

# Abstracts of Foreign Periodicals

LESTER K. BORN, *Editor*

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## BELGIUM

*Archives et Bibliothèques de Belgique/Archief- en Bibliotheekwezen in België*,  
VOL. 39 (1968), NO. 1-2.

AKERMI, C., *L'activité archivistique dans le monde Arabe* (Archival activity in the Arab world). P. 64-77. This first installment of a report based on replies to questionnaires sent to all Arab countries deals only with Syria and the Sudan. A general summary will appear in the final report. Subjects covered are modern methods of arranging current records, transfer of records from parastate or nonstate bodies, lending of records, documentation centers, function of archivists in relation to research, training and categories of archivists, and the like.

L. K. B.

## BULGARIA

*Izvestiia na dŭrzhavnite arkhivi*, VOL. 13 (1967).

SLAVOVA, STEFKA, *Kŭm istoriata i metodikata na arkhivnite katalogi v Bŭlgariia do sŭzdavaneto na dŭrzhaven arkhiven fond* (History and methods employed in archival catalogs in Bulgaria up to the establishment of the State Archival Fonds). P. 96-119. At first books and archives were classified solely by language. By mid-19th century the principle of systematization was applied. In 1920 a scheme for a systematic catalog was devised but not applied in practice. In 1926 a methodic catalog, arranged according to a scheme of 40 basic divisions, was developed. The peak of this achievement was reached in 1949 with the methodic catalog of the archives of the city of Sofia.

KATSAROVA, MARIJA, *Faktori za stareene na khartiata i grizhi za opazvane na dokumentite* (Factors affecting the aging of paper and efforts to preserve documents). P. 129-137. A study of factors tending to accelerate or retard paper aging; chemical composition; raw materials; effects of moisture, air, light, and micro-organisms; and necessary measures to preserve documents, such as sterilization, chemical treatment, and segregation.

*Department of State*

C. CHARLICK

## FRANCE

*Gazette des Archives*, N.S., NO. 59 (1967).

BOISARD, PIERRE, *Pour une politique des éliminations: réflexions sur la pratique des Archives de la Seine* (Toward a policy for disposal: reflections on the practice of the Archives of the Seine). P. 205-238. After presentation of bibliographical references, largely but not entirely French, the author discusses his problem under these major headings: Who should decide on disposals? Disposals in block or piece-by-piece? Guiding principles (retention of everything that has or can acquire historical interest, disposal of items recapitulated elsewhere, disposal of items of temporary use at end of term). Disposal practices at the Archives de la Seine. The author reemphasizes existing questions, calls attention to the need for an international study already proposed, and urges an immediate coordinated approach to the problems on the national level.

*Gazette des Archives*, N.S., NO. 60 (1968).

WAQUET, JEAN, *Structures de classement, éliminations de documents, élaboration de répertoires dans les Archives Nationales et Départementales* (Arrangement systems, elimination

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Materials for abstracting and related communications should be sent to Lester K. Born,  
3210 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016.

of documents, preparation of inventories in the National and Departmental Archives). P. 20-24. This is part of a running debate on "national" versus "nonnational" practices. Every arrangement is a compromise between complexity and the necessity for clarification. Where possible, procedures should be simplified, although the archivist is bound by earlier practices. Routine inventories should be prepared for readily understandable *fonds*, exceptional ones for collections of exceptional documents. "Individual work [as opposed to the team approach] often is the only type that will produce a complete, intelligent, and organic account of a collection."

FAVREAU, ROBERT, *Deux conceptions différentes* (Two variant concepts). P. 25-30. In contemporary archives the basic problem is mass and the solution of this problem demands close collaboration between archives and agencies of origin. Modern archives are the "heart" of the present-day archivists' job; more space and more personnel are needed; foreign practice and experience, especially American and British, should be studied carefully; disposal schedules, as proved by foreign experience, are of prime importance in gaining control over the mass. "Research tools should be perfectly adapted to their objective and to the general situation of the archives as they are created." Teamwork is essential for timely treatment of modern archives. "In the matter of contemporary archives, American archival practice is clearly in advance of ours."

DUBOSQ, GUY, *La Cité interministérielle des archives* (The "Interministerial City" of archives). P. 33-36. An outline of the background and planned functions of the central records storage area intermediate to full archival accessioning and description. Decided upon in 1962, the Cité, which is under control of the Archives Nationales, acquired its site—a military area at Fontainebleau vacated by NATO—only in December 1967. Existing buildings capable of housing 45-50 km. of shelving will be used until the construction, starting in 1971, of new buildings capable of housing 800 km. of shelving and providing facilities for servicing, sorting, disposal, and ultimate transfer to the National Archives of permanently retained records. The installation will be headed by a senior professional archivist and will require a staff of 50 persons of varied backgrounds. The author, who participated in the discussions since 1962, was placed in charge of the final development in 1968.

L. K. B.

## ITALY

*Rassegna degli Archivi di Stato*, VOL. 27 (1967), NO. 2/3.

This is a special double number devoted entirely to the theme "archives and historiography."

SANDRI, LEOPOLDO, *L'archivistica* (Archival administration and practice). P. 410-429. Without full bibliographical identification some dozen professional items are cited and commented upon in the discussion of "old" versus "new" archives, including those still under control of originating agencies. Topics include disposal, use and abuse of microfilm to replace original records, historical versus administrative archives, intermediary repositories, the doctrine of "nonappraisability" of records for future historians, integrity of archival *fonds* versus documentation collections, and training of archivists in relation to "old," "new," and "special" archives. The basic principles of archival practice in conservation and inventorying remain unchanged.

L. K. B.

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**"A chronicle . . . in every family"**

Mr. Johnson said at breakfast today that it was but of late that historians bestowed pains and attention in consulting records, to attain to accuracy. Bacon in writing his History of Henry VII does not seem to have consulted any, but just taken what he found in other histories, with what he learnt by tradition. He agreed with me that there should be a chronicle kept in every family.

—JAMES BOSWELL, entry for September 17, 1773, in *Boswell's Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides with Samuel Johnson*, LL. D., 1773, p. 181, ed. by Frederick A. Pottle and Charles H. Bennett (New York, © 1961). Used with permission of McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York City.