

Abstracts of Foreign Periodicals

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BELGIUM

The periodical *Archives, Bibliothèques, et Musées de Belgique* (Archives, Libraries, and Museums of Belgium) has been published semiannually in Brussels since 1930 by L'Association des Conservateurs d'Archives, de Bibliothèques et de Musées (Association of Archivists, Librarians, and Museum Curators) with the cooperation of the University Foundation and Ministry of Public Instruction.

Archives, Bibliothèques, et Musées de Belgique, VOL. 29 (1958), NO. 1.

GROOTAERS, JAN, *Le rôle des grandes bibliothèques dans la diffusion des valeurs culturelles* (The role of large libraries in the dissemination of cultural values). P. 3-15.

DESPY, G. (ed.), *Donations de manuscrits au moyen âge* (Gifts of manuscripts in the Middle Ages). P. 16-20.

The Latin text of two medieval manuscripts in the Archives Générales du Royaume, Brussels.

HEYSE, T., *L'Académie Royale [des] Sciences Coloniales et l'Ancien Congo* (The Royal Academy of Colonial Sciences and the Ancient Congo). P. 21-36.

This critical bibliographical essay on sources for the study of the history of the ancient Congo has four parts: (1) evangelization; (2) narratives and travels; (3) *dépouillement* (spoliation) of archives; and (4) maps and geography. Under each subject, and in that order, are listed the Academy's publications, the works of its members, and publications of the Historical Commission of the Congo.

Sources relative to the evangelization of the Congo by the Capuchin and Jesuit Fathers under the authority of the King of Portugal, from 1482 to the period of the great exploration in the late nineteenth century, are described. Also included are sources relating to the slave trade, principally those in the *fonds d'Hoop* in the State Archives at Ghent and those in archives in Rome. The withdrawal of the Capuchin fathers from Central Africa was announced in July 1865, and the first Jesuit missionaries arrived at Ambrix on March 3, 1866. Documents relating to the history of this new missionary penetration in the Congo are on microfilm.

The first account of the Congo and its inhabitants was that of the Portuguese merchant Duarte Lopez, edited by the Italian Filippo Pigafetta and published about 1591 under the title *Relazione del Reame di Congo*. Edouard De Jonghe published a critical comparison of the various editions of this work in the 1938 *Bulletin des Séances*, I. R. C. B., under the title *Le Congo au XVI^e siècle: notes sur Lopez-Pigafetta*. Various other accounts of the Congo, edited by members of l'A.R.S.C. or the Commission d'Histoire du Congo, are listed.

The chief archival collections relating to the ancient Congo are preserved at Lisbon and at Rome. There are also manuscript collections in the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris; in archival depositories in Angola, Holland, and Spain; and in archives of religious congregations. The Ministry of the Colonies obtained from Rome a large collection of photographic reproductions of the documents dated after 1622; these were the basis of the *Archives Congolaises* edited by E. De Jonghe and T. Simar. A planned sequel devoted to an inventory of archives of the Vatican Library was interrupted by World War I, and documents and photographic reproductions collected for

it became dispersed and disarranged. Father Pierre Charles stressed the importance of discovering and publishing archives relating to the history of the ancient Congo and indicated that he had succeeded in rearranging documents that had been reassembled and had identified the gaps therein. After the establishment in 1952 of the Historical Commission of the Congo by the Section of Moral and Political Sciences in the Ministry of the Colonies, several important reports were compiled by Abbé L. Jadin and Mgr. J. Cuvelier about records concerning the Congo in the archives of Angola, in those of the Old West India Company preserved at The Hague, and in the archives and libraries of Italy and Portugal.

Following brief comment on a few published articles about the geography and geographical place names of Central Africa, the essay concludes with a reminder that certain old maps of Africa, of which T. Simar published a list in 1919, had disappeared during the German occupation of Belgium in 1940-44 and have not been recovered. A list of the maps is appended.

PHILIPPE, JOSEPH, *La peinture murale du XVI^e siècle en Belgique* (Mural painting of the sixteenth century in Belgium). P. 36-66, illus.

DE SMET, ANTOINE, *Voyageurs belges aux États-Unis du XVII^e siècle à 1900: suite et fin* (Belgian travelers to the United States from the seventeenth century to 1900). P. 67-106.

This final installment of a bibliography of Belgian travelers to the United States, compiled by the Assistant Keeper of the Bibliothèque Royale, concerns principally travelers whose surnames begin with the letters Sch through Z. Each entry includes the name, vital statistics, profession or occupation of the traveler, and a brief personal history that explains the occasion and purpose of the voyage; the titles of any publication or manuscripts resulting from it; and a statement of pertinent biographical and bibliographical sources. An index to personal names and to names of places found in the bibliography will appear in the 1959, no. 1, issue. The travelers comprise members of religious orders and missionaries, members of the diplomatic and consular services, scientists, engineers, politicians, soldiers, dramatists and other writers, artists, musicians, professors and academicians, and political refugees and emigrants. The extent of time spent in America varies from brief sojourns to permanent residence.

Procès-verbaux des séances de l'Association: réunions du 23 mars 1958 (Minutes of the sessions of the Association: meeting of March 23, 1958). P. 107-120.

Chronique (News): *Le cinquantième anniversaire de l'Association* (The 50th anniversary). P. 120-127.

A. Schillings, secretary-general of the association, reports on its activity and accomplishments from 1907 to 1957 and indicates the important role the association should play in the future as an instrument for promoting world peace by participating as much as possible in international conferences to further the cultural appreciation and understanding of other peoples.

Chronique: Le IV^e Congrès International des Sciences Généalogiques et Héraldiques (The Fourth International Congress of the Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences). P. 127-129.

Twenty-eight nations were represented at this conference, held at Brussels May 6-8, 1958. The program was devoted to heraldry, genealogy, iconography, archives and sigillography, legislation and onomastic science, bibliography and reports. Prince Charles of Schwarzenberg discussed how family archives serve general history. The President of the Central Bureau for Genealogy (The Hague) described the work of the more important genealogical societies of the Netherlands; the Director of the Archives Nationales (Paris) described the satisfactory efforts made in France during the past ten years to enumerate and safeguard private archives. It was decided that

the next congress (1960) would be in Stockholm, and that the 1961 Congress would meet in Edinburgh.

Chronique des archives (News of archives). P. 131-145.

P. 131-132 comprise a tribute to Joseph Lefèvre, Director of the Archives Générales du Royaume, on the occasion of his retirement after 40 years as a professional archivist. P. 133-135 are notes on promotions, resignations, and appointments in the provincial archives and in the Archives Générales. On p. 135-145 Mina Martens reports on the fourth international conference of the Archives Round Table held at Wiesbaden, May 20-22, 1958.

Chroniques des bibliothèques (Notes on libraries). P. 146-156.

Chronique du microfilm (Notes on microfilm). P. 157.

Andrée Scufflaire reports on the London (1957) and Paris (1958) meetings of the ISO subcommission on document reproduction. Preliminary discussions on the establishment of norms to be used in producing 35 mm. film were held by the delegates of six member countries of the International Standards Organization and observers from UNESCO. Characteristics, questions of terminology, and the limitations of the ratio of reduction had been studied and were made the subject of proposed ISO recommendations for transmittal to interested committees (ISO TC/46 and eventually ISO TC/42). Various technical problems, the preservation of microfilm copies, and color microfilming were designated as topics for discussion at the next meeting. A joint report furnished by the delegations from Great Britain and the United States was to be the basis for the discussion.

Comptes rendus et bibliographie (Book reviews). P. 157-182.

In memoriam: le R. P. Henri Moretus Plantin. P. 183-184.

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

BASKAKOV, E. G., *Dokumental'nye materialy po istorii narodov SSSR v arkhivakh i bibliotekakh SShA* (Documentary materials for the history of the peoples of the U. S. S. R. in the archives and libraries of the U. S. A.). *Istoriia SSSR*, Mar.-Apr. 1959, vol. 3, no. 2, p. 223-228.

The data for this article are drawn from well-known American guides, inventories, and other reference works on the subject and also from such Russian works as N. N. Bakai's review of the Yudin Library (*Zamechatel'noe knigokhranilishche v Vostochnoi Sibirii*, *Biblioteka G. V. Iudina*, Moskva, 1896) and the short index to the Yudin collection (*Kratkii ukazatel'arkhivam raznykh lits i uchrezhdenii, sobranykh s 1894-go do 1906-oi god G. V. Iudinym*, St. Petersburg, 1907). Sections of the survey are devoted to the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Hoover Library, Columbia University, and the New York Public Library.

In reviewing the holdings of the Library of Congress the author evidently misunderstood Archibald MacLeish's article ("A Slavic Center for the Library of Congress," in *The American Review on the Soviet Union*, vol. 6, no. 1, Nov. 1944, p. 1-14) because he states that in 1944 "there was established in the Library of Congress of the U. S. A. the so-called Slavic center, which is a special working group interested in collecting information on books and records of the U. S. S. R. in all American libraries and archives." (MacLeish only outlined an initial project for the Library of Congress. What can be roughly compared to Baskakov's *Slavianskii tsentr* is now the Slavic and East Central European Division of the Reference Department, established seven years after MacLeish's initial proposal.)

The author is conscious of the tremendous documentary value of the American holdings on Russian and Soviet problems but also very critical about the use of these materials. G. F. Kennan's *Russia Leaves the War* (Princeton, 1957) and his *The Decision to Intervene* (Princeton, 1958) are quoted as "strong examples" of how the documentary materials in the National Archives in Washington are "extensively used by the American historians for anti-scientific research." Moreover, "the documentary materials of the National Archives of the U. S. A. are also used for compiling one-sided works in many volumes (*Foreign Relations of the United States, Documents on American Foreign Policy*, and others) intended to justify or to mask the imperialist character of the U. S. A. policy." Nevertheless, microfilmed materials related to the history of the Russian-American Company acquired from the National Archives by the MVD could, in the opinion of the author, be usefully employed in completing the recently published *Contributions to the History of the Russian-American Company (K istorii Rossiisko-amerikanskoi kompanii, Krasnoiarsk, 1957)*. The author believes that many documentary materials scattered throughout the United States are in archives and libraries where they do not belong, and calls attention to the Archives on Russian and East European history at Columbia University. The University is in his opinion one of the "centers of the anti-soviet propaganda in the U. S. A.," and its *Slavic and East European Review* is therefore "systematically publishing anti-soviet materials." The same "anti-sovietism" is stamped on A. Moorhead's series on the October Revolution in *Life* and on his work *The Russian Revolution* (New York, Harper, 1958).

The author seems, on the other hand, quite impressed by the microfilming and photoduplication services of the Library of Congress and the National Archives, which greatly contribute to the completion and exchange of various American holdings. He concludes the article, however, by pointing to the "slandering bourgeois and reactionary historical science in America," and by warning the Soviet historians that "one of the main tasks of the Soviet historical science is constant criticism."

BOGOMIR CHOKET

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UNITED KINGDOM

Archives, published twice annually by the British Records Association, first appeared in 1949. Each number usually contains major articles, news notes, book reviews, shorter notices, and biographical notes on contributors.

Archives, VOL. 4 (1959), NO. 22.

WALNE, PETER, Local archives of Great Britain: xviii. The Berkshire Record Office. P. 65-74.

The Berkshire Record Office was established by the County Council in 1948 after a long period of gestation beginning in 1933. It has since been housed in a series of makeshift accommodations in the Shire hall, but modern quarters will be provided in a new hall now being planned. The principal categories of records are official records of the County Council, miscellaneous local authorities, and the courts; parish records of the Archdeaconry of Berkshire; records of chartered boroughs or municipal corporations of the County (archives remaining in borough custody being by agreement under the "charge and superintendence" of the County Archivist); and private papers of individuals, families, estates, and companies. To facilitate reference various types of finding aids are prepared, particularly catalogs, which are hybrids of "inventory, descriptive list and summary schedule, depending on the nature and extent of the collection dealt with." Serving both County government and private scholars, the Record Office handles an average of 2,000 inquiries annually, both simple and complex. In 1957 a County Council "records administration" program was inaugurated with records administration officers in each department and an inter-departmental records committee. Procedures for orderly disposal of housekeeping

records were soon established, and in 1959 an assistant archivist for records administration was appointed to speed "controlled destruction" of useless records.

WELCH, C. E., The preservation of ecclesiastical records. P. 75-80.

Thirty years after passage of the Convocation's Parochial Registers and Records

SAVOURS, ANN, The manuscript collection of the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge. P. 102-108.

Founded in 1920 (and since 1957 attached to the Cambridge University's geography department), the institute has both reference and research functions based upon its collections of publications, manuscripts, photographs, maps, equipment, and relics. Its manuscript collection includes material from most nineteenth- and twentieth-century British polar expeditions. When accessioned, large collections of papers are preserved intact; individual items are absorbed into the manuscript collection after registration. Correspondence files of a completed expedition are divided into two groups of papers: those of historical interest, which are added to the manuscript collection; and those of immediate practical value, which are classified by subject and placed in the current information files. An author catalog of the manuscripts is maintained. Most of this article consists of summary descriptions of the more important materials in the manuscript collection, organized under the following heads: special collections (of which seven are mentioned), other items not included in the special collections (chiefly letters, journals, and notebooks), ships' logs, ships' plans, and maps and surveys.

In addition this number contains the following departments: "Report and comments" (news notes), p. 109-110; "Obituary" (of Dr. Ruth Easterling), p. 111; "Book reviews," p. 112-122; "Publications received" (with content notes), p. 123-126; and "Notes on contributors," p. 127.

MORRIS RIEGER

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LATIN AMERICA

In general, publications on archives in Latin America have been made by the archives themselves. Such publications included information on the institutions, copies of documents, indexes of materials, and historical articles. They did not contain technical articles on archivology. With the establishment in Havana of the Committee on Archives of the Commission on History of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History the situation changed. Its program includes the publication of an archival review, *Boletín del Comité de Archivos*, which will contain technical material. The first number appeared in January 1958.

Boletín del Comité de Archivos, VOL. I (1958), NO. 1.

Legislación Interamericana sobre archivos (Inter-American legislation concerning archives). P. 9-42.

The editors present the resolutions of various Congresses from 1940 to 1955 dealing with diverse subjects relating to archivology: preservation of documents, classification and cataloging, creation of special collections, reproduction of documents, publications, utilization of documents, personnel of archives, the Committee on Archives, municipal and other special archives, and relations of archives to one another.

PARDO, J. JOAQUIN, *Proyecto para la organización de los archivos históricos* (Project for the organization of historical archives). P. 47-57.

A brief outline, by the director of the General Archive of Guatemala, based on his experiences.

Boletín del Comité de Archivos, VOL. I (1958), NO. 2.

La formación profesional de los archiveros (Professional preparation of archivists). P. 27-31.

A brief survey of the professional preparation of archivists as carried out in the United States, the Vatican, India, Spain, the Republic of Poland, and the École des Chartes in France.

REAL DE LA RIVA, CÉSAR, *Normas para la catalogación de manuscritos* (Rules for the cataloging of manuscripts). P. 48-55.

Reprint of an article by the Director of the Library of the University of Salamanca from the *Revista de Archivos, Bibliotecas y Museos* (Madrid).

Boletín del Comité de Archivos, VOL. I (1958), NO. 3.

ZAPATA, FELIPE, *El Consejo Director Permanente de los Archivos de la República de Cuba* (Permanent Directive Council of the Archives of the Republic of Cuba). P. 65-72.

A description of the functions and procedures of this body.

Mecanización y automatización bibliográfica en la Biblioteca Vaticana (Bibliographic mechanization and automation in the Vatican Library). P. 80-82.

Reprint of an article from *Arbor* (Madrid).

Boletín del Comité de Archivos, VOL. I (1958), NO. 4.

BAUTIER, R. H., *IV Conferencia Internacional de Mesa Redonda sobre Archivos* (Fourth International Round Table Conference on Archives). P. 66-68.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Round Table held in Wiesbaden in May 1958.

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