

Reviews of Books

EDWARD E. HILL, *Editor*

Washington National Records Center

Prologue, The Journal of the National Archives. Vol. 1 (Spring, Fall, Winter, 1969).

The launching of a new journal, in these days of rising costs and keen competition for the attention of readers, is an undertaking which requires imagination, determination, and fortitude. It is obvious from the first three issues of *Prologue, The Journal of the National Archives* that [Associate] Editor Herman J. Viola and his associates planned adequately and wisely before taking this giant step.

The three issues published in 1969 set the pattern for future numbers. There are articles on resources in the National Archives and Records Service, such as maps, materials useful in statistical research, and resources of the presidential libraries; there are also articles of a general nature, an example being the study of Franklin D. Roosevelt as a collector. Regular features include "News and Notices," a compilation of announcements, news items, information on meetings, and personal notes on people identified with the archival profession; "Accessions of the National Archives and Records Service," a section of value to both the historian and the archivist; "National Archives Publications"; and "Book Notes," which gives brief notices of recent books of general interest, primarily those "based to some extent on the holdings of the National Archives and Records Service." The cited examples indicate a well-balanced journal. As a departure from the usual terse identification of contributors found in most scholarly journals, *Prologue* gives short biographical sketches of its contributors and, in most instances, includes a photograph. In 1969 more of the writers were on the staff of the National Archives and Records Service than were not, but it is a reasonable assumption that the number of outside contributors will increase as the journal becomes known.

Appropriately entitled "What Is Past Is Prologue," the lead article in the first issue is by James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States. Dr. Rhoads, setting the tone for the magazine, stressed the need for archivists "to become more involved in the concerns of the scholarly world" and expressed the hope that academicians would "look with more interest and concern upon archival matters." Calling for "a strong and vibrant partnership between scholars in the academic and the archival communities," he invited historians to use the facilities of the National Archives. *Prologue* will play an important role in making known the resources of this great research center.

Well illustrated with black and white and a few color illustrations, maps, and facsimiles, the page size of the journal (7½" x 10") lends itself to the two-column format. There are only a few negative notes. The cover design, an adaptation of the National Archives emblem by Antoinette Dibrell, will probably have little meaning to those unfamiliar with the original em-

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blem. Without looking inside, the average reader will find it difficult to determine which of the three issues was the first, which the second, and which the third. The cryptic, tiny, white lines found on the second and third covers are unlikely to provide the needed guide. One major question arises: Will there be an index?

Those responsible for the auspicious beginnings of *Prologue* deserve the thanks and support of archivists and historians throughout the country. The standards set by the first three issues are high, and future copies will be anticipated with keen pleasure.

*North Carolina State Department
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MEMORY F. MITCHELL

TECHNICAL MANUALS

Unesco. The Conservation of Cultural Property. (Paris, 1968. 341 p., illus.)

This publication in cooperation with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (the Rome Centre) is the eleventh of Unesco's Museums and Monuments Series. Intended to meet the needs of museums in newly emerging countries—primarily in the tropical regions of the world—it is a major contribution to the literature of conservation. The editor's statement that it "may also be of value to specialists (elsewhere)" is far too modest. This should be a basic reference for all conservators, librarians, archivists, and museums curators in all parts of the globe. The scope of the text is the conservation of all cultural property from urban sites and monuments to easel paintings and textiles. Archivists will be most interested in the chapters on climate, moulds, insect pests, lighting and air conditioning, the conservation of archival materials, and the appendix on synthetic materials used in conservation.

The book is a joint effort by 23 world renowned experts in various fields of conservation selected by Harold J. Plenderleith, Director of the Rome Centre, who, in cooperation with the late Paul Coremans of the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique in Brussels also planned the outline of manual. Dr. Plenderleith, with his colleagues at the Rome Centre, later reviewed the manuscripts and prepared them for publication.

The wealth of general information includes essays on conservation vs. restoration and the degree to which restorations should be carried, climate and deterioration, microclimate (local weather inside and outside buildings), organization for the preservation of cultural property, and conservation and the public. For the archivist and librarian there is detailed guidance on combating moulds, sanitation of premises, disinfestation techniques; identification and control of insect pests, formulas for insect repellents; the preservation of paper, parchment, palm leaves, birch bark, leather, wood, bone, ivory and adhesives; methods of reducing light damage; atmospheric contamination; and air conditioning and temperature and humidity control.

The appendix is a revised and updated reprint of the Rome Centre's important 1963 pamphlet "Synthetic Materials Used in the Conservation of Cultural Property." Because of the myriad of synthetic materials offered for

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conservation, the value of this appendix alone cannot be over emphasized. Identification of these products is difficult even for chemists and when they are labeled only by trade names, the situation borders on the impossible. Even when a synthetic is approved, it is often difficult to obtain it for use because of the confusion of trade names. This appendix reviews the chemical structure of synthetics and goes on to describe and evaluate thermoplastic varnishes, protective coatings, transparent sheets, films for lamination, adhesives, consolidants for paper, ultraviolet absorbers, moulding and embedding material, and synthetic textiles. Finally there is an index of trade names, with corresponding chemical identification and general use of the chemical, together with the names of the producers and their principal agents throughout the world.

The Conservation of Cultural Property now available in English is to be published also in French and Spanish.

Boston Athenæum

GEORGE M. CUNHA

La Conservation des documents graphiques—recherches expérimentales, by Françoise Flieder. (Paris, Éditions Eyrolles, 1969. 288 p., illus. 50 Fr.)

One of the many concerns of the historian, the archivist, and the scientist since antiquity has been the preservation of documents. In the last few years, the National Center of Scientific Research and the National Library of France have encouraged the development of a program to investigate the agents destructive of graphic documents and the means of combating them. Closely involved with this effort, Françoise Flieder of the National Center of Scientific Research has made a valuable contribution to the study in her doctoral thesis from which the book results. Mme. Flieder is well qualified to write such an analysis. For almost 15 years she has been professor of cryptography in the National Museum of Natural History and has worked with a team of technicians and scientists in her research. She has been active in winning the support of libraries, museums, and government agencies to her work. This book gives ample evidence of the thoroughness with which she has approached her subject.

An excellent preface by Roger Heim, Director of the Laboratory of Cryptography of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, explains the background of the research and informs the reader of the difficulties involved in the experiment.

The author has presented her material in a tightly organized, smoothly flowing text. The purpose of the study is to examine the various methods used in the preservation of graphic documents, to discuss the relative merits of each, and to determine which of these can be improved and which should be abandoned. The author was particularly concerned with methods of treating paper chemically and with aiding the restorers of art in the delicate work of preserving illuminated manuscripts.

Part I defines the problem of preservation of documents in depth and examines the types of paper used and the various destroying agents, including insects, climate, and chemical substances. Excellent tables and illustrative material supplement the study. Part II contains the report of the experiments and includes a discussion of insecticides, chemically treated paper, and the special techniques needed for preserving color in ancient documents.

The format, the carefully prepared tables and indexes, the well-balanced organization, and the comprehensive analysis of the subject make this an indispensable contribution to the collection of anyone who is concerned with the restoration and protection of manuscripts and other documents.

Whitefield, Maine

GABRIEL W. PAULSEN

FINDING AIDS

The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, 1968 and Index 1967-1968, compiled by the Library of Congress. (Washington, 1969. xxv, 811 p. \$25.)

What, indeed, can one say about the latest volume of *The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections*? This magnificently conceived and ably executed project is now in its seventh "segment." As the Librarian of Congress notes in his Preface, the volume includes some 2,392 collections from 129 repositories; the grand total for all 7 volumes is 23,053 collections held by 723 institutions. The world of scholarship is indebted to those librarians and archivists who have contributed of their time and knowledge in submitting items descriptively cataloged in such succinct fashion. As Leonard Rappoport reviewing the three preceding volumes in the *American Archivist* for July 1969 remarked of the Council on Library Resources' financial aid in the production of this series, "probably few grants . . . have paid and will continue to pay dividends at a rate comparable to NUCMC."

The present volume comprises 811 pages of which pages 1-276 contain entries for the manuscripts collections, and the remainder is taken up by name and subject and repository indexes. The subject indexing accomplished by Arline Custer and her staff at the Library of Congress, superbly comprehensive, includes entries in the 1967 and 1968 volumes. Ideally one would hope for a cumulative index for the entire series, though the resultant volume would undoubtedly require its own dictionary stand and would have to "stay put."

With the great proliferation of research libraries, within and without educational institutions, it is no easy matter to determine just which collections might hold material germane to one's own scholarly pursuits. For instance, it is not surprising to find the papers of the Mountain and Festival Association (of Denver) in the State Historical Society of Colorado; but would one expect the papers of British barrister Sir George Rivers Lowndes in the Duke University Library, or those of French poet Jean Cocteau in the Syracuse University Library, or the C. K. Holliday collection in the Henry E. Huntington Library? Granted certain major institutions have published invaluable guides to their resources, still the availability of a single central source of information is to be desired. And it behooves all repositories, large and small, to cooperate in such a venture. One is surprised by certain omissions in the list of contributors, and it is hoped that in future volumes such omissions will have vanished.

A sampling of the entries (and it is difficult not to feast) reveals copy that is clean; the format is workmanlike and useful. This reader came upon a typographical misplacement at the bottom of page 231, where entries for

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Ulysses Simpson Grant and Louise Imogen Guiney (and what a couple that, in mind's eye) have garbled texts. A thread or two out of place does not unravel the carpet; and what a grand carpet this is.

Bancroft Library

J. R. K. KANTOR

A Preliminary Guide to Church Records Repositories, compiled by Aug. R. Suelflow. (Church Archives Committee, Society of American Archivists, 1969. v, 108 p. \$2.)

This guide "is designed to meet contemporary needs in identifying repositories with predominantly ecclesiastical and religious historical resources." The volume replaces the *Directory of Religious Archival and Historical Depositories in America* published in 1963 by the Church Records Committee of the Society of American Archivists. The information for these entries was collected through a questionnaire. Of the more than 500 depositories listed, about one third failed to respond to the questionnaire, even though all were requested to do so four or five times. Thus though over 500 depositories are listed nearly one third consist of name and address only. Where a full entry is made, it includes the name of the depository, the address, the name and/or title of the person in charge, a brief description of the holdings, and, by code, the restrictions and services provided by the depository. Few will dispute the fact that researchers in ecclesiastical records will find this a useful tool; but many will also agree that the compilation could be arranged more uniformly, attractively, and usefully.

The Introduction states that "efforts were made to list the holdings as uniformly as possible" and that an alphabetical listing by States, for each denomination, was considered best. But the depositories of two major denominations, the Episcopalian and Methodist, are not listed alphabetically by States. Again, the Introduction states that all depositories queried are included, even if only the name and address is given. But on page 38 an inconspicuous note states that only those Episcopal depositories that responded to the questionnaire are included. Examples of lack of uniformity in arrangement could be multiplied.

It is also unfortunate that more thought did not go into the design of the guide. The page layout makes the guide difficult to use. The same spacing is used within entries, between entries, and between denominational listings so that nothing really stands out. Certainly economics was a factor in publishing this guide, but for a very little more money an attractive cover and better binding could have been provided.

Either there has been a recent new development in ecumenicity or errors were committed in listing the Episcopal Dioceses of Dallas, New York, and West Texas in the Roman Catholic section.

Most researchers will be willing to overlook the guide's inconsistent arrangement and poor design and will be thankful for the rich information it contains. The gathering of information of this type is a tremendous task and the Church Archives Committee should be commended for its work, a work which at least partially nullifies the observation that "God so loved the world that He sent not a committee!"

Texas State Archives

JOHN M. KINNEY

Catalogue of Manuscripts of Australasia and the Pacific in the Mitchell Library, Sydney; Series B, Manuscripts Catalogued Between 1963 and 1967 (Sydney, Australia, The Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales, 1969. [viii], 500 p. \$10.)

This attractive volume is the second in a series of projected catalogs designed to broadcast the extensive and diverse manuscript holdings of the Mitchell Library in Sydney, Australia. Series A was published in 1967 and reviewed in the January 1969 issue of the *American Archivist*.

Like its predecessor, Series B consists of two parts: nine chronologically divided chapters covering the past two centuries and a well cross-referenced index, both alphabetically arranged. The organization seems not only to have answered the library's needs, enabling the collation of widely dated materials according to the period in which they most logically pertain, but should also present no difficulty to Americans familiar with the Library of Congress' National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, which may have served as the basic model. The formats are quite similar in design, style, and execution, and the same high editorial standards prevail in both productions. The present volume does not stipulate, however, upon what conditions and terms the library is prepared to make available specific items to nonresidents.

The Mitchell Library volume is, if anything, richer in descriptive and anecdotal detail, including, whenever applicable, statements of accessibility restrictions. Thus the reader may be surprised to learn of the number of holdings that relate directly or indirectly to the history of the Western Hemisphere, ranging from Canada and the United States to Chile and Paraguay. The editors have employed the word "manuscripts" rather loosely; it encompasses, for instance, microfilm reproductions of American doctoral dissertations dealing with Australian affairs and several series of diplomatic correspondence, including some produced by the National Archives. Still, considered in its entirety, one cannot doubt that the volume and, indeed, the series will prove a welcome contribution to the store of archival resources relating to the South Pacific expanse.

National Archives

JAMES F. VIVIAN

Harvard University. *List of Business Manuscripts in Baker Library*, compiled by Robert W. Lovett and Eleanor C. Bishop. (3d ed., Boston, 1969. v, 334 p. \$5.)

Records of enduring value generated by business activities have received safe custody at Baker Library of Harvard University's Graduate School of Business Administration. The Manuscripts Division serves historians well by collecting and preserving such materials, so far as space permits, and by the regular reports of Robert W. Lovett, Curator of Manuscripts, in the pages of this and other publications.

In naming this book the "*List*" the compilers obviously do not intend the word in its strict terminological sense. *List* is its name and has been since the first edition in 1932. Indeed, its nature and format are far from that of a simple list or even catalog. The *List* is guide, survey, list, inventory, study, and catalog, but no one of these in all particulars, and more than each of

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them. It is a singularly well-ordered, thoroughly indexed, and useful description of a large library of manuscripts dating chronologically from A.D. 1200 well into the 20th century.

The collecting area is New England business, but accessions have included materials of nationwide coverage and some records from countries other than the United States. Additions to the collections since the last *List* appeared in 1951 include such significant groups of papers as the Dun & Bradstreet credit ledgers from 1840 to 1890. Record series from the Merrimack Manufacturing Co., Naumkeag Steam Cotton Co., and Faulkner & Colony have augmented this library's strong collections of records of New England textile firms. Additional personal papers include those of Carl Barth, Chester I. Barnard, and Louis Kirstein.

In describing the holdings the compilers provide comments anticipatory of the needs of researchers, orienting the prospective researcher to the contents and the values therein. The student of early New Mexico history for example may be led to examine the papers of a Boston merchant. Those interested in manuscript material on such diverse topics as Arizona, New Jersey, Vermont, Hawaii, Charles II, Thomas A. Edison, and George Washington, or the histories of specific industries and business firms will find the path well marked.

The manuscripts include substantial railroad collections, records of general storekeepers, publishers, department stores, ship logbooks, and materials pertaining to labor relations history. Grouped under "Marketing Services, Wholesale, domestic," are 53 boxes of Hancock family papers, including 14 boxes of the papers of John Hancock.

The *List* clearly reveals the wealth and diversity of business manuscripts in Baker Library and their ready accessibility to scholars. Other libraries collecting and maintaining business papers will find it useful to observe the *List's* format and the procedures the compilers follow in arranging and describing the holdings. Researchers in many fields will find the *List* a trustworthy and inspiring guide.

H. M. Baker Associates, Westfield, N.J.

HELEN M. BAKER CUSHMAN

[Brasil.] Universidade Federal do Paraná. *Arquivos Paranaenses*, (Curitiba, 1969. 428 p.)

This work, with two companion volumes not available to this reviewer, represents an attempt to catalog the archival resources of the State of Paraná. The records surveyed date in some cases from the 17th century and are chiefly those of churches and outlying municipalities. The project directors note that in the past local administrators frequently allowed the destruction of public records because of a lack of space, a desire for neatness, or simply out of ignorance—the common fate of many similar North American collections. One is reminded of the sign Claude Lévi-Strauss observed in a provincial Bolivian office: "On pain of severe sanctions it is strictly forbidden to tear out pages from the archives for personal or hygienic purposes." The situation in Paraná is not quite so bad.

Arquivos Paranaenses is the contribution of the history faculty of the university to the Fifth National Symposium of University Professors of History

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and was financed by a grant from FUNDEPAR (Fundação Educacional do Estado do Paraná). Participants in the study examined each volume of records in each repository and prepared file cards describing and evaluating each volume and any loose document, with an additional evaluation of the repository. In no case was the quantity of material involved prohibitive. The state of each volume, its title, language used, legibility, general contents, and an evaluation of its probable usage and historical value were cataloged. Each archive was evaluated on the basis of its general physical condition, building maintenance, care and preservation of the records, and availability to searchers. A tentative value judgment of the entire collection was also attempted. Small archives would do well to study the system used and the copies of the file cards shown in the introduction.

In most cases the entries are merely series title inventories or, as in the case of the Prefeitura Municipal and Câmara Municipal of Maringá, a simple listing of all 1,609 volumes of the Prefeitura and 583 volumes of the Câmara.

Of particular interest to this reviewer is the entry on the Evangelical (Lutheran) District of Curitiba by Sérgio Odilon Nadalin and the Parish of the Sacred Heart of União da Vitória by Lili Matzenbacher, both of which contain considerable historical background on the two religious communities. Many of the records of the former are in German, and one suspects from the names of some of the parish priests that not all the records of the União da Vitória congregation are in Portuguese.

The names of some of the compilers reflect the rich cultural heritage of Southern Brazil—Mueller, Teixeira, Ferrarini, Gulicz, Mendes, Matzenbacher, Boruszenko, Balhana, Westphalen, Gotti, Holzman Machado, Cardoso, de Campos Graf, Butzen, and Nadalin. One hopes that the records will reflect this diversity.

Most of the records date from 1940 or later. Maringá, for example, was not founded until 1947. Many of the volumes listed in the inventories are still in use.

The value of this work lies chiefly in the interest in preservation that it exhibits. Many of the records described would seem to lend themselves well to statistical analysis—particularly those of the various Cartória of São José dos Pinhais. For German-American Lutherans with their historic ties to the German Lutherans of Brazil, the records provide some new possibilities for genealogical research. But most of the records are of too recent origin to allow much genealogical use. The more recent records may provide a rich source of data for those interested in 20th century pioneering in Paraná and the postwar opening of the State.

National Archives

SANDRA RANGEL

DOCUMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

The Public Papers of Governor Thomas Chittenden, 1778–1789, 1790–1797, edited by John A. Williams. (*State Papers of Vermont*, Vol. 17; Secretary of State, Montpelier, 1969. xxii, 1,027 p., illus. \$8.)

Thomas Chittenden, one of the lesser known figures of American history, was the first Governor of Vermont. He served in that capacity almost

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continuously from the controversial creation of the State until his death in 1797. He enjoyed a long and eventful career which spanned the tumultuous years of the Revolution, the years of adjustment following that conflict, and the early national period. This volume, the 17th in the *State Papers of Vermont*, contains valuable source material indispensable for an understanding of the part played by Vermont during these important years and of Chittenden's role as Governor.

In addition to Chittenden's own public papers other important State records have been included as well. Among these are: Minutes of Conventions held in the New Hampshire Grants for the Independence of Vermont, 1776-1777; Proceedings of the Council of Safety, 1777-1778; Minutes of the Board of War, 1779-1782; and Records of the Convention Called To Adopt the Constitution of the United States. In each of these proceedings Chittenden played a key role and this is the rationale for their inclusion in this volume.

One of the more interesting chapters contains documents relating to the "Haldimand Negotiations." These negotiations, conducted between Chittenden's agents and the British commander Gen. Frederick Haldimand, have long been a subject of historical controversy. The letters printed here help to exonerate Chittenden of the charge that he was negotiating to turn Vermont over to the British. Scholars will also find useful the numerous letters and papers scattered throughout the volume dealing with the sometimes tenuous relations between Vermont, its neighbors, and the Congress.

While commendable in most respects the volume does have some defects. The desire to include so much in one volume has resulted in a 1,027 page behemoth whose binding is simply not equal to the task. Might it not have been better to publish many of the public records not originating with Chittenden in another volume? A second and more serious criticism concerns the lack of sufficient introductory material. As a general introduction the editor has included a brief biographical sketch of Chittenden written in the last century. Unfortunately, this "Memoir" is written in such an adulatory and eulogistic manner that its value as a critical biographical treatment is severely impaired. Only 2 of the 20 individual chapters have an introduction; and the footnotes, though adequate, in no way provide sufficient information to place the documents within a meaningful context.

The volume is attractively printed and augmented with some drawings and photographs. The index, more than one hundred and fifty pages long, could well serve as a model in its appearance, completeness, and accuracy. The defects of the volume do not seriously mar its overall value and scholars working in the Revolutionary, Confederation, and early national periods will find it both an aid and encouragement to further research.

University of Notre Dame

WILLIAM M. FOWLER

The Notebook of John Smibert, with essays by Sir David Evans, John Kerslake, and Andrew Oliver and with notes relating to Smibert's American portraits by Andrew Oliver. (Boston, Massachusetts Historical Society, 1969. viii, 131 p. \$10.)

John Smibert was born in Edinburgh in 1688 and after having fulfilled his apprenticeship as a house painter came down to London in 1709. There he sustained himself by coach painting and picture copying for a decade before

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he added a new dimension to his *Lehrjahre* by spending 3 years in Rome where he studied portrait painting. In Italy he met the philosopher, George Berkeley, Dean of Derry, and so began a lifelong friendship, the first fruits of which were the voyage with Berkeley to America in 1728 to found a "Universal College of science and arts in the Bermudas," in which Smibert planned to offer studio courses in the fine arts. In Newport, R.I., he waited with Berkeley for the £20,000 voted by Parliament for the institution. When the funds were not forthcoming, hopes of the project faded. Berkeley returned to Britain, and Smibert settled in Boston. There he married, reared a family, and achieved a distinguished career as a portrait painter before his death in 1751. Although an expatriate, he did not consider himself deracinated and leavened the primitivism of American art of the day with the early classical painterly techniques which he had assimilated in Rome. He became the first artist to do so in New England.

When Basil Skinner wrote of Smibert in his excellent pamphlet, *Scots in Italy in the Eighteenth Century* (Edinburgh, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 1966), he pointed out that although it was known that Cosmo de'Medici III, Grand Duke of Tuscany, accorded Smibert "the privilege of copying from the paintings in his collection . . . of Smibert's years in Italy from 1717 to 1720 we have little record . . ." Now, however, Smibert's extremely interesting and valuable notebook, the manuscript of which is in the Public Record Office (Chancery Master's Exhibits, Richards), has been made available in a fine annotated edition, first in legible facsimile, and, directly following, in scrupulously collated transcription. The facsimile and the transcription are preceded first by a detailed chapter on the provenance of the notebook by the former Keeper of the Public Record Office, Sir David Evans, and then by shorter chapters by John Kerslake on the significance of the notebook and by Andrew Oliver on its relevance. The actual transcription is followed by Andrew Oliver's notes on Smibert's American portraits. The entire book is a splendid example of cooperative scholarship, and it is composed and printed by one of America's finest presses, the Stinehour Press of Vermont, with the Meriden Gravure Co. of Connecticut responsible for the faultless facsimile and the maps on the front and back end papers.

The details of the notebook are numerous and engrossing and constitute a rare source of information for the art historian concerned with the impacts of London, Rome, and New England in the early decades of the 18th century upon an alert and gifted young Scotsman. The notebook is of value too for the social historian more interested in the general ambiances of these three, quite disparate and heady worlds from the period 1709-46. From the accounts of complexities attendant upon travel, to careful accounts of "drinking monie," from indications of Smibert's Italian reception where he "had more work than I could get done and was kindly delte with by all the factore," to the evidences of his business acumen in America where he found "the happy fruits of liberty and peace" to flourish, this is above all a human document. But essentially, Smibert chronicles three crucial journeys: to London from Edinburgh in 1709; to Italy from England in 1719-22; and to America in 1728-29. Then he lists chronologically and in detail all of the portraits he painted from his arrival in London in 1709 up to the time of his failing eyesight in America in 1746. His productivity was enormous; his work was both discerning and penetrating, to judge by his portraits still hanging in New

England collections. Moreover, his sense of quiet and practical self-esteem was strong. To this his contemporary British art historian George Vertue testified when he wrote his obituary in 1751. Smibert would not hide his light, Vertue gives us to understand: "... he was not contented here, to be on a level with some of the best painters. but desired to be were he might at the present, be lookt on as at the top." To the realization of this aim the notebook adds a significant series of proofs.

City College of New York

MARCIA ALLENTUCK

PERIODIC REPORTS OF ARCHIVAL AGENCIES

Québec (Province). Ministère des Affaires culturelles. *Rapport des Archives du Québec* 1966 (Tome 44); 1967 (Tome 45); 1968 (Tome 46). (Québec, 1967, 1968, 1969. 267, 261, xiv and 311 p.)

Launched in 1920-21, the annual publication of a report of the Quebec Archives allows researchers who are interested in French and English colonial history, in the history of the colonization of the North American Continent, in the history of Canada and French Canada to have access to an exceptional collection of documents. We intend to describe briefly the annual report for the years 1966, 1967 and 1968.

The 1966 report gives a statement of new acquisitions, the most important of which seem to be the following: the papers of Félix Gabriel, Prime Minister and Treasurer of Quebec 1897-1900, including political correspondence, family papers, and various notes; microfilm copies of papers of Sir Lomer Gouin, Prime Minister of Quebec, 1905-20, the originals of which are in the Public Archives of Canada; Quebec Public Education Department records for the period 1950-59; and an addition to the collection of documents from the Papineau-Bourassa family.

Three documents on the wreckage of SS. *St. Pierre de la Rochelle* in 1679 are given. Jacques Mathieu, the Archivist of the Quebec Archives, gives the following introduction: "The first (document) deals with the loading and the subsequent adventures of the ship . . . The second is an inventory of goods saved from the wreckage . . . The third is a description of the bills deposited at the court's record-office by importers in order to participate in the profits of the auction sale." These documents inform us of the difficulties of navigation, of problems of commercial relations between France and the American colonies. Next there is an inventory of Jean Talon's belongings. The 1930-31 report surveyed and published Talon's correspondence. In the last section, the report presents the Canadian dossiers of Claude-Charles Pointard, notary. Twenty years after the cession of 1760, which deprived France of its American colony, Pointard (1745-95) started to collect the rents from a few Canadians. These dossiers are of great value, for they show that links between Canada and France did exist even after the cession.

The first lines of the report for 1967 announce the publication of a long-awaited and very useful document for researchers: *L'Etat général des Archives publiques et privées du Québec* (Ministère des Affaires culturelles, 1968; 315 p.) For the year 1967 the new acquisitions come mainly from other archives. It is worth noting that among them are 2,000 photocopies of Sir

Wilfrid Laurier's papers, the originals of which are at the Laurier Museum at Artasbasqua.

The report proper is divided into three sections: correspondence between Jean Langevin and his brother Hector (1843-67). This correspondence is of great interest for the history of Quebec and Canada. It provides a better understanding of the foundings of antidemocratic and ultramontane thought in Canada. It also permits a better perception of the confusion between the temporal and the spiritual, which characterized a very long period of the history of Quebec. The second section presents Msgr. Ignace Bourget's correspondence for 1818, which is essential for research in the social history of Montreal and the Province of Quebec. A few documents deal with the nomination of the Bishop of Toronto. The third section presents the "Book of expenses and receipts of Sainte-Anne-du-Petit-Cap Church (1659-1700)."

The report for 1968 gives first an account of the considerable number of documents that the Archives received from various ministries of the Quebec government. Five sections of the government—the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finances, the Ministry of Revenues, and the Ministry of Lands and Forests—have deposited some of their documents at the Archives. Among these, the most important collection—approximately half a million documents—comes from the Quebec Court of Justice. They are the minute books of notaries, the record books of land surveyors, and include some 90 documents from notaries, whose offices were in the town or the region of Quebec.

The report itself deals entirely with the diary of Placide Vigneau in which he relates the progression of history and the evolution of the Quebec North Coast at the moment of colonization. Witness of an exceptional community experiment, Vigneau takes us to the core of the experience of the pioneers.

French Canada Studies Programme
McGill University

JEAN-LOUIS ROY

Government of Northern Ireland. Public Record Office. *Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records for the Years 1960-1965*. (Belfast, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1968. 244 p. 17s. 6d.)

Durham County Record Office. (Durham, England; County Council of Durham, n.d. [16 p.], illus.)

Lancashire Record Office. *Report for 1967 and 1968*. (Preston, England; n.d. 32 p., illus.)

Greater London Record Office and Library. *Report of the Head Archivist for 1968*. (Westminster, England; Greater London Council, n.d. 15 p.)

Printed as Command Paper 521, by subcontract to a Belfast printer, the Northern Ireland report from Kenneth Darwin covers only pages 3-41 inclusive—not too liberal an amount considering the time span involved. Mr. Darwin's difficulties in operating a "regional" archives-records center for the six counties comprising Northern Ireland are not so much those of staff as those of scattered quarters (one, at least, being 40 miles away). Hope is expressed that the next report year will find the Public Record Office firmly established in its new headquarters building. The near future should see the publication of a formal guide to the collections. Meanwhile foreign users of

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the collections must rely on descriptions given for 2,600 combined collections in the present report, together with the one preceding. Appendixes A, B, C, extending from pages 43–195, provide very detailed information for accessions from official and private sources and for acquisitions by purchase.

The Northern Ireland Record Office is publicized widely through various media, such as newspaper notices, radio appeals, lectures and exhibitions. Circular letters are sent out, obituary columns watched, and bankrupt or dissolved firms noted—all this as ammunition for the team of fieldworkers (who are not loath to delve into bureau drawers at furniture auctions). Team results thus show 50,000 miles covered, thousands of people visited, not to mention countless loads of material sorted, boxed and shipped. Other statistics concern use of the searchroom, photocopies supplied, and mail inquiries answered. And for “proof of the pudding” there is a listing of published books as well as articles based upon use of the searchroom. On the debit side, there is a need for some illustrations to impart glamor to this report. And while indexes of names, places, and subjects are provided, conforming to usual practice, the name index might be improved by directing the searcher to a particular part of the page, to be designated by the letter A, B, C, D, after the page number, given in the index.

Although no date is given for the Durham County Record Office publicity brochure, it has been available in some form since 1964. County Archivist W. A. L. Seaman first makes the cover attractive with a reproduction of an old print. Then he adds a liberal sprinkling of photographs of operational procedures from fumigation of records, through repairing and binding, to ultimate use of the microfilm reader/printer in the searchroom. This publication should certainly entice both holders and owners of records (no matter of what extent or date) to deposit their holdings in the Durham Record Office. As proof that other owners have already done so, a classified list of both official and private records now on deposit is provided. The other side of the coin is shown in detailing to what uses the public can put these records. And if the searchroom hours, as posted at the end, are not convenient for the individual inquirer, some alteration can be made upon application to Mr. Seaman.

Lancashire County Archivist R. Sharpe France has fired a burst of statistics to initiate his report, with comparative figures for 1966 through 1968, dealing with searchers, postal inquiries, photographs, photostats, and documents both repaired and produced. An impressive list of authors of books and articles based on research at Preston in the 1967 and 1968 years gives further emphasis to the valid use being made of the records provided them. The donors of records in Lancashire do not need to wait 5 years (as in the case of Northern Ireland) to see their gifts publicly acknowledged. The donors and their corresponding gifts are ticked off on pages 5 through 9 of this report. A more meaningful use of these accessions could be facilitated, however, by providing them with a name and place index. Almost two-thirds of the report is devoted to copious extracts from three types of available records: emigrant letters, business journals, and official reports. And finally, archaeological findings (with an illustration of one of them) are enumerated by the county archeologist. Apparently, County Archivist R. Sharpe France has provided us with a two-faceted report, one that can be both profitably read and enjoyed.

The Greater London Council in April 1965 replaced the former administrative counties of London and Middlesex. Their two county record offices then became (although still physically separated) the Greater London Record Office, and E. D. Mercer, formerly of the Middlesex branch, was promoted to Head Archivist. She has carried this physical separation of the two "branches" into her report, devoting two pages to accessions of the London section and another two pages to that of Middlesex. Her categories are: Estate and Personal, Manorial, Deeds, Diocesan, Parish, Congregational, Business, Education, and Hospital, with Estate and Personal representing the largest single class. With almost 3,000 researchers requiring nearly 12,000 documents to be produced, the subjects of research fell naturally within the London area. And in almost 400 mail requests, 283 asked for dates of birth, scholastic records, or family background. The report ends with specific examples of three commemorative plaques placed during the year—a feature which the Northern Ireland Archivist feels is worthy of emulation.

Rufus B. von Kleinsmid Library

LIONEL WILLIAM VAN KERSEN