

Reviews of Books

EDWARD E. HILL, *Editor*

Washington National Records Center

The Confederate Negro, Virginia's Craftsmen and Military Laborers, 1816-1865, by James H. Brewer. (Durham, N.C.; Duke University Press, 1969. xiii, 212 p., illus. \$6.)

Previously historians have admitted that Negroes played an important role in helping to sustain the Southern economy and war efforts. James Brewer has written a detailed study that tells with clarity of the involvement and importance of Virginia Negroes, slave and free, in the Confederate States' war effort.

Prior to the war, slaves had been used to supply the labor force, to meet the growing needs of manufacturing, transportation, mining, and public works. They had worked in the mines, on boats, as sawyers, quarrymen, wagoners, shoemakers, carpenters, blacksmiths, and at various other occupations. With the coming of the war, these people were continued in their occupations by "hiring-out" or impressment and helped to build fortifications, worked at ordnance installations, in hospitals, and generally relieved whites for soldiering. This study is concerned with the accomplishments of those historically forgotten people.

The superb foreword by Prof. Theodore Ropp of Duke University and the preface by the author lead the reader smoothly into the text. Throughout the study are 31 fascinating tables, which contain such information as the names of the boats of the Tredegar Canal fleet together with the names of the captains and the Negro crewmen, breakdowns on railroad and hospital employees, free Negro laborers on river batteries, and requisitions for slaves by counties, showing the quota and number actually furnished.

There are also illustrations including photographs from the Brady collection and a profile of a typical entrenchment, detailed and explanatory footnotes, and a bibliography that cites numerous official sources. These features together with a name and subject index make the volume readily usable.

As a Senior Research Associate at the Smithsonian Institution (with assistance from the Richmond Area University and Virginia State College), Professor Brewer was able to undertake the time-consuming research necessary to research this volume at the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Virginia State Library, and other repositories. At the National Archives, the author examined the Naval Records Collection, the War Department Collection of Confederate records, and the records of the Office of Ordnance. These records as indicated in the footnotes contain a great amount of pertinent material.

Now that Professor Brewer has cited examples of records in several repositories relating to the activities of the Negro in Virginia for the Confederate cause, it is hoped that his study will be an incentive for similar works on the Negro in other States—perhaps for the needed study of Negroes,

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though the number appears to be small, who actually served in the Confederate States Army.

National Historical Publications Commission

SARA D. JACKSON

Permanence/Durability of the Book—VI: Spot Testing for Unstable Modern Book and Record Papers, by the W. J. Barrow Research Laboratory, Inc. (Richmond, Va., 1969. 28 p., inc. colored plate.)

This pamphlet is a practical application of one aspect of the continuing research at the Barrow laboratory. After reidentifying acidity as the principal cause of modern paper deterioration, it describes simple spot tests using easily obtainable reagents by which undesirable conditions in paper can be detected. These are groundwood, acidity, and alum. Accurate laboratory determination of these is expensive and time consuming. Spot testing for groundwood, acidity, and rosin is not new, but to date no one has demonstrated its importance with such an abundance of laboratory data. The "aluminum spot test" for the aluminum ion, indicating the presence of alum, is new and important. The tests are qualitative, but we are interested only in knowing *whether* groundwood, acidity, alum, and rosin are present—any one of which should eliminate a paper as a permanent record material. Included is a summary of instructions for spot testing, with a color chart of typical hues. The warning not to spot test pages in books because some of the reagents are acid and also because they leave a color on the paper, which in itself might be considered undesirable, should not deter librarians from spot testing paper extracted from books.

Librarians and archivists now have a practical method for determining for themselves the endurability of paper. It is hoped that test kits will soon be generally available and that libraries and archives will make the spot testing of paper routine.

Boston Athenæum

GEORGE M. CUNHA

GUIDES

Guide to the Essex Record Office, by F. G. Emmison. (Chelmsford, Eng., Essex County Council, 1969. vii, 241 p. 40s.)

Reviewing a guide to archives can be like reviewing the yellow pages in a large, metropolitan-area telephone directory—there is not much to say after commenting on the size and readability of type, the apparent correctness of information, and the utilitarian nature of such a reference tool. Quite a bit can be said, however, about a hardcover publication with an arresting lemon-yellow jacket entitled *Guide to the Essex Record Office*, edited by recently retired County Archivist F. G. Emmison. The *Guide* is but the latest of 51 publications of the Essex (England) Record Office, which together form a monument to Mr. Emmison and his staff as well as a challenge to archivists the world over to emulate them.

The *Guide* is really an addendum to a guide to similar material published in 1948, including all accessions since that time. It is, as the chief compiler admits, a new and unorthodox approach to an archives guide, since it intellectually relates material in the archives regardless of physical location or

provenance. Mr. Emmison points out what has sometimes been voiced (albeit in hushed tones) in this country, that "the student is rarely concerned with *provenance*." The organization of the *Guide*, therefore, brings together "all the associated archives of each estate and old-established landed family, in some cases from more than a dozen sources and catalogues." Perhaps the argument here would be, who shall judge the manner in which future historians will most likely want a guide intellectually arranged? It is a dilemma that will continue to plague archivists who may feel bound by traditional manual methods of describing their material in frozen, printed formats.

Anyone with the vaguest peripheral interest in English history, the rise of the gentry, the age of the manor, the era of the poor laws, or the study of social, economic, and family history will find this *Guide* not only a professional frustration, but also an eminently readable encyclopedia micro-Britannica and in many ways a literary masterpiece. The professional frustration will stem from the fact that there is so much important and obviously interesting material in the Essex Record Office that it would be quite impossible for one person to do productive research in any more than the smallest percentage of it. The *Guide* is a literary masterpiece because it takes what is essentially a nonliterary form and transforms it into concise, intelligently composed descriptions of records with helpful hints along the way on what the researcher should keep in mind when undertaking his work. There is, for example, the suggestion that "Anyone, therefore, interested in a parish subject to one of the three archdeacons, should always consult the records of the commissary's court as well as those of the appropriate archdeacon." Then the text goes on to explain why and cites the statute 24 Henry VIII. Also one learns that offenses recorded mostly in court rolls of the 13th to the 17th century included selling meat and bread at an excessive price, playing unlawful games, especially on holy days, or not practicing archery; being a common drunkard, scold, disturber of the peace, night walker; or hedgebreaking. In fact, the introduction to the section on court rolls should be required reading for all students of the Tudor-Stuart period of English history.

No matter how one tries, it is not possible to make a list without making it read like a list. Where lists are necessary, as is often the case in this volume, Mr. Emmison and his staff go about it earnestly and provide the maximum of information in the minimum of space. They redeem themselves, however, in the inspired introductions to each section and in the exhaustive index that forms part of the volume. It includes such enticing entries as "bathing machines," "Black Death," "hairpowder tax," and "rogues, *see* vagrants." The *Guide* is thoughtful enough to contain "Notes for Students and Searchers," which prepares one for the complexities and procedures of research in the Essex Record Office. The inclusion of this information is just a grace note to an excellent composition, which in all ways surpasses most of its counterparts in clarity, literacy, informed scholarship, and attractive appearance.

National Archives and Records Service

FRANK G. BURKE

Kilder til dansk historie i engelske arkiver [*Sources for Danish History in English Archives*], by Jens Engberg. (Copenhagen, Denmark, Udgivet af Rigsarkivet, 1968. 199 p.)

Published by the Danish State Archives, this compilation is intended as a
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guide to the sources for Danish history in English archives. (The word "English", Dr. Engberg explains, is used as in Denmark to cover English, Welsh, and Scottish sources.) He found England to be exceptionally rich in unpublished historical material, which he has diligently researched. Beginning with the Public Record Office, he has evidently overlooked no significant depository, including the British Museum, the National Library of Wales, the Cambridge University Library, various county record offices, the Scottish Record Office, the National Library of Scotland, the University Library in Edinburgh, the record offices and archives of Hull, Greater London, and Newcastle, and the Bodleian Library at Oxford. An index of names mentioned adds to the value of this work, as does the listing in the introduction of certain relevant published material.

The many entries noted, which date from the year 1201, are summarized in Danish, but the depositories and their record groups are always cited in the original English. Dr. Engberg describes each depository and record group in detail, and for the more important ones he also provides a helpful historical introduction as well as much valuable information for researchers interested in the arrangement and use of the records. In his opinion the Public Record Office is undoubtedly the richest collection of historical material that can be found.

University of Maryland

HAROLD LARSON

A Guide to Records in the Windward Islands, by E. C. Baker. (Oxford, Eng., Basil Blackwell for the University of the West Indies, 1968. xii, 95 p. £3 3s.)

The materials described in this small guide consist of records in the Windward Islands of Grenada, the Grenadines, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica. Four of the islands were assigned to the British by the Treaty of Paris in 1763, and records described in the *Guide* include some of the very earliest materials. The book begins with a valuable history of the Windward Islands' archives and discusses at some length the difficulties of locating and saving the important documents. The lament so often heard from researchers is repeated here—many records seen by earlier searchers can no longer be found. In some cases, the author notes, records seen fairly recently have since disappeared.

After the introductory remarks the information in the main body describes the records themselves as they were located in the various depositories in the islands. The Governor in Chief's records are described first in a most precise and simple list form. The list provides the name of the official or subject matter, their dates, quantity in volumes, and a statement concerning the existence of indexes. Symbols are used to indicate records that are in poor condition or documents that have been microfilmed by various private or Government agencies.

For each of the islands the author has provided a similar listing of records and has noted books, newspapers, pamphlets, and other documents of interest found in the holdings. Included are descriptions of Government gazettes, deed record books, court records, Roman Catholic registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials, Government loan books, and many other types of records. Newspapers are given especial attention in this discussion. In

the Public Library on Grenada, for example, there is a fine collection of newspapers, some dated as early as 1815 such as the *St. George's Chronicle & Grenada Gazette*. Also noted are the names of individuals and societies that have copies of the newspapers printed in the Windward Islands.

A significant addition to this *Guide* consists of descriptions of records held by schools and various churches, kept in the possession of private companies and persons, and maintained in local jails and hospitals. It is a most comprehensive *Guide*, and the author has probably described most of the important documents in the Windward Islands. An appendix provides data about microfilming programs involving the records and tells what has been accomplished and what remains to be done. The chief advantage of this book to scholars is that information about documents important to them can be found quickly because the records are described in list form.

National Archives

RICHARD S. MAXWELL

North Carolina. State Department of Archives and History. *Guide to Civil War Records in the North Carolina State Archives*. (Raleigh, N.C., 1966. x, 128 p. \$2 plus 10c handling charge.)

This *Guide* is the result of a cooperative venture of the North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission and the Division of Archives and Manuscripts of the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History. It provides in brief form descriptions of those records in the Archives which are, in the opinion of the Department of Archives and History, of significant value to the person interested in North Carolina's part in the Civil War. Although an attempt was made to include descriptions of all records in the custody of the State Archives produced as a result of the war, certain groups of court records—minutes, wills, deeds, property tax records, and similar records that had no immediate connection with the conflict—were excluded. The *Guide* does not include Civil War records among the records of the State Supreme Court because they were received by the Archives too late to be described in this volume. The compilers also have decided to exclude material relating to the war that can be found among the various private collections in the Archives since those records were described in an earlier publication, *Guide to Private Manuscript Collections in the North Carolina State Archives* (Beth G. Crabtree, comp., State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C., 1964).

The records described in this *Guide* are those of the State government, the General Assembly and State Convention, the Governor, Adjutant General, Auditor, Secretary of State, and the Treasurer and Comptroller; of the counties and municipalities; and of various organizations (mainly, the United Daughters of the Confederacy). There are separate sections describing the collections of newspapers, maps, and the "Civil War Collection," an artificial collection of public and private records relating to the war assembled as a unit many years ago by the North Carolina Commission (now the State Department of Archives and History).

The descriptions of each entry are detailed with particular emphasis on the names of correspondents. The overall dates of each series are given (some of the series antedate and some extend well beyond the Civil War period) but only the documents in the series that actually relate to the Civil War are

described. Whenever applicable, cross-references are given to pertinent or related entries in other parts of the *Guide*. The index is extensive and particularly well prepared. Footage of the series, even the parts directly pertaining to the Civil War, is not given and would have proved useful to indicate the amount of pertinent records available.

The *Guide* points up again the wealth of information that is available in State archives. It will be an indispensable aid to anyone interested in the war in North Carolina or in the activities of North Carolina military units in other parts of the South. It will also be of considerable value to researchers probing other aspects of the war in North Carolina, such as blockade running, the collection of special war taxes, and the pension applications submitted after the war.

National Archives

CARMELITA S. RYAN

Guide to the Manuscript Collections of Colonial Williamsburg, Second Edition, compiled by Marylee G. McGregor. (Williamsburg, Va., Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., 1969. [74 p.]·)

From 1699 to 1780 Williamsburg was the capital of colonial Virginia. After 1780, when Richmond became the capital, Williamsburg fell into a somnolence undisturbed until 1927 when Rev. W. A. R. Goodwin, pastor of Bruton Parish church, persuaded John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to restore and preserve it. Today, 42 years later, it is a restoration of both a community and a way of life, of enlightenment to both the tourist and the serious scholar.

At the beginning of the restoration the acquisition of manuscripts was solely for research purposes. Over the years there has been gathered a relatively small, but important, collection of 18th-century Tidewater Virginia-related manuscripts. In addition to original manuscripts the collection includes typescripts, photostats, and microfilm copies.

Further acquisitions, an additional 14 years of study leading to better understanding of the formerly acquired pieces, and the unavailability of the 1954 *Guide* led to this new edition. By and large the new edition follows the format of its predecessor. Page numbers have been omitted to avoid confusing them with entry numbers. Included are sections on currency and coins, newspapers, plats and drawings, printed material, seals, and miscellaneous volumes, which should be of additional help to the researcher.

Newburyport, Mass.

RUTH E. WALTON

FINDING AIDS

United States. Department of the Navy. Marine Corps Museum. *Register of the Henry Clay Cochrane Papers, 1809-1957 and Undated . . .*, compiled by Capt. C. W. F. Coker (*Manuscript Register Series*, Number 1, Quantico, Va., 1968. 86 p.)

United States. Department of the Navy. Marine Corps Museum. *Register of the McLane Tilton Papers, 1861-1914 . . .*, compiled by Charles A. Wood and Jack B. Hilliard (*Manuscript Register Series*, Number 2; Quantico, Va., n.d. 45 p.)

In 1967 the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, Va., increased its efforts to

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collect any available private and semi-official papers of former Marine Corps personnel. These efforts apparently have met with considerable success. In conjunction with collecting such papers the Museum has begun a continuing publication, which it calls the *Manuscript Register Series*. Two of these registers now have been completed—those dealing with the papers of Brig. Gen. Henry Clay Cochrane and those of Lt. Col. McLane Tilton, both of whose Marine Corps careers began during the opening years of the Civil War. Tilton retired in 1897, and Cochrane remained in active service until 1905. Although their careers were not marked by brilliance in military performance during wartime, they both had actual wartime experience, and Cochrane's experience also included service in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. The men themselves may not be of major historical significance but the documentation they left could be important as an auxiliary source when official and other records are incomplete. Much of the information is of a kind that is not found in official records. Certainly these papers could add much in illuminating the "life and times" of military officers during the period, when separations from families were long and promotions slow.

The Tilton papers are not as complete or voluminous as those of Cochrane. But since they are more personal, including many letters written to his wife while he was in the Asiatic and Mediterranean areas, many insights are available from his observations as a Marine Corps officer on the events he participated in and the places he visited. Cochrane's much more extensive papers include a diary beginning in 1865 and ending in 1913, with even a description of his funeral written by his wife. The Cochrane papers provide more information both about the man himself and the significant events in his life. One such event was the dedication of the military cemetery at Gettysburg on November 17, 1863, to which he accompanied President Lincoln.

Both registers apparently contain as much information about each officer as could be compiled within a reasonable time. Included are introductory remarks, brief biographies, and bibliographical lists. The format of the register in each case follows the actual arrangement of the papers. The existence of a complete and orderly description of papers does not insure that actual physical condition and arrangement are correspondingly adequate, but presumably such is the case, and the Museum is prepared to make the papers available to visiting researchers. The staff, however, will not be able to handle written inquiries.

It may be argued that military appropriations should not be spent on research and archival operations because other agencies specialize in this work. There is also some question about the military services' collecting papers and controlling access to them. But in this instance the papers are of such a nature that if the Marine Corps Museum did not preserve them, they would not very likely be available to scholars at all. By way of left-handed compliments, it might be added that the registers are compiled much too well, considering that the papers of many people of much greater historical importance have not been so carefully cataloged for the convenience of scholarship.

Washington National Records Center

H. W. JOHN

The W. Wright Hawkes Collection of Revolutionary War Documents, A Catalogue. (Schenectady, N.Y., Schaffer Library, Union College, 1968. xv, 48 p.)

Alexander McDougall (1732–86), New York merchant, was one of the earliest and most enthusiastic Sons of Liberty. As general he commanded the 1st New York Regiment, the combined 1st and 3d New York Regiment, and the 19th Connecticut regiment at Chatterton's Hill in the battle of October 28, 1776. He was named delegate to represent New York at the 1784 session of Congress. His son-in-law, John Laurance (1750–1810), was commissioned Judge Advocate General in 1777. In 1862 the greater part of the papers of these two men came into the hands of W. Wright Hawkes, a direct descendant. In addition to permitting much of this material to be copied, he was the first of the family to make selective deposits of the papers in the New-York Historical Society so that they would be available for research.

This catalog describes the physical characteristics of the manuscripts as well as the printed material in this latest deposit—the last of the papers known to have been in Dr. Hawkes' possession—in order that each manuscript may be distinguished from contemporary documents of the same type and author and from copies. In addition to printed documents and letters from George Washington, there are 17 letters from people prominent in the politics of the era.

Newburyport, Mass.

RUTH E. WALTON

Index to the Wm. Beaumont, M.D. (1785–1853) Manuscript Collection, compiled by Phoebe A. Cassidy and Roberta S. Sokol (St. Louis, Washington University School of Medicine, 1968. 165 p.)

This attractive computer printout will be hailed by all potential users of the Beaumont manuscript collection, especially historians of medicine and the American Frontier. It will also be a welcome source of inspiration to archivists and manuscript curators everywhere, who are forever attempting to cope with the necessity for rapid, thorough indexing of the more important collections in their repositories.

It contains a series of indexes—name, date, subject, place—and a shelf list with a descriptive abstract of each document. All indexes and the shelf list include identification columns, which give the type of document, its date, number, and folder number. In addition, Estelle Brodman's introduction with its fascinating tale of the papers is useful. Also helpful are the sections that contain a pictorial history of the process from document to finished index, the genealogical charts of the Green and Beaumont families, and the Reader's Guide.

The *Index* admirably fulfills its primary purpose: to aid the scholar in using the Beaumont collection. With it, the historian can examine the collection with facility. Its contents are exposed to the scholarly world as fully, one might say, as the extraordinary orifice in Alexis St. Martin's stomach exposed his gastric functions to the intense gaze of William Beaumont. Moreover, the availability of the collection on microfilm for the small sum of \$15 renders the contents and the index readily accessible to scholars and librarians everywhere.

Whether or not the *Index* fulfills its secondary purpose—that of testing the application of computer-produced indexes to manuscript collections—is a moot

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question. It does, but only partly. Clearly, computers are applicable and useful in the archival field. The *Index* proves it. Precisely because the collection chosen for indexing was small, homogeneous, and important, one cannot universalize the findings. The applicability of computer-produced indexes to larger, more complex, and less significant collections must still be tested. Could the time, effort, and cost involved be justified? How far will historians and other scholars be willing to trust the indexer who does not bring the researcher's background knowledge and sensitivity to the documents? These are but two of the questions that must be considered before computer-indexes can be used on a broader scale.

On the whole, the *Index* is well done and easy to use. A few problems exist, however. The Reader's Guide is not explicit enough. For example, it does not point out that some of the abbreviation symbols are used exclusively in the shelf list, such as *D*, *O*, and *R*, for *Destination*, *Origin*, and *Recipient* of the document. It is necessary to correlate the indexes, turning always to the shelf list for additional information after consulting one of the indexes. The preface does point out that "All index entries refer back to the shelf list or the original documents in the form of document and folder numbers," but there is no suggestion that one index depends on another for maximum benefit to the user. Also, a long list of single words appears under the column labeled "Document Description" in the shelf list. One assumes that they are the subjects covered in the document listed in the order of their appearance, but this too is left unexplained.

The few minor problems, though worth mentioning, do not seriously detract from the overall excellence of the work. The compilers deserve commendation for a courageous and much needed step forward. Their work represents the wave of the future—the use of automation to insure maximum utilization of the archival and manuscript treasures of our Nation.

University Hospitals of Cleveland

E. DENNIS ROWLEY

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Maps and Charts Published in America Before 1800: A Bibliography, by James Clements Wheat and Christian F. Brun. (New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1969. xxii, 215 p., illus. \$30.)

Although a map was published in America at least as early as 1677, cartography did not exactly flourish in the New World, and during the 18th and even the 19th centuries the work of American map- and chart-makers in terms of both quality and quantity was generally inferior to that of European cartographers. Nevertheless, several outstanding maps which have become world famous were made in British America, and a surprising number of lesser known maps of excellent quality were also produced. In this work, which is obviously the product of assiduous scholarship, Christian Brun and the late James Clements Wheat have assembled an enormous amount of information concerning early American maps and mapmakers and have thereby illuminated a relatively obscure chapter in the history of cartography. Their book should become an indispensable reference aid wherever maps are used, provided that potential users can afford its price, which seems excessive even by today's standards.

The bibliography has a long history. It was begun by James Clements Wheat in 1933-34, when he served as the first Curator of Maps in the William L. Clements Library, and was continued by him, apparently as an avocation, long after he had entered another profession. In his later years, Mr. Wheat was assisted by Christian F. Brun, who completed the bibliography after Mr. Wheat's death in 1958. In spite of this long period of preparation, there is no evidence of unevenness or lack of continuity in the work. On the contrary, it is unusually well organized.

The scope of the bibliography is clearly indicated by its title. Only maps published in America before 1800 are described. It includes maps published as separate items, in atlases, and as illustrations in geographies, gazetteers, and other books and magazines. Many of the 915 entries appear to be devoted to the latter type of material. It should perhaps be emphasized that the bibliography is limited to maps published in America, not to maps of America, although by far the largest number do relate to the United States. There are, however, descriptions of a large number of maps of other areas, especially Europe, and of the world as a whole.

The outstanding features of this volume are the highly detailed and informative, analytical map descriptions and an exceptionally complete list of references. The latter is in itself an extremely valuable aid to research in historical cartography. It lists 552 works, all of which are referred to in the map entries that comprise the main body of the bibliography. The scope of the list of references suggests the prodigious amount of work that must have gone into the preparation of this work. We are indebted to Mr. Wheat and Mr. Brun for a major contribution to cartobibliography.

National Archives

A. PHILIP MUNTZ

Bibliography of Books on Alaska Published Before 1868, by Valerian Lada-Mocarski. (New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1969. vii, 567 p., illus. \$35.)

Devoted primarily to first editions of books on Alaska published during the Russian period ending in 1867, the *Bibliography* provides a chronological, annotated, and critical analysis of publications in most major languages. Articles from periodicals and pamphlets are included if they are related to the subject, and notes follow the description of each entry to show the significance of the works described and their relationship to other contemporary writings.

The scope of the *Bibliography* covers a wide range of subjects: travel descriptions, Alaskan discovery and settlement, religious books for natives newly converted to the Russian Orthodox Church, and botanical, zoological, and geographical works. Reproductions of title pages of the 161 works follow numbered entries that reveal size, pagination, collation, maps, illustrations, references, and notes. Each entry was compared to other copies to insure bibliographic consistency, and errata among editions are frequently mentioned. Occasionally the recto pages are blank because the descriptions end abruptly—thus leaving a large void before the next entry can be started on the following verso.

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Stinehour Press, the composition and readability are excellent. Another feature of the arrangement is that the listing sequence is chronological; yet an alphabetical index of authors, editors, and compilers is provided in both English and Russian. The author has presented a historical account of the events preceding the Russian discovery and settlement of Alaska, and his "Remarks Regarding the Bibliographical Descriptions" are well suited to showing the reader exactly what has been done within the scope and limitations of the study. Special features include an introduction by Archibald Hanna, Jr., and William Robertson Coe, Curator of Western Americana, Yale University Library. Most useful for further study of related topics is a list of reference sources appearing at the end of the text. The author's notes, summarizing the individual importance of the description of each entry, are based upon the scholar's qualifications, which were developed during more than 20 years in this field.

Iowa State University Library

DONALD S. PADY

DOCUMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

Your Son Calvin Coolidge, A Selection of 146 Letters From Calvin Coolidge to His Father, edited by Edward Connery Lathem. (Montpelier, Vt., Vermont Historical Society, 1968. xii, 243 p. \$8.95.)

Recent literature pertaining to the life of Calvin Coolidge presents many new impressions of a man whose public image appeared to be that of a colorless and wooden politician. Donald R. McCoy's excellent biographical study, *Calvin Coolidge, The Quiet President*, was a giant first step in presenting a more unbiased assessment of Coolidge's long political career. Coolidge, after all, restored the dignity of the Presidency after Harding had seriously tarnished it. His public demeanor, however, and several inadequate biographies created a great deal of misunderstanding about Coolidge as a man. The present volume of his edited letters continues to shed new light on the Coolidge personality.

The 146 letters contained in this book span nearly 40 years and reflect the strong bond of affection that existed between Coolidge and his father. They are not literary treasures by any means, but they do display the thoughts and feelings of a man who was "thrifty, honest, industrious, and undemonstrative." In the introduction written by John Coolidge, the President's son, it is stated that the letters are "among the most important and revealing ones Father ever wrote. They have a special significance in the documentation they provide of his growth and development, of his attitudes and approaches, his character and beliefs."

In many ways the letters are examples of what John Coolidge called his father's "pure comprehensive terseness." They also reveal the personal honesty and rustic lack of urban sophistication that endeared Calvin Coolidge to Americans and made him an extremely popular President. These are the letters of a man whose feelings were much warmer than suggested by his deliberately laconic public posture.

The editor of this attractive volume, Edward C. Lathem, Librarian of Dartmouth College, has provided full and copious notes to the letters between

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father and son. The book was selected as one of the Fifty Best Books of the Year, 1968/1969 by the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

Central Missouri State College

ARTHUR F. McCLURE

The Lee Max Friedman Collection of American Jewish Colonial Correspondence: Letters of the Franks Family (1733-1748), edited by Leo Hershkowitz and Isidore J. Meyer. (Waltham, Mass., American Jewish Historical Society, 1968. xxxv, 171 p., illus. \$10.)

This volume consists of 37 letters sent to Naphtali Franks of London over a 16-year period. All but three were written by his mother, Mrs. Jacob Franks of New York.

Little is known about the prior ownership of these letters. The late Mr. Friedman purchased 31 of them in the fall of 1941, and they were bequeathed by him to the American Jewish Historical Society. Six others were located by the editors in two collections in England. Mr. Friedman left behind a complete transcription of these letters with copious notes—the result of his patient research.

The publication of these letters fills a void in New York's colonial history. They are an invaluable source of social history, written spontaneously, candidly, and without thought of publication. They reveal the role of a concerned mother in guiding her son in far-off London and disclose her thoughts about her family and the social and political milieu about her.

These letters are particularly valuable since they are among the very few extant which were written by an 18th-century woman of New York and possibly the earliest known by a Jewish woman. Abigail Frank's letters reveal a personality representative of the 18th-century Enlightenment—well-read, sophisticated, austere, and skeptical. She was quick to judge and give advice; often scolding and chiding her son for petty failures or shortcomings. Her motherly advice to Naphtali is of interest: "You are now Launcht out Amongst Strangers. You must be Exceedingly Circumspect in Your Conduct, be Affable to all Men but not Credulous, nor too Soon be Led Away by Fair Speeches, be Likewise a very Just Observer of your word in all Respect, Even in ye most trivial matters." (Letter of June 15, 1735.)

Mrs. Franks moved among the leading families of New York: her friends and neighbors included the Bayards, Livingstons, Cuylers, and Delanceys. Her letters often allude to these notable families. Mrs. Franks was the daughter of a well-known New York merchant, Moses Levy. Her husband, Jacob Franks, was the son of an English broker, who came to New York in 1708 or 1709.

With a keen eye for detail, Mrs. Franks presents an excellent view of daily life in the city, her interest in politics adding much to our knowledge in this area. Also of value are her descriptions of contemporary education and of botanical specimens sent to her son, together with her recipes for pickling and preserving various fruits and vegetables. She regaled her son with lively pictures of current scandals, political and otherwise.

The thorough and extensive annotations and footnotes, as well as the foreword and introduction, enormously enhance the value of the volume and are a noteworthy contribution to the history of the period. The usefulness of

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this volume is further augmented by the interesting portraits and other illustrations and by the comprehensive bibliography and index.

B'nai B'rith

ROBERT SHOSTECK

REPORTS OF ARCHIVAL AGENCIES

Maryland. Hall of Records. Thirty-third Annual Report of the Archivist . . . for the Fiscal Year July 1, 1967, Through June 30, 1968, by Morris L. Radoff. (Annapolis, Md., n.d. 62 p.)

This report reveals the work of the Hall of Records for the fiscal year through June 30, 1968. After presenting information concerning finance, personnel, and the physical aspects of the building that have been improved by air conditioning and painting, the report treats such archival operations as accessions, records management, photoduplication, repair and binding, and the use of records.

Operations in each of these areas were considerable. Outstanding archival accessions for the period included early naturalization records for Baltimore City and Baltimore County; records of the Maryland State Constitutional Convention, July 11, 1967, to January 8, 1968; land grant maps outlining the boundaries of original land grants on the Eastern Shore of Maryland; minutes of the Board of Trustees of Morgan State College and its predecessors, 1867-1967; records on microfilm of the Methodist Church in Maryland from 1826 and of the St. Martin Lutheran Church in Annapolis; and microfilm copies of Registers of Wills for Anne Arundel and Harford Counties and Baltimore City. The Company Record Book of Capt. Robert Dutton, 6th Regiment, Maryland Militia, Baltimore City, 1821-26, on microfilm and Court Papers Concerning Debt Actions in Baltimore County, 1786-97, were among the manuscript and miscellaneous accessions.

The records management work of the agency involved microfilming patients' medical records for the University of Maryland Hospital for the period 1960-61, land records in Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties, and microfilming for the Gasoline Tax Division of the Maryland Comptroller of the Treasury. Photoduplication of all types continued to increase as did repair and binding.

The use of records increased perceptibly, revealing in 1968 an increase over the preceding year of 20 percent in the number of visitors who used the Hall of Records, 25 percent in the number of records used, and 25 percent in the number of queries answered by mail.

The report ends with a list of publications of the Hall of Records Commission and next to the last, but by no means the least, is "A Resolution expressing the appreciation of the Constitutional Convention of Maryland to Dr. Morris Radoff, Archivist of the State of Maryland and Administrator of the Hall of Records," for creation of an archival program for the records of the convention. Delighted as the archivist must have been over this resolution and the overall status of the Hall of Records, he did not fail to point out certain needs in the area of personnel and photoduplication equipment.

Morgan State College

ROLAND C. McCONNELL

North Carolina. State Department of Archives and History. *Thirty-second Biennial Report of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History, July 1, 1966, to June 30, 1968.* (198 p., illus.)

The close of the biennium covered in this report by the North Carolina Department of Archives and History saw the culmination of a 20-year struggle by the Department to obtain a new building. The new structure, which also houses the State Library, was near completion at the end of the biennium. Now the Department's various functions can all be brought together in one location rather than be scattered throughout the city of Raleigh. The notable exception is the State Records Center; and, of course, the 13 historic sites under the jurisdiction of the Archives and History Department are located in various cities of the State.

The 1966-68 biennium was the last period for Christopher Crittenden as director after more than 30 years in the Department. H. G. Jones, former State Archivist, moved up to the position of director while serving as president of the Society of American Archivists, following in the footsteps of several of his predecessor directors of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History.

North Carolina's Department of Archives and History is divided into four divisions: Archives and Manuscripts, Historic Sites, Museums, and Publications. Using this 32d biennial report as a basis of comparing the divisions, the impression is left that the Division of Archives and Manuscripts strongly dominates. Perhaps this is as it should be. The section on Archives and Manuscripts takes up 35 pages, while the other three divisions take up a total of 61 pages. Dr. Jones wrote the archives section and deals with each section in his division individually. This reviewer found the sections on archives, State records, and local records especially rewarding. It is refreshing and encouraging to learn that at least one State has awakened to the need for preserving and disseminating its history. Dr. Jones, although saying the 1967 General Assembly was "hardly liberal," admits the \$455,000 appropriated to his division "is a substantial amount of money from the public till—perhaps more than is spent for archives and records management by any other state." But as he points out and ably substantiates by factual documentation and charts, "the dividends are significant." This is a good lesson for all involved in State government agencies to heed: legislators demand results before they will open the public coffers. The fact that nearly 20,000 researchers were served either by mail or in person speaks for itself in the matter of dividends returned.

The 37 appendixes comprising 102 pages of the report give many facts and statistics to support statements made in the text. Of special interest are the records accessioned and disposed of in the State Records Center and the appendixes pertaining to microfilming activities. The appendix on publications of the staff members leaves no doubt as to the professional qualities of the Department. This is in keeping with the dynamic leadership shown in the field of archives and records management by the Department.

This report should be read by all in the field of archives, the professional as well as the novice.

Louisiana Archives and Records Service

A. OTIS HEBERT, JR.

Ceylon. *Administration Report of the Acting Director, National Archives, for The Year 1967-68*. (1969. 74 p. 2.45+ -/50 postage.)

During the fiscal year 1967-68, the National Archives of Ceylon made progress meeting problems and developing resources. Because of an acute storage problem, the acting director announced that further accessioning would be suspended until new facilities were available. Fortunately, the Archives acquired a 4-acre site in August 1967 and has already begun preliminary work on a new building. Besides providing additional space for records, the completion of a new building will permit setting aside a separate room for research. Officials are making a steady effort to encourage the use of records by improving reference service. Among finding aids prepared to assist researchers, the staff has completed checklists of recent accessions and an index to the Lascoryn military rolls for the period, 1745-70. In keeping with current archival thinking, the Ceylon Archives is advocating a modification of the 50-year rule, which presently restricts public access to records. The Archives has equipment for photographic and microfilm reproductions, and officials hope to acquire fast-copy machines for the convenience of researchers. To complement resources already available in Ceylon, the Archives has embarked on an ambitious program of copying foreign archives and manuscripts. At the time the annual report was prepared, the Director of the Archives had begun a survey of record repositories in Great Britain and continental Europe. As a result of this survey, sponsored by a grant from Unesco, the Archives will soon acquire reproductions of some important European sources relating to Ceylon.

Operating in a region where interest in historical sources is high, the Ceylon Archives does not limit its activities to archives alone. Indeed, nearly half of the annual report is devoted to a description of functions which are not archival in the strict sense. In 1967-68, for example, the Archives accessioned significant records from private organizations like the Ceylon Reform League, the Low Country Products Association, and the British Admiralty Asian Employees' Union. In the same year it began to solicit pamphlet literature issued by local political factions. In addition, the Ceylon Archives administers two ordinances which require publishers to register all printing presses and publications, including ephemeral material like newspapers, periodicals, almanacs, and catalogs and to report the number of copies in circulation. To insure compliance with these laws, the Archives conducts regular inspections, cooperating with police and other officials to bring violators to court. With data collected in the administration of these regulations, the Archives' Bibliographical Division compiles a monthly catalog of books on Ceylon and contributes to Unesco's *Index Translationum*.

In short, the National Archives of Ceylon is not only an archives. It is also a national repository of books, manuscripts, and ephemera, a central information agency on printers, presses, and publications, a public investigator, and a bibliographical center. The 1967-68 annual report of the Ceylon National Archives, moreover, is documentary evidence of the viability of Ceylon.

National Archives and Records Service

CARMEN R. DELLE DONNE