

# Reviews of Books

GENEVA H. PENLEY, *Editor*

*National Archives*

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## FINDING AIDS

U.S. National Archives. *Preliminary Inventory* [no. 163] *of the Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Record Group 75)*, comp. by Edward E. Hill. (Washington, The National Archives, 1965. 2 vols.; 459 p. Processed. Free on request.)

The records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the National Archives are the chief source for our knowledge of relations between the United States Government and the Indian tribes. They are a voluminous and complex set of records, and this excellent inventory of them is most welcome. The inventory appears in two volumes, the first of which is devoted to records of the Secretary of War relating to Indian affairs, records of the Office of Indian Trade, and records of the Bureau itself (concerning Indian removal, land questions, claims, education, and other Indian matters). The second volume deals chiefly with field-office records of the numerous Indian agencies and superintendencies. All together, the inventory describes 1,401 separate series, providing for each the dates covered by the records, the number of documents in the collection or approximate bulk in terms of volumes or shelf space occupied, and a detailed analysis of the contents of the documents. Appendixes list headings under which documents were classified in the Bureau; a detailed table of contents and a 48-page index further enhance the usefulness of the inventory. Mr. Hill's remarkable grasp of an often confusing collection of records has enabled him to present clear and concise descriptions of the records, which will enable any researcher to approach them with confidence.

The preliminary inventories prepared by the Archives staff are intended "as finding aids to help the staff render efficient reference service and as a means of establishing administrative control over the records." The volumes under review will serve these purposes admirably, but a further value needs to be emphasized. The extensive introductions to the various sections, together with the descriptions of the records, furnish in fact an extremely useful administrative history of American Indian affairs. Mr. Hill weaves his way with great skill through the maze of administrative tangles that mark much of the Bureau's history, and I know of no other book in which one can trace so surely the changing organization of the Bureau, the establishment of and changes in the superintendencies and agencies, and the development of new offices to deal with new Indian problems.

The events of the past, which it is the business of the historian to reconstruct, are present now only in the records that have survived. Sometimes an

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intelligent description of the records furnishes in itself a serviceable reflection of past happenings. Such is the case here. One cannot often recommend a checklist for extended reading. Yet for any serious student of Government relations with the Indians a perusal of these two volumes will provide an understanding of Indian affairs second only to extensive use of the records themselves.

*Marquette University*

FRANCIS PAUL PRUCHA

Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña. *Guía al Archivo General de Puerto Rico*. (San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1964. 167 p.)

*Los Archivos históricos de Puerto Rico*, by Lino Gómez Canedo, O.F.M. (Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1964. ix, 154 p.)

The Archivo General de Puerto Rico, established in 1955, has the distinction of being one of the youngest archival institutions in this hemisphere. But despite its tender age, this repository, under the dynamic leadership of its Director, Luis M. Rodríguez Morales, already has made valuable contributions in the field of efficient administration of records. As the legal custodian of the cultural heritage of the Puerto Rican people, the Archivo General has fulfilled rapidly and effectively its responsibility of preserving, describing, and making available the documentary sources entrusted to it. The two books reviewed here constitute the first two volumes of a new series of publications being published under the aegis of the Archivo General. Both are important contributions in carrying out its responsibility of describing and making its holdings known to everyone.

The *Guía al Archivo General de Puerto Rico* was prepared by staff members of this repository and has been designated as publication no. 1 of the series referred to above. As the title indicates, it is a guide to the records, about 11,700 cubic feet, now in the custody of the Archivo General. The first 33 pages contain a brief history of this archival repository and reproductions of the more important legislation affecting archival activities, including a copy of the law of 1955 that authorized the establishment of the Archivo General. The remainder of the volume describes the records of about 48 government agencies that have deposited materials in the Archivo General. The descriptions are arranged alphabetically by name of agency. The individual accession is the unit of description, which is frequently brief and usually includes the following information: accession job number, date of transaction, name of agency from which records were received, a short statement on record types and inclusive dates, subject matter of the records (usually expressed in terms of functions or activities), and a brief word on the arrangement, size, condition, and quantity. This guide is not provided with a subject or name index.

*Los Archivos históricos de Puerto Rico* is publication no. 2 of the new series of publications of the Archivo General. Father Lino Gómez Canedo, an internationally known scholar and historian, is the author of a 2-volume

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guide entitled *Los Archivos de la historia de América*. He collected the data for the present guide in 1960 while on a teaching assignment at the University of Puerto Rico. It contains descriptions of the holdings of public and church archival repositories located throughout the island of Puerto Rico. Archival repositories are divided into two classes—general and local. General archival repositories are those that contain materials of interest to the entire island; local archival repositories contain materials that relate to one locality.

General archival repositories covered in this guide include the Archivo General de Puerto Rico, the Ecclesiastical Archives in San Juan, the General Archives of Protocols in San Juan, the General Archives of Protocols in Bayamón, and the Carnegie Library in San Juan. The holdings of these 5 repositories are described in 23 pages. Much of this space is devoted to the holdings of the Archivo General de Puerto Rico, which has as its oldest document one dating back to 1649 and also has custody of the important Junghann collection and the records of numerous government agencies.

The holdings of local archival repositories consist mostly of materials from parish churches, including records of baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials. Occasionally there are other items of broader historical interest such as reports on visits by important church officials. The descriptions of the repositories in and around San Juan (including Bayamón, Cangrejos, and Río Piedras) are given first. Descriptions covering repositories outside San Juan are arranged alphabetically by name of locality (Adjuntas to Yauco). There is a total of 59 descriptive entries including one covering the Virgin Islands. The descriptions, which are quite brief, emphasize the age of the records, their physical condition, and their subjects. A 6-page name index is provided. This guide is an excellent contribution to the extensive series of guides projected by the International Council on Archives that describe materials relating to Latin America.

The Archivo General de Puerto Rico is to be complimented for sponsoring the publication of the two guides reviewed here. Both volumes deserve a prominent place on the desk of scholars interested in the sources for the history of Puerto Rico.

*National Archives*

GEORGE S. ULIBARRI

*A Guide to Western Manuscripts and Documents in the British Isles Relating to South and South East Asia*, comp. by M. D. Wainwright and Noel Matthews under the general supervision of J. D. Pearson. (London, Oxford University Press, 1965. 532 p. \$16.)

The British have been continuously active in southern Asia for over 200 years as governors, civil servants, soldiers, missionaries, businessmen, and travelers; and of course sporadic contact extends even further back. The result is that British libraries, archives, and private collections contain a wealth of material pertaining to all phases of Asian culture and history as well as rich records of contact with the West. In this *Guide*, sponsored by the School of Oriental Studies of the University of London, M. D. Wain-

wright and Noel Matthews have recorded the impressive array of records of Western origin in Great Britain and Ireland that bear on south and southeast Asia. Included are documents and manuscripts relating to all of the Indian subcontinent, Afghanistan, Tibet, southeast Asia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. As indicated in Pearson's preface, the *Guide* is "not restricted to historical and literary materials but embraces manuscripts in all subject groups, sciences, social sciences and humanities." Manuscript maps and some business records are also included. In general no materials originating before 1450 are recorded here, and the criterion for inclusion of materials was their availability in 1961. Letters, diaries, official governmental records, manuscript histories and geographies, drawings and notes, medical reports, and institutional archives are all described.

The nearly 300 depositories surveyed represent every conceivable source of materials: from the Public Record Office to the Sheffield Public Libraries, county record offices to regimental museums, the Baptist Missionary Society to the Bank of England, the Royal Geographical Society to the Board of Trade, and many collections in private hands. The only deliberate exclusion was the India Office Library; to include it would have almost doubled the size of the volume, and in any case a guide to that collection is to be published shortly. The compilers attest that coverage is virtually complete for manuscripts and archives in libraries and depositories generally accessible to scholars, but they agree that much material that could not be recorded must still exist in private collections.

The compilation was made from published lists and guides wherever possible, and in that sense only it claims to bring together in one volume (and in one index) already cataloged materials dependent for the quality of their description on the sources from which they came. Reliance was also placed, however, on unpublished information contributed by librarians, archivists, and custodians, supplemented where necessary by the personal investigation of the compilers. The *Guide* is organized by depository and roughly chronologically for each depository, rather than by subject or chronology *per se*. Subjects, however, can be traced via the index. Addresses are given for the depositories, and in many cases brief introductions describing the nature of the institutions and their holdings have been supplied. Each group of manuscripts is described separately, and the entry gives inclusive dates, quantity, a brief description of the material, and if available a guide number or classification assigned by the depository. An excellent, 61-page, analytic index provides a good finding aid that permits tracing personal and place names and subjects. As *Guide* entries are not numbered, the index refers to pagination. Tracing references in the volume's double columns of small type is thus a bit more cumbersome than it would have been if entry numbers had been provided. But this is a small inconvenience considering the ease with which scholars can now search the sources for a wide variety of subjects, places, and persons. The compilers and the University of London have performed a great service.

*Michigan Historical Collections*

RUTH B. BORDIN

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*Guide to the Public Records of Tasmania, Section 3: Convict Department Record Group*, comp. by P. R. Eldershaw. (Hobart, State Library of Tasmania, 1965. iv, 83 p.)

The guide to the Convict Department Record Group forms the third volume in the series of guides published by the State Library of Tasmania and is a useful addition to the resources of the historian and researcher. The introductory material, a historical summary of the settlement of Tasmania from ca. 1800 to 1853, when transportation of convicts as colonists was discontinued, is interestingly presented in a chronological manner and carefully notes administrative and bureaucratic changes over the years. Each subgroup is briefly but explicitly described, the annotation indicating the purpose of the documents, their chronological range with gaps noted, and the type of information therein contained. The record group comprises shipping registers, records of disposition of convicts on arrival, employment registers, conduct registers, records of emancipation and remission of sentences, marriage and birth and death registers, financial records, and correspondence with the British Government. Subgroups concerned with specific places in Tasmania are listed and described.

Summary material has been abstracted from the records and listed in appendixes—alphabetical lists of the officers in charge of convict administration by departments, chronological list of ships transporting convicts from England from 1804 to 1853 showing number of men and women, list of ships transporting convicts from non-Australian colonies, and charts and graphs summarizing statistics on convict colonization. A most useful feature is to be found in the appendixes that identify and locate relevant documentary materials not to be found in the State Archives in this record group but available in other libraries or archives in Tasmania or other parts of Australia.

Together with the previous two volumes, on the Colonial Secretary's Office Record Group and the Governor's Office Record Group, the guide opens up a considerable body of material on the early colonization and settlement of Tasmania and Australia, on relations with the home Government, and on the penal theory and administration of 19th-century convict colonization.

*Drexel Institute of Technology*

BEATRICE F. DAVIS

Great Britain. Public Record Office. *Diplomatic Documents Preserved in the Public Record Office, vol. 1, 1101-1272*, ed. by Pierre Chaplais. (London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1964. 362 p. \$24.)

The publication of medieval records in transcript was begun by Maxwell-Lyte in 1886. Accordingly, Dr. Chaplais, reader in diplomatic at Oxford University, has been provided with an excellent foundation on which to build. He also edited *Treaty Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office, Vol. 1, 1234-1325*, in 1955. The preface to *Diplomatic Documents* states the difficulties encountered in transcribing the Latin text. As the majority of documents are in a bad state of preservation—torn and heavily stained—reliance was placed on the use of ultraviolet rays.

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Scholarly assistance is given by a list of seven categories—Ancient Correspondence, Ancient Petitions, Chancery (diplomatic documents), Chancery Files, Chancery Miscellanea, Exchequer (King's Remembrancer, Ecclesiastical Documents), and Exchequer (Treasury of the Receipt, Diplomatic Documents)—showing for each record class the P.R.O. classification number. It is apparent from this disparity that these documents do not display archival proximity.

Evidence of previous transcriptions is presented throughout the book in bibliographical references expanded in the section "Principal Abbreviations." Listed are works published in England, Holland, France, and Germany. Also included are three institutional sources: British Museum; Bodleian Library, Oxford; and Archives Nationales, Paris. There is no inclusive bibliography although there are added two dozen references to books and periodical articles.

The period in English history within the dates 1100–1272 covers the reigns of Henry I, Stephen, Henry II, Richard I, John, and Henry III. The treaties included are of the Counts of Flanders and Henry I—the little that has been preserved from that reign; no documents for Stephen; for Henry II, five letters and one treaty; for Richard I, nine letters and one treaty of peace between him and Philip Augustus of France. John negotiated a treaty with France and another with Willem, Count of Holland; these are included, in addition to about 60 other documents. Of the 444 documents in this book, the majority concern Henry III. Included among them are 33 concerning treaties either proposed or ratified and some official letters.

From the detail of physical description of each document and the many notes of emendations by Dr. Chaplais, it is apparent he has rendered a great service to the Public Record Office, to scholars interested in this field, and to institutions in the United States preserving similar archival material.

*Los Angeles Public Library*

LIONEL WILLIAM VAN KERSEN

Great Britain. Public Record Office. *Calendar of State Papers Preserved in the Public Record Office. Domestic Series. James II, vol. 1, February–December, 1685.* (London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1960. 578 p. \$26.)

Since 1958 the Public Record Office has published 10 calendars. The State Papers, Domestic Series, are in themselves prominent in the long-range view since their printing extends over a century. With the publication of this series for James II, the final remaining gap comes almost to a close.

This calendar, of 2,229 items, is a joint staff effort. A large part of the manuscript was prepared by Francis Bickley and was completed by E. K. Timings, an assistant keeper, who also acted as editor. J. D. Cantwell compiled the detailed index of 134 pages.

So that scholars may refer directly from any calendar item to the original document, the list of record classes, each with its own P.R.O. classification number, is given. Besides the State Papers, Domestic, of James II, Charles II, and William, this list includes State Papers—Channel Islands, State Papers—

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Ireland, and archives of the Admiralty and Signet offices. Among the record class "Entry Books" one finds those designated as ecclesiastical, military, petitions, warrants, and Protestant refugee denizations.

The reign of James II was notable for religious controversy, for the struggle between him and Parliament, and for the contest between him and the Duke of Monmouth. There are 152 items directly related to the Monmouth Rebellion and 79 pertaining to his rebel supporters. Of religious controversy there are noted 24 recusant items, 4 Nonconformist minister items, and 12 Church of England items. The King's Faith accounts for even fewer than these. Parliament was prorogued by James II in November 1685, but until then the relationship between Parliament and King is documented by some 55 calendared items. Those originating with the House of Commons exceed those of the House of Lords by a wide margin.

Students of economic history will find items of interest. One of the State Papers, no. 379, refers to licensing five French emigrants to the trade of felt and hatmakers, though restraining them from taking more than two apprentices and from employing any foreigners except French Protestants "now in England" (a list of their names to be submitted). Another phase of economic history concerns the re-granting of charters to various companies, as cooks, salterers, pewterers, goldsmiths, broderers, and wax chandlers.

The genealogist will find this calendar replete with names of possible forebears—in ship passenger lists or in no. 2141 naming 890 rebels to be transported. The military papers give the names of many granted commissions, in either the army or the militia.

The Public Record Office deserves commendation for the zeal with which this task was accomplished—poetry included!—and for the high standards that have been set for others to follow.

*Los Angeles Public Library*

LIONEL WILLIAM VAN KERSEN

## REPORTS

North Carolina. State Department of Archives and History. *Thirtieth Biennial Report . . . July 1, 1962 to June 30, 1964*. (Raleigh, 1964. 237 p.)

Wisconsin. State Historical Society. Division of Archives and Manuscripts. *Annual Report, 1963-1964*. (Madison, 1964. 10 p., 6 append., processed.)

Annual or biennial reports of archival institutions are expressions of hope or despair to their compilers and their recipients—private societies or public agencies. They tell what was or was not done in a given period. The two under consideration are good examples of what went on archivally from 1962 to 1964 in the States concerned.

The Division of Archives and Manuscripts of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin was formed on January 1, 1962, by a merger of the Archives Division with the Manuscripts Library, the McCormick Collection, and the Mass Communications History Center. The *Guide to Manuscripts* was brought up to date with the issuance of a second supplement. Seven hundred

additional boxes of records of the Secretary of State were accessioned, and 130 record series of that office were inventoried. Area Research Centers at Eau Claire, Oshkosh, River Falls, Stevens Point, Whitewater, and Milwaukee were strengthened by the additions of record collections such as those of Brown County and of the James W. Owens Lumber Co. Four hundred sixty-five new collections or additions to existing ones were added to the main archives. The Mass Communications History Center increased its collections extensively in the fields of public relations, advertising, and the theater arts.

The North Carolina Department of Archives and History consists of the Divisions of Archives and Manuscripts, Historic Sites, Museums, Publications, the Colonial Records Project, Supervision of Tryon Palace, and the North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission. Totals of employment rose to 106 in 1964. Planning was completed for a new Archives and History Building for which approximately \$3 million was appropriated. The Archives and Manuscripts Division placed its emphasis mainly on strengthening existing programs. The State Records Management Division increased the development and use of general schedules for the disposal and accessioning of records. The Records Center was almost filled. In 45 counties the Local Records Project had inventoried records, and microfilms had been completed on the records of 40 counties. Of State historic sites, Fort Fisher, Bentonville, and the Bennett Place received emphasis in connection with the Civil War centennial. Museum collections were systematized and impetus was given to preservation by the recovery of thousands of items from sunken blockade-runners and other vessels off Fort Fisher. The Colonial Records Project published one volume of the Carolina Charter series and located and inventoried approximately 53,000 reports on North Carolina colonial records, more than 1,000 of which were outside North Carolina. A *Union List of North Carolina Newspapers, 1751-1900* was published. Some of the most interesting accessions were the two letter books of Zebulon B. Vance, 1862-64, from the National Archives, the collection of records of Black Mountain College, 1933-56, and the papers of Nellie Battle Lewis. The Aycock, Fort Fisher, and Bath Historic Sites were taken over. Major publications included the records and papers of Governor Hodges, 1954-61, and the first volume of the papers of Zebulon B. Vance, 1862-64. The Confederate Centennial Commission compiled and edited a new roster of North Carolinians who served in the Civil War, thus adding approximately 50,000 names to those previously found.

*National Archives and Records Service*

F. R. HOLDCAMPER

*The Fate of Polish Archives During World War II*, by Adam Stebelski.  
(Warsaw, Central Directorate of State Archives, 1964. 60 p.)

The fate of the Polish archives (of all levels of government, ecclesiastical, and private) was indeed a sad one, as a consequence of World War II. The losses were extensive, occurring mainly through destruction by acts of war but also through incorporation with the archives of the Third Reich. Military action was responsible for the destruction of 3 million bound volumes of ar-

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chives and 2 million archive units, as a minimum. The greatest devastation occurred at the very beginning and near the end of the war. The losses by transfer to German archives, though difficult to specify in detail because of the lack of uniformity of reporting, were also on a relatively large scale.

Adam Stebelski, the author, who during the war was Director of the Central Archives of Earlier Records in Warsaw, a national depository, has written from personal experience. He has done an excellent job in telling this story and in giving to it an amazing amount of detail. He also covers the German administration of Polish archives in the war period.

This English translation of Stebelski's book is often awkward, but nevertheless we are happy to have available in this country another episode in the story that needs to be told of the unprecedented losses in documents and records occasioned by World War II.

*General MacArthur Memorial*

PHILIP P. BROWER

#### MANUALS

American Library Association. Library Technology Project. *Catalog Card Reproduction*. (LTP publications, no. 9; Chicago, 1965. xii, 81 p. \$8.50.)

Most libraries today are faced with demands for increased service, a growing volume of users, high costs, and tighter budgets. In order to perform their important services and to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, they are adopting modern techniques of administration and operation. Yet, most libraries lack a staff of objective analysts akin to those used by business and government organizations. The need for such a staff is just as pressing, but few libraries are able to afford this type of resource.

One principal function of a professional or technical association is to assist its members in solving important problems of methodology by acting as a non-resident analyst. The American Library Association has recognized its responsibilities and is aiding its members through the Library Technology Project. LTP, since its inception in 1959, has published a series of reports and manuals designed to aid libraries in performing more efficiently and economically. This volume is ninth in the series.

Basic studies on which the book is based were conducted by the management consulting firm of George Fry & Associates. The consultants were aided by a special advisory committee of distinguished librarians from university and public institutions. Financial support was received through a grant from the Council on Library Resources, Inc. Parties to this project are to be congratulated for producing a superb example of a handbook that avoids extensive theorizing and concentrates on substantive material that can be used in daily administration of a library.

Most libraries face a problem in card reproduction. There are so many ways in which catalog cards can be procured or reproduced that it becomes tritely axiomatic to aver that there is no one best method. The writers of this handbook aptly state on p. 1, "... no single reproduction process, method, or piece

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of equipment can meet the needs of all libraries." Accepting this as a starting point, the authors create a frame of reference, a set of criteria, and a mass of detailed methods analyses by which an intelligent decision can be made within the operational environment of a specific library. The first part of their three-part report is a general view of the problems inherent in card reproduction. It separates the problem in terms of two kinds of libraries, the low- and the high-volume users, with the dividing line at roughly 2,000 volumes a year. Definite recommendations are made, restricting the small library to a consideration of only three methods: purchase, internal typing, or reproduction by fluid or stencil reproduction.

The second part includes detailed descriptions and evaluations of equipment and processes used in 13 different methods of obtaining catalog cards. These methods range from straight purchase, through stencil or offset duplication, to electrostatic or projection copying.

The final part consists of detailed comparative cost tables for the various methods. It includes a recommended format by which any library can figure its cost of catalog card reproduction based on its own needs, volume, and salaries. Recognizing that today's office equipment is superseded and made obsolete very quickly, the authors give specific model designations with the purchase price or rental values used in the study. An interesting, and technically important, feature is the reproduction and comparison of catalog cards produced by different methods of copying.

The most impressive aspect of the report is its willingness to make judgments about the relative advantages and disadvantages of each method. This is not a book which says only that there *is* a problem and that *this* technique and equipment may help you. It tells the librarian what can be gained, what can be lost, and what will be the cost in each method of catalog card reproduction. It is an extremely valuable handbook for the administrator of a library of any size. It should also serve as a benchmark to show other professional associations what can be done in assisting members to analyze and solve common problems.

*International Business Machines Corporation*

W. L. ROFES

*Records Management Manual for Michigan Municipalities*, by Bruce C. Harding. (*Michigan Municipal League Information Bulletin* no. 104; Ann Arbor, 1964. 47 p. \$3.50.)

This manual is one of an ever-increasing number of similar ones being published throughout the United States. It appears to be unique in that, although it was edited by the Chief of the Archives Division of the Michigan Historical Commission, it was published and distributed by a nongovernmental agency—the Michigan Municipal League. The adoption of this procedure was undoubtedly a budgetary boon to the commission. It is also possible that the *Manual* will be received with more interest and consideration by municipal officials for having been published by their own organization.

The *Manual* contains a foreword, an introduction, and parts pertaining to statutory requirements, retention and disposal of records, and the use of micro-

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film. Appendixes deal with forms, schedules, and pertinent statutes. The arrangement is convenient and logical, but division of the main part into numbered chapters or sections would have facilitated reference. More careful editing would have improved the general appearance of the *Manual*.

The Michigan Historical Commission is armed with adequate statutory authority to permit effective management control over the retention and disposal of public records. All public records are "declared to be public property, belonging to the people of the State of Michigan," and the commission is empowered to collect public records no longer in current use and to preserve them, either in the archives of the commission or in some other public institution equipped to preserve and service them. Effective statutes have been enacted pertaining to replevin and to the microfilming of public records.

The retention and disposal schedules include all record and nonrecord material usually found in municipal offices. Records may be destroyed as scheduled without reference to the commission. Lists of records destroyed, however, must be submitted to the commission. Thus a simple procedure, with adequate safeguards, is prescribed for the disposal of scheduled, nonpermanent records.

A more complicated procedure is prescribed for the disposal of records not on schedule. Before disposal, an inventory must be taken and a records analysis made locally. The results, with recommended schedules for each series of records, must be submitted to the Michigan Historical Commission and to the State Administrative Board for approval.

With the rapid proliferation of public records at all levels of government, manuals such as this one are becoming well nigh indispensable; and Bruce Harding and his associates are to be commended for the excellent job they have done in providing one for Michigan municipalities. Records management and archival agencies considering the preparation of such a manual will certainly want to refer to this one.

*N.C. State Department of Archives and History*

A. M. PATTERSON

*An Author's Guide to Scholarly Publishing and the Law*, by John C. Hogan and Saul Cohen. (Englewood, N.J., Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1965. 167 p. \$5.50.)

"The author of a published book is regarded in law as having invited public judgment of his book, and he can not complain to the courts of anyone's adverse opinions, comments, or criticisms of the book. No legal action can be taken against a reviewer if his words are fair and bona fide comments upon the contents of the book" (p. 12).

So be it!

Too much is attempted by the compilers. The interpolated sections upon the historical development of rules of scholarship, copyright, etc. give the impression that there were several pieces of unused computer tape left over that no one could bear not to use.

Yet, had superfluous—or at best but tenuously related—chapters, such as 13, "Academic Freedom and Tenure," been left out, what would have been left? A very slender volume indeed, offering far less than the thoroughgoing

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coverage of copyright matters claimed. Even as the volume stands, this reviewer will continue to refer to the works of Nicholson, Wittenborn, and Pilpel. (These three do not even appear in the list of suggested further readings!)

Most regrettable of all is the lack of depth in treatment of research scholar-university press relationships. Also, one might add, a careful reading of articles on rights, contracts, etc. in any issue of *The Writer* would be a fine corrective to the impression one gains from the compilers that a contract *must* bargain away all rights.

*Virginia Military Institute*

G. B. DAVIS

*The Robot That Helped To Make a President: A Reconnaissance Into the Mysteries of John F. Kennedy's Signature*, by Charles Hamilton. (New York, 1965. xiv, 63 p. \$7.50.)

No one who has seen state documents signed by President Kennedy that are preserved in the National Archives has failed to observe that the genuine JFK signature was never the same. Even experienced chirographers may find it difficult to distinguish between the genuine signature and the many excellent imitations by skillful secretaries. "But each robot signature," Mr. Hamilton shows, "followed its own undeviating pattern, and each secretary eventually injected his own personality into every Kennedy imitation. This makes the proxy signature easy to spot!"

The robot in question is the mechanical writer manufactured by the International Autopen Co. of Arlington, Va. Mr. Hamilton appears to share the belief of many that the Model 50 Autopen is the identical model employed by JFK. In an 8-hour day the Autopen can turn out as many as 3,000 signatures from a master original on a matrix. As each is "an exact reproduction of the original" and, according to some opinions, "is as legal as though you had signed the document yourself," archivists, curators of manuscripts, private collectors, and dealers alike must learn to distinguish the robot product from both the proxy signature and the genuine one. With the help of Mr. Hamilton's analysis, the authentication of the genuineness of the JFK signature can be done with relative ease by anyone: he identifies seven different robot signatures and reproduces them on a transparency that may be placed over any JFK signature to discover similarities and differences; he describes and copiously illustrates the proxies—often easily identifiable because of only superficial resemblance to the genuine signature; and he discusses and provides many examples of authentic signatures "from Kennedy's own inkwell."

If, Mr. Hamilton says, he has "made mistakes and omissions in this pioneer probe," he hopes that his "efforts will nevertheless make the task of identifying these robot signatures easier for future scholars and historians." This reviewer applauds the pioneer probe and suggests its extension into a general study of the employment of mechanical pens by men and women in public life.

*National Archives and Records Service*

KEN MUNDEN

*THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*