

Reviews of Books

HENRY P. BEERS, *Editor*

National Archives

Problems of Scholarly Publication in the Humanities and Social Sciences; a Report Prepared for the Committee on Scholarly Publication of the American Council of Learned Societies, by Rush Welter. (New York, American Council of Learned Societies, 1959. xii, 81 p.)

Have you ever written a scholarly book or article and then discovered that you could not get it published? If so, probably you were bitterly disappointed. In this report you may possibly find comfort, for it indicates that some kinds of scholarly writings are as much as ten times less likely to win a publisher than other kinds. But the odds favor your distress being intensified by the findings of this comprehensive survey. For it indicates that, on the whole, manuscripts in the disciplines reviewed — English, history, political science, philosophy, French, the classics, music, art, and geography — are not to be viewed with as much despair as scholars' and publishers' talk often suggests. Very roughly speaking, a book-length manuscript is likelier than not to be accepted for publication without a subsidy and has three chances in four to be accepted if the author or some benefactor of a university press provides a partial subsidy. An article you write in any of the four fields first named may have only one chance in four of being printed in an appropriate scholarly journal; but, on the average, more than four of every five articles by scholars get into print.

Presumably, therefore, when the disparate elements have all been considered, there is more reason for an optimistic outlook upon the recent past, the present, and the future of scholarly publication than many scholars suppose. And this report, which persuasively justifies that conclusion, is based chiefly on the American experience of 1955-57. In the last of those years the Ford Foundation made the prognosis brighter by announcing an appropriation of nearly one and three-quarter million dollars for grants to university presses within five years to support book publication in the humanities and social sciences. The approximate result in the first two years was that an annual output of 750 titles by such presses was increased to 900. How eloquently do such figures testify to the dependence of scholarly publication upon philanthropy! How dark the picture would become immediately if such benefactions should cease!

The survey that lies behind this succinct book began late in 1957. On the committee that superintended it the president of the American Council of Learned Societies served as chairman. Readers of this journal may want to look up his article of eight paragraphs on "The Unique Role of the University Press," in *Scholarly Books in America*, vol. 1, no. 1 (Spring, 1959), which can be obtained from 1525 East 53d St., Chicago 15. The committee consisted also of nine other men — three each representing commercial publishers, uni-

versity presses, and scholars. For a year Rush Welter, historian on leave from Bennington College, pursued the investigation. Sharply divergent views characterized the committee's beginning; it ended with remarkable unanimity.

By questionnaires and otherwise, data were gathered to reflect the experience and attitudes of about 500 scholars, the editors of 72 scholarly journals, the directors of 34 university presses, and 8 commercial publishers. The findings are cogently interpreted, and too much is not claimed for them. The presentation has three chief merits. (1) It reveals clearly and repeatedly that many interests are at stake in the world of scholarly publication and that individual considerations make generalizations risky. It does not fail to state the discovered problems in terms of the distinctive needs of different disciplines. It exhibits awareness that scholarly writings are of different kinds and come in different lengths with widely varying degrees of quality. (2) It is pervaded by a frequent insistence that crassly economic factors should be outweighed by the values to be found in any contribution to the advancement of scholarship. It even pleads the cause of immature scholars whose works prove that they have not yet "arrived" but that they evince promise. (3) Although its major purpose was to define problems rather than to solve them, it often points — with deceptive quietude that becomes, upon rereading, convincing logic — to measures that would alleviate or remove those problems.

I find the author's style not easy to read. Using as samples the fifth paragraph in every chapter, I counted 21 sentences averaging 49 words each. Application of the Rudolf Flesch and Dale-Chall readability tests indicates that others will find this little book about as "heavy" as any ever comes.

Archivists may be especially interested in the discussions of photographic and near-print substitutes for letterpress publication. These are on pages 39-42 and 63-65. The viewpoint is that of the skeptical.

The committee's chairman confesses that this book might itself have become a publication problem but for a total subsidy. The scholarly world should be grateful to all who contributed to it, including the underwriter who covered publication costs.

W. EDWIN HEMPHILL

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Archiwum Stanisława Augusta, by Piotr Bańkowski. (Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, Monografia archiwoznawcza; Warszawa, Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1958. 315 p.)

The two major problems connected with the archives of the Chancellery (Executive Office) of King Stanislas Augustus Poniatowski involve determining their historical origin and reconstructing their inventory. This book treats each subject in a separate chapter and contributes a considerable amount of original material that should help solve both problems. Great pains are taken to demonstrate that the archives are the record of the Chancellery rather than merely the private papers of the King. The Royal Chancellery was established in 1764. Most of the archives originated in its activities from that time until the downfall of the Kingdom in 1795, but some records date back as far as

the fifteenth century, for example those dealing with Polish-Turkish and Polish-Prussian relations. The archives have been scattered for the past 150 years.

After the failure of the Kościuszko uprising and the third partition of Poland, Stanislas Augustus was forced into exile at St. Petersburg. Although he took with him a large collection of letters and documents and had others forwarded, most Chancellery archives remained in Warsaw as part of his private collection. After the King's death in 1798, the records were widely dispersed and many of them were destroyed. Fragments can be found today in various collections in Poland and abroad.

In 1795 at the request of the King, Bishop Jan Albertrand, the last Royal Archivist, made an inventory of the archives, apportioned into 575 collections of records. One copy of the list was sent to the King and was subsequently lost in Russia. The other copy, which remained in Warsaw, was destroyed in a fire at the outset of World War II. An imperfect transcript of the inventory in the possession of Mr. Bańkowski disappeared during the Warsaw uprising in 1944. Notes made by the author and based directly on this transcript, along with fragmentary and supplementary data gleaned from various Polish collections, became the foundation upon which Albertrand's inventory has been partially reconstructed.

Under the King's supervision the records of the Chancellery had been organized into three major groups, dealing with Polish internal affairs, Polish foreign affairs, and the affairs of foreign nations. The first group consisted of documents of the legislative and executive branches of the government, including reports on the King and on the uprisings in Poland. The second group recorded Poland's lively diplomatic correspondence with Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey. The third group comprised miscellaneous papers on England, France, the Italian States, Prussia, Russia, and Sweden.

Besides giving valuable insight into the history of the collapse of Polish independence, the archives provide many glimpses into the political, social, and cultural life of the period. Annotations, which describe the contents and record both the source and present location of some of the documents, increase the usefulness of this book. Historians in particular will find the work a most valuable tool for any further research on the period of the last King of independent Poland.

JANINA WOJCICKA

Library of Congress

DESCRIPTIONS OF RECORDS

Guide to the Diplomatic Archives of Western Europe, ed. by Daniel H. Thomas and Lynn M. Case. (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1950.

can no longer turn to the *Guide International des Archives* and the *Internationaler Archivführer*, both of them published in the 1930's and completely out of date. Hence this *Guide to the Diplomatic Archives of Western Europe* will serve as a badly needed means of orientation for students of the history of the area's international relations. Edited by Daniel H. Thomas of the University of Rhode Island, whose interesting article on the "History of the Diplomatic Archives of Belgium" readers of this journal will remember, and by Lynn M. Case of the University of Pennsylvania, the volume was planned as "a *vademecum* or a scholar's *Baedeker* for those interested in finding and making the fullest use of the original documents of western Europe." At the same time, it was to be a *volume d'hommage* for William Ezra Lingelbach, whose friends and former students have contributed the various country chapters.

They have done so on the basis of their intimate knowledge of the history and archival resources of the countries covered — Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and the Vatican City. Also included in the volume are chapters on the diplomatic archives of Bavaria, a former state, those of the League of Nations, the United Nations and UNESCO, and, as a welcome supplement, a chapter on "Public Opinion and Foreign Affairs." In assembling their data, the many distinguished authors, among them Arthur J. May, Waldemar Westergaard, Raymond J. Sontag, Manoel Cardozo, Oron J. Hale, and Richard H. Heindel, to name but a few, have enjoyed the help and advice of leading archivists of the respective lands. The chapter on the Netherlands, coauthored by D. P. M. Graswinckel, and that on the League and the United Nations, by Robert Claus and Irving P. Schiller, show the competent hands of the professional archivist.

While rightly the editors have not attempted to force uniformity of approach upon their collaborators, most of them follow a common pattern of organization and furnish the same basic information. Beginning with a brief but adequate history of the chief depositories containing diplomatic records, they give a description of their principal holdings and their arrangement and a listing of published documents and of published guides and inventories. There is also provided useful information relating to the administration and leading officials of the various establishments, opening periods and hours, availability and cost of photographic service, libraries of the area and their eventual archival holdings, and finally advice with regard to living arrangements.

Here then is an extremely helpful publication that will enable the scholar in the field of diplomatic history to prepare himself for the work he plans to do abroad and that will save him considerable time after he has arrived *in situ*. Archivists, too, will be pleased to have available carefully assembled data on many of the important archival establishments of Western Europe, though they might question the wisdom of including the names of responsible archivists, given the ephemeral value of that type of information. If suggestions for a second edition are in order, this reviewer regrets that not more has been done to relate this *Guide* to our consistent efforts to acquaint the American scholar with research materials abroad and to obtain copies of them for his use. The

copies in the Library of Congress, for instance, are mentioned in two chapters only. There should have been an introductory chapter calling the reader's attention among other things to the Bemis-Griffin *Guide*, to Roscoe Hill's *American Missions in European Archives*, and to the work of the Committee on Documentary Reproduction of the American Historical Association. Also, since it will be a long time before this *Guide* will be republished, in the same introductory chapter the reader could have been informed about current sources of information on European archives, such as the "Writings on Archives, Records, and Historical Manuscripts" in the *American Archivist* and, even more important, the analytical bibliography of publications pertaining to archival administration and archives in *Archivum*, both of them presumably little known to American historians. Is it not a regrettable fact that graduate seminars still pay relatively little attention to the problems of working with, and effectively using, unprinted documents, especially records? For this unsatisfactory situation archivists should blame nobody but themselves, for they have not yet produced, for the benefit of history students, a general guide to the use of archival material.

ERNST POSNER

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Glavnoe arkhivnoe upravlenie. *Gosudarstvennye arkhivi SSSR. Kratkii spravochnik*, pod redaktsiei G. A. Belova, A. I. Loginovoi, S. V. Nefedovoi, I. I. Firsova [Main Archives Administration, *The State Archives of the U. S. S. R.* A short manual, ed. by G. A. Belov, A. I. Loginova, S. V. Nefedova, I. I. Firsov]. (Moskva, 1956. 508 p.)

The compilation of this Soviet manual, first of its kind in attempting to describe the main archival centers of the U. S. S. R., was due to the decision of the Twentieth Party Congress, which pointed to "the handicaps to the research of important problems of historical science" and underlined "the necessity of a wider use of the Soviet documentary resources in the interest of the development of Soviet science." This decision confronted the Soviet historian-archivists with the task of preparing more finding aids in order "to unveil the structure and contents of documentary materials of the state archive *fonds*." Such a situation might lead one to expect a hastily compiled work, which, in fact, it is.

Except for four cities in Belorussia and three in Latvia there are no descriptions of city archives. In all there are described 259 archives (213 centers and 46 filials), as of Jan. 1, 1956. The supplement lists 13 other archival centers, which are not included in the guide because they are of too little importance or are only in process of organization. Of the Central State Archives proper there are described nine archives on the all-union level: Central State Archives of Ancient Record in Moscow, Central State Historical Archives in Moscow, Central State Historical Archives in Leningrad, Central State Archives of Military History in Moscow, Central State Navy Archives in Leningrad, Central State Archives of the October Revolution and the Socialist Administration in Moscow, Central State Archives of the Red Army in Moscow, Central State Archives of Literature and Arts in Moscow, and Central State Archives

of Cinema-Photo-Phono Documents in Moscow. For the various republics and autonomous provinces 51 archives are described: R. S. F. S. R. (12), Ukraine (3), Belorussia (3), Uzbekistan (4), Kazakhstan (3), Georgia (5), Azerbaidzhan (4), Lithuania (1), Moldavia (2), Latvia (1), Khirghizia (2), Tadzhikistan (2), Armenia (2), Turkestan (2), Estonia (3), and Karelia (2). These central archives have also 5 filials: R. S. F. S. R. (1), Ukraine (2), Belorussia (1), and Lithuania (1). Other archival depositories on a provincial or more local basis are in the R. S. F. S. R. (72), Ukraine (26), Belorussia (11), Uzbekistan (9), Kazakhstan (16), Georgia (1), Latvia (3), Khirghizia (6), Tadzhikistan (4), Turkestan (5), and Estonia (1). These archives, still on a State level, have also 41 filials: R. S. F. S. R. (32), Ukraine (8), and Belorussia (1).

Of the described archives 45% are in the R. S. F. S. R., 15% in the Ukraine, 7% in Khazakhstan, 6% in Belorussia, and 5% in Uzbekistan. The remaining 22% are located in other parts of the U. S. S. R. Azerbaidzhan, Lithuania, Moldavia, Armenia, and Karelia have archives only on the Central State level, excluding, of course, various local, city, and administrative government depositories not included in the *Guide*.

The description of the archives follows the territorial distribution, beginning with those on the all-union level, located in Moscow and Leningrad. For each archive is given the number of *fonds*, the period covered, the location, and a short history of the depository (sometimes omitted); but the main part of the entry is dedicated to a description of the most important holdings. The bibliography lists in all 61 works published since 1941, either as monographs or as articles in periodicals.

The guide, printed on good paper, is helpful to the beginner who wants to look into the Soviet archival network and its documentary materials. To a meticulous researcher it is of no, or at most very limited, value. The quantity of records in each depository is difficult to determine inasmuch as the guide does not indicate the holdings in terms of measurement. The indication of the number of *fonds*, however, is more realistic than the usual indication of the custodial units (*Edinitse khranieniia*), a term creating confusion because it is used for *fonds*, series, or single documents in various other guides and inventories. The use of the book is also difficult because of the lack of a thorough analytical index of administrative, geographical, and other terms. The index of personal names is incomplete, containing many surnames without initials. The lack of more detailed literature makes it difficult to evaluate this guide as a realistic representation of the various archives. The constant use of very general terms is baffling.

Besides the now already standard remarks on Stalin references, the Soviet critics have had much more to say about this book. They have asserted that some important *fonds* have been omitted and others have been described as being in archives where they either never were or from which they were transferred years ago. There are also inconsistencies. The guide states that the State Archives of the *Khmel'nitski oblast* contains records related to the struggle of the Ukrainians under B. Khmel'nitski, but the period covered by the archives is

given as 1796-1954. Other holdings are described in such broad and general terms ("the records are related to the W W I," or are "related to the agricultural relations," etc.) that it is impossible for a researcher even to guess their category or class. The Soviet critics also observed that the holdings of the pre-revolutionary era are in many cases described better and in less general terms than those of recent origin.

The guide has, therefore, only the very general value of a hastily compiled manual and reference tool. If the useless general descriptions of the holdings had been omitted, or at least reduced to a minimum, the space thus saved could much better have been used for detailed histories of the origins and development of the various archival depositories. The guide would then have been much, much more useful.

BOGOMIR CHOKEL

Library of Congress

Tasmania. State Archives. *Guide to the Public Records of Tasmania. Section One. Colonial Secretary's Office Record Group.* (Hobart, 1957. ix, 43 p., appendixes. Processed.)

Tasmania. State Archives. *Guide to the Public Records of Tasmania. Section Two. Governor's Office, 1816-1933,* by P. R. Eldershaw. (Hobart, 1958. xxxvi, 48 p., appendixes. Processed.)

With the issue of these two parts of a *Guide to the Public Records of Tasmania*, yet another member of the British Commonwealth has adopted the preliminary inventory form of finding aid as a primary means of access to records in archival custody. Though not specifically entitled preliminary inventories, it is obvious from their form that they are based on the models of the Dominion Archives of Canada and New Zealand, to name two series with which readers will be acquainted. Similarly, the Tasmanian State Archives has adopted the "record group" classification for the archives in its care, though what constitutes a record group in Tasmania is not defined.

The first volume deals with the records which, almost exclusively, "constituted the nucleus of the holdings of the State Archives when the Public Records Act was passed in 1943." It is prefaced by an introduction on the origins of the office and duties of the Colonial Secretary in Tasmania until roughly 1847, which is the latest date reached by the bulk of the records listed. The introduction also includes a note of previous places of storage of these documents and an identification of accessions between 1951 and 1956. The inventory lists the classes of records within the group, giving their title, covering dates, number of items, the foot-run of shelving they occupy, and their class identification number, followed by descriptive notes explaining the makeup, physical and administrative, of the documents, their content and their arrangement, and, where necessary, remarks on the filing methods of the office. Three appendixes give a list of the successive Secretaries and Colonial Secretaries; a list of Lieutenant-Governors and the classes of records that relate to the period of office of each of these; and a list of references to authorities cited in the introduction — not always, regrettably, clearly identified as to origin.

The second volume deals with another cardinal record group, that of the Governor's Office. The introduction is a detailed history of the office and function of the Governor, followed by a note on the provenance of the documents constituting this record group. The inventory follows the pattern of the first volume. Appendixes list Governors and Private Secretaries; military commandants of the Launceston settlement, 1804-45; holdings of microfilm copies of series in the Public Record Office, London, which fill gaps in the holdings of original series in Hobart; despatches printed in *Historical Records of Australia, Series III*; and copies of despatches, 1831-47, held in the Mitchell Library, Sydney, N.S.W. Two final appendixes contain a conversion table of old classification numbers to new, resulting from a reclassification of the group after 1955, and a list of references to authorities cited in the introduction, this time more adequately identified.

One's only regret is that these volumes could not have been printed rather than issued in processed form, but this in no way diminishes their value and interest and it is to be hoped that more similar volumes will soon stand to the credit of the Tasmanian State Archives.

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Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the United States House of Representatives, 1789-1946, comp. by Buford Rowland, Handy B. Fant, and Harold E. Hufford. (National Archives, *Preliminary Inventory* no. 113; Washington, 1959. 2 vols., vi, 587 p. Processed. Free.)

This is an inventory in two volumes of the records of the U. S. House of Representatives of the first 79 Congresses, covering the period 1789-1946. Its publication marks the completion of a project of enormous magnitude, for the records described amount to about 9,100 cubic feet. They consist almost entirely of those pertaining to the official business of the House that were filed with the Clerk of the House or that were created by his Office. They do not include the papers of the Speaker of the House, the personnel and financial records of the Clerk and the Sergeant at Arms, the records of joint congressional committees, or the papers of individual House Members.

Vol. 1 contains an introduction (10 p.) that describes the preservation, custody, and control of House records during the decades after the British burned the Capitol in 1814 and sketches the recent work of the Archives staff in organizing these records systematically. The records of the first 55 Congresses (1789-1899) are analyzed and described in vol. 1 and those of the 56th through the 79th Congresses (1899-1946) in vol. 2. The second volume also contains five valuable appendixes including a 10-page glossary of congressional terms, a chronology of all the standing committees of the House down to 1954, lists of the Speakers and Clerks of the House from the beginning, a list of references, and a comprehensive 108-page index.

In this inventory records are grouped first by Congress and then, in accordance with the major functions of the House, under the following headings:

(1) records of legislative proceedings, (2) records of impeachment proceedings, and (3) records of the Office of the Clerk. Records of legislative proceedings include minute books and journals, bills and resolutions, committee reports and papers, messages from the President, reports and communications from Government agencies, and petitions and memorials. Election records have also been filed with the legislative records for convenience. Impeachment records include petitions and letters making accusations against officeholders and letters, reports, and other documents that could be used in drafting articles of impeachment. Records of the Office of the Clerk include bill books, records of orders of the day, various kinds of registers, printing accounts, and copies of correspondence of the Clerk.

The records of Congress are among the most valuable of the Government. They contain an abundance of material relating to almost every phase of human activity and national interest, and the inventory illustrates that diversity. The compilers of this invaluable inventory deserve a hearty vote of thanks from all students of the history of our national legislature. They have produced with painstaking care a reference source of lasting utility to Members of Congress, the congressional staff, and writers on representative government.

GEORGE B. GALLOWAY

Library of Congress

Guide to the Manuscript Maps in the William L. Clements Library, comp. by Christian Brun. (Ann Arbor, University of Michigan, 1959. xiii, 209 p., illus.)

The records of history are ephemeral and perishable and, with the passing years, contemporary information becomes ever more scarce. For America's Colonial and Revolutionary periods authoritative data are particularly difficult to recover.

To reconstruct the events of these eventful and exciting years the scholar, as Theodore Blegen has noted,

must go to sources, without which no history can be written. . . . His recourse is . . . to libraries and archives, to books and manuscripts, to the fruits of man's collecting of records . . . he knows moments of discovery and even elation. Such moments for the scholar would be much rarer than they are if [private] collectors . . . had not performed the twin service of gathering together books in their chosen fields of interest and of making them available to public use. ("A Glorious Court," in *Book Collecting and Scholarship*, University of Minnesota Press, 1954.)

More rare even than contemporary books are manuscript records, official and personal, of early America. To discover and bring together such materials was the task undertaken by William L. Clements during the third decade of the twentieth century. How well he succeeded is evident in the rich collection of eighteenth-century manuscript records of British America now preserved in the University of Michigan's William L. Clements Library.

In 1953 the miscellaneous papers were brought to the attention of scholars in William S. Ewing's *Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the William L.*

Clements Library. In the volume here reviewed Christian Brun offers a similar guide to one section of the library's division of maps.

Both the compiler and the library's director, Howard H. Peckham, emphasize in the foreword and preface, respectively, that this guide includes only manuscript maps and does not list any of the "many rare and valuable printed maps of early American history in the Division." Most of the 806 maps described in the *Guide* were acquired "not as single purchases, but as part of larger manuscript collections: the papers of General Thomas Gage and General Sir Henry Clinton, and of Lord George Germain and the Earl of Shelburne, and of the American General Josiah Harmer and the American engineer Loammi Baldwin and his sons."

As might be expected from the emphasis of the Clements collections, "the greater number of the maps are of military origin, showing the British-American scene following the French and Indian War and detailing the battles and campaigns of the Revolution." The largest single group of maps described is part of the collected papers of Sir Henry Clinton, commander of the British forces in the American Revolution from 1778 to 1782. Most of these maps were previously listed in Randolph G. Adams' *British Headquarters Maps and Sketches Used by Sir Henry Clinton* (Ann Arbor, 1928).

In Mr. Brun's *Guide* the maps "are listed in a geographical arrangement beginning with North America, Canada, then down the Eastern American Seaboard by states, west along the Gulf to the Mississippi, north to the Old Northwest and, finally, to the American Southwest." Maps of the other parts of the Western Hemisphere and of non-American areas follow.

Authorship and data have been established for the maps "wherever possible." The entries also include scale, size, descriptions, and pertinent related data for each map. The book, which is reproduced from typewriter composition, includes reduced facsimiles of five maps.

An earlier publication noted that "the maps housed in the Clements Library . . . form a background against which the drama of the Americas was played. . . . The Clements Library collection of American maps aids materially in perfecting the Library's picture of American history." (*The William L. Clements Library; a Brief Description and Bibliographical Record: 1923-1944*, Ann Arbor, Mich., 1944.) Mr. Brun has performed a real service to scholars and researchers in describing the rare manuscript maps in this noteworthy collection.

WALTER W. RISTOW

Map Division
Library of Congress

Massachusetts Records; a Handbook for Genealogists, Historians, Lawyers, and Other Researchers, by Richard LeBaron Bowen. (Privately printed, Rehoboth, Mass., 1957. 66 p. \$4.)

My first introduction to Massachusetts counties came as a youth when in the South Station at Boston I saw emblazoned around the waiting-room walls the names of the 14 counties. I now meet them again, but with considerably more comprehension than in my younger days.

The author's basic plan for describing Massachusetts records at a non-State level is as follows. Records of the 14 counties are described in simple terms of types of material to be found, with the essential dates. In general the author assumes that the searcher knows the details of the kinds of records to be found. For instance, for Hampden County (p. 31) we have this entry: "The Inferior Court of Common Pleas records commencing 6 June 1693; Court of Sessions, 14 Sept. 1812; Court of General Sessions of the Peace, 25 Sept. 1694; Circuit Court of Common Pleas, 31 Aug. 1812; Court of Common Pleas, 21 Aug. 1821; Superior Court, 3 Oct. 1859." Space does not, of course, permit the use of the type of entry used by the Historical Records Survey. When the county is divided into districts, the towns for each are listed.

The 39 cities and 312 towns receive even briefer treatment. Under each county (or district) the towns are listed alphabetically with their dates of incorporation. A star against a town denotes that its vital statistics are in print. There is no space to describe the records of each town in the text, but footnotes explain whenever the general run of records in a town is missing. In substance, then, this is a thumb-nail sketch of county and town records only, but the geographical coverage is wide.

Although there is no discussion of records at the State level, some attention is paid to the colonial situation. The author makes a fascinating contribution to history in showing that one of the reasons why the Plymouth (or Old) Colony was absorbed by the Massachusetts Bay Colony was the near bankruptcy resulting from King Philip's War. Towns staged tax revolts and people no longer cared what colony they belonged to. The author traces the provenance of the Old Colony records and points out the value of the Massachusetts Archives.

Although Mr. Bowen mentions many bibliographic aids to searching Massachusetts records, he does not note the Historical Records Survey inventories of the records of Essex County and at least 14 towns within the State.

A future edition of this admirable work would do well to correct an error on page 10, the statement that the manuscript returns of the Massachusetts census for 1800 are in the Library of Congress. They are in the National Archives, as are the censuses for other years.

RICHARD G. WOOD

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DOCUMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

Mauritius and the Spice Trade; the Odyssey of Pierre Poivre, edited by Madeleine Ly-tio-fane. (Mauritius Archives Publication Fund, *Publication* no. 4; Port Louis, Mauritius, Esclapon Ltd., 1958. 148 p., illus. Rs 15, 22s. 8d.)

This volume of original correspondence in French chiefly concerns the French effort in the eighteenth century to break the Dutch stranglehold upon the spice trade. The well edited documents cover a little-known chapter in French and, by implication, in Dutch colonialism. The editor, Madeleine Ly-tio-fane, is to be congratulated on her patience in collecting the letters and bringing them to

the attention of other scholars in the field of colonial history and on her clear and concise analysis of them in her introduction. For the convenience of English-speaking readers, she has not only written the introduction in English but has included a section of abstracts of the French sources, also in English.

Pierre Poivre, who appears to have been the prime mover in this French effort, believed that France could muscle into the spice trade, particularly in terms of nutmegs and cloves, if only he could secure the living plants and grow them in Mauritius. Poivre's quest began in 1747 with the blessings of the *Compagnie des Indes* and of M. David, the governor of the Île de France. His search for healthy, first-quality plants had led him in several voyages to Cochin-China, Manila, the Moluccas, Celebes, and Timor, when, about 1757 on his return to Mauritius, intrigue temporarily halted his progress. A new governor took sides with Poivre's adversary. Poivre therefore returned to France, where after a decade he received a royal appointment as *Commissaire-Ordonnateur*. Having returned to the Île de France in 1767, he sent out further expeditions to accomplish his chosen mission. These resulted in the establishment of some small nutmeg and clove nurseries, which struggled along but failed to supply market demands. Presently, however, after Poivre's retirement and death, the spices of Mauritius were sent to the French West Indies and French Guiana. Later still, during the French Revolution, the Danes received plants from Mauritius for their Tranquebar plantations in India, and it is quite possible that the West African, Gaboon, Liberian, and Belgian Congo spice plantations developed indirectly from the Mauritius nurseries via the West Indies.

The editor concludes by asserting that, whereas the Mauritius plantations established under Poivre had no success in undermining the Dutch, yet they did serve as a nursery for the spice plantations in the Western Hemisphere and possibly in Africa. In any case, although Poivre failed to break the Dutch spice monopoly, the wars and changes in the world arising out of the French Revolution did break it.

ELMER H. CUTTS

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REPORTS OF ARCHIVAL AGENCIES

Rapport de l'Archiviste de la Province de Québec pour 1955-1956 et 1956-1957. (n.p. Redempti Paradis, n.d. viii, 553 p.)

This biennial report of Antoine Roy, Archivist of the Province of Quebec, constitutes, as usual, a compilation of descriptions of collections of records or individual documents in the Provincial Archives or in other provincial archival depositories.

The report publishes the petition, Oct. 3, 1838, of the people of Quebec to the Earl of Durham, Governor General of Canada, urging him not to resign but to continue as Governor. After the rebellion of 1837-38 in Canada, the Earl had been sent over to conduct an inquiry and to make recommendations for the future government of Upper and Lower Canada. The names of the approximately 4,200 signers of the petition are given.

Fernand Ouellet, an archivist in the Provincial Archives, has prepared for the report an inventory of a collection of records assembled or created by Jacques Viger (1787-1858), antiquarian and first mayor of Montreal, elected in 1832. Viger designated his collection as "La Saberdache" (*sabretache*) in fond memory of his membership in the Canadian Militia during the War of 1812. Viger formed his collection in two parts, one containing documentary materials collected by him over a period of 50 years, covering Canadian historical events and dating from 1632 to the 1850's, the other part comprising principally his correspondence, 1807-34. The documentary materials are not originals for the most part, but are copies or even copies of copies. The inventory entries follow Viger's arrangement of his records, which is by no means ideal. Except for Viger's correspondence, however, the heterogeneous character of the collection makes it very difficult to come up with any kind of systematic presentation.

Abbé Louis-Adélard Desrosiers and Léon Pouliot, S. J., are jointly responsible for a listing of 379 items of the correspondence for the year 1844 of Msgr. Ignace Bourget, first Bishop of Montreal (1840-1876). They are presented in rough calendar form, including very brief summaries of their contents. Most of the letters concern parochial matters.

A list of 138 men from the Peninsula of Vaudreuil and Soulanges who served as officers or enlisted men in the Canadian Militia is presented in the Provincial Archivist's report as an addition to a list in his report for 1949-51. A brief biographical sketch is given for each man.

In the custody of the Provincial Archives is the Papineau-Bourassa collection, important for the study of nineteenth-century Canada. This collection comprises principally the correspondence of Joseph Papineau (1752-1841) and Louis-Joseph Papineau (1786-1871), his son. Augustine Bourassa, granddaughter of L.-J. Papineau, gave the collection to the Province. Since 1951, the Provincial Archivist has been publishing in full the correspondence of the elder and the younger Papineau. The present report completes publication of L.-J. Papineau's correspondence (61 items), 1843-62. Fernand Ouellet edits the correspondence, though the editing, regrettably, is kept to the bare minimum. In 1814, L.-J. Papineau was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada, and he served also as Speaker almost continuously from 1815 to 1837. As leader of the French Canadian reformers (*patriotes*), he was the primary instigator of the rebellion of 1837-38. He had to flee the country and was not allowed to return until 1844. Thereafter he served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Canada from 1848 to 1854.

Under the title "Our Ancestors of the Seventeenth Century; a Genealogical and Bio-bibliographical Dictionary of Canadian Families," the Provincial Archives has undertaken, beginning with its report for 1951-53, to publish a complete revision of Abbé Cyprien Tanguay's monumental work, *Le dictionnaire généalogique des familles canadiennes*, 7 vols. Father Archange Godbout, working with the Société Généalogique Canadienne-française, is in charge of the revision. All Canadian families founded before 1700 and having descend-

ants will be covered in the revised work. The present report offers genealogical data about families from Bédard through Bissonnet.

It has been the practice of the Provincial Archivist for some years to make his biennial report a compilation of inventories, lists, calendars, and other descriptive media embracing, generally, unrelated collections of records. In the opinion of this reviewer, archival purposes would be more effectively served if the Archivist would issue each descriptive medium separately.

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National Archives

Archives for All; the Essex Record Office, 1950-1955, by F. G. Emmison. (Essex Record Office, *Publication* no. 28; Chelmsford, 1956. 24 p., illus. 2s. 6d.)

Essex Record Office. *Report of the County Archivist for 1957-58*, by F. G. Emmison. (1958. 8 p., appendix.)

These publications from the Essex Record Office continue the enviable story of one of the busiest and best known local repositories in England. *Archives for All*, no. 28 in the series of select books and pamphlets published since 1946, summarizes the developments of the five-year period, 1950-55; the other title, more recent but too brief to be counted in the numbered series, brings the latest annual report, 1957-58, of County Archivist F. G. Emmison. (This Archivist was in the United States during the summer of 1959 as a member of the staff of the Radcliffe-Harvard Institute on Historical and Archival Management.)

Record space at the County Hall in Chelmsford is crowded; but outside it, during the last half-dozen years, the Archivist has made judicious use of Ingatestone Hall, the sixteenth-century Petre family mansion, converted principally into a teaching center controlled by the Essex Education Committee. The County leases the north wing for exhibitions of documents, displays the Petre portraits in the long gallery, and encourages group instruction on the premises.

Archives for All, with its fetching cover design and many photographs, is inviting. Even an amateur can understand the tabular chart illustrating "One Year's Use of Records." The text is topically arranged, and the style is crisp. The two final pages give bibliographical information on Essex Record Office publications. About them the leaflet annual report makes the point that since 1946 and up to Sept. 30, 1958, some 62,900 reproductions of county maps and some 40,200 books and pamphlets have been sold; on a printing outlay of £12,750, the County Archivist realized a return of £16,250 and stood to realize £1,500 more profit from unsold stocks.

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National Archives

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