

Abstracts of Foreign Periodicals

FRANK B. EVANS, *Editor*

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L'Ouverture des Archives à la Recherche: Actes du Congrès international extraordinaire des Archives (Washington, 9-13 mai 1966) (Opening Archives to Research: Proceedings of the International Extraordinary Congress on Archives, Washington, May 9-13, 1966)

The *Proceedings*, published only at the end of 1969 after many delays, fulfill the requirement for printing the official record of the Congress. There were four working sessions, each of which consisted of two reports followed by discussion.

Speech by ROBERT H. BAHMER (U.S.). P. 17-18. Dr. Bahmer opened the proceedings by welcoming the delegates on behalf of the Society of American Archivists and the National Archives of the United States. After acknowledging the support given to the Congress by the Council on Library Resources, Inc., he read letters from Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and Charles Braibant, past president of the International Council on Archives.

Speech by CHARLES FRANKEL (U.S.). P. 19. In his address Dr. Frankel observed that regardless of the varying ideas held by delegates about the nature of history, societies make social and intellectual progress only to the extent that self-knowledge exists among their inhabitants. Effective thinking about the present and the future depends upon the accuracy of our perceptions of what we have been and what we have done; archivists are responsible for preserving the evidence. Because archivists work for all men of learning, they work for the cause of international peace. That is why the U.S. Government regards this meeting as of the greatest importance to scholarship and learning and to worldwide friendship.

Speech by ÉTIENNE SABBE (Belgium). P. 20. Observing that since opportunities to meet with archivists from all over the world are very few, M. Sabbe noted that the Extraordinary Congress was therefore most welcome. The generosity of the United States made this possible. The discussion of issues put forward for consideration—accessibility of

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archives, liberalizing access policies, problems of microfilm, and publication of inventories and documents—should be profitable.

Speech by LYMAN H. BUTTERFIELD (U.S.) [published as "The Scholar's One World," in *American Archivist*, 29:343-361 (July 1966)—Ed.].

LAMB, W. KAYE (Canada), *Liberalization of Restrictions on Access to Archives: General Survey*. P. 35-40. Access to recent archives presents a different set of problems from those of older archives. There is no uniformity in rules set by Governments for access to modern archives, which are usually subject to considerations of security and personal or official privacy. Governments have tried to avoid the problems by withholding access for specified periods of time, as, for example, the 50-year rule in Great Britain. With general acceptance of the idea that accessibility to public archives is a democratic right, however, the trend has been to close records for shorter periods. A 25-year rule would probably suffice. Obstacles to the availability of older records are in part physical. The records may lack cogent arrangement, or they may be obscured by the presence of ephemera. More important is the impact of microfilming and other copying programs. Many Governments take the view that such microfilming diminishes the value of the original records and the institutions that house them. In arriving at standards there are two main considerations: the needs of the properly qualified and accredited scholar and the safety and security of archival holdings.

HARDENBERG, HERMAN (Netherlands), *Legal and Juridical Problems Associated With Access to Archives*. P. 41-45. Generally speaking the transition from regarding access to archives as a favor to considering it a legal right is almost complete. In some countries, however, foreigners must still produce recommendations from diplomatic authorities of their own countries. Reasons of national security and confidentiality of information relating to individuals require that access to recent archives be limited. The physical condition of records may also be a cause for limiting access. Microfilm has helped overcome objections to loans of original documents, especially on an international basis. Limited loans of originals between institutions in different countries do occur and, in the author's opinion, should be made a general practice formalized by multilateral treaty. No copyright or other exclusive use should be permitted researchers. Accessibility is enhanced by requiring researchers to deposit copies of works resulting from the use of archives. Through agreements and laws accessibility to private archives—family, business, and ecclesiastical—is being increased, though persuasion must remain the principal tool by which it is achieved.

BAUTIER, ROBERT-HENRI (France), *Les problèmes posés par une libéralisation brutale de l'accès aux documents. Appel à la prudence* (Problems presented by an excessive liberal policy toward access to archives. An appeal for prudence). P. 47-53. Library holdings are the patrimony of all humanity. Archival holdings, on the contrary, are the patrimony of the state, institution, or individual that formed them; therefore their use may be restricted. Archives must serve the administrative bodies or individuals that created them while being cultural institutions and

laboratories for constructing the written history of their originators. In this dual role resides the difficulty of giving greater access to such holdings, either directly or by reproduction. There are matters of secrecy, especially in diplomatic and political archives; protection of individual privacy; and copyright. If the archival agency does not abide by restrictions imposed on use, many of the most important documents will never come to the archives and will be retained or destroyed by the creator of the records.

To give uniformity to rules of access of various countries seems impossible. A delay of 50 years in the use of documents seems reasonable, if in addition certain restrictions that some countries will want to place on specific matters are respected. To lessen the restriction time will cause both a psychological impact—the institutions will try to retain their documents as long as possible—and a practical one—there will not be time to organize the records to make them accessible. The Congress should consider all these problems before making any drastic decision in regard to liberalizing access to archives.

DADZIE, E. W. (Mauritania), *La libéralisation des archives dans les pays ayant accédé récemment à l'indépendance* (Liberalization of archives in the newly independent countries). P. 53–54. In African countries that are French speaking and have established archives, a 50-year rule is followed regarding access. After 10 to 20 years records no longer needed for current administration are transferred to the National or Central Archives, which are given 10 years to organize and make them available for use. These records can then be used, with certain limitations, after a period of 20 to 30 years following their creation. In countries without established archives the primary concern cannot be that of liberalization but must be that of preserving and organizing the records. In these matters the cooperation of Unesco, ICA, and the International Association for the Development of Libraries in Africa is of great importance.

SOLOVEV, ALEXANDER A. (U.S.S.R.), *Liberal policy of access to archives in USSR*. P. 57–58. Though restrictions on access should be reduced to the absolute minimum, it is quite proper to observe some. There are three types—restrictions on time, content, and the number of scholars. The U.S.S.R. imposes restrictions on content to safeguard both individuals and the national security but applies none on the basis of time or distinction between types of researchers. All researchers who follow the rules on use of archives have access in the U.S.S.R. Reasons given for discrimination on any other basis are not convincing.

LAMB, W. KAYE. P. 59–61. The scandalmonger is a man in a hurry, and the most effective way to stop him is to confront him with masses of documents. Governments and their past development, it is true, do influence archival policies: archives in Africa, for example, quite clearly reflect the abrupt break with the past. There was, perhaps, some misunderstanding about this reporter's remarks on access. To advocate total access would be neither just nor practical; there are legitimate reasons for restrictions. On the complex subject of copyright, it should be noted that letters written by individuals to a government become the

property of that government and should be freely available to researchers. But the use made of the contents of such letters is within the domain of copyright, and that is a problem for the user rather than for the archivist.

BELOV, GHENADIJ (U.S.S.R.), *Documentary Publication in the Eastern Hemisphere*. P. 67-78. This report is confined to discussion of the publication of documentary texts. In general the national archives of Eastern Hemisphere countries publish the documents they keep and permit other organizations to publish what interests them. Switzerland alone leaves publication to other organizations. Because of restrictions on contemporary documents, publication programs in the non-Socialist countries have tended to favor older records, though many of these countries are now accommodating the demand for modern source material. In Socialist countries the emphasis is upon publishing contemporary documents, and most have produced extensive, multivolume works. Archival authorities in most Eastern Hemisphere countries coordinate and cooperate with other institutions and organizations in publishing archives that are not part of the national holdings. There has also been exchange of documents between countries for publishing collections of mutual interest, such as those on diplomatic or economic relations, and for supplementing the documentation of individual nations.

There should be some uniformity of criteria for documentary publication. The diversity that exists today makes this a complex problem, making the task of defining an international set of rules difficult, though it is undoubtedly possible to outline some main principles. The bases for selecting documents are highly variable, depending upon the content and arrangement of the documents themselves and the principles that the nations have developed. Documents may be published by *fonds* or by subject. All archival institutions share the problem of high preparation costs. Letterpress publication is the most favored method, and opinion varies about the acceptability of microfilming. Photolithography and multigraphy are now being considered. (An appendix lists the countries responding to his questionnaire.)

HOLMES, OLIVER W. (U.S.), *Documentary Publication in the Western Hemisphere*. P. 79-96. Two factors in particular are responsible for the insistence in the Western Hemisphere on the availability of source documents: complementary documents being located in Eastern Hemisphere archives and the democratic tradition of making documents available to all the people. This report considers the work done by both public and private institutions and individuals and discusses publishing documents of the pre-Columbian era, colonial Latin and North America, and Latin America and the United States after independence. In the United States 1950 marked a turning point in publication methodology, with new approaches and standards in documentary editing. Today projects are comprehensive—they emphasize fidelity of text and full and scholarly annotation. They are outstanding publishing achievements, and they are costly.

DR. HOLMES's Supplementary Report (p. 97-99) elaborates five points: the responsibility of the archivist or of the archival agency or institution

for editing and publishing documents, the function of a national commission, the time period of the materials to be published, the relations between publication by printing press and by microfilm, and the responsibility of an editor of a printed documentary publication.

ELLIS, ROGER H. (U.K.), *The publication of privately-owned archives. The British experience.* P. 101-102. These archives present different problems from government ones. Locating and preserving them can be considerably more difficult. The Historical Manuscripts Commission has established a national register to aid in planning a constructive publication program. Publishing difficulties not encountered in official records include copyright, family wishes, and, sometimes, the need to assure preservation or prevent dispersal by sale. The Commission has published over 200 volumes since 1870. Other societies in the British Isles have published independently, and their total output exceeds the Commission's. The societies and the Commission collaborate on matters of finance, editing, and standards through the Joint Publication Scheme. Though problems in other countries are different, he noted that perhaps the British experience could offer a point of departure.

BHARGAVA, K. D. (India), *The Indian documentary publication programme.* P. 103-104. He briefly summarized India's program and offered the following suggestions: publishing entire series should be restricted because of high volume and costs; the more interesting socio-economic records should continue to be published; to increase availability to the general public, there should be more descriptive lists and general guides and less publication of full texts; the comparatively cheap photo-offset process, used very successfully in India, ought to be tried; the use of microfilm, not used in India because of film shortage, should be carefully considered by the Congress.

MENDOZA, GUNNAR (Bolivia), *La publicación de documentos históricos en América Latina* (The publication of historical documents in Latin America). P. 105-110. Latin American countries have made a conscious effort in the matter of documentary publication, although unfavorable conditions for this kind of activity exist: lack of groups capable of planning and executing publication programs, lack of continuity, the use of the printing press to the exclusion of microfilm or photoduplication, lack of coordination, and lack of a national institution to direct and execute the publication program while considering primary needs and lack of funds. Certainly economic underdevelopment that results in inadequate buildings and personnel causes the accumulation of great masses of unorganized and uncontrolled documents, but it is not the only reason. The author called upon the ICA to recommend to the History Commission of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and to the Inter American Technical Council on Archives the need for a survey.

SZEDÖ, ANTAL (Hungary), *L'utilisation du microfilm pour la recherche et la publication. Problèmes du microfilmage* (Use of microfilm for research and publication. Problems in microfilming). P. 119-126. Microfilms are a new kind of document that do not replace the originals.

Because microfilms do not differ from other archival documents, the archivist should organize them like other documents and create similar finding aids for their use. There are two types of microfilm: microfilm for security against destruction or misuse of the original or for preservation of deteriorating documents and microfilm to supplement or strengthen archival holdings. In both cases the problem is cost. With regard to the second type certain nations are reluctant to microfilm a complete series of records for a foreign country. Supplementary microfilming should be allowed when the documents concern the past of the country requesting them, and Unesco should act as a mediator if difficulties arise.

The problems presented by the use of microfilm are several. Scholars accept microfilm when they cannot get the original but favor using the original because of its greater accuracy and because there is less effort for the eyes. If complete series are microfilmed, finding aids used for the original documents must also be filmed (inventories, lists, indexes, etc.). The manner of inventorying fragments of series on microfilm varies from country to country; studies should be undertaken to find better description methods. Ownership is another problem: certainly the person who requested the microfilm is the owner, but he should not have permission to transfer it to another individual or to duplicate it. In regard to authenticity, microfilms and photocopies are generally accepted in place of originals; but authorities may ask for authentication of documents. In some countries the microfilm is signed by the director of the archives, whereas in others it is signed by notaries; both systems can coexist. (An appendix lists countries responding to his questionnaire.)

LEISINGER, ALBERT H., JR. (U.S.), *Selected Aspects of Microreproduction in the United States*. P. 127-150. Microfilm has achieved widespread use in the United States. Its major archival uses are for reference, space saving or disposal, security, preservation, publication, acquisition, and administrative uses for current records, such as space and cost reduction. A questionnaire (reproduced as Appendix A) was sent to 146 repositories in the United States, and responses were received from 126 (listed in Appendix B). The answers indicate that U.S. institutions support a general expansion of microfilm publication.

A summary is given of the achievements (with supporting appendixes) of the National Archives and the development of its present methods and policies. Microfilm publication marked its "coming of age" in 1948. Since that date the volume of production has shown a tremendous increase. More efficient rules and a program for future publication have been developed. Significant publications by other institutions are also discussed. The efforts of some of the State historical societies and the Library of Congress are noteworthy, but most significant is the grant program begun in 1964 by the National Historical Publications Commission (with participating repositories listed in an appendix). Foreign copying programs have also been conducted under the auspices of a number of American public and private institutions.

In its commitment to the proposition that "public archives are public property," the United States both preserves and publicizes its archives to the greatest extent possible. Selection is done on request; but the preference is to publish by complete series, groups, or *fonds*, sometimes as a supplement to letterpress editions of selected documents. The need for money, equipment, and trained personnel presents more difficulties than do legal, administrative, or professional questions. The report concludes with five Proposals for Action by the Extraordinary Congress, which concern mutual assistance and the interchange of film, skills, and ideas.

EVANS, SIR DAVID (U.K.). P. 151. In opening the session he recounted experiences as a student before the days of microfilm and his memories of its primitive beginnings, when individuals might be permitted to film records with their own cameras. The breakthrough today is comparable to the invention of printing, but it has not led to the expected diminution of students coming to Public Record Office searchrooms.

SCELLENBERG, THEODORE R. (U.S.). P. 164-165. The production of microfilm publications should be considered a regular archival function because (1) filming entire series or fonds preserves the integrity of the evidence contained in the originals; (2) as a rule finding aids produced for research purposes during the arrangement and description of archives suffice for film copies; and (3) microfilm publications do not require extensive editing or footnoting and therefore are less costly, are not selective, avoid personal bias, and facilitate objectivity.

GUT, CHRISTIAN (France), *La politique des Archives de France en matière d'usage international du microfilm* (The policy of the Archives of France regarding the international use of microfilm). P. 165-166. In France there are liberal policies regarding microfilming for foreign countries once under its rule or for those countries not having been ruled by it but having part of their history represented in the French Archives. There are limitations on these policies when the history of France is involved. One problem with microfilming complete series is that it fixes that series within the framework of the record group to which it is assigned, without the possibility of perfecting the organization of the records.

LEISINGER, ALBERT H., JR. (U.S.). P. 168. There is really no disagreement about free exchange. We do not feel that control is either necessary or desirable. In response to a question about the criteria used for preparing introductory materials to microfilm publications, guidelines have been developed rather than fixed and rigid standards. Many delegates have assumed that the National Archives has unlimited funds for microfilming, but it does not. A revolving fund established in 1948 has been a major source of support for the National Archives program, making it independent of appropriations. This idea could be employed by other countries.

TANODI, AURELIO (Argentina), *La cooperación internacional en facilitar acceso a los archivos* (International cooperation for facilitating access to archives). P. 171-196. An introduction explains that this report

was based on answers to his questionnaire sent to various countries and on information in *Archivum*, the proceedings of the International Round Table on Archives, and ICA and Unesco pamphlets. The report presents opinions on the preparation and publication of finding aids and accomplishments in microfilming archives.

KECSKEMÉTI, CHARLES (France), *Les activités et les problèmes du Conseil international des Archives* (The International Council on Archives: its activities and problems). P. 197–206. A brief history of the ICA is followed by a description of the work of the Council and concrete proposals for improving the organization. These include creating ICA regional branches in Asia and Africa, changing the ICA structure to increase the role of the General Assembly, initiating joint action before Unesco to obtain an increased ICA subsidy for resuming the international bibliography that was suspended because of lack of funds and for establishing a permanent secretariat and working committees, compiling a list of archival experts for technical assistance projects, continuing projects and studies begun under contract with Unesco (a list of resulting publications is given), and developing a program of archival assistance to Africa. An appendix summarizes the Round Table on Archives from 1954 to 1965.

BEIN, ALEXANDER (Israel), *Israel's contribution and suggestions for the betterment of access to archives*. P. 207–210. Access to archives should be liberalized, though legitimate public and private interests ought to be protected. New states, among them Israel, are specially interested in microfilming problems because they possess only a fraction of the existing documentation of their history. Like other new states, Israel must rely on help from other nations. Reciprocity is desirable but works to the disadvantage of poor states, which may not have anything to offer a richer state. In general there should be concentrated efforts to publish and publicize microfilm. These efforts include the publication of lists and information in ICA and Unesco issuances, the mediation of the ICA in cases where access and exchange are difficult, and a more active role for ICA in aid projects to newer states.

RIEGER, MORRIS (U.S.), *Proposals of Resolutions*. P. 210–211. The United States favors major expansion of international cooperation in facilitating access; the most important proposals have been placed before the Resolutions Committee. These are: (1) resumption of ICA's early bibliographic work on archival finding aids, (2) continuation and expansion of cooperative international finding aid projects, (3) establishment under ICA auspices of a continuing cooperative international program for microfilm publication of highly valued records that transcend national boundaries, and (4) major expansion of the Unesco-ICA training program in developing countries. ICA should solicit Unesco and possibly other support for these costly projects.

VALETTE, JEAN (Malagasy Republic), *Responsabilités réciproques du propriétaire du fonds d'archives et du propriétaire du microfilm* (Reciprocal responsibilities of the archives that owns the records and the owner of the microfilms). P. 211–212. The author places before the Congress

the question of the responsibilities of the archives that owns the records toward the country interested in microfilming them and vice versa: if the country possessing the records either cannot or will not organize them and make an inventory, should the country interested in microfilming them perform the tasks? What should be the relationship between the archivist who holds the records and the archivist who makes the inventory?

POSNER, ERNST (U.S.). P. 214. Preserving archives is more urgent in developing countries than microfilming them. Personal professional service to developing nations should come before mass microfilming of their records. Maintenance of archives, establishment of facilities, overall professional assistance, and training archivists are all tangible needs that must first be met. The creation of an "Archival Peace Corps" ought to be one of our prime considerations.

GROVER, WAYNE C. (U.S.). P. 215-216. Archivists will never be able to publish all their holdings, either in microfilm or print—to demand it is ridiculous. Finding aids, of course, should come first, though archivists also have other obligations. It is perhaps their fate that archivists are always spreading themselves too thin, but they have a mission. The constant problem of financing will only be overcome when they can convince their financial sponsors that archivists have something worthwhile to do.

SAINT-JUSTE, LAUORE (Haiti), *Plaidoyer en faveur des archives des pays sous-développés* (Plea in behalf of the archives of underdeveloped countries). P. 219-221. The more developed a country the more accessible are its archives. In underdeveloped countries the inadequacy of buildings, the insufficiency of budgets, and the lack of trained personnel do not permit easy access to archival holdings. Unesco, which has taken so many steps to preserve the culture of poor countries, should play an important role in sponsoring an archival program for such countries. A very successful Unesco program of this kind was undertaken in the state of Tanganyika. This program could be applied to Latin American, African, and Asian countries. Some practical suggestions are: (1) Unesco technical assistance should open a new chapter in its budget for organizing and constructing national archives. (2) A committee of experts should be formed to survey the immediate needs of archives in underdeveloped countries that are members of Unesco; adopt a type of model building (having in mind the possibilities of each country) with the understanding that Unesco and the individual country will share the costs; and recommend to Governments that archives are among their basic problems, provide for training archival personnel, initiate modern methods in organizing and inventorying holdings, and request Governments to organize and inventory their archives in order to make them accessible.

Speech by ROBERT H. BAHMER (U.S.). P. 225-226. Dr. Bahmer read a letter from President Johnson to Étienne Sabbe, president of the ICA, praising the dedication of archivists everywhere. It was through archivists' efforts to preserve the collective memory of mankind that people

learned to handle the problems, present and future, that beset every generation. The Archivist of the United States presented to the delegates Waldo G. Leland, whom he described as the "father of the archival profession in the United States."

Speech by WALDO G. LELAND (U.S.). P. 230. Looking back, one can see the very considerable effect of the Brussels Congress of 1910 upon the archival profession. That Congress was meant to be the first of a series of international meetings; and, even though no more took place until the formation of the ICA, it nevertheless solved many outstanding problems of the time. For us in the United States—just as we were beginning to study our own archival problems seriously—what we learned there influenced us a great deal, for which we are very grateful to Brussels and to the Belgian scholars who helped and inspired us.

[Congress resolutions, recommendations, and wishes were summarized in an account of the Extraordinary Congress in *American Archivist*, 29:437-439 (July 1966).—Ed.]

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Volunteers are needed to abstract Danish periodicals (the journal is partly in Norwegian and Swedish) and Yugoslavian journals (in Serbian and Croatian). If you are willing to undertake either, please write to the Abstracts Editor at the address given on p. 203.

Never Underestimate Archival Research

An unusual request came from a graduate of the class of 1939: Could information be sent on the 1936 baseball game arranged by Ford Frick, '15, between Depauw University and the St. Louis Cardinals? The requester had been pitcher on the DePauw team. His co-workers in General Electric, Cleveland, Ohio, would not believe he played against Dizzy and Daffy Dean. Not only photocopies of mementoes of that game were sent to him, but the Secretary to the Archivist sent a letter of her recollection as a spectator of that game. Acknowledgment of this letter is evidence the Archives had made another friend.

—ELEANORE CAMMACK, *Archives of De Pauw University and Indiana Methodism 1968-1969* (Greencastle, Ind., 1969).