

SHORTER NOTICES

The paper, "Agricultural Records; Their Nature and Value for Research," presented by Mr. Everett E. Edwards, agricultural economist of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, at the session on Special Type Archives at the second annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Springfield is printed in the January, 1939, issue of *Agricultural History*. The issue is volume XIII and the article appears on pp. 1-12.

Volumes II, III, and IV of the *Survey of Local Finance in Illinois* (Chicago, 1939), prepared by the Illinois Tax Commission in co-operation with the Work Projects Administration, cover property taxation over the periods 1927-1936 and 1937-1938 and receipts and disbursements of townships and road districts. Volume IV is the first generally available record of township finance. The project looms in importance as a usable publication of archival financial records of the diverse agencies of local government. These volumes are, as one of the letters of transmittal states, a census of taxation. The magnitude of the task is apparent on even paging through the volumes. Some volumes are still in preparation. It is hoped that an adequate review will be possible when the final volumes are issued.

The *Annual Report, 1938-1939*, of the Hayes Memorial Library at Fremont, Ohio, states that the library is planning to develop its bibliographical and reference aids as a primary objective in its program of service to scholars. In addition to developing the usual forms of bibliographical aids, the library will undertake a program of bringing together for consultation unprinted and unpublished bibliographies by means of microphotography. An important part of the year's activity was the development of staff routines and services, a field in which the library hopes to distinguish itself. Some notable accessions have been made available during the year. A statement by the committee on grants offered by the Hayes Foundation is appended to the report.

Bulletin No. 7, October, 1939, of the Technical Section, British Records Association, contains a short article on "War Conditions and Record Work: Problems Affecting Archivists" by the deputy keeper of public records, C. T. Flower. Mr. Flower states that about one thousand tons of the most important records in the Public Record Office are being placed in countryside repositories. Two thousand tons of paper will not be moved from Chancery Lane. The program of protection undertaken is of a threefold nature: evacuation, strengthening the depository to minimize possible damage to the building and its records, and training of the personnel to meet situations which may arise. The deputy keeper warns against indiscriminate pulping of paper for

war uses; the need for paper and parchment has already come to the attention of British archivists.

The *Inventory* of the records of San Luis Obispo County, California, No. 41 of the state series, is one of the largest in size thus far noticed. The extensive essays on the history and procedure of the various offices are in part responsible for its 524 pages. Few papers date from the Spanish period and the most important of these are the miscellaneous instruments of the *alcalde* during the period of 1840-1850. It is of interest to note that a few offices of Spanish origin were continued in the county organization set up in 1850.

Endre Csobán reviews THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST, I, No. 1 (January, 1938), in *Levéltári Közlemények*, xvi (1938), 265-267. The following translation was submitted by Olga P. Palmer:

The Society of American Archivists was founded at the end of 1936 and the publishing of a quarterly journal was decided upon at the organization meeting. The editing is accomplished by an editorial board of five members: Christopher Bush Coleman, Edna Louise Jacobsen, Luther Harris Evans, Herbert Ingram Priestley, and Theodore Calvin Pease (managing editor). The first number appeared in January, 1938.

The purpose of the journal is practically simple: to be as useful as possible to the members of the Society. To that end it welcomes suggestions from members—professional news notes, and reviews of books and official publications, especially of those relating to archival administration. It directs special attention to European archival work. Europe—states the announcement—preserves a large quantity of archival lore gained from the experience of the past. Slavishly copying it would be an error second only to ignoring it entirely; judiciously applied, it would be most useful in the solutions of many problems.

Consequently, the dissemination of European archival information was begun in the first number on the basis of two journals: the German *Archivalische Zeitschrift* and the Magyar *Levéltári Közlemények*. The former was selected because it is the leading professional journal of German archivists, and the latter because "of the geographic and political position which Hungary occupies in Eastern Europe, *Levéltári Közlemények* extends its interest to all Eastern European states." The highly scholarly nature and rich content of the Magyar journal is pointed out, particularly in that forty-two publications in nine languages are reviewed in the periodical and book report section. The periodical under discussion is volume XIV (1936) of our journal [*Levéltári Közlemények*], all the articles of which are abstracted in ten pages of THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST while the analysis of the same year's volume of *Archivalische Zeitschrift* occupies four and a half pages.

These two reviews are the two concluding articles of the American

journal. The German journal was abstracted by Andrew C. Albrecht and *Levéltári Közlemények* by Olga P. Palmer. In addition to these, there is a twenty-two page article on "Manuscript Repair in European Archives" by L. Herman Smith. More than half of the article is concerned with the manuscript repair processes of the Public Record Office in London. The workrooms of the British Museum, the National Library of Wales, and five other English archives and libraries are discussed more briefly. According to the promise of the author, reports on other important European archives and libraries will follow in succeeding numbers. L. Herman Smith is a member of the staff of the Department of Manuscripts in the Huntington Library (San Marino, California) and made his study in Europe in 1935. The archives, the stack equipment, and the method of arrangement of documents is described in general. This study constitutes the leading article of the journal.

In the "Reviews of Books" section, Theodore C. Pease reviews Hilary Jenkinson's *A Manual of Archive Administration*, second edition, published in London and New York in 1937. In contrast to Jenkinson's strictly archival viewpoint, Theodore C. Pease emphasizes the historian's viewpoint and states that it is not possible to draw such a sharp line between archives and historical manuscripts as Jenkinson does. The review is three pages long.

Under the heading "Shorter Notices" appear two pages of archival news. These news items communicate mainly the publishing of archival inventories in various states and cities of the union. "News Notes" devotes seven pages mainly to personal news from all parts of the United States; to death notices of J. Franklin Jameson, historian, Dunbar Rowland, archives director, Tikhon Lavrischeff, university professor, and others; and to appointments to positions in the National Archives and other archival establishments. In this same section there is also a description of the new Maryland Hall of Records, its stack equipment, and records; of the meeting of the Southern Historical Association; of the location of Florida state and other historical records; of the moving of the South Carolina Historical Commission into new quarters; and of similar news from other states.

Taken as a whole, this journal, although initially of small content, marks a serious start toward a goal which the Society of American Archivists has set. The material assistance will no doubt increase in large measure and there will be no lack of professional co-operation. That the three main articles deal with European accomplishments seems to indicate that American archival theory is still in its infancy. Even these three articles emphasize the practical aspects. The reciprocal intellectual effect thus started may be welcomed joyfully by European archival science, and we Magyars should foster the continuation and strengthening of the established contacts. Pragmatically, Europe may learn much from America, which in turn will no doubt put the results of European theory into practice much sooner than Europeans.

Volume XIX of the *Bulletin* of the Virginia State Library is devoted to a check-list of Virginia state publications during the period 1932-1935. A useful index and a list of the publications of the Virginia State Library fill out the volume of 202 pages.

NEWS NOTES

THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

Report of the Secretary, October 13, 1939

The Society has continued in the past year to act as a means of facilitating the exchange of archival knowledge and ideas among official archivists and historical manuscript collectors, and certain of its committees have begun to make constructive contributions as results of planning and study. The enthusiasm of a great majority of its members has continued and appears to be founded upon a substantial basis of recognition of common interests. The membership of the Society has remained practically constant. A few persons were dropped for nonpayment of dues because it was felt that the Society had reached a sufficiently mature stage to eliminate dead weight from its membership list. This loss has been made up by the enrollment of a rather steady increment of new members. The membership committee will continue its efforts to enlist the co-operation of persons known to be active in this field who are not yet affiliated. The secretary has been materially assisted by the remaining members of the Committee on Membership whose names, along with those of all other committee members, were published in the April, 1939, issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*.

With deep regret the deaths of two members are recorded. Dr. James A. Robertson was one of the founding fathers of this Society, and had hoped as archivist of Maryland to be the host at this meeting. It was on his invitation that it was decided to meet at Annapolis. Prof. John Carl Parish, of the University of California at Los Angeles, was one of our most valuable members on the Pacific Coast. The services of both of these men are recounted in *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* for April, 1939.

Since the second annual meeting, which was held at Springfield, Illinois, last October, the Society as a whole has held one session in the form of a luncheon conference with the American Historical Association in Chicago on December 30, 1938. Sixty members and others there heard Dr. Robert C. Binkley's paper on "Strategic Objectives of Archival Policy" which was published in the April issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*. Arrangements have been made for a luncheon at the forthcoming meeting of the American Historical Association in Washington, D.C., in December of this year. Dr. Roy F. Nichols has agreed to address that session on "Alice in Wonderland, or the Historian Among the Archives."

Regional groups of members have convened four times. The Pacific Coast members had an opportunity to discuss archival problems during the regular meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association last December and again at the annual meeting of the American Library Association in June, when members of this Society actively participated

in the program. Two meetings of members residing in and near Washington, D.C., were held. At the first, Mrs. A. Norma Kilmartin, of the United States Department of War, discussed the need for central files in governmental agencies; and at the second, Miss Helen L. Chatfield, archivist of the United States Department of the Treasury, talked on the function of management in relation to archives.

The council, which is vested with the administration of the Society's affairs, held two sessions at the Springfield meeting. Its minutes have been published. In addition, it has engaged in a very considerable amount of correspondence. Actual votes by mail have been concerned with routine matters, such as the election of new members and the decision to meet again with the American Historical Association. The council is also convening during this third annual meeting of the Society.

The retiring president, Dr. A. R. Newsome, has served as chairman of a special Committee on Uniform State Archival Legislation which has accomplished a serious and intelligent task in drawing up a model for public records legislation. This draft was discussed by the council at its meeting today and will be referred to later in this business meeting. It will certainly be one of the most significant contributions made by the Society at any time.

Two other special committees were appointed at the last annual meeting and will report here: the Committee Advisory to the Historical Records Survey, of which Mr. William R. Hogan is chairman, and the Committee on Pronunciation, headed by Dr. Edwin A. Davis. Most of the regular committees of the Society have been active and the results of some of their studies are being exhibited in papers read at this meeting. Dr. William D. McCain, chairman of the Committee on Public Relations; Dr. C. C. Crittenden, chairman of the Committee on the Publication of Archival Material; Mr. Emmett J. Leahy, chairman of the Committee on Reduction of Archival Material; Mr. S. W. Boggs, chairman of the Committee on Maps, are all on the program in addition to Dr. Newsome and Mr. Hogan. A member of the Committee on Public Relations, Col. J. M. Scammell, was largely responsible for the sessions at which the public relations of archivists were discussed during the San Francisco meeting of the American Library Association.

A list of terms used in various phases of archival activities was circulated among all members of the Society by Dr. Nelson M. Blake, chairman of the Committee on Terminology. Dr. Blake has prepared a card file of definitions received both at this time and earlier when a smaller list of persons was circularized, and on the basis of those cards is making comparative studies. It is obvious that clarification of terminology, while it should not be argued in the same tone as one uses in expounding moral principles, can be of great utility. A number of responses have come in from Dr. Blake's questionnaire. More would come if the recipients would carefully note the statement that

they are invited to select any group of terms, however small, particularly within their interests and to define those instead of being passively overwhelmed by the impressiveness of the entire list.

The Committee on the Reduction of Archival Material reports that its chairman, Mr. Emmett J. Leahy, has successfully completed his six month inspection tour of European archival administrations sponsored by the National Archives. Some reports of his findings have been made and others are in preparation. Mr. Leahy's preliminary report on "European Policies in the Reduction of Archival Material" submitted to the secretary of the Society in 1938 has been corrected and expanded, partly as a result of this tour of inspection. There has been added to it an analysis of the new federal statute covering the appraisal and disposition of government records, and it is hoped that the entire statement may be published in *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*. Miss Chatfield, a member of this committee, collaborated with the chairman in his studies in France and England. Miss Chatfield was especially interested in record administration in French and English ministries.

Dr. Vernon D. Tate continued to serve on the council of the American Documentation Institute as the Society's nominee and attended the International Documentation Conference at Zurich in August.

The Society's publication budget was somewhat increased for this calendar year to allow an increase in the number of pages of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*. A review of the two complete volumes which will be published by the end of this month indicates a breadth of such matter and a tone of excellence which are a measure at once of its great value and of the earnest and capable efforts of its editor, Prof. Theodore C. Pease. An interesting observation is that where sample copies have been requested, the inquirers have always joined the Society or subscribed after seeing one issue of the journal. The number of subscribers has increased as has the foreign distribution. A considerable number of orders for back copies to make complete files has been received, especially from libraries. In fact, the April, 1939, issue is almost out of print, as is the 1937 volume of the *Proceedings* of the Society.

Professor Pease greatly regrets being unable to attend this meeting as he had hoped to emphasize personally the need for even greater co-operation of the members in the submission of material for the journal. After all, the level of excellence to be attained is largely governed by the quantity and character of contributions from which the editor can choose. This applies not only to articles but also to the very important section of news notes. This section of the journal has become one of the best means of exchanging information among archivists, and its value can be enhanced only by the voluntary assistance of members in submitting information. Let it be said that no important archival development, local or otherwise, should fail to come within the knowledge of the editor of the journal. Any information concerning persons,

important collections, buildings, or the various fields of the Society's committees will be of interest. It is frequently convenient for members to submit such information to the secretary in connection with other correspondence and when this is done he promptly forwards it to the editor.

The same exhortation concerning co-operation of members in the aims and activities of the Society can be applied to the work of the committees and the meetings. The committees can serve in two ways, either as agencies for dissemination of information or as bodies actually studying specific problems. Their types of activity and the needs which they must meet can best be judged by widespread expression of opinion from the members. The program committees have scheduled the business sessions at annual meetings at such an hour that all members can easily attend. There is, therefore, no justification for any member's failing to express himself upon phases of the Society's work upon which he has opinions.

It may be said that members of the Society have participated in various activities in the archival field which are not under the control of the organization but which are of great interest to it. Among these may be mentioned the experiments in the training of archivists conducted at Columbia University, the University of Chicago, the American University and at the National Archives. Among them may also be mentioned the construction of two new state archives buildings, necessarily accompanied by study of the requisites for proper physical care. The new Hall of Records of Delaware was opened last spring under the direction of Dr. George H. Ryden and Mr. Leon de Valinger, Jr.; and the new Alabama building is under construction under the supervision of Mrs. Thomas M. Owen.

The year has seen a complete reorganization of the Historical Records Survey caused by the decentralization of certain Work Projects Administration enterprises. It is understood that the Washington office will continue to advise and co-ordinate local projects but that all the management has been turned over to separate projects organized in the various states. Members of the Society have individually and collectively a real opportunity in the need for encouraging proper respect and appreciation of the accomplishments of the Historical Records Survey in the various states, in the hope that the work can be continued on as high a plane of intelligent direction as it has under Dr. Luther H. Evans, the national director.

One interesting special activity in which certain members of the Society have participated is the organization of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park, New York. Dr. Waldo G. Leland was appointed chairman of the executive committee to plan the library and archives. During his absence in Europe, and now in South America, Dr. R. D. W. Connor has served as acting chairman of the committee.

PHILIP C. BROOKS, *Secretary*

Minutes of Business Meeting, October 13, 1939

The annual business meeting of the Society convened in the Mirror Room of Carvel Hall, Annapolis, Maryland, at 9:00 P.M., on Friday, October 13, 1939, with approximately sixty members and institutional delegates attending.

After introductory remarks by the president, the reports of the secretary, treasurer, and auditing committee were read and approved. The council's recommendation that the Society of American Archivists recommend to the Work Projects Administration the continuation of the work of the Historical Records Survey was approved.

Dr. Solon J. Buck read the report of the nominating committee, presenting the following nominations: for president, Waldo G. Leland; for vice president, Theodore C. Blegen; for secretary, Philip C. Brooks; for treasurer, Julian P. Boyd; for council member for a term of five years ending in 1944, William D. McCain. The nominees were unanimously elected. The remaining council members continue to hold their offices for the following periods: Charles M. Gates, one year ending in 1940; Lawrence C. Wroth, two years ending in 1941; Margaret C. Norton, three years ending in 1942; R. D. W. Connor, four years ending in 1943.

It was voted that the report of Edwin A. Davis, chairman of a special committee to recommend to the Society the proper pronunciation of the words archives, archivist, and archival, be received and the committee discharged. The pronunciations recommended by the committee were: archives, ä'r'kivs; archivist, ä'r'kī-vīst; archival, ä'r-kī'väl.

Mr. Leon de Valinger, chairman, read the report of the Resolutions Committee, and it was unanimously voted that the secretary be instructed to send to Mrs. James A. Robertson an expression of the Society's sincere appreciation of Dr. Robertson's untiring efforts in the development of the Society and of the Maryland Hall of Records; and that the secretary give proper cognizance to the recent death of Dr. John Carl Parish of the University of California at Los Angeles; that an expression of sympathy be sent to Philip C. Brooks, secretary of the Society, absent because of illness; that a vote of appreciation be given Emmett J. Leahy for serving as acting secretary in the absence of the secretary; to William D. Overman, chairman, and members of the Committee on Program for the stimulating schedule of meetings planned; to His Excellency Herbert R. O'Connor, chairman, Morris L. Radoff, secretary, and the other members of the Committee on Local Arrangements, and to Honorable Carroll T. Bond, chairman of the Hall of Records Commission, for their hearty welcome, an adequate meeting place, and comfortable accommodations; and to the management of Carvel Hall for its co-operation and attention.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 P.M.

EMMETT J. LEAHY, *Acting Secretary*

Meeting of the Council, October 13, 1939

The council met once during the third annual meeting of the Society at Annapolis, Maryland, on October 13. It was decided that a second meeting including the new members elected at the annual business meeting be postponed for lack of a quorum.

The report of the Committee on Publication of Archival Material was accepted, and it was voted that the name of this committee be changed to the Committee on Publication Policies of Archival Agencies.

The council received the report of the Committee Advisory to the Historical Records Survey, and in consideration of the great value of the work of the Historical Records Survey voted that the Society be requested to recommend to the Work Projects Administration the continuation of this work.

The report of the Committee on Uniform State Legislation was considered by the council and it voted to continue this committee for another year; that the committee be composed of A. R. Newsome, chairman, and five other members to be appointed by him; that not to exceed two hundred dollars be made available from the funds of the Society for the expenses of the committee; and that the committee be empowered to submit a draft for a uniform state public records law to the Committee on Scope and Program of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

The nomination of eleven new members to the Society was approved. The new members are Harold S. Burt, Samuel E. Cobb, Miriam Edwards, Robert W. Lovett, Branson Marley, Mrs. Bertha W. Martin, Elizabeth W. Meade, Dr. Ernst W. Posner, Helene H. Rogers, Clifford K. Shipton, Abbot E. Smith.

EMMETT J. LEAHY, *Acting Secretary*

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

John J. Brauner has transferred from his post as editor in the Division of the Federal Register of the National Archives to the Labor Department, where he is a field liaison officer in the Wage and Hour Division. Gerald P. O'Grady, until recently on the staff of the Division of Justice Department Archives, has transferred to the Civil Aeronautics Authority as an attorney.

The National Archives has made available to its employees in-service training courses in correspondence and report writing. The last mentioned course is given in co-operation with American University and is under the joint direction of Solon J. Buck and Ernst Posner. Dr. Posner was formerly on the staff of the Preussisches Geheimes Staatsarchiv at Berlin-Dahlem and is now a lecturer at American University.

Among records of the Veterans' Administration in the National Archives are two pension-case files containing Lincolniana. The first relates to the martyred president's wife and includes her own declaration for a widow's

pension and several letters written by her son, Robert Todd Lincoln. The second contains documents concerning John S. Staples, who served as a representative recruit for Abraham Lincoln in the Union Army and has often been erroneously referred to as Lincoln's substitute.

Materials relating to the history of the army and navy of the United States recently received by the National Archives include most of the records of the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army to July 1, 1894, and some groups to later dates; records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy pertaining to the proceedings of examining and retiring boards, 1860-1939, of general courts martial, 1866-1916, and of courts of inquiry and boards of investigation, 1866-1916; and numerous journals of Lt. Charles Wilkes and other members of the United States Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842. The Wilkes journals cover the entire period of the expedition; the others cover different portions thereof.

Other recent accessions of the National Archives include correspondence and accounting records of the National Bank Redemption Agency, 1875-1918; records of the former War Department Bureau of Insular Affairs relative to Puerto Rico, 1899-1914, and of the secretary of the interior relative to various territories and insular possessions of the United States, 1907-1930; manuscript reports on cost and price studies conducted by the Office of Farm Management, 1910-1924; records of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation concerning the emergency cattle buying program of 1934-1935; records from the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation, including applications of owners for official numbers for their vessels, 1867-1917, correspondence of the Office of the Supervising Inspector General of the Steamboat Inspection Service, 1905-1923, and files concerning the international conferences on safety of life at sea held in 1913-1914 and 1929 and the United States Load Line Committee and the International Load Line Convention of 1930, 1913-1933; minutes and other records of the Food Purchase Board, 1917-1919; and the files of the joint committee that investigated the Tennessee Valley Authority during the Seventy-fifth and Seventy-sixth Congresses.

VIRGINIA

The Archives Division of the Virginia State Library has been following a program of photostating certain of the county records of the state. One copy is placed in the Archives Division for the use of researchers and another copy is made for the county. In most cases, the original is restored through the generosity of a patriotic organization or of individuals and returned to the county. Among the county records recently photostated and made available are the following: *Westmoreland County Records No. 4, 1756-1767*; *Northampton County Wills, Inventories, Divisions, etc., No. 20, 1750-1754*; *Spotsylvania County Will Book A, 1722-1740*; *Lunenburg County Orders 7, 1761-*

1762; *Cumberland County Deed Book No. 5*, 1771-1778; *Augusta County Will Book 2* [1753-1760]; *Amherst County Will Book No. 1* [1761-1780]; *Elizabeth City County Order Book*, 1731-1747; *Elizabeth City County Guardians Accounts*, 1737-1748; *Sussex County Order Book, Guardian's Accounts*, 1754-1787; *Northampton County Deeds No. 19*, 1750-1763; *Rappahannock County Deeds*, 1668-1672. The policy of photostating the county records not only makes these records available in a central depository for historians and genealogists, but it also guarantees against future loss of records that has in the past wreaked such havoc with Virginia's archives.

HAWAII

The greetings of the Public Archives of Hawaii were extended to the members of the Society of American Archivists in the form of a three-page photostat of the original minutes of the Privy Council of Hawaii, March 13, 1847. These minutes reveal the beginnings of the Hawaiian archives. Miss Maude Jones, the librarian, is responsible for this unique greeting.