

Abstracts of Foreign Periodicals

FRANK B. EVANS, *Editor*

BULGARIA

Izvestiya na Dŭrzhavnite Arkhivi. vol. 18 (1970).

MINTSEV, DIMINTUR, *Ža pravilnoto sŭstavnyane i oformyane na dokumentite uchrezhdeniyata* (The editing and regular issuance of Government documents). P. 3–23. (French résumé, p. 23.) This article explains the standards to which the editing and regular issuance of Government documents should conform with a view to their future use as historical sources. The author gives the principal reasons for editing documents, and cites elements they should possess, examining in detail questions concerning their title, author, contents, dates, signature, seal, address, and existing practice for their standardization and unification. Other complementary elements—indexes, notes, resolutions, endorsements, appendixes, etc.—are also discussed. The author proposes publication of an administrative circular, mandatory upon all Government agencies, spelling out the conditions necessary for issuing documentary material and containing fundamental information on these problems that scholarly institutions can pass on to their students.

BRAHMANN-TEÜBNER, ELIZABET, *Metodi za razkrivane i arkhivni spravochitsi v dŭrshavnite arkhivi na Germanskata Demokraticzna Republika* (Methods for discovering the holdings and reference aids of the State Archives of the Democratic Republic of Germany). P. 25–39. (French résumé, p. 39.) The author describes the work of archivists of the Democratic Republic of Germany in inventorying and popularizing documentary material and in formulating the principles that provided the basis of the “Fundamental rules for the arrangement and description of archival materials,” published in 1965. These efforts are oriented toward discovering documents on the national history of Germany and the German labor movement, promoting research in records that will aid the “peaceful polity of the Democratic Republic of Germany in its struggle against the imperialism of West Germany,” and contributing to the education of the people in the meaning of socialism. The fundamental rules for arranging and describing records are very important for the unification of the information and documentation of the state

Materials for abstracting and related communications should be sent to
Dr. Frank B. Evans, Office of the National Archives, National Archives Building,
Washington, D.C. 20408

archives. They encompass all problems relating to the creation of records, the elaboration of *fonds*, and the creation of finding aids. The rules reaffirm the principle of provenance adopted by the German archives in the 19th century. They deal with the creation of *fonds*, and give to the archivists the responsibility for determining the most appropriate system for grouping the records into *fonds*. The rules provide for two types of descriptive aids, definite and preliminary. Of great interest are the different kinds of reference books recommended by the rules for determining the contents of records, the inventory registers, and review of *fonds*. In addition, the Germans also publish subject guides and special lists, which by their nature are also subject catalogs.

BAKALOV, TODOR, *Podgotovka na dokumentalni izlozhbi v dŕzhavnite arkhivi* (Preparations for organizing an exhibition of records in the State Archives). P. 59-70. (French résumé, p. 70.) This article discusses exhibiting documents, a practice increasingly used by archives to popularize the richness of their holdings. Based on ideas drawn from *Izvestiya na Dŕzhavnite Arkhivi*, from observations of organized exhibits, and other sources, the author seeks to systematize the most important steps in the preparation of a documentary exhibit.

Izvestiya na Dŕzhavnite Arkhivi, vol. 19 (1970).

MATEEVA, MARIYA, *Tŕzhestva na leninskite printsipi za organizirane na arkhivnoto delo* (The triumph of the principles of Lenin in the sphere of archives). P. 3-20. (French résumé, p. 20.) Like all reforms during the first years of Soviet power in Russia, the reorganization of archives was accomplished through the initiative of Vladimir Ilitch Lenin. The author demonstrates the importance that Lenin attributed to archival material. The different decrees promulgated by Lenin, particularly that of June 1, 1918, on the reorganization and centralization of archives, created a new basis for Soviet Archives. The author reviews the condition of Russian Archives before the October Revolution, explains the system of the State Archives, the arrangement of the *fonds*, and the principles upon which they were built. He emphasizes the international character of Lenin's principles for organizing archives. The experience of the Soviet Archives has been universally recognized and studied, and has been adopted in a great many countries, particularly in the other socialist countries.

MINTSEV, DIMINTUR, *Delovodstveni sistemi za registratsiya na dokumentite v uchrezhdeniyta* (The registry systems for recording documents of Government agencies). P. 21-42. (French résumé, p. 42.) The registry systems now in use were examined, notably the "journal in book form," the card catalog, and combinations of both. Because the "book-journal" is the most widely used in Bulgaria, the author has given it the most attention. Having examined the multiple types of registers used in various ministries, he intimates that this system is not the most reasonable. He considers the adoption by the chancelleries of a card index system for registering documents imperative. Specimen cards are shown that are intended for this use. To standardize and facilitate the

work of registering documents, he stresses the importance of using standardized forms throughout the Government. These forms should comply with the terms of reference adopted by the Archives. The author also mentions the application of mechanical means to the processes of registration.

RADKOV, MLADEN, and NIKOLAI SAVOV, *Iz istoriyata na sofijskiya gradski arkhiv pri stolichnata obshchina* (The history of the archives of Sofia, as a municipality and as the capital). P. 71-79. (French résumé, p. 79.) From the *fonds* of the municipal council of the City of Sofia and those of the Department of Sofia, from the periodical and fortnightly press, and from information furnished by pioneers in the field of archives, the authors reconstruct the history of the archives of Sofia. They show the care taken to organize the municipal archives from the liberation of Bulgaria until the creation of the City Archives in 1941; the principles on which the archives have been built, the records that have been collected, and how they have been preserved. The authors praise the employees of the City Archives for saving *fonds* during bombardments, the care taken after September 9, 1944, until the establishment of the State Archives for safeguarding and conserving the valuable documents of all municipal services, and the contributions in compiling the first methodical directives on how to manage archival material.

National Archives

HOPE K. HOLDCAMPER

CANADA

Canadian Archivist, VOL. 1 (1969), NO. 7.

ANDREASSEN, JOHN C. L., *The Conservation of Writings on Paper in Canada*. P. 9-17. Mr. Andreassen, McGill University Archivist, identifies factors responsible for the deterioration of paper records and relates procedures that may be followed to insure preservation. Also related are results of the author's conferences with Canadian paper manufacturers to determine their attitudes toward the production of acid-free durable paper.

D'ALTROY, RON, *An Effective Photographic Archives*. P. 18-21. The Photographic Curator of the Vancouver Public Library relates techniques for the storing, identification, cataloging and indexing, preservation, and display of photographic prints and negatives.

TAYLOR, HUGH A., *Archives in Britain and Canada—Impressions of an Immigrant*. P. 22-33. Mr. Taylor, recently appointed Provincial Archivist for New Brunswick, considers differences in background and outlook between British and Canadian archivists. There is also a comparison of archival activities of the two countries, emphasizing the relationship of central to provincial repositories, nature of holdings, and accessibility of records. The author's examples are drawn largely from his experience in Alberta, where he served as Archivist.

SMITH, WILFRED I., *Archival Training in Canada*. P. 39-44. A survey of archives training courses offered in Great Britain, the United States, and Canada, with emphasis upon the last, by the then Assistant Dominion Archivist. He presents recommendations of the Archives Section Committee on Training, which were made to the Canadian Historical Association, regarding training course offerings and programs.

This issue also includes a summary of the proceedings of the Archives Section of the Canadian Historical Association, which met at Calgary in June 1968.

The Canadian Archivist, VOL. 2 (1970), NO. 1.

TAYLOR, HUGH A., *Administrative History: An Archivist's Need*. P. 4-9. Before an archivist can perform adequate appraisal or arrangement of a given group of records, he must be thoroughly grounded in the administrative history of the creating agency. As archivists may lack the time for detailed research they should encourage historians to do it, according to the author, and should cooperate with them in a joint effort at making the necessary information available.

ATHERTON, J., *Automation and the Dignity of the Archivist*. P. 56-58. The author, a member of the staff of the Public Archives of Canada, views automation as an opportunity for the archivist to extend his faculties and abilities and free himself to perform at a higher level of efficiency and effectiveness. As such, automation presents no real threat to archival dignity and, in fact, may be necessary for its preservation in the face of ever increasing accessions in many archival repositories.

This issue also includes a view of the writings of public administrative history in Canada—V. Seymour Wilson, *Administrative History—An Historian's Opportunity* (p. 9-17), with a discussion (p. 17-20); a summary of a panel discussion in *Acquisition Policy: Competition or Co-operation?* chaired by Dr. Kaye Lamb (p. 21-42); a summary of the proceedings of the World Conference on Records, Salt Lake City, August 5-8, 1969 (p. 43-46), and of the Prairie Archivists' Meeting at Regina, October 18, 1969; and two articles, Evelyn Miller, *The History of the Montreal Jewish Public Library and Archives* (p. 49-55), and Fred H. Phillips, *Two-Way Stretch* (p. 59-62)—some observations on the public relations programs and needs of archival agencies.

National Archives

ROBERT H. GRUBER

UNITED KINGDOM

Journal of the Society of Archivists, VOL. 3 (1969), NO. 10.

WALL, JOHN, *The Case for a Central Photographic Archive in Colour*. P. 566-570. The author decries what he views as a worldwide lack of national programs for the systematic preservation of color photographs and negatives in central archival depositories. Such programs, he contends, are necessary and justifiable because of the superiority of color to

monochrome photographs as a visual medium, particularly as a means of preserving a record of a nation's historic monuments and buildings. The arguments traditionally advanced against a large-scale color program, i.e., the high cost of color photographs and negatives and their tendency to fade, may not be as valid as commonly supposed.

Journal of the Society of Archivists, VOL. 4 (1970), NO. 1.

JØRGENSEN, HARALD, *The Present Organization and Working Conditions of Scandinavian Archives*. P. 23-30. Traces the establishment of similar archival systems and practices in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. Among the subjects discussed are the evolution of the respective archival establishments from origins in the central administrations of Governments to the relatively independent or autonomous positions occupied today, the transfer of noncurrent governmental records to archival depositories, the development of regional or provincial archives, and the progress achieved in archival description and records management.

HULL, FELIX, *The Management of Modern Records*. P. 45-50. A discussion of the major problems faced by British archivists because of ever-increasing accessions of modern records. This situation has necessitated a division of incoming materials into those designated for permanent retention, destruction after a fixed period, and review at a later date. Records centers have arisen as necessary facilities in administering such records. Specific examples and illustrations are drawn from the author's experiences as archivist in the Kent Archives Office.

TAYLOR, PAMELA J., *Two Indian Record Offices: The National Archives of India and the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library*. P. 60-62. A survey of the present status of archival practices and problems in both institutions, based in part upon the author's observations during 4 months of work in New Delhi record offices. The article discusses the nature of the holdings, their accessibility, and facilities available for records storage, repair, and reproduction.

Journal of the Society of Archivists, VOL. 4 (1970), NO. 2.

ELLIS, ROGER H., *The Historical Manuscripts of Science and Technology*. P. 87-95. In this presidential address to the Society, Mr. Ellis stresses the need for greater efforts toward preserving and arranging scientific and technological records. These sources will be of particular importance to the student of recent history, when "the history of politics and diplomacy cannot now be kept distinct from that of the tools and weapons which science and technology have, or have not, put into Governments' hands." The author surveys the various types of scientific records and relates the results of an experiment in processing and arranging such materials recently conducted by a Standing Joint Committee of the Royal Society and the Historical Manuscripts Commission.

KNIGHTBRIDGE, A. A. H., *Document Repair: A Bibliography*. P. 137-140. A selectively annotated and classified list of sources pertaining to repair in general and to the more specific aspects of lamination, map

repair, binding, paper chemistry, parchment, and inks. Most of the works cited have been recently published. However, as the compiler notes, no comprehensive treatment covering all aspects of document repair has yet appeared.

National Archives

ROBERT H. GRUBER

YUGOSLAVIA

Glasnik Arhivâ i Društva Arhivskih Radnika Bosne i Hercegovine,
VOL. 8/9 (1968/1969).

Bosnia and Hercegovina (the Yugoslavs shorten this to *BiH*, which they pronounce as a word with a semi-guttural ending) is probably the most "Yugoslav" part of that checkered nation. Geographically *BiH* is the keystone of Yugoslavia. Its people are almost in equal parts descended from Serb and Croatian stock, and the Christian population is similarly divided between Roman Catholics and Greek Orthodox, with a large but neutral minority of Moslems. Wisely, at the end of the last world war, the founders of modern Yugoslavia, instead of trying to allocate Bosnia and Hercegovina to a particular Yugoslav national or cultural sphere—a mistake that had kept the Balkan question aboil and led directly to World War I—organized *BiH* as one of the six separate constituent republics of Federal Yugoslavia.

If *BiH* has any skeleton in its historical closet, it is the four centuries spent under Turkish rule, from about 1478 to 1878. The imprint of the long Osmanli period is still deep, if no longer painful. It has made *BiH* a treasure trove for the historian and the archivist. The Osmanlis, who shook Renaissance Europe with their unbroken aggression and conquest by land and sea, soon had to put their minds to some kind of government. Bosnia was the westernmost outpost of their huge empire and required the best in the way of defense, administration, and communications. The warrior Turk, resting on his laurels, perforce became a bureaucrat. While his scimitar rusted in its curved scabbard, he wrote everything down in a fine classical calligraphy in the form of *firman*s, *builrultiyah*s, and *berats*, issued by a swarm of *kadhis*, *kaimakams*, *mutessarifs*, and *walis*, for the governance of their nonoriental subjects, many of them staunch in their Christian faith. Though some of these documents have found their way into the archives of Vienna, Budapest, Adrianople, or Istanbul, most are preserved within Bosnia and Hercegovina, a gold mine for the student of the declining Turkish Empire.

By contrast, the short-lived Austro-Hungarian domination, from 1878 to 1918, evokes a friendlier remembrance. Not that the Austrians were without their own style of bureaucracy. The people recall this period with greater indulgence, not to say wistfulness; it was so much better than the centuries that had gone before, and it lasted only one-tenth as long.

The contents of the volume under review reflect this variegated back-

ground. There are learned articles and discussions on the administration of archives, on source materials relating to Turkish and Moslem life, on Austrian documents, on social and economic history, and a brief account of an earlier attempt to found a provincial archives in 1909, while Bosnia and Hercegovina were still under Austro-Hungarian rule (the present provincial archives was founded in 1947); there follow organization news and notes from beyond the frontiers. The volume is a microcosm of Bosnia and Hercegovina seen through the eyes of the professional archivist.

Washington, D. C.

CARL CHARLICK

There's more to Records Storage than storing records!



4 reasons why Paige Miracle Box does more than store office records —

- 1 **Miracle Box offers unmatched economy.**
Because of its interlocked **double** walls and floor, Miracle Box lasts ten times as long as single-walled corrugated storage files. Miracle Box never splits at corners, never warps, never sags.
- 2 **Miracle Box saves your personnel's time and labor.**
Miracle Box is a completely-finished file (not a "do-it-yourself" project), sets up **instantly, automatically**—no folding, no taping, no tabbing.
- 3 **Miracle Box doesn't need shelving!**
You may use shelving for semi-active records but inactive records can be stacked high **without** shelving.
- 4 **Miracle Box is top quality records storage equipment.**
Made of virgin Kraft 200#-test corrugated fibreboard in the three most wanted sizes: 12" wide x 15" long x 10" high, 12" wide x 24" long x 10" high, 13" wide x 17" long x 14¼" high.

Write or Phone for Brochure AA-12 and Prices



THE PAIGE COMPANY, Inc.

432 Park Avenue South, New York, N. Y. 10016 • (212) 679-6626
Four convenient shipping points Coast-to-Coast