

# Reviews of Books

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Archives Administration: Background; a Select Bibliographic Guide*, compiled by Frank B. Evans. (Washington, D.C., The American University, School of Government and Public Administration in cooperation with the National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1966. iv, 92 l. Processed.)

This guide is the third of its kind to originate in Washington. The first such bibliographic compilation appeared in 1939 and, in revised and amplified form, in 1942, as a Staff Information Circular of the National Archives, under the title *Selected References on Phases of Archival Administration*. The second compilation appeared in processed form, under the aegis of The American University, with the title *A Select List of Writings on Phases of Archives Administration, April 1942 to May 1946*. Together, these listed some 400 titles in classified arrangement with occasional notes, usually when the title was not self-explanatory. Asterisks and double asterisks identified items of special importance. Foreign material, as should surprise no one, occupied a very prominent place in the original list.

The bibliography under review owes its greatly increased size to much more than the amount of material that has appeared in the last two decades. In fact, the compiler states that "the volume, variety, and location of writings on archives have multiplied [rapidly] during the past quarter century, making necessary even greater selectivity." It is the expanded concept of the bibliography that, more than any other factor, explains its greater size. Historical background, from earliest history, is covered much more thoroughly, and national archival systems are treated in much greater extent and depth.

Because the guide has been prepared primarily as a teaching aid in connection with courses in archival administration, the major emphasis is upon materials fully available in English or for which English abstracts exist. (No one can quarrel with the realism of the compiler, but one can—and, in the reviewer's opinion, should—quarrel with the nature and quality of American education, which puts non-English-language materials among the esoterica for so many graduate students.) Foreign-language material is well represented in the "general works" and, the reviewer is happy to report, also among the "recommended readings" as opposed to the solid English "required readings."

Divided into four major segments—introduction to archives administration, historical evolution, national and regional systems, and international aspects of

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Mr. Hill's service as reviews editor will begin with our next volume.

archives—the bibliography systematically provides a clue to and notes upon the meager general bibliographical aids; a good selection of the classic older monographs, the encyclopedia articles, and the periodical materials on archives and archivistics; a *vademecum* through the thicket of archival terminology; the nature and value of archives; the evolution of archival administration from earliest times without emphasis on the post-French Revolution period; the national archival systems of the major countries of Europe (including the British Isles), the Near and Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia, the Far East, Oceania, and North and South America with adjacent islands (p. 12–86); and archives of international organizations, archives under international law, and international archival activities. In all, the searcher for knowledge is provided with more than 1,500 references selected from the professional literature of some 30 countries.

Let him who would quarrel with inclusions or exclusions undertake the same task! Despite the emphasis placed upon materials available in English and despite the disproportionate, but readily understandable, space given to archival administration in the United States (p. 54–86), this remains the nearest approach to the selective, universal bibliography that the American delegation commended to the urgent attention of the International Council on Archives at the Second International Congress meeting at The Hague in June 1953.

[A new bibliography by the author of the one reviewed here has just been issued under the title *The Administration of Modern Archives: A Select Bibliographic Guide* (vii, 138 l.).—ED.]

*Library of Congress*

LESTER K. BORN

Vatican. Archivio Vaticano. *Bibliografia dell'Archivio Vaticano*. (Città del Vaticano, Presso l'Archivio Vaticano; 3 vols., 1962, 1963, 1965; 855, 951, 843 p.; L18.000, L20.000, L20.000.)

Each volume of this bibliography consists of two parts, the first giving titles of books and articles concerning the Vatican Archives or its holdings listed alphabetically by name of author, the second listing specific references in these books and articles to holdings of the Archives, this time arranged according to a predetermined classification scheme. In addition, each volume contains a section listing misleading, erroneous, or obsolete references, some of which had been tracked down, some not. All three volumes are actually reduced reproductions of index cards, which constitute a master index and which will be available to searchers at the Archives.

The first volume lists over a thousand titles that have appeared since about 1930, except for a few earlier works of general significance, such as Carl Russell Fish's *Guide*. The second volume deals with a further 800 titles that have appeared since 1920, and so does the third. In order to find a specific publication, or to have a reasonably complete list of references to a particular *fonds*, it is necessary to peruse all three volumes. We are promised, in the introduction to the first volume, that eventually this bibliography will include publications

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dating back to 1881, when the Vatican Archives was opened to the public; and, still later, publications from the year 1815 on.

The bibliography is no doubt of the greatest importance and utility. It constitutes another step in making the resources of the world's richest archives available to scholars of all nations. Yet I cannot say just how this publication should be used by the prospective searcher. It is in some ways the very opposite of an inventory of holdings. Those series, and even *fonds*, that have not thus far been exploited by scholars, and which are perhaps precisely the ones in greatest need of publicity, remain unrevealed. We still lack a thorough inventory of inventories for the Vatican Archives. For an overall view of the holdings we still have to rely on Karl August Fink's *Das Vatikanische Archiv* (Rome, 1951).

*National Archives*

MARIO FENYO

#### FINDING AIDS

*Military Operations of the Civil War: A Guide-Index to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-1865. Section A: Introduction.* [A Prospectus]. Preprint with a foreword by Bruce Catton and Allan Nevins; compiled by Dallas Irvine. (Washington, D.C., Civil War Centennial Commission, 1966. 30 p.)

The legion of those who have tried to use the vast material in the 129 volumes of the *Official Records*, and who have sometimes suspected that they were headed for the madhouse, will join in loud cheers for Dr. Irvine and the completion of his project aimed at providing a sensible guide to the contents of those many tomes. As Messrs. Catton and Nevins point out in their foreword, the problem has been compounded lately by the publication of the *Official Records* on microfilm and the added difficulties involved in the use of that medium.

This pamphlet is an introduction to explain the first of the prospective five volumes of the *Guide-Index*. After citing, in what some would regard as muted terms, the defects and perplexities to be encountered in the *Official Records*, Dr. Irvine describes clearly and concisely the content and purpose of the work. It is apparent that all the topics will help immensely, but it seems that Section K, including data on natural phenomena (dawn, sunrise, sunset, dark, phases of the moon, the tides), may go far towards explaining doubtful points in the military operations.

Dr. Irvine comments on the history of the *Official Records* project and notes certain byproducts of it, such as an account of the War Department's printing procedures, a study of the nomenclature of Civil War operations, an account of recordkeeping practices, and work on the regional geography of the conflict.

An "Endnote"—apparently not a part of the *Guide*—offers suggestions on the importance of minor operations in the war and the study of the military geography away from the great battlefields. Dr. Irvine points out the need for attention to turnpikes, ferries, taverns, navigable waterways, telegraph, rail-

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roads, etc. His remark that the prevailing emphasis on "big events" is a distortion of historical reality seems most apt.

This is an excellent preview of what may be expected in the near future.

*Sandy Bay Historical Society*

WILLIAM D. HOYT, JR.

*A Guide to Manuscripts Relating to the American Indian in the Library of the American Philosophical Society*, compiled by John F. Freeman; Murphy D. Smith, editorial consultant. (Philadelphia, American Philosophical Society, 1966. x, 491 p. \$7.50.)

The large and important collection of manuscript materials relating to the American Indian in the library of the American Philosophical Society stems from the interest of two early presidents of the society, Thomas Jefferson (1797-1814) and Peter S. Du Ponceau (1828-44), who encouraged and stimulated the collection of materials on Indian customs and linguistics. Other donors further enlarged the collection, notably Joel R. Poinsett, U.S. Minister to Mexico, 1825-30. The collection was not, however, increased substantially until after World War II, when a fund given by Henry Phillips, Jr., librarian of the society (1885-95), once more enabled the society to obtain Indian materials. In 1946 the library received the papers of the distinguished anthropologist Franz Boas, and since then it has acquired papers from other anthropologists and ethnologists. The resulting body of manuscripts, microfilms, and sound recordings now amounts to about 50,000 items in 294 collections, all of them cataloged and many of them analyzed.

To make these valuable materials more readily available to scholars, the late John R. Freeman, with the cooperation of the library staff, compiled the present *Guide*. After his untimely death, the work was completed and prepared for the press by Murphy D. Smith, assistant librarian. At the expense of much time and labor the 50,000 items that comprise the collections have been described and the voluminous information gathered together concerning them has been condensed in a usable volume. The *Guide* is a model of intelligent organization and exposition. It is an indispensable tool for students, investigators, and archivists in the fields of Indian history, anthropology, and linguistics and in the closely related fields of political and military history.

The *Guide* is divided into four parts. Part I lists the manuscript, microfilm, and sound-recording collections alphabetically by author, collector, or subject. The entries give the full name of the author or collector, the subject of the collection, the number of volumes, pages, items, or rolls, the inclusive dates of the collection, the language (if other than English), and the physical type of the material. In Part II each of the items that make up the collections described in Part I is classified under one of 275 tribes, 8 language families, and 11 regions, which are further broken down by such headings as ethnography, history, and linguistics. Each entry carries a bracketed number in the lower right margin giving the number of the collection from which the item is taken. Part III is a bibliography of publications of the documents in the collections and of histories and biographies that have been prepared with the use of the

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collections. Part IV, the index, which is the key to the volume, consists of 82 double-columned pages, arranged by name, tribe, subject, and language. It would be hard to suggest any improvement in the index, or indeed in the entire volume. Little, if any, of the information is repeated in the book. In order to be sure of obtaining all the information concerning a collection or subject, careful use of all four parts is necessary.

The collections contain records relating to Indians in many areas of North and South America though most of the records refer to Indians who lived within the geographical limits of the United States. The documents themselves are surprisingly varied; they range from the Lewis and Clark journals to the Franz Boas papers, and from copies of documents in Canadian church archives to Christian doctrinal discourses in Cakchiquel, a Mayan language. Included are such items of general interest to historians as the correspondence of Nathanael Greene while Quartermaster-General of the Continental Army, the journal (1785-88) of the clerk to Loyalist Claims Commissioner Anstey, and a collection of over half the surviving Benjamin Franklin papers.

*National Archives*

CARMELITA S. RYAN

#### REPORTS AND MANUALS

Wisconsin State Historical Society. Division of Archives & Manuscripts. *Annual Report, 1965-66*. (Madison, Wis., 1966. 23 p., 5 apps. Processed.)

Ever since the middle of the 19th century, when Lyman C. Draper toted off the choicest Revolutionary War documentation from the South, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin has been diligent in preserving historical source materials. Its private manuscript collection is one of the best in the Nation, and in the past two decades the society has established a State archival program that in 1966 won the Society of American Archivists' Distinguished Service Award. These two programs, along with the unique Mass Communications History Center and the new Social Science Data Reference Center, comprise the Division of Archives and Manuscripts, the subject of this *Annual Report* for 1965-66.

Written by State Archivist F. Gerald Ham, the report demonstrates that the pioneering spirit of Draper still prevails in Madison. The society's director, Leslie H. Fishel, Jr., caught the mood in his preface: "Its tone is innovation, improvement, change, expansion, contraction. . . . The Division is frankly experimental in those areas which are still either unproved or unchallenged, but the Division's experimentation hews closely to one line: to make more resources more easily available to more users."

Accomplishments of the modest 12-member staff of the Division during the 12 months under review are impressive: 2,400 cubic feet of State and local records accessioned and 1,385 cubic feet "assembled and cataloged," 1,355 cubic feet of unofficial manuscripts and maps accessioned, 5,134 researchers served in person, several significant guides published, and area research centers expanded.

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Perhaps the most significant venture in recent years has been the establishment of the area research centers, now numbering eight, which were described in Richard A. Erney's article in the January 1966 issue of the *American Archivist*. Similar decentralized repository systems may be found practicable in other large States, though some questions relating to the common law governing continuous custody, archival integrity, and delegation of custodial authority need to be answered before the idea can be evaluated. An interesting development during the past year was the establishment of a Social Science Data Reference Center. Fellow archivists will hope that the first project of this unit will be a study of the life expectancy of tapes and other recording media and the promulgation of specifications for their preservation.

Although primary emphasis is now placed on the archival program (and with great success—no easy task in view of the fact that the State's records management program is handled by another agency), there has apparently been no relaxation in the field of unofficial documentation. Rich new collections are being added, and earlier acquisitions are gradually being brought under better control. Accessions in the Manuscript Section and the Mass Communications History Center appear to be overwhelmingly from organizations and individuals associated with 20th-century liberalism, an observation that leads to the perhaps irrelevant and obviously invidious question of whether the society is equally assiduous in seeking out the documentation of groups and individuals of other political, economic, and social opinions.

Altogether, this pamphlet is an impressive report of progress and deserves to be issued in letterpress format. It is regrettable, however, that nonarchival terms such as "collect," "collections," "process," and "catalog" have been used in connection with the arrangement and description of public records.

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H. G. JONES

*The World's Tribute to John F. Kennedy in Medallion Art*, by Aubrey Mayhew. (New York, William Morrow & Co., Inc., 1966. xxv, 197 p., illus. \$12.95.)

Medallion art, no less than heraldry and sigillography, is a proper concern of every archivist, and indeed one is likely to encounter in most archival institutions not only the literary documents relating to the art but also the physical objects—samples or "record copies" of medals, special collections of them, and the dies for producing them. Technical studies in this field that are useful to the archivist are readily available, but not often does there appear a reference work on a single subject so comprehensive as Mr. Mayhew's compilation. Though intended for collectors, this lavishly illustrated volume will also serve archival purposes in identifying and authenticating the more than 500 individual items and 1,000 varieties described. United States coins, medals, tokens, and related items require 85 pages of the book and those of South American and 13 other foreign countries an additional 97 pages. There is a good index.

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KEN MUNDEN

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