronological or location lists. He may yearn for a guide where much of the material on taxes or mines or Indians will be listed together.

This work on Argentine archival missions is, nonetheless, a notable contribution to the vast historical undertaking of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History. It is to be hoped that the facilities and the scholarship may become increasingly available for a broad attack on the archival materials of the national period of the American republics.

ALMON R. WRIGHT

*Department of State*

*Annual Report of the National Archives of India for the Year 1954* (New Delhi, Rashtrapati Bhavan Press, n. d. 20 p., appendixes.)

India, National Archives of India. *Bulletin of Research Theses and Dissertations* [in the Union of India], No. 2, Jan. 1956. (New Delhi. 35 p., index.)

The *Annual Report* is valuable not only to archivists but to research historians. Accessions made in the year 1954 to the Indian National Archives include important 19th-century records from Hyderabad, Gujerat, and Central India; a collection of papers of Lord Macartney, Governor of Madras 1781-85 and leader of the Macartney Mission to China; microfilm copies of the *Kalpasutra*, the *Qu'ran*, and the *Kalkacharya*; Persian manuscripts not on microfilm, including the diary of Mir Ahmad Saad containing an eye-witness account of the battle of Kalinadi in 1750; the *Tawarikh-i-Alamgiri*, covering the first 5 years of the reign of Aurungzeb; the *Qalaat-i-Gwalior*, a history of Gwalior from its beginnings to the Mughal era; and the *Guldastai-Shujaat*, containing the biography of Jean Baptiste de la Fontaine Filose. Notes on the collection and repair of maps and charts and on the increasing microfilm library indicate that the Indian National Archives now has 60,000 manuscript pages from the British Museum, 9,600 pages from the Public Record Office in London, 55,000 pages from the Hague, and 8,000 pages from the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. Other notes with reference to new methods for cataloging, exhibiting, appraising, and preserving documents are of technical interest.

The *Bulletin of Research Theses* contains lists of researchers and their topics as of January 1956. Of a total of 367 topics listed, only 14 concern Hindu India, 9 concern Muslim India, and there are 14 Maratha studies and 4 Sikh studies. Most of the 326 remaining concern British-Indian relations from the 18th to the 20th century. This suggests two things, namely, that research interest and the available sources for research lie chiefly in India's most recent historical era.

ELMER H. CUTTS

*Northeastern University*  
*Boston, Massachusetts*

Colony of Mauritius. *Annual Report of the Archives Department for the Year 1955*. (Port Louis, Mauritius; J. Eliel Felix, Government Printer, July 1956. 9 p., appendix. 50¢.)

The activities of the Archives Department, headed by A. Toussaint, are sketched in this brief but highly informative report. Besides holding the records of the island, the Department is the official repository for every book, magazine, and newspaper published in Mauritius and for specimens of postage stamps, currency notes, and coins issued there. During the year 1955 there were accessions in all of these classes, including records of the Board of Civil Commissioners of the Seychelles Islands, 1880-98. The Archives are increasingly used by the public; in 1955 the number of searchers rose to 1,948 and the number of applications for copies of records to 249. A staff of 14 performs all the work.

A major achievement of the Department in 1955 was the completion of its *Bibliography of Mauritius, 1502-1954*. This guide, reviewed in *The American Archivist*, 20:74-75 (Jan. 1957), lists records relating to Mauritius, the books, magazines, newspapers, and government and semiofficial publications that have been printed on the island, and publications issued abroad about the island. The 27-page appendix to the *Annual Report* for 1955 is a continuation of this bibliography and covers new items for 1955 as well as old items registered for the first time by the Archives Department.

FRANCIS J. HEPPNER

*National Archives*

*Calendar of Philippine Documents in the Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library*, compiled by Paul S. Lietz. (Chicago, Newberry Library, 1956. xiii, 259 p., index. \$6.)

Compiled as a contribution to the Philippine Studies Program, a joint project of the University of Chicago, the Newberry Library, and the Chicago Museum of Natural History, and made possible by a grant from the Carnegie Foundation, this calendar gives an excellent idea of the quality of the original collection of Philippine manuscripts given to the Newberry Library by Edward E. Ayer; and of subsequent acquisitions, which include manuscripts from the José Porter Library in Barcelona.

The 370 entries, dated from 1558 to 1903 and numbering some 7,000 pages, comprise letters, journals, diaries, *testimonios*, *expedientes*, official and unofficial reports, histories, and public records. The materials of the 16th and 17th centuries dealing with the early history of the Philippines constitute 57 of the entries. The 202 entries from the 18th century include correspondence between the opposing Philippine leaders after the British occupation of Manila, extensive material on the expulsion of the Jesuits, and manuscripts dealing with efforts to expand Philippine trade. Many of the 111 entries dated in the 19th and early 20th centuries describe the wretched condition of the natives and the failure of Spain to provide adequate administration in the Philippines.

The compiler has prepared an excellent guide for the study of this collection, and in his complete descriptions and extensive bibliographical and editorial notes he has made a significant contribution to the study of the Philippines. References to Blair and Robertson (Emma H. Blair and James A. Robertson, *The Philippine Islands, 1493-1803*. Cleveland, 1903-09. 55 vols.) and to various bibliographers indicate where translations, summaries, or printed texts of many of the items may be found.

An appendix, containing a short title index to transcripts of Philippine materials from Spanish archives and libraries, provides a useful listing of 22 volumes of materials for study of the Philippines, particularly in the 16th and 17th centuries.

WILLIAM S. EWING

*Clements Library*  
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New Zealand, National Archives. *Preliminary Inventory No. 6; Archives of the Provinces of Wellington and Hawke's Bay*. (Wellington, Department of Internal Affairs, November 1955. 15 p.)

For these two provinces on North Island, the records that survived the period between 1876, when the provincial governments were abolished, and the establishment of a national archive are described in this inventory. The inventories are both in the same pamphlet because the Province of Hawke's Bay was carved out of the Province of Wellington in 1858. For the latter province the records described are those of the Provincial Council, the Superintendent, the Provincial Secretary, and the Treasurer and Auditor, 1853-77. For Hawke's Bay, in addition to similar records, there are some for the Executive Council and the Provincial Engineer, all in the period 1859-77.

The introduction contains a combined narrative and administrative history of each province along with a sketch of the vicissitudes of the records. The records are described in series entries, each including a brief statement on content, the date span, the number of volumes, and the quantity. An appendix lists the official publications of each province.

The form of this inventory and the type of information in it combine to make it a useful research tool for anyone interested in the provincial period of New Zealand history.

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#### *National Archives*

*Proceedings of the National Committee of Archivists of India*. Vol. 1. (New Delhi, National Archives of India, 1956. i, 50 p., illus., appendix.)

The first report of the National Committee of Archivists of India contains the proceedings of each of four meetings held annually since 1954 by the committee, in Hyderabad, Mysore, Bombay, and Patna successively. The report also includes three annexes, each of which summarizes action taken on resolutions of preceding meetings, and three appendixes. The first appendix is devoted to dextrine paste, valuable in the repair and rehabilitation of records in India; the second is concerned with microfilming records in India; and the third is given to a photograph of the recently constructed National Archives of India's Regional Office at Bhopal.

Among the important decisions reached by the committee, which either have been or are now being carried out, are: that the services of the lamination machine recently installed in the National Archives of India shall be made available to the state record offices; that states unable to obtain record repair materials may arrange to get such materials from the National Archives of India; that records may be stored on open racks tied up in teakwood or pressed hardwood instead of in cartons; that the menace of white ants in record repositories can be minimized by the use of creosote; that shelves of high-grade seasoned teakwood or the best quality of steel shall be used in record rooms; that the Archives of India shall keep the state record offices informed of the utility of its dampness-

sucking machine; and that *Indian Archives* shall publish in each issue an account of record acquisitions or any special work done by the state record offices.

Besides the foregoing, the National Committee furnished a valuable service to those concerned in archives construction. At its 1955 meeting at Bombay, it issued a brief but excellent statement on the requirements of new archival buildings as a guide for future planning. These requirements, listed under the headings of location, construction of building, shape and size of building, protection of records, fire fighting, and air conditioning, encompass the very latest ideas advanced in the construction of archival repositories adapted to needs in India.

From the variety of the technical problems of mutual interest discussed and the steps taken toward their solution, there is little doubt as to the importance of this committee and the significant part it is destined to play in the improvement of archives administration in India.

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Canada. *Report of the Public Archives for the Years 1953-1954*. (Ottawa, Queen's Printer, 1956. 39 p. 25¢.)

Acquisition, rather than new services or facilities, was the main feature of the 2 years reviewed in this report of the Public Archives of Canada. Scholars will be delighted with the great number, variety, and importance of the accessions of political papers, manuscripts, maps, pictures, and museum items. These are representative of all parts of the country and of the whole time span of Canadian history. Obviously the Archives has related its collecting policies to the wide-ranging interests of modern historical scholarship. The most notable accession was the papers of W. L. Mackenzie King, former Prime Minister of Canada. "They form," the report says, "by far the largest collection of correspondence, memoranda, etc., ever assembled by any political leader in this country."

There is abundant evidence in the report of the value and increasing use of microfilm to provide convenient access to the rich sources of Canadian history in archives depositories in the United Kingdom and France and to a lesser extent in the United States. Preeminent in this respect is the monumental project of microfilming the records of the Hudson's Bay Co. in London, for the period 1670-1870, which is described as nearing completion.

Limited physical facilities precluded any large acquisition of government files in the period under review. But the newly built Records Centre, with its 62 miles of shelving, will permit the staff to implement a comprehensive record management program involving orderly transfer, screening, and disposal of noncurrent Government records. This is a further evidence of the progressive policies, which archivists and scholars recognize as features of Canada's Public Archives.

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*Archives of Saskatchewan*