

Reviews of Books

HENRY P. BEERS, *Editor*

National Archives

Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Price Department of the Office of Price Administration (Record Group 188), compiled by Meyer H. Fishbein, Walter W. Weinstein, and Albert W. Winthrop. (National Archives, *Preliminary Inventories*, no. 95; Washington, 1956. xi, 272 p., appendixes. Processed. Free.)

Lynn White, Jr., writing in *Harper's Magazine* in November 1954, observed that "history is being made faster than we can absorb it . . . the mere quantity of the stuff is overwhelming." Although the bulk of contemporary documents may baffle researchers, archivists are trying to reduce them to manageable form. To help investigators find their way through some of the voluminous records of the World War II era, the National Archives has issued this preliminary inventory. The herculean job of its compilation necessitated the examination and classification of about 5,000 cubic feet of records.

Cognizant of the intricate organization of the Office of Price Administration, the compilers include a helpful introductory chapter tracing the agency's history. After the outbreak of war in 1939, the rising incomes of most Americans and the corresponding shortage of consumer goods produced an increase in living costs that threatened to upset our economy. Heavier taxes and the sale of war bonds siphoned off some of the surplus purchasing power, but the principal effort to check inflation was made by the OPA. On May 29, 1940, President Roosevelt appointed the National Defense Advisory Commission with Leon Henderson as Price Stabilization Advisor. An executive order of April 11, 1941, transferred the Price Division from the commission to the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply. Four months later the name of the agency became simply the Office of Price Administration.

This well-organized guide includes descriptions of 1,350 separate series of records. In size these series range from one inch, as in the case of "Congressional Correspondence," to 40 feet, as in series 1011, "Application for Price Adjustment." The first 986 series comprise the Washington records of the Office of Price Administration. The scope of subject matter can be seen in a random sampling of various headings. These records came from such sources as the Economic Advisor, the Price Decontrol Division, the Women's Clothing Section, the Petroleum Branch, the Automotive Section, the Farm Equipment and Tractor Section, the Metals Branch, the Tobacco Division, the Hides Section, the Ice Section, and the Alkalies and Compressed Gases Section.

The last 364 series consist of records from 8 districts, which correspond roughly to the geographical divisions of the Federal Reserve System. These records deal primarily with the administration of the OPA at the local level. They include memoranda containing information about community pricing

programs and Government investigations and instructions issued by the district offices to local price and rationing boards.

Fortunately, the guide contains comprehensive appendixes, including a list of organizational changes of the OPA, the locations of local price and rationing boards, and an index to the names of OPA officers mentioned in the inventory.

REYNOLD M. WIK

Mills College

Records Controls, Inc. *Retention and Preservation of Records, With Destruction Schedules*. (Chicago, Records Controls, Inc., 209 South LaSalle St., 1956. 46 p. \$4.)

This booklet contains much information that should prove extremely useful to business concerns interested in organizing an effective record retirement and disposition program. Although many of the policies and procedures described in Part 1 are based on the experience of the Federal Government in the record management field, the data assembled in Parts 2, 3, and 4 should be of the utmost value to companies in scheduling their records. Part 2 lists the Federal laws and regulations affecting the retention of records by business concerns and describes in some detail their pertinent provisions. Part 3 tabulates the limitations for civil actions incorporated in State laws affecting the retention of specific types of records. Part 4 consists of a tabulation of more than 250 common papers found in most business offices and the length of time during which reporting firms retain them. Many of these retention periods appear to be much longer than those adopted by Federal agencies for similar types of records.

To increase the usefulness of the pamphlet, certain paragraphs in Part 1 might be rearranged to bring related material together, such as those on storage facilities and storage equipment; and the index might be expanded to include such key words as "retention schedules," "scheduling," "file cabinets," and "sampling of files." Most of the procedures outlined in the pamphlet appear to be sound and adaptable to the needs of business concerns. With respect to the inventorying of old records (p. 4), it might be advisable to take such an inventory before rather than after the preparation of a retention schedule.

FRANCES T. BOURNE

Records Management Staff
Department of State

American Colonial Documents to 1776, edited by Merrill Jensen. (*English Historical Documents*, vol. 9; New York, Oxford University Press, 1955. 888 p. \$12.80.)

This volume, the fourth as yet published in a 12-volume series designed to cover English history from about 500 to 1914, consists of documents and excerpts relating to the 13 mainland colonies, beginning with the third Virginia Company charter of 1612 and concluding with the Declaration of Inde-

pendence. They are arranged under 8 general headings — founding of the colonies, the evolution of their governments, economic development, population and labor, religion and education, expansion and social discontent, British colonial policies from 1763 to 1773 and the growth of colonial opposition to them, and the coming of the American Revolution. Areas of interest not covered are the role of the colonies in European diplomacy and their relations with their Indian, French, and Spanish neighbors and with the West Indies. Though these topics are touched on incidentally, the reader is referred to other volumes in the series for materials on them.

The approximately 230 separate items were selected from a wide variety of English and American sources, most of them printed but many inaccessible except in the great libraries. The dozen or so from unprinted sources are for the most part from the British Public Record Office. In several instances the editor has made judicious deletions and provided convenient summaries. Item 55, "Statistics of Colonial Trade," based primarily on customs officers' reports in the Public Record Office, is a very useful and concise set of 11 tables, which give a panoramic view of the nature and extent of colonial commerce in the 18th century. Limitations of space and other considerations of course guided the editor in his choice of documents, but it is to be regretted that he slighted or omitted those illustrating the western land problem and speculations, the fur trade, and, to some extent, social and intellectual developments.

A comprehensive 41-page introduction, shorter essays preceding the divisions and subdivisions, and notes for the individual documents orient the reader and supplement, unify, and illuminate the wealth of materials spread before him. Noteworthy also are the critical bibliographical essays — the general survey at the beginning of the volume and the topical treatments incorporated in the divisions.

Though this collection of documents was planned more for English than American students, its excellence should assure its wide use on both sides of the Atlantic for a long time to come.

HOWARD D. WILLIAMS

Colgate University

Documents of American Catholic History, edited by John Tracy Ellis. (Milwaukee, Bruce Publishing Co., 1956. xxiv, 677 p. \$8.75.)

The dust wrapper and the preface honestly describe this book as "a sampling of the original sources from which the history" of the Roman Catholic Church in America has been or must be written. It is neither a comprehensive nor a critical edition of the documents included. Monsignor Ellis explains clearly that his purpose was simply to supply a collection of documents to assist those teaching courses in this country in Catholic seminaries, colleges, and universities. His further desire was to make readily available "some of the principal documents of American Catholicism for interested readers outside the classroom." Both goals are attained.

The material for the colonial period is arranged topically under Spanish,

French, and English colonies. The range of the sampling is wide and varied; from the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) that brought Portugal to Brazil, to Junípero Serra's final report on the Mission of San Carlos de Monterey (1784). French America's representation begins with Father Jean de Brébeuf's instructions for missionary Jesuit priests assigned to the Huron Country (1637) and closes with Watrin's account of the banishment of the Jesuits from Louisiana (1764). Catholic history in the British colonies receives appreciably more attention as it swings from Maryland's charter (1632), past Charles Carroll's defense of his religious beliefs (1773), and comes to rest as Daniel Carroll persuades Marylanders to ratify the Constitution (1787).

Once beyond the colonial period, the book follows a strictly chronological order. The documents selected touch upon many regions, topics, people, and organizations. Pope Pius VI erected the Diocese of Baltimore and appointed John Carroll as the first Bishop, Nov. 6, 1789. From this starting point, the editor picks significant or informative documents from the life story of the Church in Kentucky, Louisiana, and Oregon. Matters of great, but specialized, interest — such as the arrival of the French Sulpicians (1791), the laying of the cornerstone of the Catholic University (1888), or Mother Katharine Drexel's founding of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (1907) — receive balanced notice. Some items are inconsequential — for example, Louise Imogene Guiney's expression of her preference for living in England (1907) — while others are basic, such as the Supreme Court's affirmation of the right of private religious schools (1925). It is humiliating to realize that the nation dedicated to freedom under law nurtured the American Protective Association, founded in 1842, and forced a real American, Al Smith, to deliver an answer to the religious bigotry of the Presidential campaign in 1928. This is, indeed, a sampling with a fascinating mingling of the common and the uncommon.

The great majority of these documents have been published in some form before their appearance in the present volume. The very diversity of sources from which they have been reprinted, however, makes the present collection valuable, for the editor has rediscovered and preserved in convenient form not a few half-lost sources. In some instances it is regrettable that he did not make new translations instead of perpetuating the stilted versions in the *Original Narratives of Early American History*. So many helpful documents and documentary excerpts are made readily accessible, however, in this one-volume compilation that it is easy to excuse its relatively few deficiencies.

WILLIAM N. BISCHOFF

Gonzaga University
Spokane, Washington

Forest History Sources of the United States and Canada; a Compilation of Manuscript Sources of Forestry, Forest Industry, and Conservation History, compiled by Clodaugh M. Neiderheiser. (Saint Paul, Forest History Foundation, Inc., 1956. xiii, 140 p. Processed.)

An immediate reaction to this preliminary inventory of North American forest history archives is that serious gaps exist in an important field of Ameri-

can business records. The compiler remarks that only recently has any scholarly study been directed toward the subject of the exploitation and utilization of our continental forests. Obviously wood has been and is one of our basic natural resources, but the study of 300 years of forest related industry has been comparatively informal and usually restricted to particular areas. And the results seldom enjoy wide distribution. We know, therefore, much more of the legends, ballads, and colorful reminiscences of Kahtadin drives and Bangor nights, the excesses of Saginaw, and the perils of the Little Eau Claire. The scattered, often unknown or unorganized archives of this great industry have seldom been tapped, and then with success only by industrial trade magazines.

The problems involved in circularizing 300 busy or moribund institutions owning some forest history archives are obvious; even so, the compiler has made a strategic inroad into a huge mass of forestry materials. Based upon an approximate 40 percent return of the circularized questionnaire, the compilation perhaps best demonstrates how little has been done nationally in the formal collection of manuscripts and archival materials. Since institutions in several States and provinces failed to reply (including some owning small but significant industrial archives), the record is incomplete. We can be sure the revised guide planned for 1960 will incorporate information from other repositories, including provinces and States such as British Columbia, Idaho, Georgia, and Florida — all of them important in forest industries. Others such as Vermont and Maryland have had lumbering traditions for which some records must still exist. Some institutions sent in only the sketchiest description of their materials, and of course this indicates that with limited staffs and catalogs, librarians cannot always support cooperative research programs. This is the case among institutions of the Pacific Northwest, with which the reviewer is most familiar.

The current compilation was published on the tenth anniversary of the Forest History Foundation, St. Paul — a nonprofit corporation devoted to the preservation and publication of materials on the history of forest and allied industries. The new policy of the foundation is to encourage the collection of forestry records at preferred repositories throughout the country. This ambitious program has worked well in some regions, but no institution can do all it could wish to do in this specialized field. The foundation should, therefore, encourage area industries to keep and make available the records of their past operations. Such records are often so extensive that institutional repositories are hard pressed to find space for them, let alone staff to process them. Grants from donors to process their collections would greatly assist the existing program. Another problem of repositories is that of collections that come in sealed or seriously restricted.

In some cases, such as the great Weyerhaeuser enterprises and Crown-Zellerbach, company archives have been organized. This is a good solution if skilled archivists are employed and some part of the industrial record is made available to historians.

The guide is organized by States and provinces, and thereunder alphabetically

by institution. The descriptions of holdings are very uneven, but obviously no standard return was available to the author. The index is exceedingly helpful, and certainly this is the best guide we have in the field. The next edition should be a superb tool. The Foundation is to be congratulated on its undertaking.

THOMAS VAUGHAN

Oregon Historical Society

Manuscript Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, Guide Number 2, compiled by Lucile M. Kane and Kathryn A. Johnson. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1955. xiii, 212 p. \$3.60.)

The *Guide to the Personal Papers in the Manuscript Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society*, compiled by Grace Lee Nute and Gertrude W. Ackermann in 1935, described 455 groups of papers. Since the publication of this pioneer work in the field of manuscript guides, the Minnesota Historical Society has acquired a large amount of original manuscript material, as well as photostats and microfilm relating to Minnesota's history and its relations with other States. The present *Guide* continues the description of the Society's collection of some four million manuscripts, analyzing 1,189 groups of papers beginning with collection number 456. The earlier *Guide* described only the personal papers in the collection, whereas the present work includes institutional and business records in addition to personal papers acquired since 1935.

The manuscript collections reflect the history of Minnesota from the time of the explorer and fur trader to the present and contain much material of social, economic, and political interest. The social and cultural development of the State is reflected in the records of the churches, courts, and schools and in the papers of various State and local organizations. Of particular interest are the collections relating to immigration and to the Scandinavian elements that form a substantial proportion of the population.

The economic growth of the commonwealth is well represented by the many collections of business papers in the fields of agriculture, lumber, real estate, merchandising, and insurance. There is, however, a noticeable lack of extensive records of certain major industries, including those of the large flour-milling concerns.

The political history of the State is reflected in collections that include the papers of political parties and political leaders.

The papers of eminent Minnesotans acquired since the publication of the first *Guide* include those of Cushman K. Davis, Frank B. Kellogg, Floyd B. Olson, Andrew J. Volstead, and Solomon G. Comstock. These collections are fully described, with biographical information, notes on their content, and the names of important correspondents.

Examination of the present work, in connection with the earlier *Guide*, gives an excellent idea of the manuscript holdings of the Minnesota Historical Society and of the important acquisitions of this repository of Minnesota history and its related materials. The excellent index, while not cumulative to include

both the first and second *Guides*, provides a handy finding-aid to subjects of State, national, and international interest in the collections.

WILLIAM S. EWING

Clements Library
University of Michigan

Research in American Genealogy; a Practical Approach to Genealogical Research, by E. Kay Kirkham. (Salt Lake City, Utah, Deseret Book Co., 1956. xii, 447 p. \$4.)

The author has produced in one volume a convenient and useful reference tool, which genealogists — especially those who are only beginning to work in the field of family history — will wish to have at hand whether at home or traveling about in search of data. Helpful general suggestions are made on the taking of notes and the use of newspaper files, maps, county histories, and other records.

Most of the material is of a gazetteer, directory, or handbook nature; only about 50 pages are devoted to the discussion of methods of searching. Space will not permit a listing of all the classes of information covered, but a few will be mentioned as illustrative. There is a glossary of terms and abbreviations, such as D.A.R., bounty, Braddock's Road, deed, cartography, abstract books, illegitimate, and F.A.S.G. If some of the definitions seem oversimplified, they are doubtless so in the interest of brevity. Other compilations of data included are a list of dealers in genealogies who issue catalogs, with their addresses; a list of map publishers, and catalogs; a list of counties in the various States for which the Works Progress Administration prepared record inventories; maps showing changes in county lines, 1790-1900; nicknames in common use; a list of libraries having genealogical collections, with explanation of the type and extent of service rendered in the field; vital statistics of the United States and its Territories, with a listing of State departments to which correspondence should be addressed and a statement about records available. Census records are dealt with separately by State. A chapter entitled "American History for the Genealogical Researcher" consists of a highly selective chronology of events, first for the United States in general, and then for each of the States. A list of "County Histories of the United States, by F. Douglas Halverson," contains the name of every county in each of the States, the date formed, the parent county, and the county seat. From the above it is clear that the author has succeeded in his purpose of producing a "compilation of record sources" for the American genealogical searcher.

There are bound to be differences of opinion concerning what is included and what omitted in a volume of countrywide cope. A few criticisms are offered here by way of caution to those who would adopt this as their only guide. Braddock's Road was built in 1755, not in 1780. It would have been helpful if the author had added editorially, in the list of present-day counties in the various States, the earlier names of the counties; for example, Montgomery County in New York State was originally known as Tryon County, Washington County as Charlotte. Among the "Finding Aids" appears the *Union List*

of *Newspapers* but not Clarence S. Brigham's *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820*. Perhaps, however, the author felt that the earlier press would not be especially fruitful for genealogical work. The "Short List of Current Genealogical Publications" is too short to be of great value. In the list of "Church Archives Publications" for New York State, a most valuable bibliographical aid might well have been included; namely, the *Guide to Vital Statistics Records of Churches in New York State (Exclusive of New York City)* issued in 1942 in two mimeographed volumes, by the Historical Records Survey. By means of two indexes in this *Guide*, one of places, the other of denominations, the searcher can quickly determine what church records are available, with dates and locations. Another helpful guide is Edward T. Corwin's, *A Manual of the Reformed Church in America, 1628-1902*. Omissions aside, one must conclude that the author has assembled answers to many questions for which the genealogist would otherwise have to consult a number of different reference books or write numerous letters of inquiry.

The author emphasizes that he desires to point the direction the genealogical worker should go in making a practical approach to his problems. Section 1 is entitled "The Approach to Genealogical Research," Section 2 "The Search for Records." It seems to this reviewer that greater clarity might have resulted and repetition might have been avoided with a slightly different organization. For example, chapter 9 of Section 1 is a discussion of "How To Search in County Records"; chapter 4 of Section 2 is on "The Search in County Records — Inventories of County Archives — by States, Origin of Counties by States." In both chapters wills, deeds, orphans court records, and miscellaneous records in county offices are described, and the chief custodians of county records are identified. Good suggestions are made as to the method of searching county records, and the searcher is warned against certain pitfalls — such as the interpretation of dates. These two isolated chapters might have been combined. The same might be said for "How To Search in Religious Archives," in Section 1 and "The Search in Religious Archives" in Section 2, and for other chapters in the two sections.

Mr. Kirkham states that he has intentionally omitted examples from his own research. This is to be regretted, for such concrete illustrations would doubtless be of great help to the novice in the field of genealogy. Perhaps we may expect such a volume in the future, for we may be sure he has had a rich experience in searching for ancestors.

EDNA L. JACOBSEN

New York State Library

Punched Card Primer, by Burton Dean Friedman. (New York, American Book-Stratford Press, Inc., 1955. [viii], 77 p., illus. \$3.50.)

At its third meeting (Dec. 12, 1947) of the 1947-48 season, the Interagency Records Administration Conference devoted itself to a consideration of the "punched card plan." The report of that meeting, issued in processed form,

has provided archivists and record administrators with a basic summary of the subject. Now that we stand on the threshold of Robert Shiff's "golden age of methods improvement and paperwork control" and move with him from punched cards to magnetic tape, it is fitting that the Public Administration Service should give us, in Mr. Friedman's *Primer*, a new summary, as he says, of "the care and feeding of punched cards."

Mr. Friedman addresses himself "to those considering the installation of punched card equipment," among whom would be numbered more record administrators than archivists; for archivists have yet to mechanize their charging systems (or, indeed, their disposition controls and their description work) in the manner of some librarians. He hopes that the *Primer* "will answer many questions for the administrator who is aware that punched cards exist, who may have heard sales talks about them, and who wants them discussed by one who has learned about them the hard way." His direct experience in, and primary responsibility for, planning the application of punched card techniques to some functions of the Kentucky Department of Revenue have given him a certain advantage over those who can write, think, or talk about so difficult a subject only theoretically.

The seven sections in which the author has organized his material are indicative of its scope. They embrace an explanation of method; a description of the IBM, Samas, and Remington Rand cards; a description and analysis of the uses of the several machines necessary to the method; a discussion of a typical "assembly line" to illustrate "the relationship between cards and the machines and machine functions"; a consideration of the kinds of work to which punched card methods may be applied; the details of the problem of installation as pertaining to primary and auxiliary equipment, personnel, space arrangements, supplies, office priorities, and interoffice relations, as well as to the modification of procedure; and comparisons and suggestions with respect to costs. A "Conclusion" anticipates and answers many of the questions likely to be asked by the would-be innovator.

This reviewer very naturally wishes that Mr. Friedman had developed more fully his central thesis, that "except where punched card methods have been introduced, office procedures as such have remained generally unchanged," but can accept the possibility that such development would have been beyond the limitation of a *Primer* that undoubtedly will prove indispensable for the need it is intended to fill.

"Caricatures of punched card equipment" by Artzybasheff of *Time* and *Life* serve as headpieces; and useful illustrations of equipment and cards, obtained from the three manufacturers, have been introduced effectively.

KENNETH MUNDEN

Department of the Army

India. National Archives. *Calendar of Persian Correspondence; Being Letters Which Passed Between Some of the Company's Servants and Indian Rulers and Notables*. Vol. 8, 1788-89, vol. 9, 1790-91. (Vol. 8, New Delhi, Government of India Press, 1953. viii, 3, 648, 2, lxiii, p. Rs. 20. Vol. 9, National Archives of India, 1949. 20, 346, xxxi, p. Rs. 15 or 23/6.)

B. A. Saleore and S. N. Sen, directors of the National Archives of India in 1953 and 1949 respectively, have superintended in these two volumes the calendaring of 3,329 letters pertaining to the history of India during the years 1788 to 1791 inclusive. They have prefaced these valuable works with significant historical summaries covering the salient aspects of the period. Each volume contains helpful indexes that include, in reference to Persian or Indian expressions, symbols designating the language and an English translation. Each volume contains a list of Vakils (representatives) of the several chiefs and notables of India accredited to the Governor-General.

In 1788 Lord Cornwallis was entering on the third year of his administration. Although he was pledged to peace and economy in conducting the political and economic affairs of the East India Company in India, before the period covered in these volumes expired Cornwallis was in the midst of the Third Mysore War, which ended with British annexation of half the kingdom of Tipu Sultan. Both Saleore and Sen agree that Tipu was a better man than British historians have conceded and was actually the victim of many betrayals, both by pledged native allies and by the British, although, as they also indicate, the letters summarized in these volumes do not bear out these conclusions. One significant point that seems to have escaped both directors is that Cornwallis considered news from Mysore to be important long before the outbreak of the war. His secret service agent, Mir Muhammad Husain, alone of those with whom the office of the Governor-General was in correspondence, received urgent letters through the autumn of 1788, "to continue sending news from that quarter as usual." Other news — concerning the vicissitudes of Shah Alam, the unfortunate Moghul Emperor in Delhi, or concerning Ranjit Singh and the Sikhs in the Panjab, or the tribulations of the many widows and other pensioners of the East India Company — received scant attention as compared with news from Mysore and Hyderabad, with the exception of reports about the many French soldiers and adventurers still abroad in India at that time. Barbarous cruelties, dwelt upon by Saleore, whereby a notorious villain, by orders of Mahadaji Sindhia, had his eyes pulled out and ears cut off before his execution, should cause little surprise inasmuch as English courts sentenced criminals to be hanged, drawn, and quartered in that century.

The general impression that one receives from these volumes is that East India Company officials made it their business to be well informed about all that happened in and around India, preparing themselves against future eventualities. Both volumes are extremely well done and will be valuable to all students of British India.

ELMER H. CUTTS

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Proceedings of the Third Annual Conference on Records Management, September 13-14, 1956; Planning Ahead for Paperwork Control, edited by H. W. MacDowell. (New York University Business Series, no. 29, New York, 1957. 65 p.)

This booklet was designed primarily for those who attended the conference. For them it should be a useful summary of the presentations, since the texts of four speeches, two sets of introductory remarks, four seminar orientation talks, and one short commentary on electronic equipment are included. The material deals in summary form with most phases of paperwork: data processing, work simplification, clerical cost control, forms, and so on, with but a few pages devoted to strictly record-keeping aspects.

Although the conference looks forward to the millennium of controlled documentation, emphasis is continually placed on the increasing flow of "old-style" records. The impression given is that neither the speakers nor the attendants at the conference expect any substantial abatement of this flow, nor would they be at all surprised if it continued to grow, regardless of the electronic equipment forecast. (In this connection, W. F. Ahern, of I. B. M., has some brief but tantalizing specifications for random-access devices.) Robert Shiff best summarizes the current situation and the outlook in his introductory remarks: "The 'hard copies' are still very much with us (p. 7) . . . equipment is producing more and better information faster than ever before. . . . Do we need all the information? . . . machines are turning out more copies. . . . Do we need all the copies? (p. 10)"

Because it is only what it is meant to be, an edited record of oral proceedings, this publication will not satisfy those who seek definitive answers to specific questions. It does, however, clearly outline the direction that paperwork control has taken and the problems to come.

WILLIAM L. ROFES

Olin Mathieson Chemical Corp.
New York City

Seventh Report of the Saskatchewan Archives Board . . . June 1, 1954, to May 31, 1956. (Regina, Saskatchewan, Queen's Printer [1956]. 40 p., photographs.)

Time was when the term Archives was synonymous with Record Office. Over the years the concept has widened to include manuscript collections, relevant printed sources, maps, pictures, and audiovisual material. The benefit of assembling all these sources under one roof has been recognized. The report of the Saskatchewan Archives Board carries the concept one stage further. It shows a rounded program of accession, classification, and description carried on in two cities under the direction of the Board. One office is at Regina in connection with the Legislative Library, the other at Saskatoon in connection with the University of Saskatchewan. An examination of the list of accessions leads one to believe that the distribution of historical material between the two offices has been the subject of judicious consideration.

As Lewis Thomas explains, this arrangement has been the outgrowth of two streams of effort, the one leading from the university, the other from the provincial capital. It will be of some interest to follow the work of the Archives Board to see whether an institution with so extensive a program as is outlined in this report will surmount the difficulties inherent in the two-city-plan or whether it will be found advisable to unite the various holdings in one place. The advanced state of the record management program, as seen in this report, has led Dr. Thomas to point out the need for an adequate building. How Saskatchewan will handle this proposal for a third unit will be a matter of interest to all archivists. The Saskatchewan system is a unit, but in it lies food for speculation as to the possible formation of regional boards with some measure of federation between archives and historical depositories.

Classification is always a difficult problem in presenting an accession list. Dr. Thomas describes the material under the headings of provincial government records, municipal and school district records, personal papers, business and organizational records, newspapers and periodicals, sound recordings, pictures, and miscellaneous records. Until archivists can reach agreement on terms, the consistency of each archivist will be the most important means of communicating to others the nature and extent of his holdings. Dr. Thomas has made a distinction between records and papers, but his category of "miscellaneous records" contains a number of surprises. Four items under "letters" among the miscellaneous records do not appear to differ from those classed as personal papers, nor does it appear why the logbook of William Mollard's trip differs from diaries of similar trips that are listed as private papers. Under municipal and school district records he has included two histories. As each was presented by the secretary-treasurer of the rural municipality, it may be assumed that these are official histories and have become part of the records of the respective rural municipalities, but why does a set of teacher's certificates find its way into miscellaneous records; and why, since textbooks have been classified as records, do they too find their way into miscellaneous records when there is a category for school district records? Everything from genuine records to scrapbooks and articles have been classed as records in this miscellaneous section.

The slight inconvenience caused by the classification system adopted in this report is more than outweighed by the degree of public support revealed by the number of people who have donated papers over the past two years.

NORAH STORY

Public Archives of Canada

Great Britain. Public Record Office. *117th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records, 1955*. (London, H. M. Stationery Office, 1956. 19 p., appendixes. 1s. 3d. net.)

Those American archivists who because of the press of business find it impossible to prepare an annual report ought to be required to read this work of D. L. Evans, Deputy Keeper of the Records, for the year 1955. In 19 pages,

unbound and on austere paper stock, he has given a clear, useful account of the operation of his great office, an account that must be satisfying to his superiors and informative to his colleagues. Of special interest to those of us who are now nursing infant record management projects is the account of the first year's operation of the Public Record Office (previously under the Master of the Rolls) within the responsibility of the Lord Chancellor — a recognition, first, of the importance of the care of contemporary records and, second, of the essential difference of this type of record from those traditionally classified as historic. At the same time, the divorce was not total, for it was the Master of the Rolls who appointed the Records Administration Officer in the Public Record Office.

Mr. Evans reports encouraging progress in the work of the repositories: Chancery Lane, Ashbridge, and the intermediate repositories (record centers) of Hayes, Yeading, and Leake Street. But such physical improvements as have been made are far from sufficient — air-conditioning is still untried, even artificial heat is lacking in some cases, none of the repositories was especially designed for the purpose, and as a consequence both staff and records have suffered, the latter especially from mildew. How staggering the task will be to house British records in anywhere near the style to which we in this country are accustomed is made obvious by the calm but precise account of Mr. Evans of the inadequacies of the old buildings. It is emphasized by the list of records already received, a minute part of the enormous quantity that will have to be cared for in a land where many services here considered private must be offered — and recorded — by the government and where much of industry too is directed — and recorded — by the government.

But in all this frantic effort to cope with acquisitions it is good to see that calendars and texts are still being printed, that the Historical Commission and the Museum are functioning, and that seals and documents are being repaired as before.

MORRIS L. RADOFF

Maryland Hall of Records

Great Britain. Historical Manuscripts Commission. *Bulletin of the National Register of Archives*, No. 8; *List of Accessions to Repositories*. ([London], H. M. Stationery Office, 1956. 51 p.). Issued by the National Register of Archives, Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, W.C. 2.

This issue of the *Bulletin* is the second to list annual accessions of British repositories. Into remarkably little space it compresses succinct and carefully edited descriptions of the noteworthy acquisitions in 1955 of 100 national and local repositories (as compared to 86 in 1954, given in the sixth number of the *Bulletin*). A few previously unpublished notes of earlier accessions also are included. The material, dating from mid-twelfth to the mid-twentieth century (actually to 1955), thus made available for research, represents a wide variety of manuscripts that relate to divers historical events of the British Isles and Europe and of every other part of the world.

At least one institution in each of the five types into which repositories are divided has come into possession of material of American interest. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, for instance, indicated receipt of letters and commercial papers of the Blair family of Newry that relate to the West Indies, Charleston, South Carolina, and New York; of an original diary of Capt. Alexander Chesney of South Carolina; and of letters, 1787-1837, of the McClurg family of the United States and Londonderry. There is an entry at the Bodleian Library for the journal of James B. McCullagh, recounting his experiences with American Indians, 1883-1905. The Grey of Howick collection at Durham College includes military papers of the first Earl on the American Revolution and the capture of St. Lucia and Martinique. In the Newcastle manuscripts, Nottingham University received letters from America of Sir Henry Clinton. The Kent County Archives Office secured Virginia Company papers in Tufton manorial records. The National Maritime Museum acquired the journal of the commander of the ship *Viper* on a voyage to New York in 1783. These American items are illustrative of the wealth of resources described by concise entries in this admirable accession list.

ROBERT H. LAND

Library of Congress

The Oldest Manuscripts in New Zealand, by David M. Taylor. (New Zealand Council for Educational Research, *Educational Research Series*, no. 36; Wellington, Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd., 1955. [xiv], 218 p., illus., appendix, bibliog. 42 s.)

This is first a complete inventory of Western European, Near Eastern, and Ethiopic manuscript codices at present in New Zealand — a compilation that will enable students in New Zealand to make the best use of available resources. Some 82 such manuscripts are located and described in detail, with the provenance (so far as now known) given for each.

Mr. Taylor has written "for those intelligent New Zealanders who are largely unfamiliar with the subject of manuscripts." Thus, the introduction of 18 pages is a brief nontechnical survey of the problems of manuscripts in general; paleography, textual criticism, and language are considered. Then each manuscript is described in detail and its physical peculiarities are discussed.

Most of the manuscripts deal, as might be expected, with theological, philosophical, and ecclesiastical matters. The author does not, in his careful examination, claim any great discovery, but he has corrected some current errors.

The appendixes include reproductions of the watermarks for the manuscripts written on paper (with appropriate references to Briquet, *Les Filigranes*) and "A Select Bibliography," which includes location symbols for libraries in New Zealand. There is an index, and the 32 plates (one in color) give a good idea of many of the manuscripts.

The relatively limited number of such works in New Zealand makes it possible to devote considerable space to textual criticism. In those instances

where the text presents variant readings that are worth comment, the text is printed with the abbreviations filled in (distinctively) and the lines indicated. This is always followed by an English translation and in many cases by a discussion of particular points.

The existence of this small but rich assortment of such manuscripts in New Zealand is something of a revelation, and the book is an unexpected addition to our list of manuscript inventories. It is also an excellent introduction to the subject of manuscripts and can be a most useful handbook.

E. B. BARNES

University of Oregon Library

Misiones Nicaragüenses en Archivos Europeos, by Carlos Molina Argüello. (Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, Comisión de Historia, *Misiones Americanas en los Archivos Europeos*, vol. 12; México, 1957. 163 p.)

This volume is the twelfth of a special series published by the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History on the subject "American Missions in European Archives." Other volumes in this series describe the archival findings of missions that have gone to Europe from various American republics. The present volume confines its description to the findings of the seven missions from Nicaragua, two official and five private, which have gone to European depositories in search of documents relating to the history of Nicaragua. Each one of these seven missions is treated separately in chronological order; the section contains a short biographical sketch of the person in charge of the mission, his major field of interest, the names of European depositories visited, in some cases a list of documents obtained and their present whereabouts, and the publications, if any, that have resulted from each mission.

The first Nicaraguan mission is noteworthy because it was motivated purely by the desire to obtain documents that could be used by Nicaragua in substantiating boundary claims against its neighbors. The most productive of the Nicaraguan missions was the one headed by Vega Bolaños. Several volumes containing the findings of these two Nicaraguan missions have been published, and the contents of these volumes are described in detail. The description consists of listing each document chronologically, summarizing its contents, and clearly indicating the location of the original.

The findings of the other Nicaraguan missions are not described in such great detail. Although only a few magazine articles and about three volumes containing some of their findings have been published to date, much is being promised. Three of the missions are in the process of pooling their archival findings for the purpose of publishing a work under the title "*Monumenta Nicaraguae Historica*," patterned after Baron von Stein's famous work. The documents that will eventually be contained in the first volume are listed and summarized.

In less than 40 years since the first mission in 1918, documentary sources

relating to the history of Nicaragua have been enlarged considerably. The majority have come from Spain, but Italian and English depositories are also represented. It is unfortunate that a more detailed description was not provided for the findings of all seven missions; maximum usefulness then would have been achieved. But even in its present form, scholars interested in the early history of Nicaragua and Central America should find this a very useful tool in their researches.

GEORGE S. ULIBARRI

National Archives

Handbook of Hispanic Source Materials and Research Organizations in the United States, edited by Ronald Hilton. (Stanford University Press, 2d ed., 1956. xiv, 448 p. \$10.)

The first edition of this work, entitled *Handbook of Hispanic Source Materials in the United States* (1942), was quickly sold out. Since nothing took its place adequately, the new edition is most welcome. Hilton

seeks to perform the important service of calling the attention of both American and foreign scholars to the vast wealth of Hispanic material deposited and in some cases one might say lost in the collections of the country. . . .

'Hispanic' means of Spain, Portugal, and pre- and post-Columbian Latin America, and of Florida, Texas, the Southwest, and California before annexation. The source materials listed embrace "the humanities, the fine arts, and the social sciences; the natural sciences . . . in the case of some exceptional collections."

The entries on matters other than documentary and printed sources are appropriate and varied: the Tuxtla statuette with Maya glyphs of A.D. 98; the Spanish 14th-century Monastery of San Bernardo, shipped in 10,751 crates to Hearst and reerected by Moss and Edgemon (not to mention all our Spanish Colonial missions); paintings and objets d'art; collections — ethnological, paleontological, zoological, botanical, mineral; archeological investigations; current projects and significant publication schedules. But most entries describe concentrations of Hispanic-Americana in important libraries, archival centers, and research organizations.

This vast compendium organizes data by State and locality, by institution, and sometimes by an institution's departments. Each organization speaks for itself, using its own form of presentation; each stresses its best holdings; and a certain variety results. The fact that some of the information is not strictly up-to-date or complete is attributable largely to the unit reporting. Standardization might have fixed a norm for the value, rarity, significance, or restriction on use of the items to be included.

The information has been checked, rechecked, and referred to experts; many collections were examined by the editor or a colleague. It is a careful compilation and makes very interesting reading. Errors appear to be very few and insignificant, such as the index's "Kachina Indians" (p. 419) or Alfonso,

for Alonso, de Molina (p. 426). Hilton's volume will enormously help scholars, librarians, and archivists everywhere.

ARTHUR J. O. ANDERSON

Museum of New Mexico

Directory of Photocopying and Microcopying Services. (The Hague, International Federation for Documentation, Nov. 1955. 50 p.)

This international guide to photocopying services provides a key to institutions in 87 countries, from which photographic reproductions or information about where to secure them may be obtained.

The entries are arranged by country in the order of the universal decimal classification. The first entry under each country lists the published national directory of photocopying services when such a directory is available. Next is given the name of a "reference institution" that serves as the clearinghouse for inquiries from abroad. After the "reference institution" come the names of "reproduction services," that is, the institutions or firms that will sell photocopies to purchasers abroad. The scope of the service provided by each such institution is briefly described. The entry for the National Archives, for example, notes: "Reproduces material from its own collections only . . . Subjects covered: records of the Federal Government of the United States from 1774 to 1953." The types of photocopies and sizes that can be furnished are given as also are prices, minimum charges, methods of payment, and a brief general statement of the permission needed for copying. Unfortunately the prices listed are now 2 years old and so will serve the user only as a general guide to what he may expect to pay.

It seems likely that the *Directory* will be of greatest use to the research worker who wants to obtain photocopies from such out-of-the-way places as the Belgian Congo, Nigeria, or Senegambia and who is seeking a knowledgeable institution to which to direct a preliminary inquiry. Also useful is the information given for newer countries such as Israel, where there has been a great expansion of photoduplication service in recent years, and for certain Iron Curtain countries in which a single agency is given official responsibility for dealing with requests from abroad. By now most institutions in Western Europe and the United States are so accustomed to handling requests for photocopies that the researcher will probably be just as well served if he bypasses this *Directory* and writes direct to the institution known to hold the material of interest to him.

ROBERT D. STEVENS

Library of Congress