

Reviews of Books

GENEVA H. PENLEY, *Editor*

National Archives and Records Service

FINDING AIDS

A Guide to the Archives and Manuscripts of the Nebraska State Historical Society, comp. by William F. Schmidt. (Nebraska State Historical Society, *Bulletin* no. 1; Lincoln, 1965. ii, 107 p.)

A Guide to the Archives of the Nebraska State Historical Society, comp. by William F. Schmidt and Harold E. Kemble, Jr. (Nebraska State Historical Society, *Bulletin* no. 2; Lincoln, 1966. i, 93 p., app.)

The holdings of the Nebraska State Historical Society comprise some 500 major and 1,500 smaller collections. William F. Schmidt, Archivist of the society (1963-66), has prepared two mimeographed preliminary guides covering 485 of these collections. Both private manuscripts and State and local public records held by the society are included.

Among items of general interest are papers of author Bess Streeter Aldrich and of Nebraska Representatives and Senators; and the files of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, 1907-63. The collections range in size from a few papers to thousands. A random entry is represented by the Edgar Howard collection of 1,200 items, composed chiefly of the journalist's correspondence with such notable political figures as William Jennings Bryan, John Nance Garner, James A. Farley, Fred M. Vinson, Nicholas Longworth, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. One also finds listed the major collection (117,000 items) of the correspondence of Sen. Hugh A. Butler, which was opened to researchers in July 1964. The arrangement of entries is neither alphabetical nor chronological, although a good biographical and topical index appears in each *Bulletin*, plus a very useful chronological guide to the collections ranging from 1765 to 1965.

The guides have, inevitably, a few flaws. A floor plan of the society's rooms appears quite unexpectedly on page 12 of *Bulletin* 1, whereas it might better serve as frontispiece or appendix. In both guides page numbers may be confused with the index numbers attached to the collections. Lack of any system in listing the 485 collections, which makes a table of contents impossible, is also disconcerting. But these are minor faults associated with a partially finished project, and should be easily remedied when a full guide to the holdings of the Nebraska State Historical Society is completed. The important thing is that the project is underway.

Heidelberg College

KENNETH E. DAVISON

Books for review and related communications should be sent to Edward E. Hill, Social and Economic Records Division, The National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408.

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

New Jersey State Library. Archives and History Bureau. *Genealogical Research; a Guide to Source Materials in the Archives and History Bureau of the New Jersey State Library and Other State Agencies*. (Trenton, 1966. 33 l. Processed.)

This booklet will be a welcome addition to any genealogist's bookshelf and a boon to the social historian. In 26 short sections the publication provides a brief guide to source materials in the New Jersey State Archives and other State offices. No doubt, this research tool will be useful to those uninitiated to work in the State's documents.

Several features are worth mentioning. Five pages are devoted to an outline of county development in New Jersey, giving the name of the county, the date of its establishment, the county seat, and historical notes telling how each county was formed. A sixth page lists authoritative books relating to counties and municipalities. Pages 10-21 outline procedures in examining records of births, marriages, divorces, and deaths; wills; military papers; "ratables"; and deeds. Of special interest is the list of census records, 1830-1915, available in the New Jersey State Library (unfortunately the earlier census records are not extant). In this section, too, is a table showing the types of information on the population schedules for the years covered. The "Table of Contents of New Jersey Archives" classifies volumes in two series from 1631 through 1817. Included are documents relating to colonial history, newspaper extracts, marriage records, wills, and official journals of the councils and governors. Perhaps the most interesting listings are samples from the Archives and History Bureau of the New Jersey State Library: claims for damages by the British, inquisitions on the dead, tavern licenses, and inquisitions on loyalists.

This reviewer considers of dubious value the two pages devoted to general principles of genealogical research and a bibliography of "how to do it" genealogy books. A guide to records is no place for a short course in genealogy, and a bibliography that does not include *Genealogical Research: Methods and Sources* (Washington, D.C., 1960) is obviously poor in the first place.

Harper and Row, Publishers

WINSTON DE VILLE

Sources of Mormon History in Illinois, 1839-48; an Annotated Catalog of the Microfilm Collection at Southern Illinois University, comp. by Stanley B. Kimball. 2d ed., rev. and enl. (Southern Illinois University, *Bibliographic Contributions*, no. 1; Carbondale, Ill., 1966. xii, 104 p.)

Usually the microfilms, photostats, and typed transcripts of documents accumulated for a particular book or article gather dust and clutter a scholar's study once the volume or periodical contribution has appeared. Sometimes the copies are given to the professor's university library, where all too often the dust and clutter are transferred to a cataloger's desk or to the unprocessed materials shelf in the office of the curator of manuscripts. These pitfalls have been avoided by Professor Kimball and his associates at Southern Illinois. Kimball has been interested for a number of years in the history of the Mor-

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mons in Illinois. The extensive collection of copies of documents, together with such related material as theses and dissertations and indexes to contemporary newspaper items, has been organized and described in the catalog under review. The source of the original materials is given, and the annotations usually include item-by-item listings of copies of letters. New material appears on p. 73-93, and there is a 2-page list of materials on order, unavailable, or omitted. An 8-page name index completes the account of these assembled copies of records relating to Mormon history in Illinois.

National Historical Publications Commission

FRED SHELLEY

Quaker Records in Maryland, by Phebe R. Jacobsen. (Maryland Hall of Records Commission, *Publication* no. 14. Annapolis, 1966. xiii, 154 p., illus.)

This is an excellent guide to the Quaker records in the Maryland Hall of Records. In 1950 the Hall of Records began to collect original or microfilm copies of Maryland church records of all denominations, in a systematic effort to preserve Maryland vital statistics. These included not only registers of births and deaths but also minute books, letters, and the many related documents in the archives of a typical church. The Quaker records, which date from 1649, are valuable because of the historical information and the personal data they contain. They record the origins, membership, and movements of generations of families; and the minutes are a source for American social and political history. Abolition of slavery, missionary work among the Indians, grass-roots culture, and attitudes during the Revolutionary War are some of the many subjects covered.

To make clear the provenance and background of the records, short historical sketches of the Quaker Meetings and pictures of many of the meeting houses have been included. There is also information on extensive Pennsylvania and Virginia records, for these Meetings were under the supervision of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Records listed include registers of births and marriages, certificates of removal, minutes of the Meetings, committee records, minutes of the Women Friends, and minutes of ministry and council. Microfilm reel numbers and inclusive dates are listed for each record series in the guide.

The researcher using this well-arranged guide will be aided by a map of Friends Meetings in Maryland, a geographical glossary, a glossary of terms, a bibliography on Quakerism, and an adequate index.

Department of State

HOMER L. CALKIN

Guide to the Dutch-American Historical Collections of Western Michigan, ed. by Herbert Brinks. (Grand Rapids and Holland, Mich., Dutch-American Historical Commission, 1967. 52 p. \$2, from George Cook, Treas., Netherlands Museum, Holland, Mich. 49423.)

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Listed in this guide are manuscript and printed records, microfilm, and photocopies, at five institutions in western Michigan: Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary, affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church; Hope College and Western Theological Seminary, affiliated with the Reformed Church in America; and the Netherlands Museum. Calvin College and Seminary are in Grand Rapids; the other institutions are in Holland, Mich., center of a major Dutch settlement established 100 years ago. The c

vists and to the many researchers at the Archives. A further consideration was that this volume would appear at a time when, thanks to new construction, the Provincial Archives was fully modernized with approximately 50,000 meters of shelving for records. Dr. Jørgensen points out the many problems of the period 1893–1965. The original installation, which included living quarters for the Provincial Archivist, was far from luxurious; it had no telephone service until 1908 and no electric lighting until some 7 years later. As the influx of records and researchers steadily increased, additional room was obtained in 1920. Despite disposal and consolidation of records, space for new accessions soon became scanty, and temporary storage facilities had to be found. The coming of World War II highlighted the need for protecting the records from possible enemy action, and the Nazi occupation brought to the Provincial Archives many persons anxious to establish Aryan ancestry. During the postwar years the space problem remained acute. Conversion of the official residence of the Provincial Archivist into offices and a lunchroom and a new building program completed in 1966 afforded much needed space. If given additional personnel Dr. Jørgensen was hopeful that his staff at last could meet all justifiable demands from administrators and researchers.

The largest part of this book consists of numerous entries arranged by subject and prefaced with helpful explanatory notes. Beginning with a parchment collection in which some items date from 1377, the listing includes records of churches, hospitals, schools (public and private), courts, police, various government agencies and officials, societies, and the private archives of many persons, together with manuscripts, personal histories, and miscellaneous topographical material largely assembled by local historians. Obviously, such a compilation is primarily of interest and value to users of the Provincial Archives. One must, however, admire the dedication and diligence that have made available such detailed information. This work might well serve as a model for any archivist contemplating a similar publication.

University of Maryland

HAROLD LARSON

Les Sources statistiques de l'histoire de France des enquêtes du XVII^e siècle à 1870, by Bertrand Gille. (Geneva, Librairie Droz, 1964. 288 p.)

Archivists who have viewed the masses of statistical materials among public records with some distaste now face growing demands for data to provide empirical evidence of historical processes. Our related clichés—asserting the lack of permanent value for quantitative data and the improbability of scholarly examination of voluminous schedules—have become invalid. Gille's study was obviously prepared because historians will now gladly dive into vast pools of statistical material for social, political, and economic history. Quantity is no barrier to the present generation of quantifiers and their allies, the computers. French archivists must be gratified that statistical schedules from the 17th century are now finding the light of searchrooms. An *intendant* wrote Necker in answer to a 1780 questionnaire, "Tout cela ne servira qu'à barbouiller du papier." Yesterday's junk may be today's treasure.

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Gille's study has other values for archivists. Before joining the Archives Nationales he had achieved the status of one of France's leading economic historians. His archival training added a new dimension to his work; he learned how to cite and describe records. In describing each survey to 1870, Gille provides an inventory of extant records. Other archival methods are judiciously employed. His discussion of industrial inquiries during the *ancien régime*, for example, contains a brief explanation of their general objectives, followed by breakdowns for each industry and thereunder by survey. His section on mining begins with a paragraph explaining the background of a 1741 questionnaire. Indented below are all the inquiries, each on a separate line. This technique seems typical of French finding aids. Even the table of contents is organized in outline form. The comprehensive index, mainly of personal and place names and the subjects of inquiries, fills 26 pages.

National Archives

MEYER H. FISHBEIN

Materials for West African History in Italian Archives, by Richard Gray and David Chambers. (*Guides to Materials for West African History in European Archives*, 3; London, The Athlone Press, 1965. viii, 164 p. \$5.60.)

For a long time, Africa has remained an enigma, perhaps in part because of lack of information about it. Today, as it gradually and with some ungainliness emerges from limbo, Africa is still the Dark Continent. This voluminous guide points the way to a mass of sources as yet unexploited, and it reveals an unsuspected treasure awaiting interested archivists, librarians, and researchers. Although the materials are scattered, interrupted, and episodic, they should be studied at greater length and in greater detail.

The first part of the text deals with materials located in the Vatican—the Archives and the Library. In addition, there are materials in kindred agencies such as Propaganda Fide and missionary orders and societies, including the Capuchin, Dominican, and Franciscan Generalates. The Vatican houses the principal sources, and these divulge many things. For example, the episodes in which English freebooters and the seadogs of Holland ravished the galleons plying the Spanish Main; happenings within the missions, as revealed by registers, reports, and newsletters; new light on 16th- and 17th-century African and European history, as shown in letters to and from the Nuncios; the replacement, dismissal, and transfer of missionaries; abuses of the slave trade in the Congo and West Africa; capture by Moors of a richly laden vessel from Cape Verde; arrests of Jewish merchants—these are only a few of the topics observed at random.

The second part of the text deals with the archival centers, libraries, and family collections located outside the Vatican. These include the public archival center (*archivio di stato*) and private collections in 20 Italian cities.

In both parts the authors present concise yet clear introductions; a general survey and description of the materials; procedures to follow in order to consult the records; periods and hours for consultation; the availability or lack of guides, inventories, catalogs, and indexes to the records; and references to

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studies already made from the materials. The authors have conducted a diligent and painstaking study, and the researcher is indebted to them because their text is important and needed. It provides a few windows to view the colorful African pageant. Africa's bondage to superstition and its slavery to tradition, the apparent end of white rule, internecine tribal warfare, the confusion and sometimes sordidness of independence—these are current topics as well as current problems. The text presents them in their embryonic stages. It suggests the need for more studies of this nature—not alone for West Africa but for the whole Dark Continent.

Queensborough Community College

JOHN W. MANIGAULTE

Averell Harriman; an Inventory of His Gubernatorial Papers in the Papers in the Syracuse University Library, comp. by James K. Owens with foreword by Frank J. Munger. (Syracuse University Library, *Manuscript Inventory Series*, no. 10; Syracuse, N.Y., 1967. vii, 77 p.)

The official records of each Governor of New York State since Franklin D. Roosevelt have been placed in various suitable depositories in the State, a practice that may have resulted at least in part from the fact that New York still does not have anything that can be considered an adequate State archival depository. The State has usually retained microfilm copies for its use. In the case of W. Averell Harriman, the official records of Governor Harriman's office and his personal papers for the period of his incumbency were deposited in the library of Syracuse University immediately on his leaving office at the end of 1958. The records have there been given excellent care.

This inventory is in almost every respect a model of its kind. It follows the format that has become standard for such works in this country, but the general quality is higher than one has come to expect in such productions. The writing is clear, straightforward, and unpretentious. I have not noticed a single ungrammatical sentence, the punctuation is good, and there appear to be no typographical errors. The objectionable practices that are frequently an irritating feature of such inventories have been avoided. Where the jargon of the office of origin is used to designate records (cf. "Cover Sheets" on page 15), its meaning has been explained. The relationship of one series to another is carefully set forth when that is necessary or helpful. The introductory paragraphs, which explain the functions of each record-creating unit, contain precisely the information that one wants.

One or two things could have been done to increase the usefulness of the inventory. The preface might well have contained a brief statement about the present location of the papers of Mr. Harriman's immediate predecessors in the Governor's office. Some indication of the location of the rest of his papers would also have been welcome. Perhaps it is asking too much, but a name and subject index would save the user a few minutes in finding a particular series.

The foreword by Prof. Frank J. Munger of Syracuse University is an interesting innovation that could profitably be followed in future cases where

there can be found scholars who have an intimate knowledge of the history of the matters with which the papers are concerned and who have been connected with research based on the materials described in the inventory.

Office of Presidential Libraries

HERMAN KAHN

MANUALS & REPORTS

Microfilm Norms; Recommended Standards for Libraries, prepared by the Library Standards for Microfilm Committee, Copying Methods Section, Resources and Technical Services Division, American Library Association. (Chicago, the Association, 1966. 48 p., illus. \$1.75.)

Because of nonexistent standards in the past, it has been difficult to produce film compatible for use on the extremely varied equipment in different libraries. The libraries have awaited standards that can be generally accepted and followed, and since microforms are rapidly increasing, the need has become increasingly important. Consequently this publication should remove a major barrier to the use of microforms. That the question has been explored in depth is due to the preparing committee's broadly experienced and widely known chairman, Peter Scott, and to its other outstanding members.

Microfilm Norms is devoted to 35mm. film, with but a brief reference to microfiche. It is hoped that 16mm. film norms may be included in the next revised edition. The committee lays emphasis on the master negative and relaxes requirements for duplicate film since that is replaceable. Although the standards in this publication are not intended as an operating manual for laboratories, they certainly will serve to clarify and guide much laboratory work.

The norms given for targets contain specific procedures recommended for checking the technical excellence of the film and for simplifying cataloging. The following subjects are covered: responsibility for proper preparation of material for filming; standard reduction ratios and image orientation rules; quality requirements for legibility, storage reels and containers, and general characteristics; and splices. A short page on microfiche mentions standards for size $8\frac{1}{2}'' \times 11''$ and smaller and points up the need for additional specifications in the near future; for the interim period, National Microfilm Association standards are cited.

There is no question that standardizing must be accepted and should effect some compromise of individual preference. The committee has had extensive experience in library administration and science, as well as in information retrieval and microfilm technology. Because of its brevity and direct approach, *Microfilm Norms* will probably take precedence in providing standards for making microforms a more convenient and usable tool. The reviewer hopes that it will bridge the existing gap between the libraries, whose prime interest is in providing reference service by means of microfilm, and the professional microfilm laboratories, which work as producers striving for maximum results under the generally accepted standards.

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The Council of Library Resources supported this project by providing funds to meet committee expenses. The microfilm profession should be grateful that this excellent publication is finally available.

Colorado State Archives and Public Records

DOROTHY K. TAYLOR

Baltimore Department of Legislative Reference. Records Management Division. *Annual Report*, 1965. (24 l. Processed.)

The main emphasis of this report is upon records disposition, but historical records, archives, protection of essential records, and records scheduling are also discussed. Microfilming, including the procedures associated with it, is treated in detail, and a statistical table of the work and materials used shows the degree to which microfilm is associated with the program. (As in similar jurisdictions, the physical facilities devoted to the city's records center appear to be minimal.) Appended to the report are a records retention schedule covering the records of some 23 major departments and a list of essential records and their disposition. The schedule should be of interest to cities seeking guidelines for the disposition of similar records.

Los Angeles County

JAMES T. O'CONNELL

PLACEMENT REGISTER

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POSITIONS WANTED

ARCHIVIST OR LECTURER. Male, age 29, desires employment in college, university, government, or business. B.A. and M.A. in Indian and world histories from Delhi University, India. Ph. D. in Modern Indian History from Durham University, United Kingdom. Working as an assist-

ant archivist with the Gateshead Corp. since February 1965. Salary negotiable. Write Secretary. A-63.

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ASSISTANT IN UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES COLLECTION. M.S.L.S. required. Preference to applicant with some library experience and archival training. Beginning salary \$7,020, with the usual benefits. Apply to Office of the Director, Temple University Library, Philadelphia, Pa. 19122. O-79.

ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST: A. B. and a diploma in archives administration or experience in archives required. Duties include listing new deposits, helping with the final arrangement of records, arranging exhibitions and supervising the search room, and working with the university's records management program. Beginning salary \$5,500. Write, not later than December 1, 1967, to Alan D. Ridge, University Archivist, McGill University, Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal 2, Que., Canada, giving details of education and experience and including the name of two referees. O-80.