

Reviews of Books

HENRY P. BEERS, *Editor*

National Archives

[The Book Review Editor has received a letter from James Fergusson, Keeper of the Records of Scotland, protesting the review of his Annual Report for 1957 in the October issue of the *American Archivist* on the ground that the report was not published in the ordinary sense but was merely circulated for the information of Government departments and libraries. We regret that the report was reviewed against Mr. Fergusson's wishes.]

Atomic Energy Commission, Civil Effects Test Group. *Effects of a Nuclear Explosion on Records and Records Storage Equipment* (WT-1191; *Operation Teapot, Nevada Test Site, February-May 1955, Project 35.5*. Oak Ridge, Tenn., AEC Technical Information Service Extension, June 18, 1958. 43 p. Processed. Available from the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C. \$1.25.)

———. *Response of Protective Vaults to Blast Loading* (ITR-1451; *Preliminary Report: Operation Plumbbob, Nevada Test Site, May-October 1957, Project 30.4*. Oak Ridge, Tenn., AEC Technical Information Service Extension, Nov. 22, 1957. 40 p. Processed.)

The results of the tests known as Operation *Teapot* were made public by Robert A. Shiff in his article, "Protect Your Records Against Disaster," published in the July-August 1956 issue of the *Harvard Business Review*. The tests were conducted and the formal report was prepared by the research staff of the National Records Management Council (of which Mr. Shiff is president), with the cooperation of representatives of the General Services Administration, the Western Union Telegraph Co., the Art Metal Construction Co., the General Fireproofing Co., the Paige Co., and the Safe Manufacturers National Assn. and its members. The present report on *Teapot* supersedes a preliminary report issued (as ITR-1191) in 1957. Although this reviewer would have preferred to see the final report confined to an elaboration of the technical considerations with which the preliminary study was almost exclusively concerned, he recognizes that the inclusion of material on a "comprehensive protection program" gives the conclusions a needed emphasis. The report is an indispensable item in a growing list of publications dealing with the protection of records against disaster, for *Teapot* determined for the first time the effects of a nuclear explosion on record materials and record storage equipment. The remarkable effects of the detonation upon a variety of record storage equipment, record types, and paper samples, exposed at varying ranges from Ground Zero, both inside and outside of structures, may be seen in the photographs illustrating the report. In their conclusions the authors emphasize

the fact that the "extent of damage resulting from a blast can be minimized by adequate planning for protection." To facilitate such planning they summarize the results of the test in tables showing the physical effects of blast at different ranges from Ground Zero and the effect of irradiation on the degree of polymerization of paper.

The preliminary report on *Plumbbob* is intended to furnish early test results to those concerned with the effects of nuclear weapons and to provide for an interchange of information between projects for the preparation of final reports. This operation evaluated the effectiveness of a reinforced-concrete vault with a steel vault door in providing protection against the effects of nuclear detonation. The report has been prepared by representatives of Ammann & Whitney, Consulting Engineers, with whom the Mosler Safe Co. contracted to design the test vault and to review and modify the design of a standard vault door for the purposes of the test. It includes a detailed, illustrated description of the test structure, with figures showing the instrumentation and the architectural layout; a discussion of the theory that the project would test; an account of the procedure followed before and during the test; a description of the damages sustained by the structure when exposed to nuclear detonation; and an evaluation of the results. Soil tests were made by the International Testing Corp.; the blast instrumentation was provided by the Sandia Corp. At a time when consideration is being given to vaulting as one method of protecting records against disaster, the results of this test of a specially constructed vault are significant: the vault door withstood the blast without structural damage; there was no apparent temperature rise within the vault; and the vault's contents were only slightly disturbed by the blast.

Both business and government will be indebted to the AEC Civil Effects Test Group and the sponsoring Federal Civil Defense Administration (now the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization) for making these reports available to those who are concerned with the protection of essential records. Further tests and the publication of reports on them are in order; for, as the *Teapot* report points out, the "secondary effects of nuclear explosions, such as fire and flood, present a hazard to records and record storage and should be considered along with primary effects."

KEN MUNDEN

National Archives

Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, by A. Noblecourt. (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Museums and Monuments, no. 8; Paris, 1958. 346 p., 137 plates and illus. \$7.50; 37 s. 6 d.; 2,250 fr.)

This UNESCO publication ably continues a succession of publications, begun before the Second World War and continued since, to inform the interested public of the means and measures for protecting monuments, museums, libraries, and archives. It is so comprehensive that it supersedes all other general works. The volume is divided into five parts. Part 1 deals with the provisions of the Hague Convention of 1954, the services provided by UNESCO, and the

regulations for executing the Convention provisions. Part 2 concerns hazards to cultural property due not only to military operations but also to fungi, insects, rodents, and climatic conditions. Part 3 consists of general remarks on protection and its techniques with respect to various hazards such as civil war and commando raids, superheavy artillery, aircraft bombs, self-propelled missiles, nuclear weapons, and sheer vandalism. Part 4 describes recommended organizational features at various levels of authority, international, national, and local; and part 5, the longest part of the book, gives highly practical information and guidance for the construction and equipment of buildings for the preservation of cultural property.

Part 5 is subdivided into six sections: (1) the effects of nuclear weapons and precautions against radioactivity, atomic flash and fire, and blast damage; (2) the reinforcement and shoring-up of buildings and monuments and the treatment of vaults and arches; (3) the planning and construction of reinforced concrete shelters and underground shelters, including structural details and examples of shelters in several European countries and illustrations of the Swedish underground factories; (4) installations and equipment and communication and alarm devices; (5) air-conditioning techniques, their application to buildings and shelters, and the protection of air intakes against war gases and heat; and (6) the independent operation, principally by diesel engine, of all protection equipment, the layout of an emergency powerplant, and the protection of electric power stations.

The text is illustrated throughout with small line sketches, photographs, statistical tables, and graphs. And technical annexes carry copious and detailed information on physical, chemical, and mechanical elements of the preservation process to minimize each class of hazard.

This UNESCO handbook is based on a sifting of world experience, literature, and theory. It avoids dogmatism and proposes no rigidly systematic procedures. It gives examples of different protective methods, many of which are analyzed in great detail. Some of these methods have been tested; others are the result of theory and research by competent European experts. The aim is to give curators, librarians, and archivists the basic data that will enable them to consult more understandingly with specialists or, if none are available, to take elementary protective measures themselves. The manual is well worth having and studying. For those who wish to consult a wider literature, an important bibliography on the protection of cultural property was published by the Library of Congress, in 1952, entitled *Safeguarding Our Cultural Heritage; a Bibliography on the Protection of Museums, Works of Art, Monuments, Archives and Libraries in Time of War*, compiled by Nelson R. Burr. But it is more than likely that this UNESCO product by the French engineer Noblecourt supersedes any comparable item in the bibliography.

VICTOR GONDOS, JR.

National Archives

France, Direction des Archives. *Le fond du Conseil d'état du roi aux Archives Nationales. Guide des recherches*, par Michel Antoine. (Paris, Imprimerie nationale, 1955. 96 p.)

Few institutions of France have been of greater importance than the Conseil d'état, which contributed to introducing and consolidating administrative unity in France. Designated variously, with a curious, complex, and confusing history and nomenclature, its archives are as scattered as its names have been various. But in general the King's Council dealt with political, financial, and legal affairs and the administration of justice and assisted the King in administration, political affairs, foreign policy, and the exercise of justice. It received regular organization and definite form in the 17th century.

Anyone interested in studying the institutions of France during the last two centuries of monarchical rule will henceforth be greatly indebted to Michel Antoine. The author's hope that this guide may direct the first steps of students through the "forêt touffue des séances et des actes du Conseil du Roi" certainly should be fulfilled. The archives of the Conseil du Roi are fundamental to the history of institutions of France, and there are very few *repertoires* or *inventaires* to this great mass of documentation in the Archives Nationales, which is not segregated but scattered in some 15 or more *séries* and *sous-séries*.

Michel Antoine's *Guide* is more than a guide; it is a handbook, divided into two parts. In the first part, consisting of four chapters (p. 1-50), the author brilliantly and concisely describes and discusses the Conseil du Roi during the middle of the reign of Louis XV: its character, divisions, membership, functions, meetings, bureaus, and commissions; and he clarifies its complicated nature with a chart (p. 24). Chapter 2 describes the working of the Conseil, its procedures and decisions. Chapter 3 deals with the Actes du Conseil, discussing forms of *arrêts* and judgments of commissions and bureaus. No *procès-verbaux* were kept, except during the period of the Regency, whose records are in the Bibliothèque Nationale. To find an account of the Conseil's deliberations one must consult the *mémoires* and correspondence of members, some of which the author himself has edited. Chapter 4 gives a short account of the history of the archives of the Conseil du Roi during the *Ancien Régime*.

Chapter 5 begins the second part and is the "guide" proper. The author specifically divides his material according to topics dealt with and the Actes of the Conseil and gives for each division a list of the *séries* or *sous-séries* and all available *repertoires* and *inventaires* (p. 51-76), council by council and commission by commission. He gives specific citations of the *états sommaires*, *états numériques*, *repertoires chronologiques et analytiques*, and *tables alphabétiques*, published and unpublished, that are available to the student. He rearranges and adds to the finding aids listed in the *État des inventaires des Archives Nationales* published up to January 1, 1937.

Chapter 6 (p. 77-86) deals with research in the *fonds* of the Conseil d'état du Roi in the Archives Nationales. Here M. Antoine gives hints and suggestions to researchers and several examples of problems in the search for types of material on different topics. He lists many subjects for which the archives of the Conseil will provide indispensable documentation; for the *fonds* of the

Conseil, as M. Antoine says, form a capital fund of documentation for studying the administration and institutions of France during the last two centuries of the monarchy.

In appendixes, M. Antoine discusses the "Polysynodie" period of 1715-18, the papers and documentation for which are widely scattered, and the Conseil des Ducs de Lorraine. There follow an index and 12 illustrations of various types of documents, especially *arrêts*.

A. P. NASATIR

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France, Direction des Archives. *Les sources de l'histoire de l'art aux Archives Nationales*, par Mireille Rambaud, avec une étude sur les sources de l'histoire de l'art aux Archives de la Seine, par Georges Bailhache et Michel Fleury. (Paris, Imprimerie nationale, 1955. 173 p.)

This work is not a conventional archival inventory. It is one of a series of guides to sources for individual disciplines planned by Charles Braibant, Director of the Archives of France, who here contributes a particularly important and interesting preface. A manual for genealogists has already appeared, and others on the history of science, economic history, sigillography, notarial minutes, and judicial records are in process. The present volume makes a broader contribution than its title and modest introduction promise. Besides fine arts, the guide covers town planning, decorative arts, theater, music, and the dance. Censorship, propaganda, administration, urbanization, and various economic, social, intellectual, and religious developments are also illuminated. The sources for the history of art in the French National Archives are extensive, diverse, and scattered; but Mlle. Rambaud's sound training and wide experience are more than adequate for her task.

The first and longest section of the guide deals with written documents in the Archives Nationales. For each record group and subgroup essential information is given about its contents, history, arrangement, and relation to other records and any special problems and obstacles to research. The items selected for inclusion are designed to help initiate investigation, not to provide complete finding lists. Similarly the enumeration of inventories, catalogs, and card indexes and the citations of documentary publications, though often rather extensive, are not necessarily exhaustive. The chapters devoted to notarial records and to the recently established private, economic, and microfilm divisions at the Archives, will be particularly welcome to Americans. There is a good chapter on printed sources.

Part two deals with iconographic documents: architectural plans and drawings, illuminated manuscripts, and seals. In part three, authoritative orientation in surviving Paris departmental and municipal records (Archives de la Seine) is provided by MM. Bailhache and Fleury. In principle the volume excludes such institutions as the Bibliothèque Nationale and Bibliothèque Historique de la Ville de Paris; but essential tools, such as the *fichier Laborde* in the former and *fichier d'histoire et de topographique* in the latter, are happily included.

Mlle. Rambaud and her collaborators have produced an important guide for art specialists, amateurs, librarians, and archivists; an invaluable instrument for historians of all varieties; and a model for other studies of the kind. It will be helpful in the selection of subjects for dissertations and other studies, in the planning and execution of research abroad, and in the evaluation of publications with regard to their use of available material. Reference is facilitated by a clear, logical arrangement, by topical and chronological tables, and by an index. Inevitably there are a few misprints and minor omissions.

DAVID L. DOWD

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Belgium, Archives Générales du Royaume. *Les Archives Générales du Royaume a Bruxelles; aperçu des fonds et des inventaires*, par M. Van Haegendoren. (Brussels, 1955. 440 p.)

This is a comprehensive bilingual guide to the printed and manuscript inventories of the *fonds* and collections of the Archives Générales du Royaume at Brussels. Founded in 1815 by King William I of the Netherlands, the Archives Générales houses the archives of the modern Belgian Kingdom; certain records of the "Old Regime," including *fonds* of the Spanish and Austrian Netherlands and of the government established under the French during the Napoleonic period; records of suppressed religious orders; papers of important Belgian statesmen, families, and individuals; and records pertaining to World Wars I and II.

The arrangement of the guide, following the administrative organization of the Archives Générales, comprises four numerical sections and a fifth section devoted to the archives of the World Wars. About 500 *fonds* and collections, numbering approximately 450,000 "*articles*" and occupying 40 kilometers of shelving, are described. Each entry includes the title and dates of the *fond* or collection, a description of the records involved, and a list of pertinent inventories. The descriptive paragraphs show the statutory origin of the agency that produced the records, list significant dates and events in its evolution, cite important subdivisions of the *fond*, and indicate whether the records are inventoried, the number of "*articles*" involved, and whether use of the records is restricted.

The inventories are classified as (1) printed inventories; (2) modern unprinted inventories; and (3) "*ancien*" inventories; that is, inventories compiled before the establishment of the Archives Générales. All editorial notes appear in the two official languages of Belgium — French and Flemish. Each inventory is cited in the language in which it was issued.

The records of the Old Regime described include those of the central institutions established by the rulers of the Low Countries since the Burgundian era (section 1), particularly records of the Chambres des Comptes (section 2) and records of the central institutions of the Duchy of Brabant and of local governing bodies, private institutions, and families of the Province of Brabant (section 3). Many of these records were acquired between the years 1857 and 1875 by exchange with the Austrian and French Governments.

Section 4 comprises entries for records of the central, provincial, and local institutions and agencies of the modern Belgian Government, 1815-1915, with a few entries of earlier and later dates. Included also are papers of prominent Belgian statesmen and families, and a collection of maps and charts. The Archives of the Wars, 1914-18, 1939-45 (section 5), include war-related records created by Belgian agencies at home and in allied and neutral countries, records created by the Germans during their occupations of Belgian territory, and records of various public agencies and private institutions that participated in Belgian relief work. All the records in section 5 are restricted; permission to use them must be obtained from the Archiviste Général.

A bilingual subject and name index and an exposition of the meanings of the varied type used in each entry enables searchers to find any *fond* or collection described and to determine at a glance if it has been inventoried and if the inventory has been printed.

This guide is an important addition to the bibliography of historical source material. Those interested in the history and techniques of record-keeping and record use will appreciate the resumé of the creation and administration of Belgian archives from the Middle Ages to the present time, in which special emphasis is given to the "vicissitudes of politics" and the "fortunes of war" that caused the physical transfer of many records and explain why certain series are scattered or disorganized. Also valuable are the comments on methods of document restoration and reproduction used; the listing of the services and facilities available to searchers; and the rules governing the use of records, all of which are found in or after the introduction.

HOPE K. HOLDCAMPER

National Archives

Guide to Resources for Commonwealth Studies in London, Oxford, and Cambridge, With Bibliographical and Other Information, by Arthur R. Hewitt. ([London], Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, 1957. viii, 219 p. \$3.57.)

The declared purpose of this *Guide* "is to assist advanced research workers, particularly those who have come to Great Britain from overseas, to locate material for the study of the British Commonwealth. The materials listed fall mainly . . . within the fields of history and the social sciences." Since the roots of the Commonwealth members reach back into the first British Empire, which lasted to the end of our colonial period, there are valuable items here for American historians. An experienced librarian, Mr. Hewitt has organized his compact *Guide* to provide for many approaches and supply many wants. His index, though full, is concise, noting explicitly where the materials are on a given topic. Within the body of the *Guide* he gives many cross references and directs the searcher to other useful books. The first of the two main parts of the *Guide* is characterized as a "General Survey of Resources." In this the author notes bodies of archives, private papers, papers of chartered and other companies, collections of parliamentary papers, periodicals, and newspapers. He gives information about dates, accessibility, published guides, lists, indexes,

catalogs, union lists, microfilm publications, and other useful matters. For example, of the Hudson's Bay Company records, he says:

... only archives up to the year 1870, the date of the Deed of Surrender of Rupert's Land to the Crown, are available for inspection. ... Use of the documents is subject to rather stringent conditions. ... Applications from accredited research workers for permission to consult them ... must be accompanied by two references or letters of recommendation. The records ... are being published. (The Company's archives have been copied on microfilm, a set of which is available for consultation at the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa, under similar terms and conditions to those which apply to the use of the originals in London.) The Goldsmiths' Library, University of London, also possess some miscellaneous papers relating to the Company.

One section offers "Sources of Information on the Location of Papers," noting, for instance, the National Register of Archives and the recording of manuscript migrations in the *Bulletin* of the Institute of Historical Research. Another section lists under subjects (history, political science, economics, geography, law, sociology) appropriate libraries, by name only, with occasional special notes. For example, under the heading History — Overseas Territories: "University College Library, London (includes the Hume tracts 1810 to 1850 many of which relate to Africa and the West Indies, and material on the American Colonial period)." Bibliographies are included with each subject section. The section "Theses and Research in Progress" points out compilations, periodical listings, and the card index of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. There is also a section of "Bibliographies and Works of Reference," arranged by geographical areas, with references to special lists elsewhere in the *Guide*.

The second main part of the *Guide* is devoted to alphabetically ordered descriptions of collections in London, Oxford, and Cambridge. Over 100 collections in London alone are listed, ranging from that of the Admiralty (which is assembling information on the location of collections of naval papers in private hands), through the Public Record Office (where the Cornwallis, Manchester, and Shaftesbury Papers, among others, are of special interest to Americans), the Royal Empire Society ("probably the largest collection of material on the British Empire and Commonwealth in the United Kingdom"), and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (which has a "fine collection of archives from its foundation in 1701 to date ... [and] letters from the American colonies, the West Indies, Canada, Newfoundland"), to the Zinc Development Association.

The section on collections in Oxford describes the Bodleian at some length, especially the Rhodes House Library, noting that it has purchased the archives of the Anti-Slavery Society and the Aborigines Protection Society, 1820-1941, and has made microfilm copies of several series of 19th-century documents in American archives dealing with the suppression of the slave trade, the African Squadron, and Negro colonization.

The last part of the book lists universities in the United Kingdom offering facilities for Commonwealth studies and advisory, research, and other organizations concerned with various aspects of Commonwealth affairs.

In 219 pages Mr. Hewitt has set up clear signposts that should guide the persistent, imaginative researcher to countless valuable historical items.

GRACE QUIMBY

National Archives

Guide to the Kent County Archives Office, by Felix Hull. (Maidstone, Kent County Council, 1958. xvi, 290 p., illus., appendixes. 13 s. 6d.)

This is a useful, well-made book, the climax to a quarter century of industrious attention to the local records in the southeast corner of Britain.

Occupying almost the identical area of an ancient Anglo-Saxon kingdom of the same name, Kent is bounded on the north by the Thames and its estuary, and on the east and southeast by the English Channel. To the west lie Sussex and Surrey. The county area is 1,525 square miles, somewhat larger than Rhode Island, somewhat smaller than Delaware. Its people outnumber the combined population of both those States. Kent has no cities as large as Providence or Wilmington, but it does have about 16 urban places of more than 25,000 people, including Canterbury, Gravesend, and Maidstone, the county capital.

Though another might dispute the claim, the Kent Records Office, built staunchly in 1938 behind the County Hall at Maidstone, is, in the foreword of Lord Cornwallis, "still the leading records building of any English county." Plate 1, appropriately, is a picture of it. Plate 4 gives the plan of an 1824 county building, completed in 1827, with a record room that is still in use for records of lesser significance.

Other preliminaries of the *Guide* include a brief introduction, a page of acknowledgements, the names of donors and depositors, a table of contents, an itemization of the 22 illustrative plates, and a list of the members of the County Archives Committee for 1953-58. The meat of the *Guide* is served in four courses: part 1, Official County Archives (75 p.); part 2, Official Deposited Archives (17 p.); part 3, Ecclesiastical and Miscellaneous Semi-Public Archives (21 p.); and part 4, Unofficial Deposited Archives (94 p.).

County Archivist Felix Hull and his coworkers have completed a formidable task in collecting, refining, and verifying so much essential information on so heterogeneous a mass of material. For part 1 they chose a form of entry patterned on the *Guide to the Essex Quarter Sessions and Other Official Records* (1946). Helpful introductory notes accompany each major section. Simple classification numbers appear frequently yet not obtrusively. Facts on quantity or bulk, meaningful though they may sometimes be, are customarily omitted.

The appendixes mention fragmentary medieval manuscripts, inform searchers of the facilities and regulations, suggest the resources of other Kentish repositories, and provide decipherments for some of the antique documents pictured in the plates. It is a minor cavil to say that some of these functions could have been done differently or better. The index of 52 pages is superb for its coverage of local place names. There is no county map in the volume.

When Lilian J. Redstone and Francis W. Steer published their book on

Local Records (1953), they said of local record offices in England: "It is very desirable that students, both in this country and overseas should have an efficient means of ascertaining exactly what is included in the vast numbers of records, official and private, which are accumulating in local record offices." The statement, by and large, still holds. But the appearance of this *Guide to the Kent County Archives Office* has filled one of the voids, perhaps for as long as 50 years.

H. B. FANT

National Archives

South Africa's Archives, by A. Kieser. (*Digest of South African Affairs, Supplement Fact Paper no. 58, May 1958*; Johannesburg, Hayne & Gibson, 1958. 10 p. Free on request from State Information Office, Private Bag, Pretoria.)

In this paper the Chief Archivist of the Union of South Africa discusses in general terms the work done by the South African Archives, including archives depots in the provinces. He outlines briefly their organization and aims and the various specialized tasks performed by the Department under his charge.

The article opens with a definition of terms. These are somewhat confusing. Dr. Kieser speaks both of "archives groups" — a term that he uses in the conventional sense — and of "archives records," by which he means archives in the Jenkinsonian, not records in the English judicial, sense.

He then comes to the question of access. "The records," he remarks with much sense, "are kept not to be hoarded as a miser hoards his gold but to be used." In fact, however, South African policy is not particularly liberal in giving access to its records when compared with the other young Dominions of the British Commonwealth. The South African Archives grants access only up to 1910, and thereafter 50 years after the records have come into being. This provision excludes the use of all the material that has come into existence since the formation of the Union of South Africa; it compares most unfavorably with Australia's policy of opening the records after 25 years, and New Zealand's of permitting departments to make their own arrangements once the records have been transferred.

Dr. Kieser then turns to his Department's publication policy. This is determined by an Archives Commission, a statutory body, on which serve university professors and other learned men. This arrangement is probably not one to be recommended. For experience has shown that it is never possible on such a committee to represent all schools of thought equally; an academic committee is likely to be biased in its composition one way or another; and, the more strong-minded the academic representatives are, the more vigorously will they fight for their own special interests.

The policy of the Archives has been, since the 1940's, not to publish selected documents but to print complete series of records. This is a wise decision. And Dr. Kieser adds that the documents will always be printed in full, experience having shown the unsatisfactory nature of calendars and abridgments. A policy of that kind has much to commend it where older documents are concerned.

It is, however, one that puts great limitations on the publication of very modern documents, which are so numerous that calendaring or giving selective descriptions may often be the only practicable way of dealing with them.

More objectionable is the fact that the Publications Section of the South African Archives is also responsible for printing academic theses and other works based on historical research. Work of this kind generally tends to be somewhat immature; the purpose of an academic thesis is, after all, to provide training for apprentices in the historian's craft. Generally speaking, post-graduate research gains if it is allowed to lie in "cold storage" for a number of years and finally sees the light of day in the form of a book acceptable to an ordinary academic publisher. As it is, the Union Archives is in danger of putting the stamp of official approval on productions that have little more to recommend them than assiduous reading, a wooden style, and unimpeachable political orthodoxy.

As far as the training of staff is concerned, Dr. Kieser considers that, ideally, every professional archivist ought to have an M. A. degree in history, as an archivist must be "proficient in historical research." This conclusion is questionable, at any rate where modern records are concerned. Modern records, the scope of which has immensely widened as the result of the 20th-century "administrative revolution," are not simply the historian's preserve. They are, or should be, of equal interest to economists, demographers, sociologists, and scholars interested in related disciplines. There is thus no reason to confine the selection of staff to historians. For one thing we badly need accountants. Sooner or later we may have to employ archivists with engineering qualifications to evaluate the more recent government records. Admittedly, historians will always be wanted as specialists. But archivists in general should look upon themselves primarily as administrative experts and information officers, familiar with the problem of getting the searcher to the sources.

Dr. Kieser finally discusses the cooperation between his department and other offices. The Archives limits itself to making the investigations that must be made before the Archives Commission will grant authority for the destruction of records. There is no record management program of the American type. It is to be feared that the absence of such a program may have serious consequences for the future work of the South African Archives, with inevitable effects on the source material that will one day be available.

V. W. HILLER

National Archives of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

Normas para la transcripción y edición de documentos históricos (Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Facultad de Filosofía y Humanidades, Instituto de Estudios Americanistas, Serie Histórica no. 28; Primera Reunión Argentina de Paleografía y Neografía, Córdoba, Imprenta de la Universidad, 1957. 93 p.)

This little volume is composed of several parts: a preliminary notice that explains how this first Argentine meeting of paleographers and neographers (if we may accept the term) came about, and a proposed set of rules and

standards for their use; a part devoted chiefly to the standards and rules approved at the meeting and a running account of the interchange of opinions at the meeting; and two appendixes, one the short monograph by Aurelio Z. Tanodi that was the theme of the meeting, and the other a transcript of the remarks of representatives of learned institutions in Argentina on the desirability of the proposed rules.

The proposed and the adopted standards as well as the discussions are concerned with fine points of transcribing and editing historical documents: orthography, punctuation, the use of capital letters, the separation of words and phrases, accents, abbreviations, typographical symbols, and so on. The paleographers, archivists, and historians were dealing here not only with modern historical papers but also with documents that come from a period when little heed was given to grammar or punctuation and when the use of abbreviations and capitals provided baffling problems of meaning. The efforts of these men to agree on modern equivalents of the old forms and to bring about a common practice in Argentina are indeed praiseworthy.

The most interesting part of the book is its account of the discussions, which were by no means technical or tiresome. There are eminently practical comments on the capacity and training of copyists, the intelligence of readers, and the interpretative abilities and rights of paleographers. But most important, there come to the surface fundamental principles of right and wrong, the conflict between faithful and exact rendition of an original on the one hand, and a meaningful, comprehensible version on the other. One participant, in commenting on certain Argentine publications, said: "But in literary and not so literary texts, they are even taking this liberty—without prior indication to the reader—of omitting words and even paragraphs which in the judgment of those who copy and publish them, could injure the person of a great hero, or a hero of the Revolution or of Argentine independence." Such a practice, the speaker declared, "does not speak well for our culture."

This book, therefore, is more than an account of the deliberations of a small group of technicians; it is also a presentation of moral values of which publishers and editors the world over need often to be reminded.

ALMON R. WRIGHT

Department of State

Catálogo sumario de los fondos existentes en el Archivo Nacional, by Felipe Zapata Casanova. (Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, *Publicaciones del Comité de Archivos*, La Habana, Cuba, 1958. 85 p.)

This brief catalog of the documents in the National Archive of Cuba is intended to serve as a guide to the materials that the employees must manage and to inform investigators about the nature, variety, quantity, and importance of the "archivalia." In a summary manner the author has succeeded in presenting an informative description of the groups of records now in the Archive. The items are arranged according to the governmental organization by which the records were produced since it is considered that this is the best plan for their classification. For each group there is a brief history of the records and

their organization. They are then described, with an indication of their content and subject matter. In each case the location of the groups in the various rooms of the Archive is stated, and the number of bundles and volumes, their dates, and the indexes to them are set forth. The publications respecting the documents are listed. The losses suffered during the many moves of the Archive and removals to Spain are mentioned; and the effective labors of Capt. Joaquín Llaverías, the late Director of the Archive, in reorganization and cataloging are recognized in the preface. The small volume is a useful tool both for those who work in the Archive and for students who desire to use the "archivalia." The Committee on Archives of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History has performed a useful service in the publication of this *Catálogo Sumario*.

ROSCOE R. HILL

Washington, D. C.

Canada, Public Archives. *Preliminary Inventory, Record Group 9, Department of Militia and Defence, 1776-1922*. (Ottawa, 1957. 36 p., appendixes. 50¢.)

———. *Preliminary Inventory, Record Groups no. 14, Records of Parliament, 1775-1915; no. 15, Department of the Interior; no. 16, Department of National Revenue*. (Ottawa, 1957. 30 p., appendixes. 50¢.)

———. *Preliminary Inventory, Manuscript Group 23, Late Eighteenth Century Papers*. (Ottawa, 1957. 52 p., 50¢.)

These additions to the *Preliminary Inventories* of record and manuscript groups stand as further testimony to the successful efforts of W. Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist, to make the holdings of the Public Archives of Canada more widely known.

The first two volumes are in the "blue" series, dealing with the archives of public departments. In each volume a brief history of the growth of the department concerned precedes the inventory of the records. Except for the records of Parliament, each group is followed by a list of the principal officials during the period covered by the inventory. A diagrammatic organization chart of the Department of the Interior, 1873-1936, appears on p. 13 of the second volume, a useful key to the growth of the archives. The first volume has an appendix of titles of the various acts of provincial and Dominion parliaments governing the militia and armed forces and contains a full subject index. The records of the Adjutant General's Office, Lower Canada, 1776-1847, which are described first, being mainly in French, are described in that language.

If an agency existed before Confederation, as is the case of Parliament, the Department of Militia and Defence, and the Department of National Revenue (customs and excise), the records earlier than 1867 are grouped and described under the province in which they originated. Descriptions are full enough to give the user a clear conspectus of the bulk and content of these cardinal record groups.

The third volume, in the "red" series of inventories of the arbitrarily established manuscript groups, deals with original documents, transcripts, photo-

copies, and microfilms acquired by the Public Archives from Canadian and external sources and relating to personalities and events of the late 18th century. This group deals with the British settlement of Quebec; the American Revolution; the Loyalists; the establishment of colonies in New Brunswick, Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, and Upper Canada; exploration and travel; military history; and Newfoundland. Being more diverse in nature and origin than the record groups, the manuscript groups require, and are provided with, more description of content. A full $3\frac{1}{2}$ page index of persons, places, and subjects adds considerably to the value of the inventory.

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Calendar of Maryland State Papers. No. 5, Executive Miscellanea. (Hall of Records Commission, *Publication* no. 11; Annapolis, 1958. xii, 198 p.)

This is the eighth and final volume in the calendar series of *Maryland State Papers*, which began with the "Black Books" (1943) and has included all of the "Rainbow Series" of manuscript volumes, so-called from their different colored bindings. Originally loose papers, long neglected in the State Capitol, they were roughly sorted and stitched almost a century ago and eventually came to the Hall of Records. The series of calendars has rendered these records conveniently and widely useful for the first time. The entries in each calendar are arranged in strict chronological order, while the manuscripts are not; and the user has the further advantage of a good index to each volume.

Most of the documents are of the 18th century and pertain to the executive business of the Colony and the State. As the title of the present volume suggests, the papers here calendared are miscellaneous, including both unbound executive papers and some manuscripts in the Rainbow Series, previously overlooked. In each entry the document is identified by location as well as by date and content. Over two-thirds of the 1,100 entries are concerned with the Revolution in Maryland during 1775-78; the rest, mainly for the years 1751-69 and 1779-99, have less continuity. Some are related to material in the "Brown Books," which deal almost exclusively with problems and conditions during the War for Independence. The present volume has been ably edited by Gust Skordas and the late Roger Thomas.

The list of persons, by counties, who took the oaths of allegiance and fidelity in 1778 comprises an organic body of material, not typical of the contents of this volume. Because the other papers are so miscellaneous in character, it is regrettable that the editors restricted the index to names and places. There is, however, a finding list for the original documents by number, keyed to the numbers of the calendar entries. With the completion of this series Morris L. Radoff and his staff in the Hall of Records have earned special commendation for an accomplishment of high quality and enduring value.

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