Reviews of Books

EDWARD E. HILL, *Editor*

Washington National Records Center

GUIDES

Guide to the Wisconsin State Archives, compiled and edited by David J. Delgado. (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1966. ix, 262 p. $2.)

In this first comprehensive guide to Wisconsin's Territorial and State archives, David J. Delgado describes 87 record groups in the possession of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Further divided into subgroups and then guide entries, the records range in date from 1836 to the 1960's, amount to approximately 20,000 cubic feet, include both processed and unprocessed units, and are housed in the historical building, the eight Area Research Centers, and other locations.

Each record group, which generally corresponds to an active or defunct unit of government, is introduced by a short agency or departmental history, sketching origin, function, and major organizational realignments reflected in the records. The entries are given a unique identification in the guide by unbroken numbering from 1 in record group 1 through 1,249 in record group 87. The index references are by entry number, with correlation to the repository's reference tools achieved by the inclusion of catalog numbers.

The entries, tailored as overviews rather than as detailed analyses, provide dates, record types, pertinent cross references to other entries, status (unorganized, restricted, etc.), major emphasis, and quantity, which is expressed variously in boxes, volumes, packages, folders, and cubic feet. Although there is little additional descriptive material, the subject matter is usually implicit in the skeleton revealed by introductions to the record groups, definitions of functions, and listings of record types.

The ambitious guide, which demonstrates again the quality and scope of the institution producing it, will be followed by more intensive descriptions of all major record groups. In the meantime, the path has been mapped for those who would explore a rich source of State, regional, and national history.

Minnesota Historical Society LUCILE M. KANE

Handbook of Texas Archival and Manuscript Depositories, compiled by James M. Day and assisted by Donna Yarbrough. (Texas State Library, *Monograph* 5; Texas Library and Historical Commission, Austin, 1966. 73 p.)

The purpose of this book was to produce, on a smaller scale, a guide to the archival holdings of local or smaller depositories in Texas similar to Philip M. Hamer's *A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States* (1961). The author has attempted to bring to light the archival holdings of the small depositories in Texas not listed in major archival guides to manuscript collections. To accomplish this, Mr. Day compiled a list of 897 private and public institutions, excluding governmental agencies at Federal, State and local levels, and sent them a basic and

Books for review and related communications should be sent to Edward E. Hill, Archives Branch, Washington National Records Center, Washington, D.C. 20409.

functional questionnaire. The result was a guide to the holdings of 85 Texas institutions.

The entries, which are arranged alphabetically by cities, vary in length and adequacy, depending on the information supplied. Each includes the name of the agency, professional and nonprofessional staff, hours of operation, reproduction equipment, size, type and content of holdings, and any published guides. The records listed are mainly of private individuals, churches, societies, colleges, and technological agencies. The content of these holdings is not presented in a uniform manner owing perhaps to a lack of editing or to the diversity of the data supplied. The size of holdings is given in cubic and linear feet, number of files, number of items, or not given at all. Unfortunately a name and place index, so essential in this type of publication, is not provided.

Although the stated purpose, scope, and method of approach to bring out this much needed information are commendable, the author may have exceeded the practicable possibilities of his objective by certain errors of commission as well as omission. As for the method of approach, the almost negative results indicate some inadequacy in the formulation and handling of the questionnaire, for out of 897 institutions only a very few reported holdings. The author attributes this low response to a lack of understanding of archival principles and terminology. Perhaps a more explanatory questionnaire should have been formulated.

This handbook is attractively presented, but more variation in the size of type could have been used to avoid a cluttered look. The author's choice to list the institutions not reporting first followed by those reporting shows a negative attitude towards the archival profession. It seems that credit, however nominal in some cases, should have been given to those that cooperated in his endeavor. The reader will find the preface most enlightening in the criticism of the state of the archival profession in Texas.

This handbook is a useful tool. It might be helpful to point out for the benefit of future editors and compilers that the questionnaire used is the handbook's major flaw.

University of Texas Archives CARMELA LEAL

Biblioteka Wilanowska: Dwiescie lat jej dziejow, 1741–1932 [*The Villanov Library: Two Hundred Years of Its History, 1741–1932*], by Jadwiga Rudnicka (Warsaw, Poland, Biblioteka Narodowa, 1967. 216 p., 16 p. of reproductions).

Villanov Palace was built in the latter part of the 17th century as a summer residence for King Jan Sobieski. Located a short distance southeast of Warsaw, the baroque residence became the property of Stanislaw Kostka Potocki in 1799. The Potockis were wealthy and politically important in Polish affairs of state, having provided many senators and other lesser officials for various levels of the Polish Crown's Government.

Begun in 1741, long before Villanov was acquired, the Potocki family library was added to that of the palace. Eventually, in 1932, the last owner of Villanov, Branicki (the Branickis, who had inherited Villanov in 1892, were cousins of the Potockis), presented most of the Villanov Library to the Polish State, which housed the collection in the National Library. There the collection remained until the end of World War II. In 1944 the collection was partially destroyed by the Nazis.

Miss Rudnicka, staff member of the Department of Manuscripts of the Polish National Library, notes that the Villanov Library is now separated. The National Library has most of the books published before 1860, some illuminated manuscripts, manuscripts not related to the owners of Villanov, and some graphs, maps, and musical scores. The Polish National Museum and the Polish Institute of History received (after World War II) most of the books published after the 1850's and those of the 20th century. And last, the Archiwum Glowna Akt Dawnych (Central Archives for Old Acts and Documents) received the manuscripts of the Potocki family and other owners of Villanov palace. These papers are cataloged under two separate headings: Public Archives of the Potockis and Economic Archives of Villanov.

Biblioteka Wilanowska . . . provides a useful account of the origins, owners, collectors, and development of the Villanov Library, interlaced with pertinent comment on personalities and periods of Polish history to which the collection pertains. Miss Rudnicka's work is a welcome addition to the list of accounts on and about Polish national depositories, an enumeration of which appears in *Bibliographie sur la Pologne* (Warsaw, 1964). Correctly, she gave least attention in her work to manuscripts. Wladyslaw Semkowicz in *Przewodnik po zbiorze rekopisow wilanowskich* [*Guide to the Villanov Collection of Manuscripts*] (Warsaw, 1964), thoroughly covered manuscripts.

Lock Haven State College CHARLES R. KENT

MANUALS

Conservation of Library Materials, by George Daniel Martin Cunha. (Metuchen, N.J., Scarecrow Press, 1967. ix, 405 p., illus. $10.)

Permanence/Durability of the Book—V; Strength and Other Characteristics of Book Papers 1800–1899, by the W. J. Barrow Research Laboratory. (Richmond, Va., 1967. 116 p.)

Indispensable is not a word to be used lightly. The present volume by Cunha, however, will become just that to archivists, manuscript curators, and librarians everywhere. Never before has so much information for a conservator, whether lay or professional, been presented in such compact and usable form. From his extensive knowledge and wide experience the author has designed a practical manual to meet the needs of nearly everyone who has any concern with the care and preservation of library materials. It provides the logical answer to the many and varied questions that come to curators everywhere.

Following a brief account of book composition and materials the enemies of books are detailed one by one, beginning with people and ending with the more recently defined archenemy, acid. Both the care required to prevent damage and deterioration and the means to effect repairs when damage has already occurred are explained in simple, easy-to-follow procedures. The appendixes include a glossary and a list of suppliers. There is a detailed index. In addition to book care consideration is given to prints and drawings, maps, films, tapes, and discs.

Beyond its value as a practical manual, however, the volume is important for its annotated, 150-page, bibliography, also divided into specific subject categories to match the main body of the work. It is right-up-to-the-minute, even including the first of the newly published series on book preservation issued by the Technology Program of the American Library Association.

A few errors are noted: name transpositions, D. M. Keyes for Keyes D. Metcalf, and Jenney Warren for Warren Jenney of the S. D. Warren Paper Co., and a typographical mistake which pushed the founding of the Library Journal back 50 years from its true 1876, but these are minor.

This is a book to be kept close at hand and we predict it will become well-worn with use.

The current study of the W. J. Barrow Research Laboratory aimed to discover the present condition of typical 19th-century books in library collections, to identify the principal causes of deterioration, to suggest a method of identifying those volumes needing treatment, and to recommend appropriate action.

The use of wood pulp is usually blamed for the deterioration of book paper, but this study shows conclusively that it is not the wood fiber itself but the chemicals used in the effort to produce more and cheaper paper. The papers from the test volumes—50 from each decade 1800–99—fall into three groups. Those papers manufactured 1800–49 of all-rag fiber sized with gelatine/glue remain strongest. The second group, 1850–69, when rag was yielding to wood mixtures and alum-rosin sizing was coming into use, show a sharp loss in strength. During 1870–99 the transition to cheap fibers and the new chemical processes were completed, and these papers have reached an alltime low in strength and quality.

The magnitude of the paper deterioration problem has not been exaggerated. Tests show, however, that the useful life of book papers can be extended by deacidification and by low-temperature storage.

Baker Library ELEANOR C. BISHOP

A Primer on Museum Security, by Caroline K. Keck, Huntington T. Block, Joseph Chapman, John B. Lawton, and Nathan Stolow. (Cooperstown, N.Y., New York State Historical Association, 1966. vii, 85 p., illus. $1.95.)

The New York State Historical Association, at its summer Seminars on American Culture, has for many years presented a course on the conservation of paintings, conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Keck. For the 1964 seminars, Mrs. Keck suggested expanding the course to "deal with the whole matter of overall security of all objects in museums and historical societies." The new course, "Museum Security," given to 25 persons, was tape-recorded. Edited transcriptions resulted in this published booklet.

Archivists and museologists have much more to share than the general literature in their fields would indicate. That there is a dearth of literature in either profession on the subject of "security" should be shocking. But such is the case. Hence, professionals ought not to turn up their noses at this booklet, a modest attempt to cover both physical security, including insurance, and environmental security. Obviously, in 85 pages, exhaustive or balanced coverage of all points is impossible, and the booklet may be taken exactly as it is presented—as a primer. (What *do* you hand to a new staff member?)

With an emphasis on art museums and paintings, most of the points are nonetheless applicable to general institutional security. Physical plants are usually unique and have unique security problems, but common problems, such as guard training and lock-and-key control, deserve constant vigilance. It may not be obvious to all staff members that physical security is a responsibility they share equally, whatever their duties or titles may be. An increased awareness of this responsibility could

prevent costly or irreparable harm to a building, a collection, a document, or even a staff member.

Insurance problems, specialized and complicated, have many important if not critical aspects in which all who handle objects can be involved. Probably few archival institutions lend or borrow, but a few insurance hints could themselves prove to be valuable insurance.

In covering a variety of subjects in the booklet's last 20 pages, Mrs. Keck's sprightly chapter contains practical advice sufficient to make the booklet a bargain if just one suggestion prevents one instance of damage to one object.

To this reviewer, it would be an exercise in conceit to criticize the booklet's shortcomings. The authors are aware of them. They also are aware of the need, and we should be grateful to them for sharing their product with us.

There is a selective bibliography. (Archivists may take note that their museum colleagues lack the excellent current bibliographic resource as provided in the *American Archivist.*)

In the foreword, Frederick L. Rath, Jr., notes that *Curator,* the American Museum of Natural History's quarterly, is encouraging the authors of these chapters to rewrite their material for that journal. It is to be hoped that not only will this be done, but that other "custodians of the nation's artistic, historical, and cultural heritage" will be inspired to add to the meager literature on this vital topic. If the booklet serves only in this capacity, it will have served well.

Bishop Museum JOHN COTTON WRIGHT

PROCEEDINGS AND DOCUMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

Oral History at Arrowhead. The Proceedings of the First National Colloquium on Oral History, edited by Elizabeth I. Dixon and James V. Mink. (Los Angeles, The Oral History Association, Inc., 1967. ix, 126 p. $1.50.)

The Second National Colloquium on Oral History, edited by Louis M. Starr. (New York, The Oral History Association, Inc., 1968. iv, 120 p. $3.)

Tom Rivers—Reflections on a Life in Medicine and Science, an Oral History Memoir prepared by Saul Benison. (Cambridge, Mass., and London, The M.I.T. Press, 1967. xxi, 682 p. $17.50.)

These three publications pointedly illustrate the present state of the art of oral history. *Oral History at Arrowhead* and *The Second National Colloquium on Oral History* contain the accounts of two conferences dealing with the problems, goals, uses, and techniques of oral history, and *Tom Rivers—Reflections on a Life in Medicine and Science* is a slightly edited record of a series of taped interviews, supplemented by explanatory and reference footnotes, a glossary of terms, a bibliography of Dr. Rivers' writings, and an index.

The rapid expansion in recent years in the number of oral history programs has heightened the need for the formation of a professional society of oral history practitioners and for convening annual conferences aimed at guiding the field into smoother waters. For despite the commendable work done by many of these programs, there remain some scholars who are skeptical of the validity of historical accounts obtained through the process of recorded interviews. The participants at the September 1966 Lake Arrowhead colloquium were intent on exploring the reasons for this skepticism, as is evident from a reading of their rather freewheeling

discussions reproduced verbatim in the conference report. While the report thus provides many valuable insights into the attitudes of a number of the leading members of the oral history fraternity, it offers few conclusive answers to the variety of questions being asked by many regarding the establishment, financing, and direction of new oral history programs. One must, nevertheless, applaud the frankness and enthusiasm with which the Lake Arrowhead conferees discussed their own programs and the problems of oral history in general. Their report adds a great deal to the somewhat sparse literature on oral history and should, at a minimum, serve as a basis for future discussions of those questions of greatest importance.

The planners of the second national colloquium, held at Arden House in November 1967, had the difficult task of staging a conference that would build on, but not duplicate, the matters discussed at the Lake Arrowhead meeting. This they accomplished, primarily through the scheduling of a number of users of oral history and other "outsiders" whose comments added a perspective not achieved at Lake Arrowhead. For example, in the opening (and in many respects the most valuable) session of the conference William Leuchtenburg, Frank Friedel, Cornelius Ryan, and James MacGregor Burns presented their views on the values and limitations of oral history.

Compared to the Lake Arrowhead colloquium, the Arden House sessions were, in general, more limited in the range of subjects covered. The resultant report is thus better organized and somewhat more readable, although it also contains few definitive conclusions and provides further indications of the confusion caused by the variety of programs crowding under the umbrella of oral history. Taken together, these two reports, despite their frank presentation of the many problems of oral history, portray a certain optimism about the future of the technique. One can only look with interest to see whether the progress made in the first two conferences of the Oral History Association can be continued in the third, to be held in Lincoln, Nebr. in November 1968.

In many respects, the memoir prepared by Saul Benison is a model of excellence to which those engaged in this particular type of oral history might readily aspire. The subject, Thomas M. Rivers, played a crucial role in the evolution of virology from its humble status in the medical profession at the beginning of this century to its present position as a major, independent biomedical discipline. Dr. Benison's approach to his interviews reflects his wide experience as an oral historian and his evident understanding of the many potential pitfalls of the oral history technique. His book, he states in the introduction, is meant to be a "corroborative source and guide," a "beginning of interpretation, not an end." This, indeed, is true, or should be true, of all oral history efforts. Dr. Benison has made extensive use of written records in preparing himself for the interviews, identifying relevant historical relationships and problems, checking the accuracy of statements his subject seemed unsure of, and supplementing, in the book itself, important points not fully covered by his subject. He has, in addition, consulted a number of Dr. Rivers' former colleagues in clarifying matters of possible dispute in the interviews.

The publication of oral history memoirs such as *Tom Rivers—Reflections on a Life in Medicine and Science* must inevitably raise the question of the relative contribution of interviewer and interviewee. For this reason, it is essential (as Dr. Benison has done) to describe in detail the circumstances surrounding the interviewing process and to admit candidly the extent to which the errors and biases of the subject were allowed to remain in the interview text. This book, in con-

clusion, must be viewed as a significant addition to a number of works being produced in the field of medical history through the use of the oral history technique.

Office of Presidential Libraries JOHN STEWART

North Carolina in Maps, by William P. Cumming. (Raleigh, North Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1966. 36 p. 15 pls. $5.)

This attractive publication, which comprises 15 separate maps and an accompanying paperbound booklet, should appeal to most map enthusiasts. The maps vary in size from approximately 13″ × 16″ to 36″ × 17″ and are legibly and pleasingly printed in brown ink on offwhite paper. They are extremely heterogeneous. The earliest, a map of the east coast from Chesapeake Bay to the Florida Straits by John White, is dated 1585; the latest is a post route map of North and South Carolina published in 1896. Three of the maps date from the Civil War Period, but on the whole the selection is well balanced and illustrates clearly the advance of geographic knowledge of North Carolina and the growth and development of the colony and State. The maps also afford a vivid impression of changing cartographic fashions over a period of approximately three centuries.

An outstanding feature of the publication is the excellent descriptions that Professor Cumming has provided for the maps. Each description is essentially an independent essay that considers the map in relation to pertinent aspects of the history and geography of North Carolina. The descriptions are unusually informative and thoroughly documented, in keeping with the careful scholarship that has characterized Professor Cumming's previous works on historical cartography. Much of the material relating to the period before 1800 that appears in this publication is covered in Cumming's much more comprehensive volume *The Southeast in Early Maps* (Princeton University Press, 1958), and that work remains the best source of information on the pre-Revolutionary cartography of the Carolinas.

National Archives A. P. MUNTZ

Wills of Early New York Jews (1704–1799), edited by Leo Hershkowitz. (*Studies in American Jewish History* no. 4; New York, American Jewish Historical Society, 1967. xvi, 291 p.)

Originally a three-part article in the *American Jewish Historical Quarterly,* "Wills of Early New York Jews (1704–1799)" has been expanded to include a new introduction by Dr. Hershkowitz, a foreword by Isidore S. Meyer, editor of *AJHQ,* two appendixes, a bibliography, and a full index. Dr. Hershkowitz, a specialist in early New York City history and research director of the Mayor's Committee on Archives, found these wills while he was establishing the Historical Documents Collection at Queens College of the City University of New York, where he is an associate professor of history. His detailed footnotes identify testators, legatees, witnesses, and notaries and cite sources for each identification. The wills are arranged chronologically by the year of probate. One of the appendixes is a Surrogate's Order, 1789, the other, an alphabetic list of testators.

Dr. Meyer stresses the value of wills in genealogical and historical research and recommends the investigation of wills as an integral part of local history research by those communities where early Jewish settlements flourished, specifically Newport, Savannah, Baltimore, Charleston, Philadelphia, and Richmond.

Although Dr. Hershkowitz published this volume as a study in American Jewish history, its value to other historians is unquestionable. The 41 wills represented here (25 in facsimile) reflect the social, economic and educational status of the testators, and by extension, that of the general population. The grammar and spelling might suggest poor education; this, however, is not necessarily correct. Dr. Hershkowitz wrote me that the best criterion for determining the amount of education in that period would be the appearance of the person's signature on the document rather than his mark. Most of the testators used signatures.

Scholars will find this an important contribution to the literature of early New York history. As Dr. Meyer suggests in his foreword, it should stimulate similar projects in other cities.

National Archives SYLVAN MORRIS DUBOW

REPORTS OF ARCHIVAL AGENCIES

Maryland. Hall of Records. *Thirtieth Annual Report of the Archivist . . . for the Fiscal Year July 1, 1964, Through June 30, 1965.* (Annapolis, Md., n.d. 47 p.) *Thirty-first Annual Report of the Archivist . . . for the Fiscal Year July 1, 1965, Through June 30, 1966.* (Annapolis, Md., n.d. 63 p.)

These reports present the activities of Maryland's archival and records management agency in its 30th and 31st years, continuing the outstanding record of accomplishment that brought the Hall of Records the Distinguished Service Award of the Society of American Archivists in 1965. Indeed, they show a remarkable degree of progress toward the stated objective of consolidating "Maryland records under one roof and under one management."

According to the 1966 report, the noncurrent records of State agencies are all under its control in the Hall of Records or in the records centers; county land records, probate records, and the older court records have been assembled in its collections; and a thoroughgoing records management program covers county and municipal agencies as well as State agencies. Many church records of value for vital statistics have also been collected. A further enhancement of Maryland's archives, and an indication of public confidence in its work, came with a constitutional amendment of 1966 that transferred the Land Office and all its records to the Hall of Records, effective January 1967.

Although such admirable progress toward fulfilling its objective as an archival agency might seem a matter to shout about, the two pamphlet reports are entirely unassuming and matter-of-fact. As much or more attention is given to various problems and shortcomings, to the description of various projects, and to careful tabulation and listing of financial data, staff changes, participation in professional activities, records circulated, accessions, and similar details. A reader who skimmed hastily through the two reports could fail to catch the main point of Maryland's achievement of unified archival and records management programs extending to every level of government in the State and actively seeking to assemble every extant noncurrent record of any permanent significance.

The problems discussed are hardly unique to Maryland. The difficulties in recruiting archival personnel and in making advanced professional training available for them, the uncertainties involved in the changing membership of governing boards, and the quests for records dispersed long before the creation of the archives—these

strike familiar notes. There will be special interest elsewhere in the efforts to recapture the State's historical records that other institutions had taken pains to preserve. The purpose of restoring the complete record is laudable, and the extent to which it has been successful shows the possibilities for other archival agencies with similar problems of "archival fugitives." Some might argue, however, that in this age of photocopy and microfilm the possession of the original paper or parchment record is virtually a technicality so far as actual use for research is concerned. For that matter, both these reports make it clear that most of the county, court, and church records accessioned by the Hall of Records in recent years were on microfilm.

From the two lists of records most frequently circulated, it would appear that the materials in the Hall of Records are consulted chiefly for genealogical research. No doubt it is hoped there, as in other archives, that historians and students will make greater use of Maryland's archival resources for research in and writing State and local history.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DONALD H. KENT

National Archives of New Zealand. *A Review and Summary of Work—1966. A Summary of Work—1967.* (Wellington, Department of Internal Affairs, [1967, 1967]. 63, 22 p.)

Although the National Archives of New Zealand was not established until 1957, its institutional origins are with the former office of the Colonial Secretary and, after 1907 when New Zealand achieved Dominion status, with the office of the Minister of Internal Affairs. The early history of the inactive public records of New Zealand is the familiar one of neglect, of losses by fire, and of grossly inadequate facilities once the task of consolidating and arranging the archives had begun. One interesting variation on these familiar themes is the program of "juggling cellar space" that in recent years has accompanied the agency's "energetic" disposal program; "as records were destroyed in one cellar, the space thus made could be filled up from the records of another Department." A site for a permanent building has finally been acquired, and the 1966 report notes that "planning is making some headway, for a new building of five storeys for the storage of archives and their administration."

The remainder of these two reports consists of a summary of the types of holdings of the National Archives and detailed accounts of the activities of the staff (10 professional and 4 nonprofessional members) with regard to disposals, arrangement and description, use of archives, and records management. The 1966 report contains an appendix listing "all groups and series of archives" held by the National Archives, with an indication of those groups whose arrangement, because of a "long and very complex history of administration," is only temporary. Appended to the 1967 report are lists of accessions and of groups of archives that "received their proper arrangement" since the previous report.

In view of the size of the staff and the difficulties resulting from inadequate facilities, the accomplishments of the National Archives of New Zealand are highly commendable. Each year a brief report on activities of the National Archives is incorporated in the report of the Department of Internal Affairs to Parliament. These two reports and summaries are intended to provide a more detailed account of these activities; their preparation and publication attest to the degree of professional competence and responsibility that characterizes this archival agency.

National Archives FRANK B. EVANS