

Reviews of Books

HENRY P. BEERS, *Editor*

National Archives

Mélanges offerts par ses confrères étrangers à Charles Braibant, Directeur Général des Archives de France, Président d'honneur du Conseil International des Archives. (Bruxelles, Comité des Mélanges Braibant, [Archives Générales du Royaume, 78, Galerie Ravenstein], 1959. xx, 579 p., illus. 300 fr.)

This volume is indeed a monument worthy of the great scholar and archivist to whom it is dedicated. As Director General of the French Archives, Charles Braibant has exercised a profound influence on recent archival developments, French as well as European. Internally he has succeeded in restoring the French archives to the place of prominence they occupied during the Revolution and under Napoleon, emphasizing for that purpose the services they can render to the administration without neglecting their cultural mission. As a result, appropriations have been increased, a surprisingly large number of modern buildings have been erected, and the facilities of the National Archives have been expanded, modernized, and beautified. Equally significant is the role that, under Braibant's leadership, France has come to play in the international field—as evidenced by the international archival training course in Paris and by the Braibant-inspired *Table Ronde des Archives*, annual gathering of the heads of European archival administrations.

In recognition of Braibant's outstanding service to the profession, a committee created during the fifth *Table Ronde des Archives* and consisting of Messrs. Altman (Poland), Sandri (Italy), and Sabbe (Belgium) has planned this volume in his honor. It contains 54 articles contributed by heads of archival institutions outside France and by former members of the international training course. One notes with regret that the Western Hemisphere is not represented, and it is certainly surprising that only 2 Americans are listed among the 93 archivists who subscribed to the publication.

On the basis of their subjects, the articles in the volume might be grouped as follows: 6 articles deal with problems of the auxiliary sciences of history, 16 describe and analyze individual *fonds* of particular interest, and 2 might be classified as dealing with the genesis and management of current records. Most of the contributions are concerned with aspects and phases of archival administration, such as the history of archival agencies, their organization and operation in various countries, the philosophy and techniques of disposal, the training of the archivist and the nature of his task, the housing and preservation of archival material, and reference service, including the publication of documents and the organization of exhibits.

In this review, articles on individual *fonds* and on the auxiliary sciences will be bypassed, except that attention should be called to Peter Walne's

valuable discussion of the "great seals deputed of the British Colonies" on the North American continent; and even of the articles dealing with records management and archives administration only some of outstanding and general interest will be mentioned. The literature of records management is significantly enriched by Johannes Papritz' analysis of the motives underlying the genesis of records, indispensable, as he points out, for an understanding of their various types and a welcome foray into the psychology of record creation. To the related field of record disposition Ingvar Andersson, Director of the Swedish National Archives, and Georg Winter, formerly Director of the Federal Archives in Koblenz, contribute revealingly from the experience of their respective countries, which confirms the conclusions that we have reached in the United States. In the absence of an English translation, the resumé (in French) of the new Soviet Archives Law of 1958 by G. Belov, Director General of the Archives of the USSR, is required reading for those interested in the Soviet concept of the single undivided archives *fonds* and its practical consequences. Where this concept is accepted, "documents belong to the creator agency in the administrative sense, but they belong to it only temporarily until the time established for their transfer to the State Archives" has arrived. Archival developments in Rumania, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary are discussed by the archival heads of the respective countries and show the impact of the Soviet approach to archival administration. Salvatore Carbone, of the newly established Central State Archives in Rome, investigates the problem of organizing the holdings of a national archival establishment, while Sir David Evans, Keeper of Public Records, describes what he calls a "period of transition" in the history of the Public Record Office by summing up the changes stemming from the 1954 report of the Grigg Committee. As regards actual operations of a major archival agency, Helmut Lötzke recommends increased acceptance of planning and teamwork in the processing of modern records, as practiced in the Central Archives of the German Democratic Republic, of which he is the Director.

These articles and the many others that cannot be mentioned contain a wealth of interesting information. They also show that the exchange of opinions among archivists tends to prove increasingly profitable as the material in their custody becomes more standardized and hence more amenable to the application of identical or similar viewpoints and techniques.

ERNST POSNER

American University

FINDING AIDS

A Guide to the Microfilm of Papers Relating to New Mexico Land Grants, by Albert James Diaz. (University of New Mexico Publications, Library Series, no. 1; Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press, 1960. vii, 102 p. \$1.75.)

Much of the early history of our Southwest is bound up in the story of Spanish and Mexican land grants in the area; and a knowledge of them as background is essential to understanding that land and its life today. The

adjudication of these complicated grants is a notable chapter in our legal history, and their actual demarcation on the face of the land was a major achievement of the General Land Office. Most of the basic records relating to these grants came to rest in the Santa Fe offices of the former General Land Office, where they have not been easily available to scholars.

In 1955 arrangements were completed between Eastburn Smith, supervisor of the Santa Fe office of the Bureau of Land Management, and David O. Kelley, librarian of the University of New Mexico, whereby these records were taken to the university library in Albuquerque and filmed on 66 reels of microfilm, after which the records were returned to the custody of the Bureau's Santa Fe office.

The work was not so simple as this may appear. No microfilming job ever turns out to be simple when properly planned and executed. The records as received first had to be analyzed and identified, and their natural groupings, series, and order within series had to be determined. As gaps appeared, the editor had to look for the missing records or for explanations of their absence.

Numerous existing inventories, registers, and indexes had to be studied to determine their relationships and how their usefulness would be affected when they and the records indexed were both on film. It was then necessary to determine the most logical order to be given these natural units and set up an overall arrangement. Before being filmed each series had to be checked to correct obvious misplacements and disorder and to flag and explain gaps and irregularities when possible. Finally, an effort had to be made in an overall guide to pass on to the user the knowledge gained in doing these things. Such an undertaking can be done so well that the scholar is assisted immeasurably in understanding and using his material, and it can be done so poorly that he is led into confusion and despair. In this case the reviewer, who has checked much of the film against the original records, feels that the University of New Mexico deserves much credit both for the editorial handling of the film and for the technical quality of the filming itself.

The *Guide* before us for review represents the final step in the university library's undertaking and is the key that unlocks the whole chest of source materials for the user. It consists primarily of an "Introduction" and four indexes to the private land claims, the first an alphabetic index by claimant, the second a list of the cases by report numbers, the third a list by the registry numbers assigned by the U. S. Surveyor General, which became the file numbers for the case records of his office, and the fourth a list by case or docket numbers of cases adjudicated by the U. S. Court of Private Land Claims. Thus one can approach the records of any individual grant from almost any direction, except the geographical one. There follow (1) a "Checklist of Muniments of Title of the Baron of Arizona (Peralta-Reavis)," a notorious case about which many inquiries probably will be received, (2) a reel-by-reel listing of materials microfilmed (which, more logically, should have been near the beginning, following the description of the arrangement of the papers), and (3) an extensive and very valuable bibliography on the private land grants, including the many documents in the congressional serial set and many elusive secondary works.

The main criticism of the *Guide* is the inadequacy of the brief introduction. It is assumed apparently that the user will know the complicated history of these grants or will first inform himself. This may be true, but there still are many basic facts and dates and names involved, which should be readily available in outline form for reference if this is to be a fully useful handbook for the researcher. One finds an all too brief mention in a single sentence of the four major categories of papers present. Each of these categories should have been explained in a paragraph or page. The reader is given no clear picture of the work of the several offices of provenance or the nature of the records produced by each. He is given no adequate history of the records themselves and how they came together. He is not told that the records relate to grants in Arizona and Colorado also, nor is the relationship of material here to that of similar character in Arizona explained. The user is not told of the relationships of these records to those in the National Archives or in the Federal courts. The historical and geographical importance of the papers is nowhere spelled out, which means that the *Guide* will not be so effective as it should be in stimulating interest in these papers. Many needed suggestions and warnings in using the records effectively and efficiently are not set down for the user.

One is happy that series (called "Sections" in this guide) were respected in the arrangement and filming. It would have been better, however, in the overall arrangement had all the series created by the U. S. Court of Private Land Claims been placed last rather than sandwiched between series created by the U. S. Surveyor General's Office. The "Summary Arrangement" should have more clearly respected and emphasized the four main provenance groupings. Moreover, since at the beginnings of the reels themselves there is all too little identifying material, the user of the microfilm is too closely wedded to this *Guide*. The question of how much information should be duplicated on the reels themselves can always be argued, but a minimum there should be. Despite these criticisms the surprise is how well the library has handled a project so large and involved as this — one of the most complicated bodies of source material that has come to the reviewer's attention.

Microfilm publication projects of this sort represent one of the major contributions archivists in our generation are making to scholarship. Since we are as yet but on the threshold of this new chapter in archival service, our journal should provide more space for notices and reviews of projects like this. A *Guide*, when there is one, is but part of the whole undertaking, and the whole cannot be evaluated in the space usually allocated to a book review.

OLIVER W. HOLMES

National Archives

The British Public Record Office; History, Description, Record Groups, Finding Aids, and Materials for American History, With Special Reference to Virginia. (Virginia Colonial Records Project, *Special Reports* 25, 26, 27, and 28; Virginia State Library *Publications*, no. 12, Richmond, Va., 1960. 178 p. \$4.)

Although prepared primarily for the Virginia colonial records project and

with the needs of students of Virginia history in mind, the four special reports that make up this attractive volume will be of great interest and practical use to anyone who has occasion to explore the vast resources of the Public Record Office. The first of the four (no. 25), written by Neville Williams, a member of the Record Office staff, is an interesting and crystal-clear account of the Office itself; it should be required reading for everyone who applies for a reader's ticket. The history, contents, workings, and policies of the Record Office are most skilfully outlined in no more than 34 pages, and even old habitues of Chancery Lane will probably find something that is new to them in Dr. Williams' summary. This reviewer must confess, for instance, that despite innumerable visits to the famous Round Room, he had never happened upon the card index to "Documents in print," described on page 27.

Report 26—actually a supplement to 25—outlines in somewhat greater detail the Public Record Office's classification system and explains the correct way in which to cite a document, both when asking to see it in the Office and when referring to it in a footnote. Report 27, much the longest of the four (74 pages), consists of a detailed list of the finding aids (catalogs, lists, guides, calendars, indexes, etc.) that are to be found on the reference shelves of the various search rooms. Admittedly, a complete list usually has advantages; but in this instance the many items that do not relate in any way to Virginia, or even to America, might well have been omitted. The last report, compiled like the first by Dr. Williams, is a 48-page "Survey of materials for American History" and forms a most useful introductory guide to the chief series in which documents relating to this continent are to be found. Once again Dr. Williams' clear and compact descriptions are admirable.

Large type and a pleasant format add to the appeal of the book. It is interesting to note that the paper used is one developed under a grant made to the Virginia State Library by the Council on Library Resources for the purpose of producing a formula for making a durable and permanent book paper at a competitive price.

W. KAYE LAMB

Public Archives of Canada

Index to the Zachary Taylor Papers. (Library of Congress, *Presidents' Papers Index Series*; Washington, 1960. viii, 9 p. 20¢.)

The *Index* to the Zachary Taylor papers is part of a program of the Library of Congress to arrange, microfilm, and index its 23 collections of Presidential papers "in order to preserve their contents against destruction by war or other calamity and for the purpose of making them more readily available for study and research to the fullest possible extent" (Public Law 85-147, Aug. 16, 1957). Zachary Taylor's papers are a prime example of the need for preserving "their contents" against destruction. Most of Taylor's personal papers were destroyed when the Louisiana plantation of his son, Gen. Richard Taylor, C. S. A., was sacked and plundered during the Civil War. Dr. Robert O. Butler of Louisiana, in the Confederate service, described the destruction in a letter to a sister, September 22, 1862:

... the house—it was a complete wreck, the furniture smashed, the walls torn down, pictures cut out of their frames, while deep on, and scattered over the floor, lay the correspondence & official documents of the old Gen. while President of the U. S. —The barbarians had respected nothing but the portrait of Gen. Scott . . . I picked up a document written by a member of Congress from Illinois, recommending Mr. Abraham Lincoln of that state for the post of commissioner in the general land office . . . I will preserve this as an interesting memento. [Robert O. Butler papers, Department of Archives and Manuscripts, Louisiana State University.]

The Taylor papers in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress consist of 631 items—the Library's smallest collection of Presidential papers. The microfilm and its index are the first film and index to be issued in the series. The microfilm copies of the papers consist of two reels arranged in five series: (1) autobiographical account, ca. 1826; (2) general correspondence, 1814-50; (3) Taylor family papers, 1837-79; (4) miscellany, 1820-1931; and (5) memorial volume, 1850. The index is designed primarily as a means of ascertaining what documents exist in this collection and where they may be found on the microfilm reproduction. It is essentially a name index of some 1,000 entries listing names of writers and recipients of letters, alphabetically first and then chronologically when the same name appears more than once. Some material, such as autobiographical notes, is indexed under subject headings as well as under the name of the writer. Most entries give the name of the writer or recipient, date, series number, number of pages of each item, and "addenda" (the identification of documents by content or physical form).

An account of the provenance of the collection, a selected bibliography, a general description of the organization and content of the collection, and a statement by the Librarian of Congress on the program as a whole add to the usefulness of this index.

V. L. BEDSOLE

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DOCUMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

Journals of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts, 1757. Vol. 33, pt. 2. ([Boston], Massachusetts Historical Society, 1960. viii, [269] p. \$7.50.)

There are both merits and demerits in facsimile reprints of old books. Those who want to evaluate each of these results at something approaching their most obvious will do well to study this volume. Its text is "a photographic synthesis produced from copies of the original [printed] journal" preserved by three institutions in the Boston area. Some examiners of this reproduction will doubtless be intrigued with it; some may even love it for all such quaint oddities as the workaday crudities of an apprentice or journeyman typesetter. Others, in all probability, will conclude that there are better ways of manufacturing a new edition.

To the facsimile text have been prefaced and appended 24 pages, some of them blank. This editorial matter provides minimal addenda. It includes, for example, no roster of the membership of the House. Malcolm Freiberg's

five-paragraph "Introduction" is worthy of having been printed in larger type to fill its allotted two pages. He succeeds in reminding readers that the lower house of the provincial legislature held its session of January 6-April 25, 1757, while a total war pervaded every level of Massachusetts society, but that the exciting drama of daily living proceeded nevertheless and was also reflected in the formal journal. His succinct observations are an eloquent gem of eulogy for the mirror-like value of such a governmental record. They leave unanswered, however, such questions as these: Who wrote the journal? Is a manuscript of it extant? Who printed the early edition here reproduced—and where and when? How rare are copies of it? Does this facsimile, embodying pagination (231-499) continued from a preceding section without new running heads and folios (so that the first textual page is numbered 231), constitute part of a series of reproductions? What kinds of men comprised the House? Did they confront the problems of this session with consistency enough to make any pattern discernible?

The index, too, though ever so welcome, is of such a kind as to fall short of affording maximum ease in using this edition. The entry and subentry for "Council, messages, with House," are followed by a dishearteningly long array of 44 references to individual or inclusive pages. Under "Crown Point, expedition," appear 50 references without further differentiation. A researcher interested only in certain aspects of Col. Samuel White's career will find 76 references, 13 of them without any subentry and 60 under "committee." The "Introduction" points out the journal's value in that it records "petitions from the quick and the dead (or their survivors) among the soldier-citizenry"; and the index prints "Soldiers, petition," followed by 69 references. But there is no general entry under petitions or any synonym, and for guidance to scores of them from civilians you must scan all 16 pages of the index for entries like "Loomis, Josiah, petition, 241, 312; memorial, 313-314, 316."

The "original journal" was first reproduced on microcards. To have this facsimile is all gain. If the publisher really could do no more, all praise for what has been done! Yet, barring the quite possible existence of practical limitations that I know not, larger services to historical scholarship could conceivably have been rendered in producing a new edition.

W. EDWIN HEMPHILL

South Carolina Archives Department

TECHNICAL STUDIES

The Manufacture and Testing of Durable Book Papers, Based on the Investigations of W. J. Barrow, ed. by Randolph W. Church. (Virginia State Library Publication no. 13, Richmond, 1960. 63 p.)

The Virginia State Library, under a grant from the Council on Library Resources, sponsored in 1957-58 two studies on the permanence of book paper. The results were published in 1959 as Publication no. 10 of the Virginia State Library, under the title *Deterioration of Book Stock; Causes and*

Remedies. A review of that number, by Robert B. Hobbs, appeared in the July 1960 issue of the *American Archivist*.

The publication at present under review represents work done under a supplementary grant from the Council on Library Resources, directed toward an investigation of an economically feasible method of manufacturing durable book papers and the development of a method to test such durability. Again the work was done under the direction of W. J. Barrow and with advice from ten consultants.

In brief, the work described in this report had three objectives. The first was to set up tentative specifications for an uncoated book paper that might be both durable and permanent. The second was to determine whether such a paper could be made to sell commercially. The third was to provide some kind of measure of the "theoretically useful life" of such a paper.

The first objective was achieved by studying the properties of a large number of commercial book papers together with a number of "permanent papers" from old books. From these studies, the investigators believed that commercial book papers could be manufactured with folding strength (M.I.T.: $\frac{1}{2}$ Kg) in the weakest direction of 300, an Elmendorf tear in the weakest direction of 60 grams and with pH by cold extraction on a Beckman pH meter of 6.5. These were established as "initial specifications."

The second objective was met first on the small machines of the Herty Foundation Laboratory of Savannah, Ga., and then commercially at the Standard Paper Manufacturing Co. of Richmond. The necessary strength was achieved by using long-fibered bleached sulfate and sulfite, and printability was achieved by adding bleached soda. Alum and rosin as sizing agents were replaced by Aquapel, developed by the Hercules Powder Co. The sheet was also surface-sized by 7% starch. As a filler 10% clay and 10% calcium carbonate were added in the beater; the calcium carbonate also served as an alkaline buffer to keep the pH of the sheet on the alkaline side. The paper used in printing this publication came from the second commercial run. Its physical properties were well in excess of those in the initial specifications.

The last objective—the measure of the "theoretically useful" life of the paper—was established by adopting the accelerated heat-aging test of the National Bureau of Standards, accepting the Bureau's conclusion that 72 hours of aging at 100°C. $\pm 2^\circ$ is equivalent to 25 years of natural aging, and modifying the test so that aging was carried out in 12-day increments at 100°C. $\pm 2^\circ$, on the assumption that each 12-day increment is equivalent to 100 years of natural aging.

In the specifications finally adopted, minimum folding and tear strengths after aging for 12, 24, and 36 days were added to the initial folding and tear strengths as indicative of strengths after 100, 200, and 300 years. Opacity was set at 90%, the fiber furnish was to be free of groundwood, and the pH of at least 6.5 by cold extraction was not to fall sharply after 3 days of accelerated aging.

Readers should note that the heading for Table 5 (continued) on page 43 of the pamphlet should be *Tear* and not *Folds*, and for the same table on page 44 should read *pH (cold extraction)* instead of *Tear in Grams*.

The reviewer believes that the extended accelerated aging test as a measure of the "theoretically useful" life of the paper has been overvalued. In the first place the equivalence of 72 hours of artificial aging and 25 years of natural aging has only general quantitative significance. This was based on data presented by the Bureau of Standards in 1955. (See William K. Wilson *et al.*, "Accelerated Aging of Record Papers Compared with Normal Aging," in *Tappi*, 38:543-548, Sept. 1955.) The following is taken from the summary of that article: "From a statistical analysis of part of the folding endurance data, a crude approximate of the relationship between accelerated aging and natural aging was obtained." In the second place, the papers under test by the Bureau of Standards were stored in an office bookcase; they were not subject to use. Constant use will certainly contribute to paper deterioration.

The above is not written in any disparaging sense. The value of the work is not impaired by any lessening of emphasis on the numerical measure of the "theoretically useful" life of the papers. Actually the term "theoretically useful" is ambiguous. The reviewer can recommend this publication to any one interested in the durability and permanence of paper.

HARRY F. LEWIS

Institute of Paper Chemistry
Appleton, Wisconsin

Permanent/Durable Book Paper; Summary of a Conference Held in Washington, D. C., September 16, 1960. Sponsored by the American Library Association and the Virginia State Library. (Virginia State Library *Publication* no. 16, Richmond, 1960. 53 p.)

The third pamphlet in the series of reports from the Virginia State Library on permanent/durable book papers presents a summary of a conference held in Washington, D.C., September 16, 1960, under the sponsorship of the American Library Association and the Virginia State Library.

The conference was called to consider the problems resulting from the deterioration of book papers, the solution proposed by the Virginia State Library and described in its *Publication* no. 13, as well as other possible solutions and implications. Invited to the conference were scientists and others who had served as consultants to the study, representative librarians, archivists, book publishers, book designers, printers, paper makers and merchants, paper chemists, and others in the number of about 50. The chairman was William S. Dix, librarian of Princeton University; the reporter was Marlene D. Morrissey, executive assistant to the Librarian of Congress.

It is obviously impossible in a relatively short space to discuss the comments of the conference members, all of whom were called upon by the chairman for an expression of opinion on the work carried on by Mr. Barrow and his coworkers or on its implications. A number of the comments stressed the importance of the development of permanent/durable book papers. For instance, Mr. Kingery of the New York Public Library pointed out that about half of the collection in the reference department of that library needed "con-

servation attention." Of the current intake, 25% will need attention in 10 years. For fiscal 1960-61, the department has budgeted \$150,000 for conservation (microfilming or electrostatic reproduction). Since the general fund for the purchase of library materials is \$340,000, expense for this conservation amounts to about 50% of the total spent on new books. Mr. Kingery also stated that libraries today cannot determine what books will be used tomorrow or how they will be used. Other conference members pointed out that many books, when recognized as classics, are reissued in more durable form; and they raised questions about the value of printing third-grade textbooks on such paper (the conference was divided on this) and about the hazards involved in building up large microfilm collections of uncertain permanence. Mr. Church of the Virginia Library Association then discussed the State library's process for making permanent, durable book paper and the significance of the extended oven-aging test for measuring the life of paper. Dr. Hobbs of the Bureau of Standards spoke of the validity of the method.

The S. D. Warren Co. has been a pioneer in the manufacture of alkaline-filled book papers. A recent announcement from the company stated that all Warren book papers are now being made on alkaline base papers. Representatives of other companies discussed their efforts in this direction.

Some attention was paid to the printing of the new papers. Mr. Shell of the William Byrd Press reported that the new sheet is hard and requires a bit more attention on the press than softer ones. A stiff ink is required, hard packing for the make-ready, and printing at somewhat greater pressure than normal. Undoubtedly, with greater experience in sheet making, these handicaps may be minimized.

As a next step, the conference voted to invite the American Library Association to establish a continuing group representing the various interested groups at the conference to find support to continue some discussion of the problem looking toward mutually agreeable solutions.

The appendix of the pamphlet contains a variety of supporting documents prepared by some of the conference members.

HARRY F. LEWIS

Institute of Paper Chemistry
Appleton, Wisconsin

Of Course?

. . . I always want you to bear in mind that the letters which I wrote to Mother and those which I have written to you are valuable, and in case of my death I have left provision in my will that they are to be published. Don't ever make the mistake, either, of cutting out names; for letters, if they have any historic value, must be printed as written, barring, of course, all the grammatical and typographical errors which necessarily are to be found in letters written as hastily as I have written mine.

— *The Letters of Archie Butt*, ed. by Lawrence F. Abbott, p. 1 (New York, 1924). Quoted by permission of Laura Abbott Dale.