

Reviews of Books

HENRY P. BEERS, *Editor*

National Archives

The Image of War; the Pictorial Reporting of the American Civil War, by W. Fletcher Thompson, Jr. (New York, Thomas Yoseloff, 1960. 248 p., illus. \$7.50.)

The author here presents an excellent study and analysis of Civil War illustrators and illustrations and tries to show how historians could make more use of journalistic pictorial materials as primary historical documents. He makes a rather weak case for this second objective but succeeds very well in treating the changing concept of war as depicted by the illustrated weekly journals of the time, such as *Harper's Weekly* and *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*. He traces the change in battle art during the Civil War—from the early heroics, patterned after the War of 1812 and influenced by the landscape panoramics of the Hudson River School, to the more realistic image of war finally attained by the mature sketchers. He recounts the difficulties of publishers in achieving even the imperfect illustration of the wood engraving, hampered as they were by a scarcity of skilled artists and engravers, by the imperfections of the mechanics of their craft, and finally by the reluctance of editors to circulate pictures that would offend their many subscribers south of the Mason-Dixon line.

Mr. Thompson cites the impact of publication of romantic scenes of soldier leavetakings, the propaganda force of the Fort Sumter drawings, and the appeal of the pictures of the "martyred" Ellsworth and of General Lyon's death at Wilson's Creek. He then takes up the development of the new image of war, dating from the second Battle of Bull Run and based on a different set of values. He treats the drawings made in the western area of combat in much the same way, indicating that the Battle of Shiloh was the turning point for artists assigned to that area. He devotes considerable space to the drawings made by Alexander Simplot in the Midwest, taking advantage of the little-known sketchbooks of this artist, now in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Although he comments fully on the work of Alfred and William Waud, and on Edwin Forbes, Arthur Lumley, Henri Lovie, Thomas Nast, and the true artist Winslow Homer, he slights the unique contribution of Frank Vizetelly, an Englishman who covered the Confederate area and had more than a hundred of his drawings published in the *Illustrated London News*.

The author is at his best when writing of the experiences and day-to-day operations of staff artists assigned to the military outposts, taking up their problems of existence as civilians among the military, their subsistence, communications, censorship, headquarters diplomacy, jealousy and favoritism, physical hardship, access to strategic areas, and battle maneuverings. He reveals also their suffering during periods of enforced inactivity and their bitter-

ness at finding their original field sketches altered and distorted before publication by engravers at the home base, their captions enlarged upon or slanted to serve the political and propaganda purposes of their journals. Yet it is in this area that the author weakens his objective of presenting pictorial materials as reliable historical documentation.

In writing of the pen-and-pencil artists the author is on solid ground, but when he touches on photography and photographers he does not do so well. This is due partly to the limitations of photography itself during the period and partly to the author's too heavy reliance on secondary materials available in the popular biographies of Mathew B. Brady. Brady was admittedly the most colorful of the many cameramen who covered the war, but most of these photographers worked independently of Brady of Broadway. No mention whatsoever is made of E. and H. T. Anthony and Co., the all-important publisher, whose mass production of views and portrait photographs purchased from Brady and others made it possible for the war views to circulate widely.

Submitted as a doctoral dissertation at the University of Wisconsin and copyrighted as a microfilm publication in May 1959, this study was published in book form in 1960. Unfortunately it was not then revised to include material on the same subject covered in 1959 by Stern's *They Were There; the Civil War in Action as Seen by Its Combat Artists*. Nor were a few misspellings in the microfilm copy (on file at the Library of Congress) corrected in book publication. In the book, which includes eight pages of illustrations, the captions for two of the pictures are reversed, thus confusing Gettysburg with Vicksburg! And all too often the citations fail to reveal primary authorities for the author's statements. When this occurs in respect to a direct quotation attributed to Abraham Lincoln, the reader feels a sense of frustration. Publication of this work deserved better editing and revision, for it is a book that fills a definite need in an area largely neglected until recent years.

JOSEPHINE COBB

National Archives

FINDING AIDS

Guide to Jewish History Under Nazi Impact, by Jacob Robinson and Philip Friedman. (Yivo Institute for Jewish Research, New York, and Yad Washem Martyrs' and Heroes' Memorial Authority, Jerusalem, *Joint Documentary Projects, Bibliographical Series* no. 1; New York [1048 Fifth Ave.], 1960. xxxi, 425 p. \$15.)

The extermination of six million European Jews and the displacement of the rest was one of the great tragedies of modern times. The records of this tragedy, like its victims, have been scattered through Europe, America, and the Middle East. This guide for the first time brings together descriptions of all these records and arranges them in classified entries for the use of scholars. Had this not been done, many of the records would have been lost and many more, though available, would have been forgotten or out of reach. The sponsors and authors of this undertaking were, of course, aware of this need, and

its fulfillment was one of their aims. An equally important purpose was "to examine and publish all testimony of the Catastrophe and the heroism it called forth and to bring its lesson home to the people" of Israel (p. xv). There is no doubt that they succeeded. It is only with the use of this comprehensive guide that well-founded studies can now be undertaken.

Because of the nature of the material the compilation of the guide posed many problems. There was the question of terminal dates and selection. When did National Socialism begin to exert its influence on Jewish history? And when did Nazism cease to have an impact? The authors decided—and it would be difficult to challenge their judgment—that no fixed date could be established at either end. They went beyond Nazism, included historical episodes analogous to the Nazi persecution of the Jews, and rejected the collapse of the Third Reich as the closing date. Wisely taking into account the mass of materials produced by the war-crimes trials, the tons of captured documents made available long after the war was over, and the flood of memoirs produced by participants and victims, they decided on the early 1950's as a more suitable terminal date. The 3,684 entries include archival sources, documents and document collections, material in and concerning research institutions, and comprehensive and analytical works. The guide is organized in four parts, roughly following the above-mentioned types of documents; the four parts are further divided into chapters dealing with topics such as "Concepts of the Jewish Catastrophe," "Bibliographies," "Topographical References," and "Chronologies." There are six cross indexes for titles, subjects, names, places, corporate authors, and defendants in war-crimes trials.

GEORGE O. KENT

Department of State

Spain. Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas. *Guía del Archivo Histórico Nacional*, por Luis Sánchez Belda. (Junta Técnica de Archivos, Bibliotecas y Museos, Ediciones Conmemorativas del Centenario del Cuerpo Facultativo, 1858-1958, XII; [Madrid], 1960. 235 p., illus. 90 pesetas.)

Spain has four archival institutions of world renown—the Archivo Histórico Nacional, the Archivo de Indias, the Archivo de Simancas, and the Archivo de la Corona de Aragón. Of these, the Archivo Histórico Nacional is the largest, with more holdings than those of the other three repositories combined. It is also the youngest, having been established by Royal Decree dated March 28, 1866.

The present guide, authored by the Director of the Archivo Histórico Nacional, contains a description of the entire holdings of this repository. This wealth of material, some of which dates from 893 A.D., is now housed in a modern three-story concrete building especially constructed for its purpose. There are a photographic laboratory and a bindery, as well as facilities for the restoration of documents. Searchers have been provided with a special library, a central reading room, and special searchrooms equipped with microfilm readers and ultraviolet lights to enable them to read faded documents.

The first materials received by the Archivo Histórico Nacional were religious

records from the monasteries taken over by governmental authorities. At present its holdings are of private as well as public origin. Some of them were produced by national governmental agencies, others by provincial and local authorities, and still others by individuals, monasteries, or military orders having no official connection with the government. Materials in the repository have been grouped because of certain common characteristics into twelve large *secciones*, as follows: (1) records of the regular and secular clergy consisting mostly of materials from the monasteries taken over by the government in the nineteenth century; (2) records of military orders such as the orders of Alcántara, Santiago, Knights Templars, and many others; (3) records of the Ministry of State; (4) records of public debt and concessions; (5) records of universities and colleges; (6) documents with seals, which are kept separately for better preservation; (7) records of the Inquisition; (8) records of the Council of the Indies and other defunct councils; (9) medieval record types, comprising *códices* and *cartularios* taken from the other *secciones*; (10) records of overseas possessions; (11) family records of the Duke of Osuna; and (12) miscellaneous collections of diverse types and origin.

The office of origin as well as the place of origin are acknowledged to be important factors in arranging records. For example, the records of the regular and secular clergy, which include the materials produced by Augustinian, Benedictine, Jesuit, and many other religious orders, are grouped alphabetically, first by name of province where the records originated, then by name of town within the province, and last by name of religious order. The principles of provenance and original order have been taken into account in the arrangement of records whenever this was possible.

The guide's 36-page introduction provides general information about the establishment of the Archivo Histórico Nacional, its history and development, the importance of its holdings, and the physical and technical facilities provided for the care and use of the records. It also has 15 well-chosen illustrations. The body or text contains the description of the records in each *sección*. The *secciones* are subdivided for purposes of description into smaller record units such as subgroups or series. Information is usually provided on the quantity, inclusive dates, arrangement, status of cataloging, topics, and bibliography for each of the major units described. The 28-page index includes names of persons, names of places, and a limited number of subjects.

This guide describes a large and diverse mass of material in a systematic and intelligible manner and should be invaluable to scholars interested in original sources for Spanish history. It was issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment in 1858 of the Facultative Corps of Spanish Archivists, and it is a worthy tribute to a dedicated group of archivists who have done much to preserve the written evidence of Spain's participation in great events of the past.

GEORGE S. ULIBARRI

National Archives

DOCUMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

The State Records of South Carolina; Extracts From the Journals of the Provincial Congresses of South Carolina, 1775-1776, ed. by William E. Hemphill and Wylma A. Wates. (Columbia, South Carolina Archives Department, 1960. xxix, 299 p. \$8.)

This attractive volume is the latest product of a publication program that originated in 1905 with the appointment of A. S. Salley as Director of the South Carolina Historical Commission. By 1949 Salley had issued 86 volumes. He was succeeded by the late J. Harold Easterby, who made his own excellent contributions to the program and supervised the editing of most of this book.

The volume under review is the second of the State Records series. It reproduces proceedings of the two Provincial Congresses held in South Carolina on the eve of the Revolution. The First Provincial Congress met January 11-17 and June 1-22, 1775; the second met November 1-29, 1775, and February 1-March 26, 1776, and, after adopting a provisional constitution, went out of existence.

In the "Series Preface" Dr. Easterby writes of South Carolina's three later constitutions. In the "Volume Preface" W. E. Hemphill analyzes the background and operations of the Provincial Congresses. None of the manuscript journals has survived. Fortunately, official extracts from the journals of each session were prepared by specially-appointed committees and printed contemporaneously by Peter Timothy, a Charleston printer who published the local newspaper and also served as secretary to the several congresses. Timothy's *Extracts* for the final session were reprinted in London in 1776 by J. Almon. Even so, only about a dozen widely-scattered copies of the five editions are known to exist.

Mr. Hemphill's preface mentions especially some of the more interesting members of the Congresses, including the colorful Peter Timothy, quoted as saying "I have suffered by never being lukewarm in any Cause." Interest in this section could have been enhanced by drawing attention to the even more important roles played by a few of these members during the Revolution. For example, the Francis Marion who served in the First Provincial Congress and was commissioned captain in the militia on June 11, 1775, is none other than the famous "Swamp Fox." Col. Henry Laurens served South Carolina as a delegate to the Continental Congress and was president of that body from November 1777 to December 1778.

Much of the text of the *Extracts* is concerned with routine matters, but even the most casual reader will find interest in the bitter exchange of letters between Capt. Edward Thornbrough, commander of His Majesty's Sloop *Tamer*, and William-Henry Drayton, president of the Second Provincial Congress. This is reproduced (p. 85-86, 88-90, 93-95, and 113), but unfortunately is too lengthy to quote here. A few pages later there is a fascinating report by Capt. Simon Tufts describing how, under fire from two British ships, he sank four hulks on the bar of Hog-Island Creek to obstruct the passage of ships of war. In reprinting Timothy's *Extracts*, the editors have selected a Caslon type face that closely corresponds to the one used by Timothy. The

spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and even the decorative printer's ornaments in the *Extracts* have also been closely followed, although certain names have been modernized and inconsistencies in spelling have been corrected. The product is a clear, easily readable text. A comprehensive index contributes greatly to the utility of this excellent volume.

This and other scholarly publications issued under his direction will constitute a lasting memorial to J. Harold Easterby.

GUST SKORDAS

Maryland Hall of Records

Guide to Microforms in Print, 1961, ed. by Albert James Diaz. (Washington, Microcard Editions, Inc., 1961. iv, 72 p. \$4.)

Microfilming was applied to the systematic reproduction of research materials by the American Library Association, the National Archives, and other organizations during the latter half of the 1930's. In 1944 Fremont Rider proclaimed in *The Scholar and the Research Library* the coming of the microcard, and in 1948 the Microcard Foundation, set up to promote the development of the newer form, began to publish the *Microcard Bulletin*. Like an ameba, the foundation has now divided; it continues its work of providing support for scholarly projects and educational institutions from its old offices in West Salem, Wis., but it has set up Microcard Editions, Inc., at 901 26th St., N. W., Washington 7, D. C., to carry on and expand its work of publishing and disseminating information. The new agency has promptly issued this *Guide to Microforms in Print, 1961*, containing about 9,500 entries compiled from the lists of 42 publishers, and, if it "proves to be a valuable tool," will issue an updated volume in February of each year. The two main microforms, after 13 years, coexist in peaceful competition, and the *Guide* lists both microfilm and five varieties of microcard. These five varieties arise in part from the diversity of proprietors, but the main distinction is between the small card that reproduces 24 pages on a side and the large card that reproduces 90 or 100 pages, and the different-sized "readers" they require. Inside the back cover of this 72-page booklet is a waxed-paper pocket holding a microcard edition of *itself* on the four sides of two 5" x 3" cards, including the covers and the 10-page advertisement section—but not the microcards or their pocket! The chief omission from the guide is dissertations, which are now so numerous in microform editions that their inclusion would put the work on a wholly different scale. The entries in the guide are in small print and very concise, consisting of author, short title, date of the original, price, and symbol for the publisher and the form. Considering that the works reproduced are in many languages and drawn from nearly all fields of knowledge, there are remarkably few errata, although "Bartram, William. M, DCC, XCI." requires some expertise to penetrate! Of the 42 publishers, 8 are universities, 6 scientific or learned societies, 5 general publishers, 3 libraries, 3 periodicals, and 4 other sources, while the remaining 13 are primarily firms in the microform business.

University Microfilms of Ann Arbor can furnish, but do not price, a film of the *American Archivist*, 1946-58. Most of six columns in the guide (p. 65-68)

are taken up with the microfilms of Government records issued by the National Archives; the records of the Second through the Tenth Censuses, for example, can be obtained for \$2,824. The Microfilm Service and Sales Co. of Dallas has 22 entries under the general title "Mexican diplomatic notes" (overall dates 1811-1907), most of which seem to be from the Mexican Archives and some of which are concerned with the Republic of Texas. The Massachusetts Historical Society offers microfilms of the Adams Family Papers, complete from 1639 to 1889, for just \$4,500; America's most exclusive family archive has now become the most public. A "mobile film unit" sponsored by Unesco went to Panama and in three institutions there put "historical and literary material, primarily archives" on microfilm, which N. A. Kovach of Los Angeles offers for \$1,300. The reproduction of records is evidently confined to microfilm and has not penetrated to cards. I spotted nothing else archival in nature, and I do not know whether Mr. Diaz missed, or rejected as insufficiently commercial, the Library of Congress microfilms of Presidential papers with printed indexes. We hope he will include them in the 1962 guide.

DONALD H. MUGRIDGE

Library of Congress

REPORTS OF ARCHIVAL AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

Preserving the Past for the Future; Twenty-Eighth Biennial Report of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History, July 1, 1958, to June 30, 1960. (Raleigh, 1960. 155 p., illus.)

This report breathes a healthy and justified selfconfidence and optimism. During the biennium covered, the Division of Archives and Manuscripts (the only division with which this review concerns itself) doubled its staff, tripled its budget, and greatly expanded its program. As the entire Department of Archives and History apparently increased its budget by only a third since the preceding biennium, Archives and Manuscripts was especially favored.

Two new activities probably account for much of this expansion, one—the newspaper microfilm project—not archival, the other—the local records program—very much archival. The latter results from a law of 1959 providing State funds for the Department to inventory, appraise, and microfilm county records, in cooperation with county authorities. But as early as August 1958 the division began a series of visits—eventually to cover all counties—that at the time of this report had resulted in inventorying, scheduling, and microfilming (where appropriate) the records of seven counties. The division has also prepared and issued a 73-page *County Records Manual*, which, it is to be hoped, is available for distribution outside of North Carolina. Consisting of two chapters of general instructions for county officials, eight chapters listing county records with retention and disposition schedules and indications of what is to be microfilmed, and an appendix of statutes dealing with records, it is the first such manual to be issued and should be the basis of much discussion among archivists.

Other branches of the division's work also prospered. Forty-one inventories

are now complete, covering all the large State government departments. There was a 50 percent turnover of records brought into the records center: about 13,000 cubic feet brought in and 6,000 destroyed, plus another 2,000 or so filmed before destruction. Arrangement and control (especially of personal-paper collections), lamination, microfilming, and some disposition of archives in custody also progressed. Searchroom visitors and mail and telephone inquiries numbered well over 10,000. With the endorsement of the North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission and the Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission, the Department hopes to acquire a new building.

PAUL LEWINSON

Arlington, Va.

Erased

Let this order be entered as it now stands, I holding for further consideration the subject-matter of what I have erased.

— President Abraham Lincoln, endorsement, May 28, 1861, on an order of the War Department of that date, in *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, ser. 3, vol. 1, p. 240 (Washington, 1899).

At Your Service . . .

fifteen years of experience and the resulting skill of this company in the repair and preservation of manuscripts, books, newspapers, parchment documents, etc. for libraries.

Also available are modern, reasonably priced laminating machines — custom built to meet your requirements.

Your inquiry will receive our prompt and careful consideration. Write for our free booklet, "The Repair and Preservation of Documents."

THE ARBEE COMPANY

192 Central Avenue

Stirling, N. J.
