

# Reviews of Books

HENRY P. BEERS, *Editor*

*National Archives*

*Current Problems in the World of Archives; Papers From the IVth International Congress of Archives*, by R. H. Bahmer—G. A. Belov—R. Marquant—J. Papritz—E. Sabbe. (Stockholm, Sweden, [1960]. 20, 13, 28, 31, 40 p.)

Each of these papers, read at the Fourth International Congress of Archives, was based upon replies to a questionnaire circulated internationally and upon the writer's personal knowledge. Three of them deal with problems of repair, preservation, and photographic duplication: Bahmer on recent developments in the Americas along these lines; Belov on new techniques, materials, and experiences in Soviet Russia and her satellites; Papritz on new methods, materials, and results among nations of western Europe and in the United States.

Mr. Bahmer provides a well-balanced survey of fire protection, airconditioning, stack and container equipment, repair methods, and photography, never overlooking essential details or burdening the reader with nonessentials. His exposition, along with similar statements in some of the companion papers, leaves no doubt about the advanced position of certain American archival institutions in these techniques, with equipment that assures maximum protection for the records. In contrast to Bahmer's essay, Mr. Belov's is dull and repetitious, in part from faulty construction that would have lent itself better to tabular treatment, in part from incomplete data that fail to reveal enough information to satisfy the reader or offer no comparative basis on which to judge ways and means in relative terms. Nor is the reader greatly enlightened by the statement, "New methods [of restoring archives] are not adopted automatically, but only after close consideration." Mr. Papritz devotes most of his essay to problems of lamination and microphotography; the specialist and the technician will find this paper very profitable to consult. Europeans have not accepted lamination readily. American experiments and techniques receive due credit, including William J. Barrow's outstanding work; but Mr. Papritz leaves some questions still open.

Mr. Marquant's paper on archives and modern social and economic research is concerned essentially with what the American archivist and historian call business records. The author includes quite properly governmental archives that pertain to economic interests and activities. Here we find the problems of preservation, which the American archivist faces and the American businessman meets but usually ignores, correlated with those of their European counterparts in many a country; the burden of sheer bulk of paper; the use and abuse of the records for the company's history and its public relations; the selection of records for preservation and destruction; and the new problems the archivist must face in evaluating punchcards and magnetic tape as docu-

ments. Will he be consoled to learn that the quality of researchers "interested in economic questions is generally superior to that of other research workers and that the number of 'amateurs' in this particular field is very limited owing to the dryness of the subject"?

Finally, Mr. Sabbe, Archivist General of Belgium, discusses state archives throughout the world at the national level. His logical and concise treatment includes much illuminating information of a comparative nature on organization and administration, the kinds of records and methods of preservation, buildings and equipment, and arrangement and accessibility of the records. This volume constitutes more than a handbook on the physical characteristics and condition of archives in both hemispheres, since the intellectual problems common to all archivists are implicit in much that the authors have written as practitioners in five different nations.

LESTER J. CAPPON

*Institute of Early American  
History and Culture*

*American Literary Manuscripts; a Checklist of Holdings in Academic, Historical, and Public Libraries in the United States*, compiled and published under the auspices of the American Literature Group, Modern Language Association of America, by the Committee on Manuscript Holdings. (Austin, University of Texas Press, 1960. xxviii, 421 p. \$5.)

The volume under review is a guide of major design, considerably broader in scope than its title might suggest. Compiled by a special committee of the Modern Language Association, it is an interesting example of the user's approach to the compilation of such a guide. Its technical characteristics as a finding aid and certain innovations it employs require comment. It is these characteristics the reviewer wishes particularly to examine, but a few words as to content are in order.

First, the compilers construe "literary manuscripts" (a term they do not define) very broadly, to include a wide variety of utilitarian and erudite writings as well as belles lettres. Doubtless we see here a strong reflection of the current interest in "American Studies." Thus, among the 2,350 authors whose manuscripts in some 270 repositories are recorded in the *Checklist*, we find a wide range of callings. To cite only a few at random, certain of the Presidents are included (Washington, the two Adamses, Jefferson, Lincoln, Wilson, the two Roosevelts); philosophers Royce and Dewey; historians Parkman, Motley, and Prescott, as well as Paul Leicester and Worthington Chauncey Ford, Beard, and Freeman (but not J. Franklin Jameson, whose correspondence constitutes a rich core of materials); statesmen Calhoun, Webster, and Sumner; and leaders in other fields—Clarence King, Clarence Darrow, Gerrit Smith, and Jane Addams.

Second, the compilers have attempted, and properly so, to list a number of kinds of materials of and relating to these writers. Thus they distinguish eight categories of holdings, each indicated by a symbol, as follows: MS, manuscripts, including typescripts, of creative works; J, journals or diaries by the author; L, letters by the author; C, letters to the author; D, documents

relating to the author; MG, books containing marginalia by the author; SC, special collection relating to the author (in "certain very large collections . . . at times rather freely employed"); X, manuscript materials attributed to the author but of uncertain authenticity; and finally, +, a symbol "occasionally employed (again usually by very large collections) to show significant holdings without specific count." The variety of materials listed adds greatly to the value of the work. But it seems regrettable that the compilers largely overlooked public archival materials; only a very few archival establishments are represented. Such materials can be highly pertinent for authors whose careers have included tours of public service. One thinks immediately of Whitman, Melville, Lowell, and Hawthorne at the Federal level. If the compilers preferred not to record public archival materials systematically, they would have done well to include a general statement reminding the user of their value and also of the emergence of the Presidential libraries. With regard to one kind of private archives, on the other hand, they have done some pioneer work; they report holdings of a number of publishing houses and express their regret at not having had access to more of them.

Now to the technical characteristics of this work as a finding aid. There are certain innovations that make it an interesting experiment. Librarians will note the application of several devices that have been used with notable success in listing the newspaper and serial holdings of libraries throughout the country. Such lists have usually been entitled *union lists*. It seems fair to say, however, that the elements of the *union-list* technique employed in this *Checklist* have certain limitations for the description of manuscript as distinguished from published materials.

The unit of entry in the *Checklist* is the author, the authors being listed alphabetically. Under each author appears a listing of all repositories having holdings, again arranged alphabetically; under each repository is presented in highly abbreviated form, by means of symbols, an indication of holdings. We find, for example, 78 institutions listed under Samuel Clemens; a typical line reads: "TxU MS1 L19 D4," which, translated, tells us the University of Texas has 1 manuscript of a creative work, 19 letters by the author, and 4 documents relating to him. In many instances the holding of a single item by some repository is thus recorded. This is the strength of the system; its weakness is that it provides no indication whatever as to the content or even the size of major collections. They are indicated simply by the symbols + or SC, and the rather frequent occurrence of these symbols in the *Checklist* makes this deficiency the more significant.

The reviewer would suggest the use of additional symbols for other points of information, to indicate (1) the existence of a published or unpublished finding aid for major collections and (2) the existence, completed or in progress, of a comprehensive documentary publication project, such as, for example, the projects for the Jefferson, Adams, and Calhoun papers.

Given the scope of the volume and the lack of specific bibliographical apparatus, a few basic references might well have been presented in the introduction. Attention might have been called to the National Historical Publications Commission's major compilation, *A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts*

in the United States, then in progress and since published under the editorship of Philip M. Hamer. Such items, also, as the *Check List of Historical Records Survey Publications* (1943) and other titles in specialized fields might have been cited as sources of additional information. The compilers do call attention to the National Union Catalog of Manuscripts in preparation in the Library of Congress and eventually to be published, it is hoped, in book form. The introduction provides some general observations for the user of manuscript materials; to the professional custodian many of them appear familiar enough. He must demur, however, at the strong emphasis given to the card cataloging of manuscripts. Manuscripts catalogs take varied forms, and it is time the American scholarly public cease to assume the term *cataloging* as applied to research materials automatically implies a product on cards.

The compilers refer to their work as a "systematic census," and again, as a "limited series of statistical facts"; and the term *census* is a fairly accurate description of it. It lacks some of the reference values characteristic of many archival finding aids, but this is another limitation of the method. The Committee on Manuscript Holdings, the various institutions supplying grants-in-aid, and the Lilly Endowment, Inc., which assisted in the publication of this volume, are to be commended for producing a valuable aid to scholarship.

LESTER W. SMITH

*Buffalo and Erie County  
Historical Society*

*A Guide to the Principal Sources for American Civilization, 1800-1900, in the City of New York: Manuscripts*, comp. by Harry J. Carman and Arthur W. Thompson with the collaboration of David K. Rothstein, Irene S. Thompson, and Alan D. Aberbach. (New York, Columbia University Press, 1960. xlviii, 453 p. \$10.)

This excellent compilation listing sources available for the nineteenth-century history of the United States in the many depositories in New York City will be of tremendous value to any historian or researcher working in this field. It is a worthy successor in time to the well-known and widely used *Guide to the Principal Sources for Early American History, 1600-1800, in the City of New York*, by Evarts B. Greene and Richard B. Morris, which was first published in 1929 and was revised by Professor Morris for a second edition in 1953. Unlike the earlier volume the present *Guide* covers only manuscripts and manuscript collections; another volume is promised to deal with printed sources for nineteenth-century America. The cataloging procedures are similar to those in the Greene and Morris *Guide*, which means that sources are classified topically and not listed according to the depository in which they are to be found. The order is generally chronological within the various topics and subtopics, except that authors are listed alphabetically in the chapter on literature.

The prefatory material includes a directory of the principal libraries and other depositories of New York City, which will repay careful reading by the researcher. It briefly describes their holdings, emphasizing the fields in which they are particularly strong, and makes note of some changes in the

location of holdings which took place while the *Guide* was being compiled. Thus, the manuscripts of the American Institute of Arts and Letters have been transferred to the Library of Congress; those of the American Institute of the City of New York are now in the New-York Historical Society; and the holdings of the defunct Methodist Historical Society have been divided among several institutions.

The method of arrangement does lead to much repetition; for example, the whole or parts of the Henry O'Reilly papers in the New-York Historical Society appear in at least 14 entries (some not indexed). Items are not always to be found in seemingly obvious categories, as when reports and plans relating to the Brooklyn Bridge and other bridges turn up on pages 230 and 231 in the chapter on invention and technology and not in the subsection on New York bridges, ferries, and harbors in the chapter on economic institutions. Since the index covers only names and not titles or subjects, the researcher may find it advisable to browse carefully through the volume. Such considerations, however, can hardly be regarded as shortcomings in view of the tremendous task that the compilation represents and of the compromises necessary to produce it.

This valuable aid to research does not and could not list every single piece of manuscript source material or even every collection; for the great libraries and manuscript depositories of the metropolis have accumulated holdings so vast as to make complete and detailed listing virtually impossible. The compilers have wisely chosen "to be comprehensive rather than all-inclusive," and their purpose is "to give the researcher a fair idea of what is available." Within its expressed limitations this *Guide* will be a helpful key to the rich manuscript resources of New York City. To the historian or researcher living in that area it will be very useful, but to one coming from a distance with only a limited time for research it will be absolutely indispensable.

S. K. STEVENS

*Pennsylvania Historical and  
Museum Commission*

*The Municipal Records Manual*, ed. by H. G. Jones and A. M. Patterson.  
(Raleigh, State Department of Archives and History, 1961. 41 p.)

This manual is worthy of the attention of anyone seeking knowledge on the complex problems that plague relationships between State and local governments. It presents at least a partial solution to these problems, which are due principally to neglect, ignorance, or any one of a great variety of reasons that result in a general indifference to the condition of the records of local governments throughout the United States.

Although we may disagree in a few instances with the schedules themselves, they are concise and reduced to a desirable simplicity—no gobbledygook here. Anyone with a modicum of understanding of the office in which the schedules are to be used can readily understand the meaning intended to be conveyed.

There appears to be current a mania for drafting record retention and disposal schedules in all areas of business and government throughout the country, and perhaps this is as it should be. It is love's labor lost, however, if

schedules are not implemented and above all if they are not supported by proper and duly authorized directives and regulations—in this case, State statutes. That the publication draws attention to such statutes is its greatest value. In the appendix we find “*General Statutes Applicable To Municipal Records and This Manual—Public Records Act.*” This commands our attention. Public records are clearly defined, destruction of records is regulated and controlled, the responsibilities falling on State authorities in their relationship with local authorities are spelled out, the requirement that local authorities cooperate with State authorities is provided, and penalties for noncompliance are included. All this is an encouraging indication of what can be done in finding a route through the wilderness of neglect, petty political considerations, and all the conflicts and obstacles that remain in too many of our States and cities.

Mr. Jones and his colleagues deserve our congratulations for this *Manual*, not only for its contents but for its indication of an ideal environment in which successful programs may be carried out through coordinated thinking and cooperative effort on the part of State and local officials. North Carolina is to be commended for inspiring progress made in this most difficult area of recordkeeping.

CHARLES E. HUGHES, JR.

*Department of Records  
City of Philadelphia*

*Historical Periodicals; an Annotated World List of Historical and Related Serial Publications*, ed. by Eric H. Boehm and Lalit Adolphus. (Santa Barbara, Calif., Clio Press, 1961. xix, 618 p. \$27.50.)

In their introduction (pages xi–xiv) the editors state that “this book is an annotated directory of serial publications which contain articles on historical topics. The term history has been interpreted in its broadest sense as the study of the past . . . The editors have attempted to satisfy a need for an all-inclusive rather than an evaluative inventory . . . Of approximately ten thousand periodicals examined . . . about five thousand have been listed.” That is, the volume covers prehistory and all periods of history; auxiliary historical disciplines such as chronology, genealogy, paleography, and toponomy; local history; and related fields such as anthropology and sociology. The word “periodical” is here synonymous with “serial.” The list does not, however, include periodicals (such as abstracts, journals, almanacs, and bibliographies) that do not contain articles. Items listed are all current; the only exceptions made are for titles that ceased during or later than 1957. The compilation was done mainly in 1958–60.

Information was assembled from three sources: the holdings of great libraries, supplemented by those of libraries in highly specialized fields; bibliographical publications; and collaborating specialists in many disciplines and fields. In all, some 100 individuals and more than 45 institutions in about 40 countries provided assistance. Arrangement is by geographic areas, then by country, then by name of periodical in the original language (followed by an English translation where necessary). Publications of international organizations are



listed together at the start. This type of arrangement makes the index (p. 536-618) a vital key to locating the titles which have appeared in about 120 countries or dependencies.

Details vary, but the fullest entries list title, frequency, date of first volume, publisher, editor, type of contents, price, and several other items. The reviewer has checked a few titles selected at random against other bibliographic sources and found them accurate. He has also found a number of titles not listed in the *Union List of Serials*. The offset printing from type-written copy is neat, easily legible, and appears (from a random check on a few pages) to be free from typographical errors. This successor to the *World List of Historical Periodicals and Bibliographies* (1939) will be very useful to many persons.

LESTER K. BORN

*Library of Congress*

France, Direction des Archives de France. *Catalogue des microfilms de sécurité et de complément conservés dans les archives des départements*, par Michel Duchein. (Paris, Imprimerie nationale, 1955. 260 p.)  
*1<sup>er</sup> supplément, 1955-1958*, par Michel Duchein, Emmanuel Poulle, et Alexandre Labat. (Paris, Imprimerie nationale, 1960. 410 p.)

In 1945 the public archival depots located in the departments (or provinces) of metropolitan France and its overseas possessions began a systematic program of microfilming certain archival *fonds*. The two publications under review provide an account of the initiation of the program and its progress through 1958.

Exclusive of disposal microfilming (which is not so widely practiced in France as in the United States) two separate microfilming programs are being carried out—security and complementary—with much the greater emphasis on the latter. Security filming in the departments, as in the National Archives at Washington, involves the reproduction of old, valuable records whose physical condition is such that their constant handling would cause serious deterioration. The departments also follow the custom, but on a small scale, of depositing film copies in distant shelters as a safeguard against destruction of the original records.

Complementary filming, rarely resorted to by public archival institutions in this country, requires special explanation as to its use in France. Basically, it is undertaken by both the Archives Nationales and the departmental depots to fill gaps in their archival series. But, since the French concept of what constitutes proper documentary materials for a governmental archival agency to accept is far broader than the American, this filming covers not only records created by governmental agencies but also archives of certain private families and commercial firms, notaries, parishes, hospitals, and universities. Complementary filming has incidentally brought about the reproduction of archives located in other countries, including the United States.

Although the Direction des Archives administers the filming programs, the cost of the establishment of microfilming facilities is borne by the depart-

mental governments. As a consequence, not all the departments have these facilities.

The descriptions of the *fonds* that have been filmed in each department are presented in two parts. In part one, under headings of "complementary" and "security" filming, the entries are arranged numerically by roll number. Each entry provides generally a brief description of the *fonds*, an indication as to whether the materials were completely or partially filmed, and the year when they were reproduced. In the second part, the descriptions for each department are arranged under the name of the depository having custody of the original archives, with the roll number also provided.

The filming program of the departments is clearly ambitious. By the end of 1958, a total of 2,117,000 documents had been reproduced by the departments. The filming will continue and future volumes will be published to describe the results.

PHILIP P. BROWER

### *National Archives*

Denmark, Rigsarkivet. *Meddelelser om Rigsarkivet for årene 1921-55*, udgivet af Rigsarkivet. (København, Munksgaards Forlag, 1958. 285 p., illus.)

*Meddelelser om Landsarkiverne for årene 1921-1955*, udgivet af Rigsarkivet. (København, Munksgaards Forlag, 1960. 187 p., illus.)

*Meddelelser om Rigsarkivet og Landsarkiverne for årene 1956-1960*, udgivet af Rigsarkivet. (København, Munksgaards Forlag, 1961. 215 p., illus.)

These three volumes fill a gap in the history of the Danish State Archives. After the issuance in 1922 of the *Meddelelser* reporting on the years 1916-20, this useful publication had to be suspended for lack of funds. As a result both the archival personnel and their clientele were long deprived of this handy source of information on the nation's records. In this trilogy the first and largest volume (1958) concerns the work of the main archives (Rigsarkivet) in Copenhagen during the years 1921-55. The second volume (1960) covers the same period as the first but only for the four provincial archives (Landsarkiverne). The third volume (1961) deals with the entire state archival system for the years 1956-60, bringing the series up to date. In the future each new volume of *Meddelelser* will account for five years of state archival activities in Denmark.

The Danish State Archives has weathered many changes since 1921. Its head was then the distinguished historian, Kr. Erslev. His successor (1924-34) was a veteran archivist, L. Laursen. Next came Axel Linvald, whom the Nazis drove into exile in Sweden from October 1943 until May 1945, during which time Holger Hjelholt was in charge. Following Linvald's retirement because of age, Svend Aakjær, formerly the city archivist of Copenhagen, became Rigsarkivar on February 1, 1956. In May of the same year came the creation of a new secretariat responsible for administrative and personnel matters as well as publications.

The German occupation of Denmark in April 1940 brought many problems. Foremost among these was the security of the nation's historic docu-



ments and museum treasures in the event of actual conflict or air attack. *A*, *B*, and *C* priorities were set on the documents. Items of the greatest significance, the *A* group, included records of the Royal House, medieval parchments, and original treaties. They were first stored in the basement of Fredriksborg Castle and later transferred to a less humid area in the Esrum cloister. *B* items were moved to safer areas within their respective buildings, but *C* items remained where they were. The archival buildings were protected with sandbags and made as nearly fireproof as possible. Fortunately, no structure suffered from attack, and by the summer of 1945 most archival operations were again on a peacetime basis. The wartime experience, however, led to the completion in 1953 of an underground storage vault for important items. Unfortunately, it proved too humid for any immediate use.

The war also led to an extensive microfilm program to provide copies of vital records for use in the event of loss of the originals. Subsequently much the same purpose was served when the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints paid for the microfilming of a large quantity of genealogical records and gave the Danish State Archives positive prints of the rolls, together with a number of microfilm readers. The volumes under review contain several interesting archival illustrations, including a scene from the photographic facility with its modern American equipment.

Each of the *Meddelelser* prints long lists of records received, chiefly from the Danish government but in part from private sources. And since more records are taken in than are disposed of, adequate storage space poses a problem. Both gain and loss resulted from a series of agreements (1920-45) by Denmark with Germany, Iceland, Sweden, and Norway on the exchange of archives of national interest. Of special value for additional light on the German occupation were the microfilms of captured German military documents in Washington, D.C., and London; and the material on the Danish resistance movement assembled and made available by Jørgen Hæstrup. Government officials and private researchers depended heavily upon data drawn from the archives. The number of researchers in the reading room in Copenhagen reached a wartime peak in 1943, when the Nazi stress upon "pure Aryan ancestry" caused many Danes to look more closely into their family trees. Through the years Danish archivists maintained close ties with their colleagues in Norway, Sweden, and Finland and took part in various international archival meetings. Highly informative and remarkably objective, these three volumes report solid achievements by a relatively small but dedicated archival staff, of which Denmark can be proud.

HAROLD LARSON

*University of Maryland*

*Minutes and Reports of the Sixth Archivists' and Historians' Conference of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at Concordia Historical Institute, 801 DeMun, St. Louis 5, Missouri, October 25-26, 1960. (St. Louis, 1961. 46 p. Processed.)*

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has made commendable efforts toward the establishment of an effective archival organization. It has encour-

aged the appointment of congregational archivists, but the key to successful endeavors obviously lies in the effective administration of each of its 35 district archives. To assist in the development and maintenance of a sound archival program and to provide help, guidance, and encouragement to district archivists, the Concordia Historical Institute, which is the official records depository of the synod (and also for the district in which it is located), has sponsored conferences where these archivists and other interested persons may listen to papers, participate in discussions, and exchange views. The first of these meetings was held on October 30, 1945. It was followed by two-day sessions in October of 1949, 1953, 1954, 1957, and 1960. The next conference is planned for 1962.

The minutes, in the first part of this booklet, contain summary information concerning papers presented and discussions that followed, resolutions adopted, and business transacted. Three of the papers presented at the conference are printed in the booklet. They are "A Common Filing System," "The District Archivist as Research Man, Collector, and Author," and "Resource Materials Available in the Institute With Special Reference to Elementary Education Within the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod." A fourth paper, entitled "Mission Expansion and Outreach in the North Wisconsin District, An Historical Evaluation," was not reproduced because it will be published in a forthcoming edition of the *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly*.

The Concordia Historical Institute deserves congratulations for sponsoring these conferences and for trying to develop an organization and programs for the control of all of the archives of the synod. The organizational network of congregational, district, and synod archives has a very significant potential. Planned conferences with the key personnel involved in the program should

become increasingly fruitful.

National Archives

### f Genealogical Material

of Graham Bell to the Librarian of Congress Sundry Civil Service Bill, already passed by for the destruction or sale as wastepaper of of the U. S. census. Referring to the *Con-* 2, p. 5257, for the Senate's discussion of the u stir up the Historical and Genealogical fact that the greatest collection of genealog- a the world, is liable to be utterly destroyed, protest.

BELL, signed typewritten letter to Ainsworth R. 12, 1902, in the Spofford papers, Library of

### The Greatest Collection of

[A 1902 letter from Alexander expressed Bell's alarm that the S the House, contained a provision the original population schedules *gressional Record* of May 1, 1900 matter, Bell wrote:] Won't you Societies to the realization of the ical material at present existing in unless they raise their voices in p

—ALEXANDER GRAHAM  
Spofford, May  
Congress.