

# Reviews of Books

EDWARD E. HILL, *Editor*

*National Archives*

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## FINDING AIDS

*Handbook of American Resources for African Studies*, by Peter Duignan. (Stanford, Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace. *Bibliographical Series*, 29. 1967. xvi, 218 p. \$6.)

In this first published guide to the resources relevant for the study of Africa, Peter Duignan, Director of the African Studies Program at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University, describes the holdings of 302 collections found in university and public libraries, historical societies, church and missionary libraries and archives, private collections, museums, and business archives.

The data in the volume were compiled after a careful study of numerous bibliographic aids, inventories prepared by the Works Progress Administration's Historical Records Survey, and calendars or registers prepared by libraries and archives; after visits to some collections; and from descriptions given on questionnaires returned by the holders of materials to the author of this study. Most of the information came from responses to the questionnaires. The entries vary in length from several pages to a single sentence.

The holdings of extensive manuscript and book collections of such institutions as the Library of Congress, the National Archives, Stanford University Library (which includes the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace), and Duke, Columbia, Harvard, Michigan, and Northwestern Universities indicate the wealth of resources in this country. In most of the libraries, African materials are integrated into the general collections.

Besides books the *Handbook* identifies government documents; serials and manuscripts; numerous collections of musical instruments, bows, drums, etc.; recordings; and photographs and collections of African art, such as weapons, masks, tools, cloth, headdresses, gold weights, bronzes, and stone and terra cotta sculptures. Major ethnographic collections are found in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City (about 30,000 pieces), the Chicago Natural History Museum (approximately 11,000 specimens), and the University of Pennsylvania museum, which has perhaps the largest and most varied collection of African sculpture in the United States. Twenty-six private collectors of African art are listed. Dealers in African art, however, have not been included. Brief statements on the holdings of the Farrell Lines, the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., and Trans-World Airlines indicate business records that are of value to the Africanist.

Readers may find further details concerning collections in citations to descriptive articles, which appear at the end of some descriptions of collections. We learn, for example, that the Greenlee collection on Portugal at the Newberry Library in Chicago, as it was in 1950, is further described in an article in the *Newberry Library Bulletin*, 2d series, no. 6:167-178 (May 1951). Also, several finding aids that describe holdings of the National Archives are listed in footnotes to that descriptive section.

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Although the compiler has described the holdings of Africa-related materials in 95 library and manuscript collections, 108 church and missionary libraries and archives, 95 art and ethnographic collections, and 4 business archives in this 218-page *Handbook*, it stands to reason that, as inclusive and comprehensive as it is, he will discover other repositories that might well provide data for a new edition. Certainly the volume will stimulate librarians, archivists, and other keepers of *Africana* to bring under descriptive control any uncataloged or uninventoried records or collections.

Howard University

DOROTHY B. PORTER

*College and University Archives in the United States and Canada*, compiled by the College and University Archives Committee of the Society of American Archivists, Robert M. Warner, chairman. (Ann Arbor [The Committee], 1966. viii, 108 p. \$2, by order from the Treasurer, SAA.)

The appearance of this directory shows that this branch of archival work has come of age. Two decades ago there was no market for such a list of names, addresses, dates, titles, amounts of staff and records, descriptions, and availabilities. Although some 75 of the archives listed here claim establishment before 1945, almost 300 give starting dates since World War II—two-thirds within the last decade.

The major repositories—Harvard, Pennsylvania, Yale, Wisconsin, Cornell, Michigan, Illinois and 10 or so more—are characterized in this list by large holdings (2,500 to 30,000 cubic or linear feet), by the equivalent of 2 or more fulltime staff members, by availability during normal working hours, and by having photocopying facilities. All the Ivy League and at least one campus of perhaps a third of the State university systems maintain archives.

As the introduction notes, there are few executives in this branch of our profession who work full time with archives—a scarce three dozen of them according to this report. The president of the Society of American Archivists and the members of the College and University Archives Committee spend a median of less than half time; in fact, the commonest pattern (Cornell, Smith, Washington University) is to combine care of special or manuscript collections with archives. Sometimes one of the alumni secretaries serves as “archivist.” (Four pages of college “archives” news in the April 1967 issue of the *American Archivist* devoted all but 23 lines to nonarchival manuscripts.)

Distributed by missionary effort, the questionnaire (reproduced, p. viii) allowed for both specific and vague answers to suit any stage of development. The holdings are listed here by such quantities as shelf or closet space, room dimensions, and cases or boxes of undisclosed size. The listing of types of records “collected” was also revealing. Perhaps future editions could move toward standardized measurement of each type (as C.C.N.Y. and the University of California—Berkeley do here), with inclusive dates, type of guides to the archives, and type of photocopying available. In general, exactitude and detail suggest an active program, but it may be library oriented, as at the University of Alabama, with “897,731 manuscript items.”

The directory is technically clear and typographically accurate, but the running titles are sometimes confusing when they show only the States beginning on the page. We can confidently hope that the black list of naughty ones, who were either too frank to call their “Siwash Room” archives or could not be bothered with questionnaires, will be much shorter in the next edition.

University of Vermont Archives

T. D. SEYMOUR BASSETT

THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST

*Labor Manuscripts in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*, compiled by F. Gerald Ham. (Madison, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1967. 48 p. \$1.)

An introduction, which recounts the history of collecting labor manuscripts at Wisconsin, and individual descriptions of 177 collections relating to the American labor movement comprise this guide to labor manuscripts. The first phase of collecting, begun by Richard T. Ely and continued by John R. Commons and his associates, resulted in the publications that earned Commons the title of "creator of American labor history." Then the collections languished until the 1930's when emphasis was placed on obtaining the printed sources of labor history—union journals and newspapers. After the Second World War collecting manuscripts was resumed by a vigorous field staff with the support of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor. The results are obvious in the body of the guide.

Divided into six categories—labor unions; educational, social, and political action organizations; miscellaneous papers; personal papers; Wisconsin labor organizations; and labor material in the State archives—the materials described range in significance from the papers of the American Federation of Labor to notes compiled by a debate team. The largest category, that devoted to State organizations, describes for almost one hundred different unions such records as minutes, correspondence, financial and membership records, and publications. The section on personal papers presents the collections of John R. Commons, Daniel DeLeon, Adolph Germer, Morris Hillquit, William M. Leiserson, Henry D. Lloyd, and William B. Rubin, to name only a few. It is a most impressive description.

Though confident enough to list unprocessed collections (nos. 3 and 11), some of the technical variations indicate a lack of attention to detail and do not do credit to either Mr. Ham or the society. In describing large collections such as nos. 2 and 9, equivalent headings and size descriptions should have been used. The use of "boxes," "volumes," and "folders" without any further indication of size causes uncertainty that a designation by either cubic or linear feet would have obviated. And then such questionable descriptions as "1 volume and 4 additional volumes" (no. 18), and "1 box and 9 volumes, 2 cartons, and 3 packages" (no. 116) are encountered. At least three collections (nos. 131, 132, and 158) have no indication of extent at all.

Falling between the comprehensive *Guide to the Manuscripts of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin* and the intensive *The Textile Workers Union of America Papers: A Descriptive Guide* (see review, below), which was published by the John R. Commons Labor Reference Center, this subject-orientated finding aid will be of great assistance to scholars; other repositories would do well to emulate it.

Cornell University Archives

HERBERT FINCH

*The Textile Workers Union of America Papers: A Descriptive Guide*, compiled by Esther Thelen. (Madison, Wis., John R. Commons Labor Reference Center, sponsored jointly by the State Historical Society and the University of Wisconsin. *Library Bulletin* no. 1. 1966. 28 p.)

The richness of the repositories in Madison has long been well known to labor historians. The John R. Commons Labor Reference Center was created to coordinate and service these resources for the inquiring scholar, and this first "De-

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scriptive Guide" bodes well for the endeavor. Focusing on collections that are unique or especially complete in Wisconsin, it may be expected that the bulletin series will join *Labor Newspapers on Microfilm* and *American Labor Union Periodicals* as one of the essential reference tools of researchers interested in labor problems.

Beginning with a brief description of the provenance and the extent of the records, the guide presents a 12-page history of the Textile Workers Union of America that sketches the formation and the major activities of the union. An inventory and a detailed description then identify the primary divisions and the kinds of information that may be found in each. An appended list of publications of the TWUA indicates the published sources available.

While emphasizing the strength of the collection from the International Office and the New York State Director, the compiler helpfully points out gaps as well. Missing, for instance, are the organizer's weekly reports for the late 1930's and the 1940's. There is also very little on the predecessor union, the United Textile Workers.

Two archival problems that are not unique to this collection but that are illustrated by it deserve to be noted. First, although a box count gives some idea of the extent and the relative sizes of the subseries, a more meaningful measure could be delineated by linear feet or a piece count. Second, and much more serious, is the problem of selectivity, illustrated by subseries 17A, "Organizer's Weekly Reports." Apparently, 80 percent of this material was not preserved. Though there is some indication of the criteria for selection, we immediately want to know more. Who determined these criteria? Was the balance actually destroyed? Since 121 boxes of expired contracts were deemed worth keeping, might not the records of the men who (as the author admits) played big roles on the local stage, and thereby made the contracts possible, also have been preserved to a greater extent? If the originals were available, why film? and again, if a space-saving device was necessary, why not film more?

Although selection is frequently essential and is one of the most "professional" activities of the archivist, it always exposes him and the institution and the profession he represents to criticism. Given the catholic research interests of today and the almost unmeasurable capacity of automated research tomorrow, are the anticipated savings of space or staff time really worth the loss? The same questions might be asked of the recordings in 18A.

If we can anticipate that similar guides will be created for all of the collections mentioned in F. Gerald Ham's article in the Fall 1966 issue of *Labor History*, labor historians will continue to be deeply in debt to Wisconsin.

*Cornell University Archives*

HERBERT FINCH

*Guide to the Archives and Manuscript Collections of the American Philosophical Society*, compiled by Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., and Murphy D. Smith. (Philadelphia, American Philosophical Society, 1966. vii, 182 p. \$3.)

The American Philosophical Society is the oldest existing learned society in the United States. Founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743 "for the promotion of useful knowledge among the British plantations in America," the society took as its model the Royal Society of London with which Franklin was familiar.

In the first part of this *Guide* the archives of the society are entered numerically

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in the following order: minutes and by-laws; "archives"; communications; members; officers; curators; library; committees; financial records; miscellaneous; Wistar Association; and history. Here, then, in almost 17 pages, with ample and illuminating descriptions, is a listing of records of enduring value and of an organic nature that depict the official activities and functions of a significant organization. In quantity the society's archives are the largest in the library and are exceedingly rich for illustrating the development of science in the United States.

The "Manuscript Collections" section constitutes the greater number of pages in the *Guide*. The collections, too, are numbered, and they are entered alphabetically. The description for each entry is satisfactory; longer and more detailed description, if needed, was not the purpose of the compilers. Their stated purpose was to prepare the first general guide to the archives and manuscript collections in the library and to give scholars an introduction to the society's holdings. Detailed information can be gotten from the library's card catalog.

Among the outstanding general collections are those relating to Franklin (the Society owns more than half the known surviving manuscripts) and his colleagues, Darwin and evolution, American Indian life and thought, genetics, quantum physics, modern medical sciences, and the activities of church missionary societies. Also among the collections are the papers of the anthropologist Franz Boaz, the geneticist Albert F. Blakeslee, the Italian physicist Giovanni Fabroni, the founding director of the Rockefeller Institute Simon Flexner, the missionary and linguist John Heckewelder, the geologist Benjamin Smith Lyman, the botanist Gotthilf Ernst Muhlenbert, the painter and museum director Charles Willson Peale, the engineer and inventor Elihu Thomson, and President Thomas Jefferson. Representative of single manuscript pieces is a copy of the Declaration of Independence in Jefferson's hand.

By consulting the index one can quickly determine the vastness of the archives and manuscripts in the library (through 1965) or concentrate on a single name or subject. The use of boldface is very helpful in indicating the principal collection.

In this *Guide* to the society's archives and manuscript collections the compilers, Librarian Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., and Assistant Librarian Murphy D. Smith, have created a most useful finding aid to a very important depository of printed, manuscript, and microfilmed materials. Scholarly pursuits in the history of science and of phases and aspects of American social and cultural history will be encouraged and enhanced by it.

*Vanderbilt Archives and Special Collections*

WOODROW W. WASSON

*Microfilm Index and Bibliography of the Concordia Historical Institute, The Department of Archives and History, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. St. Louis, Missouri, 1954-1963.* (St. Louis, Mo., Concordia Press, 1966. vii, 182 p. \$3.)

August R. Suelflow, director of Concordia Historical Institute, has presented in this title a new research tool that may well become the pattern for other church historical units. Unique in the field of American church archival work, it indexes almost 100,000 feet of film in Concordia Historical Institute's microfilm collection. The index, in progress for over 5 years, covers microfilm acquisitions from 1954 to 1963. Plans are to publish an annual or biennial supplement for new additions.

Produced in offset, the work consists of an introduction and a detailed index and

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bibliography of 2,485 entries, on almost 200 pages. Only one alphabetical category is employed in listing information about all materials: books, pamphlets, periodicals, manuscripts, records, theses, correspondence, and pictures.

In the introduction the editor quite rightly states that a large collection of micro-filmed resources is virtually inaccessible without finding tools, that microfilm is only as valuable as the aids and tools that lead the researcher to the individual parts. Since it is increasingly the practice to store microfilm in acquisition sequence without any classification, it becomes vital that indexing make the individual items on the film readily available. The index accomplishes this, for it clearly indicates the title, author, date, type of material, individual film number, and the approximate location of an item on a given film, and it notes whether or not the institute has the negative copy.

Designed primarily for those students and researchers who cannot consult the index card file at the institute, this work will aid historians and scholars to determine the exact holdings of the institute and to know how extensively they must consult the collections. When the institute possesses the negative, the film may be made available on interlibrary loan and the index becomes a guide in making loan requests. Although not planned primarily with this in mind, the index constitutes one of the major published bibliographies on American Lutheranism. Any researcher may use it as a bibliographical checklist to determine if he has exhausted the resources on the subject under study.

*Jenkins Library, Foreign Mission Board  
Southern Baptist Convention  
Richmond, Virginia*

NELL STANLEY

#### MANUALS AND SPECIAL STUDIES

Direction des Archives de France. *Actes des huitième et neuvième conférences internationales de la Table Ronde des archives. Rapport général*, par Yves Pérotin. (Paris, Imprimerie nationale, 1965. 231 p.)

Our European friends, when making widespread inquiries, are characteristically inclined to set essay-type examinations rather than to construct true questionnaires (or "schedules") as we understand them. However well organized they may be (and the inquiry whose results are here before us is indeed well organized), they are enormously difficult to summarize readably and usefully, and M. Pérotin is to be congratulated on the clarity of his report on Archives and Rural History, the subject of the 1963 international Round Table. His task was the more difficult because of the ramifications of his subject: social and political; economic, scientific, and technical; geographic; and ranging in time from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.

It is, actually, doubtful whether so large a subject as Archives and Rural History can be successfully surveyed for 22 nations by the schedule method; the essay-type questionnaire may be more appropriate. Topically arranged, and confined for the most part to enumerating the distinctive features of the various national *fonds* rather than their common characteristics, this report should be a valuable first resort for searchers in agricultural history. If it encourages the archival institutions represented to embark on guides, such as the U.S. National Archives has prepared

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in other fields (*e.g.*, on records relating to transportation, to labor, to the Negro), that, too, will be a valuable consequence of this endeavor.

In the same volume as the report on rural archives, the *Direction des Archives de France* has published a summary of the questionnaire responses for the 1965 Round Table, on Recent Developments in Archives Construction, a more manageable topic. M. Pérotin cautiously suggests that there may be two new tendencies discernible: one, towards a breakdown of the traditional view that storage space and office space must be separated; the other, towards a resurgence of pessimism with respect to space-saving devices and techniques. Apparently it was widely felt that microfilming had not in practice caught up with the proliferation of records and that "dense" (movable) shelving, while economizing space, inordinately increased structural costs. Other interesting but as yet inconclusive points are made, dealing, for example, with the location of archives buildings away from possible military hazards—"not of decisive importance" (Yugoslavia), "certainly practical" (Denmark); with devices for the internal movement of records (several French experiments); and with protection against dust (raised air pressure in searchrooms in Denmark).

*Arlington, Va.*

PAUL LEWINSON

*A Manual of Tropical Archivology*, edited by Yves Pérotin (Paris and The Hague, Mouton & Co., 1966. vii, 149 p., illus.)

The editor, Yves Pérotin, in the concluding paragraph of his general introduction has stated succinctly, "This little book, such as it is,—perhaps incomplete, no doubt imperfect, will provide archive-keepers in tropical countries with simple, practical information, though of a high scientific standard, which might help them in their difficult work." Although the manual was conceived in response to the pressing need to preserve archives in hot and humid countries, much of the physical and technical knowledge can be applied in many of our southern States.

The plan of presentation illustrates the editor's attempt to limit his book to a guide rather than a text. Under "General Archivology" the three major subjects—program, rules, and methodology—are most certainly basic to the beginnings of an archives for a nation's valuable documentary material. Equally important is the careful examination of the archival problems of the tropics including climatic liabilities, insects, restoration, and storage conditions. There was a noteworthy selection of writers for each of these subjects. Since this is a guide, however, all chapters should have been sprinkled liberally with bibliographical references, which the editor admits are "limited."

Dr. Shellenberg's chapter, "The Nature of an Archival Program," like many of his writings, establishes at once the familiar theme of his book *Modern Archives*—"The care of public records is a public obligation." Plainly and forthrightly he sets out in about 10 pages the significant elements. The second chapter, concerning legislation and regulations, by Robert-Henri Bautier, seems to contain all that is necessary to the proper formulation of a legal framework for a modern archives. In this country long established customs make it impossible for us to comply with the ideal in archival law.

Chapters III and IV, dealing with transforming piles of papers into usable, workable archives, are of extreme importance. M. Pérotin's classification schemes, which are far more precise and exacting than some, contain instructions and examples for arrangements and listings of archival series. He has produced practical schemes

for "open archives" that deserve consideration and study. The principles of provenance and original order are maintained.

The remaining parts of the manual include technical guidance by four specialists. The chapter dealing with termites is one we need to pay attention to, particularly in the South. Y. P. Kathpalia's "Restoration of Documents" needs further enlargement and distribution to all segments of the archives profession. Of interest to many of us in the United States is the mention of special problems of manuscripts on birch bark or palm leaf.

This systematic manual on archival theory and practice under special climatic conditions will be welcomed by all archivists.

*National Archives and Records Service*

C. GEORGE YOUNKIN

*Copying Methods Manual*, by William R. Hawken. (Chicago, American Library Association, 1966. xv, 375 p., illus. \$15.)

This volume is another example of the excellent publications resulting from the financing of special studies by the Council of Library Resources, Inc. Its author, a consultant on document reproduction for the Library Technology Program of the ALA, also compiled two of its earlier reports on photocopying.

Although written for the librarian, the data will be of interest and value to anyone working in the field of document reproduction, including the archivist and the records manager. Although some technical knowledge is required to appreciate fully the details of the charts and illustrations (over 125 items), the presentation is unusually free from the jargon of the "information scientist." One of the most useful parts of the work is the series of 22 tables that outline in great detail the characteristics of each reproduction process discussed in the text. Of special interest to the archivist is the statement on the permanence of each of the processes analyzed. Those endorsed as being of "archival quality" carry the qualification that paper stock of "archival quality" must be used. Unfortunately the author does not fully define the characteristics of that type of paper; he gives the reader the impression that 100 percent rag stock is all that is required. This, of course, is not the case.

The chapter entitled "Methods and Techniques" is replete with illustrations and descriptions of how to get the best possible copies with contact print equipment. The section on microforms (roll, jacket, and microfiche), also well illustrated, contains many helpful hints on operating a microfilm program. The discussion of the filming of bound items is of special note. Because of the legal implications involved, some State archivists may not agree with the recommendations for splicing a roll of microfilm, but for most library purposes the technique is satisfactory. Why no mention is made of the aperture card format and the card-processor camera is a bit mystifying, for every other microform in use is included.

Each of the four appendixes and the glossary contribute to the value of the volume. The index is of outstanding quality. A listing of professional organizations such as SLA, SAA, ARMA, AREA, SRE, and ADI, with their publications, would have provided the reader with still other sources of data. For anyone with a responsibility for or an interest in the field of document reproduction, this publication is an indispensable item.

*Ohio State University*

BRUCE C. HARDING

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*Bookbinding in Colonial Virginia*, by C. Clement Samford and John M. Hemphill II. (*Williamsburg Research Studies* [no. 8]; Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., 1966. Distr. by the University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville. xxi, 185 p. Illus., index. \$4.)

Deserving more than a brief note, this exceptional study fills the archivist's need for a small, practical, and incisive manual to which he may turn when faced with problems of identifying and restoring books, manuscripts, and archives in bindings of the colonial period, especially those made in Virginia. Based to the extent possible on original sources, this illuminating history and exposition of the bookbinding art, according to Director of Research Edward M. Riley, incorporates "all . . . notes that are not of a speculative nature"; it is, therefore, dependable without pretending to be definitive.

*National Archives*

KEN MUNDEN

#### REPORTS OF ARCHIVAL AGENCIES

Great Britain. Public Record Office. *The Sixth Annual Report of the Keeper of Public Records on the Work of the Public Record Office and the Sixth Report of the Advisory Council on Public Records 1964*. (London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1965. 37 p. 3s. 6d. net); *The Seventh Annual Report of the Keeper of Public Records on the Work of the Public Record Office and the Seventh Report of the Advisory Council on Public Records 1965*. (London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1966. 26 p. 2s. 3d. net.)

The Public Record Act 1958 (Stat. 6 and 7 Eliz. 2, c. 51) was intended to be a major revision of the Act of 1838 (Stat. 1 and 2 Vict., c. 94), under which the Public Record Office had functioned for more than a century. By the 1958 act responsibility was transferred from the Master of the Rolls to the Lord Chancellor. The Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, actual chief archivist, had his status elevated to that of Keeper of Public Records and his authority clarified and increased. These two publications include the required annual reports of the Keeper and of the Advisory Council on Public Records. The Council, under the statutory chairmanship of the Master of the Rolls, is directed "to advise the Lord Chancellor on matters concerning public records in general and, in particular, on those aspects of the work of the Public Record Office which affect members of the public who make use of the facilities of the Public Record Office." Among its members are eminent lawyers and historians (Alan Bullock, Herbert Butterfield, H. J. Habakkuk).

Inquiries concerning the public records begin, of course, with the *Guide to the Contents of the Public Record Office* (2 vols.; London, 1963), a revision to 1960 of the famous Giusseppe guide of 1923 and 1924. The most important details in which the 1963 guide becomes obsolete are included in this annual report series. Hence the need is apparent for holders of the *Guide* to add the reports. Chief accessions of papers are listed; publications of texts and calendars, handbooks, and lists are noted; and information is furnished on projects in progress, e.g., a brief account of the Churchill papers in the 1964 report. The increased availability of microfilms is an important item. The 1965 report notes over 4,000 rolls available at £5 per roll; these include such varied items as gaol delivery rolls, 1271-1476; census returns, 1841 and 1861 (in progress); Foreign Office-United States correspondence, 1878-1915 (in progress); and Cabinet papers, 1880-1914. A catalog of this material is available on request. Active English history scholars are already

aware of the long-term project in which the Kraus Reprint Corp. is reprinting volumes of P.R.O. publications that have not been available for many years.

Brief attention to administrative procedures, problems, and statistics includes data of interest to archivists frustrated by the same problems. In 1965 shelving for permanent records reached 270,000 feet, divided about equally between the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane and the depository at Ashridge (30 miles north of London). The intermediate depository at Hayes held about 900,000 feet of records awaiting either permanent retention or disposal. Many planned projects have been delayed or postponed until personnel and funds become available. Meanwhile the most urgent demands are met. Records of chief interest are preserved and are readily available to users.

Recommendations of the Advisory Council concentrate especially on reducing the 50-year time lapse for access to records to a 40-year period. Retention of the 100-year limit for special types of records is conceded, but the Council urges increased exceptions to provide accessibility within the recommended 40-year period.

*Air University Center*

WALTER G. INMAN

Québec. Ministère des Affaires Culturelles. *Rapport des archives du Québec 1965* (Tome 43). (Québec, 1966. 194 p.)

This substantial volume of 194 pages includes several most interesting documents bearing on the beginnings of the missions of the *Séminaire de Québec* to the Mississippi, 1698 and 1699; the *Mémoire du sieur de la Boulaye sur les colonies françaises d'Amérique, Canada, Louisiane, Ile-Royale, St-Domingue et Guyanne*, drawn up in 1737; and the sixth installment of the analytical inventory of the correspondence for 1846 of Msgr. Bourget.

In his brief introduction, Archivist Bernard Weilbrenner deals with the work carried out by the Quebec Archives during the year reported on, acquisitions made or pending, and plans for the future. The report also includes a succinct inventory of the papers of the Franciscan Father Archange Godbout, which were recently acquired by the Archives of Quebec; another compendious inventory covers the archives of the Hart family for the period 1760-1865, preserved in the archives of the *Séminaire des Trois-Rivières* (Province of Québec, Canada). After a further section of Father Godbout's manuscript, "Nos ancêtres au XVIIe siècle," the volume closes with a 12-page, 2-column index of names.

The excellence of the general presentation and the typography would have been enhanced—and with no great difficulty—by illustrations, photographic or other. Thus might have been visualized some of the new acquisitions or the library and reading and consultation rooms at the Quebec Archives building. Photographs of contributors to Volume 43 or of persons referred to in the various texts would also have been invaluable adjuncts. My personal choice among relevant illustrations would have included M. Weilbrenner himself; Mme. Louise Dechêne, who represents the Archives of Quebec in Paris; Msgr. Bourget; and Father Godbout. Photographs would likewise have added to the success of the *Exposition sur l'intendant Talon et le régiment de Carignan*, which over 20,000 visitors enjoyed. In general, judiciously selected and well reproduced illustrations not only relieve the traditional austerity of government reports but add the complementary values of esthetic embellishment and visual documentation.

*Université de Montréal*

LUC-ANDRÉ BIRON

THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST