

Reviews of Books

HENRY P. BEERS, *Editor*

National Archives

A review of the first four volumes of *The Adams Papers* (subtitled *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams*) is presented as an article on p. 449-454 of this issue.

FINDING AIDS

A Guide to Manuscripts Relating to America in Great Britain and Ireland, ed. by Bernard R. Crick and Miriam Alman. (New York, Oxford University Press for the British Association for American Studies, 1961. xxxvi, 667 p. \$13.45.)

American interest in British materials for American history has persisted for so long that this interest now has its own history, as witness a recent doctoral dissertation (John B. Riggs, "The Acquisition of Foreign Archival Sources for American History to the Year 1940," Yale University, 1955). While still very young, some of our original States began to have British documents copied, and a few of these States, notably Virginia, continue such copying into the present. The Library of Congress for over 60 years has copied old world sources for the same subject and in April 1961 sponsored a daylong conference to plan new national effort of this type. The conference emphasized need for two things: first, a comprehensive and current record of what copies are available in this country and Canada, and second, guides to other material of general interest that should be copied in foreign repositories. Fortunately and opportunely for this program, Mr. Crick, Mrs. Alman, and a host of others have supplied us with a new guide to British materials.

The *Guide* is the result of a cooperative venture involving many scholars, librarians, and archivists on both sides of the Atlantic. Some of the expense of the survey was met by a grant from the U. S. Information Service. The *Guide* is designed for scholars, British and American, and for the archivists and librarians who serve them. It endeavors to locate and to describe briefly "all manuscripts in Great Britain and Ireland relating to the history and literature of the American colonies and the United States which did not fall within the scope" of the guides compiled early in this century by Charles M. Andrews, Charles L. Paullin, and others for the Carnegie Institution (Washington, D. C., 1908, 1912, and 1914). It is promising to read that in this work "'history' and 'literature' have both been construed in the widest possible sense to include all materials that could possibly be of significance to political, economic, social, and intellectual history, whether concerning American domestic and international affairs, or direct American influences in the British Isles." The compilers gave special attention to "those archives and libraries untouched

by the above [Carnegie] Guides and also to [the] search for material in private or commercial hands . . . an entirely new departure."

The compilers have designed the style of the report to "give enough information for a scholar to see whether or not papers relating to his special interest occurred in a collection" but not "to do his work for him." Where possible they have attempted to report whether items described have been photocopied for an American library. They have also included an index and a few useful suggestions for the benefit of those who will use the kind of materials listed and described.

Some of the unevenness and incompleteness that is inevitable in a large co-operative undertaking of this nature is present and is admitted by the compilers, but the work is nevertheless remarkable for its general utility. It will have to be placed alongside the Carnegie Institution's older guides in research libraries. Many a scholar will want his own copy to mark and annotate as a handbook. Those of us in the Library of Congress and in other libraries that are committed to acquiring photocopies of some of this material cannot but rejoice in this work of the British Association for American Studies. The association and Micro Methods, Ltd., have recently joined in a program to make microfilm copies of various materials listed in the *Guide* available for sale.

DANIEL J. REED

Library of Congress

A Calendar of Ridgely Family Letters, 1742-1899, in the Delaware State Archives, comp. and ed. by Leon deValinger, Jr., and Virginia E. Shaw. (Dover, Del., 1961. Vol. 3; 362 p., index 34 p., illus.)

Mr. deValinger and Miss Shaw, having identified themselves for 15 years and more with the lives of that articulate family, the Ridgelys, have become so intimate with its members that they can bring them to life even through the restricted medium of a calendar. This third volume of an excellent work, of which the first was published in 1948, is the best of the series, which presents a unique collection of the daily correspondence of a closely knit family group from 1742 to 1899. This last volume covers the correspondence of the young Methodist minister, the Rev. Nicholas Ridgely, who died in 1849 in his 29th year, and of his sister Ann (Ridgely) du Pont (Mrs. Charles I. du Pont), whose historical and genealogical career preserved the collection. Included also

even "curds" before finding it coyly masquerading under "foods, dairy." Yet "calves foot jelly," "cambric tea," and "lady cake" have entries all their own. Who of us, as indexers, has escaped such inconsistencies?

This is a noble task, nobly carried to completion, an inspiration to us all. May whatever tutelary deity has assumed the supervision of archives send us all such letter writers, such preservers, such donors, and such sponsors!

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DOCUMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

Hitlers Zweites Buch, ein Dokument aus dem Jahr 1928, eingeleitet und kommentiert von Gerhard L. Weinberg mit einem Geleitwort von Hans Rothfels. (Stuttgart, Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, 1961. 228 p.)

Hitler's Secret Book, translated by Salvador Attanasio, with an introduction by Telford Taylor. (New York, Grove Press, 1962. xxv, 230 p. \$5.)

This is not a book review in any generally accepted sense, though it deals with the publication of an archival document. Although the "reviewer" has read the English-language edition of the work and has had competent official evaluation of the original German document, he claims no special or authoritative knowledge of the book's author, the Nazi Party, or the history of the Third Reich. The book has been widely reviewed by persons fully competent in all of the above points. The *American Archivist*, however, has asked for this review to clear up some misinformation on the odyssey of the document. This story is of interest to archivists and historians, even though it is not quite the "fantastic tale" that some writers have made of it.

Although the major collections of captured German military records allocated to U. S. custody were forwarded during 1946 to the German Military Documents Section at Camp Ritchie, Md., further shipments continued to be received from the Frankfurt collecting point in Germany as late as 1950. By then the Departmental Records Branch, AGO, Alexandria, had absorbed GMDS. In the winter of 1950-51 two enlisted men, military intelligence linguists, were engaged in unpacking crated German records that had been held in storage pending analysis and assignment to record groups established for the collections already identified, arranged, and shelved. One of these men later recalled that they had seen then a typescript that an intelligence team had picked up from the Centralverlag der NSDAP in Munich. Although this document was labeled "an alleged unpublished work by Adolf Hitler," they had assumed it to be "a draft copy of *Mein Kampf*" and had therefore tentatively identified it as a "*Mein Kampf* manuscript." No professional analysis of the document was attempted at that time, but by direction of the section chief it was put in a safe containing other miscellaneous items that could not be assigned to an established series and that should not be left on open shelves in the storage area. In 1958 the Departmental Records Branch became the World War II Records Division, National Archives.

So far as is known the document was not studied further until July 1958, when Erich Lauer, director of the Arbeitskreis für Kriegsgeschichte, wrote asking information about an unpublished book by Adolf Hitler with the title "Deutsche Aussenpolitik." Lauer had information that a typescript of the book had been acquired from Josef Berg, manager of the Nazi publishing house, by Capt. Paul M. Leake, Signal Corps, AUS, the officer in charge of the intelligence team that visited Berg's firm in April 1945, when Munich was occupied by the U. S. Seventh Army. Richard Bauer, former enlisted linguist in the German Military Documents Section at Camp Ritchie and in 1958 in charge of the reference service on captured documents, proceeded to make a careful examination of the Hitler item, which he knew to be in the special document safe. He soon realized that the document in question was mislabeled in that it was not a typescript of *Mein Kampf*. Although it had no title or title page, its 324 pages, typed double-spaced in purple ink, did deal with German foreign policy, and the style and phraseology appeared to be Hitler's. Since the documents in the safe, as indeed many series of captured records, had not been reached in the progressive program of security review and downgrading, the typescript still retained its confidential classification. Pending the security review and determination of policy with respect to handling the document, Lauer was merely informed that no such document was among the *unclassified* German records in U. S. custody. The document was immediately given a number, EAP 105/40, in the series of miscellaneous documents arranged according to the German Army Unified Documents System (EAP); and it was submitted to the Army Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, with a request for its removal from the confidential classification applicable to all unreviewed captured documents. Removal of the classification was authorized promptly by Army Intelligence.

In August 1958 the document was submitted informally to the Historical Division, Department of State, for an opinion on its authenticity and for information on official interest in it and the possibility of vesting literary property rights in the U. S. Government, in order to prevent misuse of the document when it was released to the public. In November the Historical Division returned an informal appraisal of the document by Howard M. Smythe, indicating that it did in fact appear genuine and suggesting that the legal question of vesting and publication be referred formally to the Department of State. Accordingly, by letter of December 12, 1958, the Acting Administrator of General Services referred the matter to the Secretary of State, informing him that inquiries concerning the document had been received both from private German sources and from American scholars associated with the American Historical Association's war documentation project.

Gerhard Weinberg, who subsequently edited the German edition of the book, had first worked with the captured German documents in 1951-54 as a member of the research staff of Columbia University's war documentation project, established by contract with the Department of the Air Force to exploit the captured documents for certain official purposes. Subsequently, in

1956, Dr. Weinberg became director of the privately financed project of the American Historical Association for microfilming selected declassified German records in the custody of the Department of the Army before their return to the Federal Republic of Germany. By 1958 Dr. Weinberg had left active direction of this project, although he continued to be closely associated with it, and had returned to teaching at the University of Kentucky. During the summer of 1958, when Dr. Weinberg visited the AHA project in Alexandria, Mr. Bauer (now of the World War II Records Division, National Archives) called his attention to the discovery of the unpublished Hitler document. It was then divulged that Dr. Weinberg had been looking for the document (without the knowledge of those in charge of the captured German records) since the beginning of his work with captured records and that he too had been in correspondence with Erich Lauer (see Jack Harrison Pollack, "Hitler's Secret Lost Book," in *Saga*, Jan. 1962). Dr. Weinberg immediately made a formal request to the Chief Archivist of the Division for permission to translate and publish the document. He was told that it could not be released for unofficial use until the Department of State had advised the National Archives on its proper disposition, but that—as and when authorized for release—it would be made available to the American Historical Association's project for microfilm publication along with other declassified documents in the EAP series and, further, that Dr. Weinberg would be told when the release was made.

In the spring of 1959, while the Department of State had the disposition of the document under consideration, it received a formal request for the document from the Institut für Zeitgeschichte of Munich. In August 1959 the General Services Administration and the Department of State reached an agreement whereby a copy of the document was made available through the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for release at its discretion to the Institut. Literary property rights in the manuscript were not to be vested in the U. S. Government. At the same time the project director for the American Historical Association was informed that the document was available for inclusion in its microfilm publications, and Dr. Weinberg was notified through the project that the document was available for his examination and that it would be returned in due course to the Federal Republic of Germany along with other documents in the EAP series. Dr. Weinberg did not immediately come to examine the document nor did he request a copy because, as he stated later, he had already made copies from a British microfilm lent him for the purpose. (At the time when the document had been identified and before its transmittal to the Department of State, a photocopy of it was made available to the Historical Section, British Cabinet Office, in accordance with procedures established under an agreement of 1946 between the British and American Chiefs of Intelligence covering the custody and exploitation of captured German records.) Later Dr. Weinberg did visit Washington to compare his copy with the "original" and to consult with National Archives personnel and others on his technical analysis of its physical features.

The first public announcement of the forthcoming publication of *Hitler's*

Second Book came in a UPI release from Munich, April 19, 1961. On July 29, after the publication date, an AP story was released at Frankfurt; and in its issue of August 4, 1961, *Time* carried an account under the heading "Historical Notes." Thereafter many editorial and news comments on the book appeared both in the United States and abroad. The most detailed account was the feature article written by Jack Harrison Pollack for *Saga*, noted above. According to Mr. Pollack, his story was originally intended for *Life*. He had had extensive interviews with everyone he could find in the United States and in Europe who had known about the document or had played any part in its acquisition, discovery, or publication. On May 10, 1961, he visited the World War II Records Division; and in the course of an entire day, with the assistance of a GSA public information officer, he interviewed members of the Division staff who were responsible for administering the captured German records and in particular those who had had anything to do with the document. Unfortunately, Pollack's account did not reflect fully the balance and perspective that these interviews afforded him, and in his reporting on the facts surrounding identification and "discovery" of the document he apparently relied on unofficial information. No other reporter, however, has matched Pollack's effort to get the true story and to make it dramatic. Pollack did request, and was permitted to purchase on June 28, 1961, a microfilm of the complete document.

In November 1961—more than three months after publication of the German edition of the book and more than a year after Dr. Weinberg had obtained his copy through British sources—the Grove Press of New York requested and was permitted to purchase a photoprint copy of the document. The press then had it translated and published it in January 1962 under the title *Hitler's Secret Book*. Again unfortunately, the promotional publicity, news commentary, and reviews of the English-language edition still are inaccurate with respect to the discovery and release of the book. In each instance in which the National Archives has released a copy of the document, the recipient has been informed that its seizure by the United States has not divested possible claimants, individual or corporate, of legal heirship of literary property rights in the book. With two or three exceptions, such property rights in captured records have not as a matter of policy been vested in the United States by the Office of Alien Property.

The program for the return of captured records to the German Federal Republic is entering its final stages. All records eligible for restitution will have been microfilmed and shipped to the Bundesarchiv, Koblenz, by the end of 1963. EAP 105/40—the "lost" Hitler document—was included in the last regular midwinter shipment to Germany.

SHERROD E. EAST

National Archives

SURVEYS AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

Paperwork; Records Management in New Orleans. (New Orleans, Bureau of Governmental Research [822 Perdido St.], [1961]. 115 p. Processed.)

The Bureau of Governmental Research, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, sponsored a survey of paperwork operations and management in the city of New Orleans during the period January-June 1961. For this survey John C. L. Andreassen, distinguished archivist and a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists, was appointed consultant. He conducted the survey and prepared a rough draft of this report. Included are a general introduction, agency-by-agency inventories, major findings and recommendations, recommendations relating to specific agencies, and an appendix of applicable records laws.

The survey produced a mass of data and pointed toward ways of solving many of the problems uncovered. Example: in the past decade the city spent more than \$100,000 on microfilming, about half of which went for filming vouchers that are disposable after six years and filming comptroller's office assessment rolls, which are being filmed for the whole State by the State Archives and Records Commission. Of particular value is the recommendation to establish the post of Archives and Records Officer in the office of Chief Administrative Officer. To this position would be transferred certain archives functions now assigned to the Public Library Board. An Archives and Records Center for the city is proposed; and a broad program of management of records, from creation to disposal, is recommended.

In view of the short time available for the survey, this is an unusually fine study. Undoubtedly if Mr. Andreassen had been privileged to edit and see the report through the press, it would have been even better.

Archivists and records administrators are known for their disagreements. Perhaps it is not out of character, therefore, if this reviewer raises a mild dissent to what appears to be too much emphasis upon microfilming as a solution to current records problems, and a more vigorous objection to the assumption that the papers of a mayor and his councilmen are private rather than official. Heresy!

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Towards Information Retrieval, by Robert A. Fairthorne (London, Butterworths, 1961. xxiii, 211 p. \$6.50.)

For some 15 years Robert A. Fairthorne has been writing papers analyzing library science and clerical functions from the viewpoint of mathematics. These papers have contributed many fresh insights to others working in the field of information retrieval and as mines of ideas they have not yet been exhausted. Their continuing value, rather than a sentiment for their past usefulness, has prompted their collection for publication in this volume.

The author is a consultant to the Royal Aircraft Establishment, in which he has spent 35 years. For the first 20 years of this career he used his mathematical bent and training in a wide variety of technical work, especially computing. During the next 15 years the organization of the RAE library and the practical and theoretical problems involved became his major occupation, and he became

widely known for his many papers on the theoretical foundations of documentation. This volume contains 16 of the papers dating from 1947 which the author considers to be still pertinent to information retrieval. New material in the volume consists of a brief introduction by the author, comments by Lea M. Bohnert and Calvin N. Mooers, and a thorough index by Mr. Mooers. No real connective tissue has been added to link the papers, and the volume remains a collection of reprinted articles rather than a truly new book.

Yet there is a unifying concept running through the volume. For centuries librarians and recordkeepers have dealt with two aspects of information—information as stored ideas and information as physical entities such as books or files. They have evolved techniques and principles to cope with each aspect separately, but have been unable to cope with both aspects at the same time. In other words, they have concentrated on the conceptual while neglecting the mechanical, or vice versa, instead of aiming for a total systems approach that would integrate both. These articles all explore various areas of documentation, analyzing and criticizing existing systems and seeking new insights for blending concept with manipulation.

This sort of thing does not make light reading. Though the style of these articles is clear and straightforward, the subject matter is quite theoretical and occasionally elusive, especially for the mathematically untrained. The volume does not attempt to offer practical methods for immediate application to concrete problems, and has little direct interest to the records manager or archivist. It has a much stronger appeal to the specialist in information retrieval, and should not be omitted from any collection of books on that subject.

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On Retrieval System Theory, by B. C. Vickery. (London, Butterworths [7235 Wisconsin Ave., Washington 14, D. C.], 1961. x, 159 p. \$5.75.)

B. C. Vickery, of England, whose earlier works have brought him considerable acclaim, deserves a vote of gratitude for this latest effort. Though admitting that the attempt to present a unified theory on retrieval is presumptuous, the author has nevertheless tried to do just this. His treatment of the subject, on general theoretical lines, should bring about better understanding in a field where it is greatly needed. Mr. Vickery confines his analysis and discussion to retrieval of the documents containing the information the inquirer wants, rather than retrieval of the information itself. As he points out, most practical retrieval systems have set out only to give the first answer, although some try to provide the second.

The author begins with an analysis of the problems of information retrieval: the description of documents, the organization of "descriptor language," document storage and location, file organization and searching, coding, and mechanization. He continues with chapters discussing various concepts and approaches in the solution of each.

The subject description of documents, the key operation in retrieval, is the point at which research is most urgently needed, Mr. Vickery tells us, for upon adequate description all ensuing operations in retrieval rest. The use of generic and coordinate relationships is held to be a first and valuable step in maximizing the efficiency of recall in "descriptor language." The author concludes that while the standardization of coding features is not likely, it may be possible to develop a common language at the verbal (precoding) description level.

Mr. Vickery's discussion of automation of storage and retrieval, while very general, draws what appear to be realistic, sound conclusions. Like many others in the field of information retrieval, he believes that the potential benefits of automatic indexing (formulating entries) are great and that the problem is therefore worth exploring, despite the great difficulties it presents.

ROBERT H. CAIN

National Archives and Records Service

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Society of American Archivists

(To be mailed to the Secretary, Dolores C. Renze, 332 State Services Bldg.,
1525 Sherman St., Denver 3, Colo.)

Date _____, 19____

I enclose check (\$10) for initial payment of dues, which include a year's subscription to the AMERICAN ARCHIVIST, and understand that dues hereafter are payable a year in advance upon the anniversary date of this application.

Name _____

Preferred Mailing Address _____

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Official Representative (if an institution) _____

Introduced by _____

The Council desires for the records of the Society the following information. Use an attached sheet if necessary.

1. Formal training in archives, historical manuscripts, records management _____

2. Experience, professional or non-professional, before present position _____

3. Special interests in respect to archives and manuscripts _____

4. Brief biographical sketch, incl. date and place of birth, education, research and publications, etc. _____

For institutional members: Give date of founding, character (State, private company, etc.), size, and significant collections _____