

Abstracts of Foreign Periodicals

LESTER K. BORN, *Editor*

Library of Congress

UNESCO

Unesco Bulletin for Libraries, VOL. 20 (1966), NO. 2.

PETRUCCHI, ARMANDO, *Archives and libraries: possibilities of collaboration*. P. 65-70. Archivists and librarians have recently met with increasing frequency in working situations, and the participants at the International Round Table on Archives held in Madrid in 1962 invited librarians to adopt jointly with archivists a policy for the use of the materials administered by each. This suggestion was praiseworthy but without practical effect. Many aspects of the extant situation result from historical and other circumstances in Italy, France, Spain, and Germany, and also in the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In Italy and in France, expediency—also called commonsense—prevailed historically over logic—also called the claims of heritage. Gladness in the historical events does not solve the remaining problem of facilitating scholarship by the promotion of access to research materials, wherever located, by the desirable creation of descriptive controls that would be common to both professions. The holdings of the State Library in Leningrad, of the library of the British Museum, and of the 7,300 manuscript collections—"mostly documentary or archival"—listed in the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections*, published by the Library of Congress, also show the need of such controls, which must be derived from "archivist principles." Future relations between archivists and librarians should be rationalized, methods could be compared, and related activities—including reciprocal loans at the national level—could be undertaken. The voluminous holdings of the U.S.S.R. archives administration, the contents of the Public Record Office, and the several million cubic feet of records held by the National Archives and Records Service in Washington and elsewhere in the United States are not discussed. An appended bibliography omits Jenkinson's *Manual of Archive Administration* and Schellenberg's *Modern Archives*.

National Archives and Records Service

KENNETH F. BARTLETT

AUSTRALIA

Archives and Manuscripts, VOL. 3 (1965), NO. 1.

LUKIS, M. F. F., *Archives in Australia, 1955-1965: retrospect and prospect*. P. 3-9. A brief account of the advances in number of professional personnel, institutions, published inventories, and other specialized matters. Three basic problems defined 10 years ago still remain critical and, on the whole, unsolved: publication of state and Commonwealth guides, training and civil service examinations for archivists, formation of an association of Australian archivists. Each point is fully discussed.

COCKS, PAMELA, *Holdings of the National Archives of New Zealand*. P. 10-12. An outline of the vicissitudes of New Zealand records from 1833 to the present. Many important series have survived intact, many have been damaged or lost through neglect, and many, even very recently, have been destroyed by fire.

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BELGIUM

Archives et Bibliothèques de Belgique/Archief- en Bibliotheekwezen en België,
VOL. 35 (1964), NO. 2.

WATELET, H., *Note sur le classement des archives d'entreprises familiales* (Notes on classification in archives of family businesses). P. 254-259. The author states that his purpose is not to deal with purely business archives, but to consider the relationship between business archives and the private archives of the families owning the businesses. As an example he describes the history of the Grand-Hornu coal mines, the archival material arising from its operations, and the relationship between this material and that contained in the private archives of the De Gorge family, owners of the mine. The entire enterprise was always restricted to members of this family, so that the business and the family archives are inextricably mingled. A rather detailed discussion is given of distinctions between documents properly considered as primarily private and those primarily relating to the conduct of the business; the arrangement of the documents in such a way as to indicate their relative importance and to which of the two groups they belong is dealt with at some length. Suggestions are then offered on general principles involved in business-family archives and how they should be applied.

National Archives

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FRANCE

La Gazette des Archives, n. s. NO. 46 (1964).

MULON, MARIANNE, *Le Service de Toponymie des Archives nationales* (Toponymy service in the National Archives). P. 117-121. Three years ago a toponymy service was introduced in the French National Archives. It would have been better to call it "onomastic service" because it deals with much more than place names as such. Essentially, it does not perform research but offers the scholar facilities for doing research himself in regard to names of places. These facilities include a specialized library of more than 500 volumes, an alphabetic card index of authors who have written on the subject of onomastics, and a card index of subjects. Also available are periodicals dealing with onomastics. Since the entire project is relatively new, much remains to be done and the work is proceeding steadily. There is a plan for a guide to toponymic and anthroponomic research in the French National Archives.

La Gazette des Archives, n.s. NO. 47 (1964).

GILLE, GENEVIÈVE, *Un dépôt d'archives privées aux Etats-Unis: les Archives Du Pont de Nemours* (A private archival depository in the United States: the Du Pont de Nemours Archives). P. 154-160. In September 1964 a meeting took place in Wilmington, Del., arranged by the Society for French Historical Studies. Approximately 200 American and Canadian professors, archivists, and librarians were present, as well as about 20 French scholars. The article goes on to give a short history of the Du Pont de Nemours family and describes the founding of the family archives and a program for continuing this institution and doing research on the subject. A list is given of the most important documents and collections, with summaries of their contents. This work has been of value not only for the Du Pont de Nemours family but also for students of French and American history. It is to be hoped that this activity will serve as an example to illustrious French families to do likewise, both in their private interest and in the interest of historical research.

DUCHÊIN, M., *La pollution atmosphérique par l'anhydride sulfureux, sa détection dans les dépôts d'archives* (Atmospheric pollution by sulphur anhydride, its detection in archival depositories). P. 163-165. Sulphur anhydride (SO₂) is found in considerable quantities in the atmosphere of industrial areas. For this reason, English

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archivists have given more attention to the problem than their French colleagues. Sulphur anhydride causes paper to turn yellow, become fragile, and eventually disintegrate. It therefore is important to discover this effect as early as possible in order to take steps to combat it. The rest of the article explains technical methods of detecting the presence of sulphur anhydride and how to protect documents against its effects.

La Gazette des Archives, n. s. NO. 48 (1965).

MARIOTTE, JEAN-YVES, *La formation du personnel scientifique à l'École d'Archives de Marbourg* (Training of technical personnel at the Archives School at Marburg). P. 16-17. The author paid a visit of several months to the Archives School at Marburg and in this article gives his impressions. The school since 1947 carries on the tradition of the great Berlin Institut für Archivwissenschaft and now provides the major part of the technical personnel of the German Federal Republic. Most of the students are male. In order to enter this school it is necessary to pass an extremely difficult examination and to be a Ph.D. or equivalent. The course of training at the Marburg School lasts 18 months and the students are paid a small stipend, not exceeding 400 D.M. a month. Training includes all aspects of archival work, and a final examination is given. The methods and concepts at Marburg are not necessarily interchangeable with those used in France, but archivists of both countries could benefit by an interchange of ideas.

National Archives

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POLAND

Archeion, VOL. 42 (1965).

PIBER, ANDRZEJ, *Spuścizna archiwalna—jej istota, zawartość, układ, metody porządkowania* (The heritage—its essence, contents, arrangement, segregation methods). P. 43-62. A discussion of the problems arising from the segregation of so-called personal archives, based in part on current archival practice and in part on Polish and foreign professional literature on the subject. Examples from the practices of various countries are included.

KŁONOWSKA, WERONIKA, *Z problematyki archiwów urzędów centralnych PRL* (The problem of archives in the central offices of the Polish People's Republic). P. 63-72. A discussion of the problems associated with the organization and condition of archives in central agencies, with special emphasis on the instructions provided by archival authorities and the implementation of these by the agencies.

LIPÍŃSKA, WANDA, *Kontrola (scontrum) państwowego zasobu archiwalnego i jej wyniki* (An audit of the State Archives and its result). P. 249-257. In 1961-64 an audit determined the exact number of record groups, the number of records in inventory units, missing records, and those records needing immediate preservation in all state archives. The data form the basis of a central card index in the Central Board of Archives.

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UNITED KINGDOM

Archives, VOL. 7 (1965), NO. 34.

Archives in the computer age. P. 73-74. This unsigned editorial, sparked by an article in *The Times* of April 14, 1965, entitled "Are computers legal?," warns archivists and historians of the problems ahead, when more and more records are kept in non-written form. Who is to authenticate records that may be altered, undetectably, by expert computer programmers?

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