

Reviews

MARILLA B. GUPTIL *and*
EDWARD C. PAPENFUSE, *Editors*

The Papers of Joseph Henry, vol. 1, December 1797-October 1832, The Albany Years, edited by Nathan Reingold. (Washington: Smithsonian Press, 1972. xxxix, 496 pp. Illustrations. \$15.00.)

Among the comprehensive editions of manuscripts of notable Americans, sponsored by the National Historical Publications Commission, the *Papers of Joseph Henry* are the first of a scientist to be launched. While all of these projects are confronted with common editorial problems, each corpus of papers has its own peculiarities as to sheer quantity, nature of content, criteria of selection, and inclusion of pertinent collateral records. Some of these will be ameliorated by both a letterpress and a microfilm edition, as in the case of the *Adams Papers*, whose worthy editorial style is emulated in the *Henry Papers*.

In stating that "our printed volume will constitute an interpretive select edition," editor Nathan Reingold has allowed himself a wide latitude of inclusion, *viz.* "to document Henry's research and professional career for an understanding of both science and the growth of the national scientific community," and, through his life, "to present a broad documentary history" of the period and place. At the heart of the plan, however, is the concept, in Reingold's well-chosen metaphor, that "the life becomes the thread upon which the beads of history are strung." Therefore the selected documents include evidence of daily routine activities, personal and professional, as well as those of broad import, all of which "define the texture of the past." As an "interpretive" edition, the *Henry Papers* follow the concept of Julian P. Boyd exemplified in the *Papers of Thomas Jefferson*.

The first volume of the present work provides ample assurance that the edition, as it progresses, will be a significant contribution to the history of science. Indeed this is doubly so because of the editorial notes.

Publications for review should be sent to the Editor, *American Archivist*, National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. 20408.

Although the documentation of a man's early life is usually sparse (and Henry is no exception), the editor has resisted the temptation to plug the holes with farfetched items of the period. Excerpts from the trustees' minutes of the Albany Academy, where Henry was subsequently student and professor, relate to its founding, faculty, curriculum, and other operations for an understanding of his associations with it, though less detail might have sufficed. By 1825 the documents become more frequent, at the budding of Henry's career as scientist and educator, stimulated by Albany's cultural milieu. He had already read a paper at the Albany Institute "On the Chemical and Mechanical Effects of Steam"; he was a member of the State Road Survey, for which he recorded the Books of Levels; he kept a Journal of an Erie Canal Tour, May 1826, with a party of professors and students to study the geology of the region; and in this same year he was elected professor of mathematics and natural philosophy of Albany Academy.

During the last six years covered in volume 1, ending with his election to the professorship of natural philosophy at Princeton in September 1832, Henry's development as a scientist, his experimental bent, and his philosophy as "an apostle of disinterested research" produce a succession of documents (correspondence and learned papers) indispensable to the history of science in the United States. Throughout this volume Reingold has furthered historical study by headnotes and footnotes, some of imposing length, elucidating the text. Here are erudite essays on the Topographical Engineers and the Corps of Engineers, on pure and mixed mathematics, on the Albany Academy's development and educational philosophy, and on Henry's interpretation of patent law, to mention a few. These are illustrations of "interpretive" editing, which has become a barren issue among historical editors who can't afford time for research, and among historians who maintain that historical interpretation is not within the role of the editor, although they may profit by his contribution. The footnotes of this volume are replete with brief biographical sketches of persons mentioned in the text, some of them second or third-rate obscure figures about whom little is known. The excellent index to the volume supplies an approach to this scattered biographical dictionary.

Inconsistencies and other editorial shortcomings (along with examples of overediting) are too trivial to point out in a work of such high quality. The problem of using and editing the transcriptions, incomplete or inaccurate, of Henry's daughter Mary was solved in the most sensible manner (p. xxxv) and may serve as a guideline to other editors. The book is attractive in format, typography, and binding, though too heavy to hold for prolonged reading. Reingold and his staff are to be commended for the auspicious first-fruit of their scholarly work.

Newberry Library

LESTER J. CAPPON

Enjoying Archives, by David Iredale. (Newton Abbot: David & Charles, Ltd., 1973. 264 pp. £3.95.)

On this side of the ocean we would never title a book thus. Our ideal user of archives, the *Serious Scholar* (he of earnest disposition and intent, concerned with the graver side of life, researching the monograph that perhaps will elicit "Landmark!" from the *American Historical Review*, grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, and job offers from Harvard), has neither time nor inclination to enjoy the records set before him. Perhaps some of our genealogists and local historians do; but they are a different and, if they display enjoyment, an obviously lesser breed.

Across the Atlantic they order these things better. Britons are addicted to such odd and solitary vices as watching small birds in bogs at dawn, walking with rucksacks toward no particular destination, or sailing solitarily around the world. They write books on how to do these things, produce readable accounts of their experiences, and manage to be persuasive about the resultant pleasures.

David Iredale, before moving to the other side of the counter and becoming a record-office searcher and a rummager in solicitors' offices, was an archivist in Lancashire and Yorkshire. He seems to know where just about all the archives in England and Wales are, what is in them, to what uses they can be put, and the titles of all the guides to them.

Most of *Enjoying Archives* is given to a consideration of these repositories. Iredale discusses them under chapters on National Archives, Family Muniment Room, Cathedral, Parish Chest, Municipal Muniment Room, Company Safe, Solicitor's Office, Newspaper Office, Various Repositories, County Record Office, and Some Records in the County Record Office. The National Archives chapter devotes twenty-seven pages to the Public Record Office, eight to the House of Lords Record Office, and a page or two each to the British Museum, Somerset House, National Library of Wales, Bodleian Library, and the Cambridge University Library. The Family Muniment Room is concerned with the categories of family records—"the family in this sense can include the local squire, monastery, industrial company or Oxford college." The Parish Chest devotes thirty-two pages to describing an intriguing assortment of documents that are found in chests of oak or iron ("An act of 1812 demanded an iron chest and these are usually stamped with the date '1813'"). In the County Record Office's session records "You will meet thieves and parsons, unmarried mothers, vagrants, bridge-builders, schoolmasters and witches, rich merchants and proud squires. . . . The history of every charity, savings bank, local military force and bridge, to take just four examples, is illuminated by sessions records." The Company Safe chapter discusses business records in private custody. (There is nothing in *Enjoying Archives* on labor union records, apparently the only major category of archival material not included in Iredale's survey.) And so it goes.

Most useful are the references, included in the text, to published guides

and finding aids to repositories and record collections. Iredale shows how to conduct searches and he illustrates his techniques with examples and sample forms. He is also aware of the economic and social values of the documents and provides specific examples. A commonplace entry in the Whitby manor court records, for instance, relates to a citizen who was wont "to empty his chamberpot into the high street" and so records the custom of the time and the concern about the public good.

Enlightening—and perhaps frightening—to an American archivist are the services a researcher can expect in England and Wales. In the county record office "the archivist will always help you choose a subject for study. He points out significant documents, deciphers difficult handwriting and translates from Latin or French. . . . Suppose you have the rules of your vestry meeting or manor court in secretary hand, dated 1597, and in Latin . . . [and] you do not read Latin or secretary hand. If your research project is genuine and worthwhile . . . the archivist is always more than willing to transcribe and translate for you." There are limits though. "Of course the amount of work he can complete in the time available is limited but a ten-page document should not be too burdensome. He will generally provide you with a typescript."

Iredale does, however, encourage the researcher to do for himself. When a young veterinary surgeon hands him an ancestral marriage settlement in medieval Latin and says he needs someone to translate it, Iredale assures him: "A few hours each day to study handwriting and you'll be able to read this yourself." Within six weeks, following instructions, the young man is deciphering the 1494 document. The reader of *Enjoying Archives* may be able to do as well; for the final two chapters are Paleography and Handwriting in England. The latter chapter reproduces in facsimile the alphabet as written over a period of several hundred years, giving twelve or fifteen examples of each letter.

Iredale also encourages the archivist to do for himself. In the County Record Office chapter he digresses to detail the repair of documents. He prefaces his instructions with a disclaimer perhaps addressed to his American readers: "The following account describes old and tested methods but intends no criticism of solvent lamination technique, lamination under heat and pressure in a machine, and use of cellulose acetate film." His recipes call for best Canadian red wheat plain flour, cartridge paper, silk gauze, new buffed parchments, and bodkins.

According to the blurb on the jacket Iredale's "strong interest in local history in the field, as well as in archives, is perhaps associated with his firm belief in travel as an antidote to the parochial outlook." Acceptance of this belief justifies a journey through England and Wales with a copy of *Enjoying Archives* as guide and companion.

National Archives and Records Service

LEONARD RAPPORT

The Care of Historical Collections: A Conservation Handbook for the Nonspecialist by Per E. Guldbeck. (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1972. xviii, 160 pp. Illustrations. \$5.00)

Conservation of Library Materials: A Manual and Bibliography on the Care, Repair and Restoration of Library Materials, 2d ed., vol. 2, Bibliography, by George Martin Cunha and Dorothy Grant Cunha. (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1972. xiv, 414 pp. \$11.00. Set price for vols. 1 and 2: \$20.00.)

Library and Archives Conservation, edited by George Martin Cunha and Norman Paul Tucker. (Boston: Library of the Boston Athenaeum, 1972. 255 pp. Illustrations. \$8.00.)

The scientific base for the conservation of cultural property is a comparatively recent development, having been formed within roughly the past forty years. Happily, conservators have formed organizations and created journals and bulletins in a deliberate effort to share information, in contrast to an earlier atmosphere of secrecy rooted in the ignorance and unethical practices of "restorers" as well as the naïveté of their clients. Despite the growth of scientific conservation data, and conservation is still in an early growth stage today, the change of attitudes toward it is in an awkward period in which custodians of cultural property view the topic more as a fashionable one than one to which they add their knowledge. Communication between the scientific researchers and the practitioners in conservation is a recognized problem which both groups are struggling to minimize. Communication between practitioners and the nonspecialists they logically come into contact with is of extreme importance, for untrained staff members often are tempted, if not actually directed by uninformed administrators, to treat collections. The need for practical conservation guidance is not being fully met by professional archives, library, and museum organizations. More should be said on this subject by others in other contexts.

The American Association for State and Local History's excellent publication program, designed primarily for small historical agencies, serves a much wider audience and deserves the support—possibly in cooperative publication ventures—of archivists, librarians, and museologists. (A new AASLH handbook in preparation, on the care of photographic materials and collections, will fill a particularly important void.) Per E. Guldbeck's *The Care of Historical Collections* may be considered a pioneer American attempt to convey to amateurs broad philosophical and technical conservation information. (A research associate with the New York State Historical Association when the book was written, Guldbeck now has joined Canada's precedent-setting national conservation program.)

The book is divided into three parts, "The Health and Safety of Col-

lections," "Preliminaries to Conservation," and "First Aid for Artifacts," plus four appendixes, on adhesives, abrasives, brushes and paints, and selected chemicals. There is no index, a deficiency partially relieved by the expanded table of contents. Good lists of selected readings and, where applicable, lists of suppliers follow each topic.

In my opinion the book is disappointing, not because it is a "bad" book but because I believe the author is capable of producing a better book. The basic principles of conservation and the simple but critical concepts of storage and handling (such as compression, abrasion, and acid migration) are inadequately presented. The absence of detailed instructions for one of the most important things *any* custodian of cultural property can do—properly examine and record the condition of objects—is perhaps the book's major failing.

A number of points bothered me as I read the book. Ultra-violet absorbing plastic sleeves for fluorescent tubes are noted as working "indefinitely" (p. 22), but they do not. Among the most difficult items to take away from the amateur are the commercial polyvinylacetate emulsions, and to find one named and recommended (p. 91) is disconcerting. The use of potassium lactate on leather, an operation which can be performed by amateurs, is not well explained. Fumigation is not treated as a topic but is scattered though the text. One hopes that, contrary to the suggestions of the author, neither DDT nor sodium fluoride will be used to control insects. Archivists naturally will turn to the section on paper and presumably will be surprised to see 30 percent relative humidity "considered ideal" without reference to temperature, especially after having read that below 40 percent r.h., paper sticks together (p. 19). Ironing or using a mangle for flattening humidified paper is improperly recommended. Handbooks like this are needed desperately, and it is hoped that the author will have the opportunity soon to revise this one. Despite these negative comments, readers are urged to make use of this basically sensible, convenient, inexpensive reference.

A conservation book which has been revised is George and Dorothy Cunha's *Conservation of Library Materials*, the first edition of which was reviewed in the July 1968 issue of the *American Archivist*. The second edition is in two volumes the first of which, text and appendixes, was reviewed in the *American Archivist*, July/October 1972. The bibliography is volume 2 of the second edition and is here reviewed separately. The first edition of this work should be retired from use and the two new volumes used together. Mr. and Mrs. Cunha are practitioners eager to share their knowledge, and the second edition has been revised and enlarged. Although the book is typewriter-offset produced, it has been printed on (unwatermarked) "permanent/durable paper with a neutral pH to insure a life expectancy of at least one hundred years."

Continued use of the term "manual" in the subtitle is misleading. The authors state in the preface that volume 1 is a commentary on the information available and volume 2 is "a trustworthy guide to the literature

of library conservation and other areas of conservation closely related to it." The bibliography is supposed to correspond to the text arrangement in volume 1, but, as in the first edition, actually does not. There are 4,882 entries for an unknown number of citations, primarily of titles in English. New to this edition is an author index for the bibliography. The introduction includes a list of twenty-four recommended titles for everyday use by librarians and archivists, whereas ten were listed in the first edition.

Annotation is helpfully given for some entries. The intent of the volume is to be useful; nevertheless, bibliographic accuracy is missing in both form and arrangement. Some entries lack only accents (entries 339 and 682) or correct spelling (entry 2,875, "Archive," and identical entry 3,262, "Archival") or are incomplete (entries 3,306 and 4,168, entries 1,080 and 3,828). More puzzling, however, is that entry 2,867, *American Standard Practice for Storage of Microfilm*, appears under "Preventive Care-Storage," but not, as might be expected, under "Preventive Care-Photographic Materials." Similarly, "Handling, Repair and Storage of 16mm Films" should be entered under the latter heading rather than under the section "Records and Tapes." There seems to be no reason why under "Repair and Restoration—Paper" the entries for "Examination" are in Appendix J and, in the same section, there is but one entry under "Testing." Entry 4,317, *Leather Research and Technology at the National Bureau of Standards*, appears only under "Cooperative Conservation" and not in any of the sections on leather.

The introduction to the bibliography begins with the observation that "The literature on the conservation of library materials is increasing at an astounding rate." For this reason, the Cunha was urged by myself and, I believe, by others, to produce the bibliography (which, despite certain shortcomings, is a monumental achievement) in an expandable form so that topics could be kept current. It is regrettable that this was not done, for it seems totally unnecessary to repeat the historical entries in new editions and awkward to use separate supplements.

Yes, of course, you should buy it and use it; that is, volumes 1 and 2 ought to be used together. There is nothing else like them readily available, and the authors make no pretense of perfection. They will be grateful for your reactions and comments.

In another form of information sharing, Mr. Cunha, then conservator of the Library of the Boston Athenaeum and now director of the new Document Conservation Center of the New England Interstate Library Compact, gave in May 1971, at Topsfield, Massachusetts, a Seminar on the Application of Chemical and Physical Methods to the Conservation of Library and Archival Materials. The title of the seminar perhaps thwarted the intent to reach administrators rather than curators and practitioners who largely attended. Papers given by the sponsors, guests, and participants were in short supply for the seminarists, whose requests for copies resulted in the present volume, *Library and Archives Conserva-*

tion, edited by Mr. Cunha and Norman Paul Tucker, printed on Perma-life and spiral bound. The various papers, most not intended for publication at the time, form a surprisingly readable and useful reference. Outstanding is the short paper on "Physics of Light," by Philip B. Lape. Fred Alpers, an enlightened commercial binder, has written a paper, "Library Binding," which all librarians, archivists, and conservators should read.

Conservation always is a serious and often a life-or-death matter, and as custodians we must demand the highest standards. In his preface, Per Guldbeck emphasizes "that readers should and must make use of the reading lists and keep abreast of new literature." He, the Cunhas, and others hope and *expect* that you will read thoughtfully and critically.

Bishop Museum

JOHN COTTON WRIGHT

Maps: A Historical Survey of Their Study and Collecting, by R. A. Skelton. (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1972. xvii, 138 pp. \$5.95.)

The collecting and studying of maps has been placed in historical perspective for the first time with the publication of four essays by Raleigh A. Skelton, long-time superintendent of the Map Room of the British Museum and dean of cartographic historians in the English-speaking world. The essays were originally delivered in the first series of the Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography at the Newberry Library during the fall of 1966. Following Skelton's untimely death in 1970, the essays were carefully edited and annotated for publication by David Woodward, Curator of Maps at the Newberry Library. An introduction by Hermon Dunlap Smith and a bibliography of over two hundred of Skelton's published works, compiled by Robert W. Karrow, Jr., complete the work.

The first essay briefly summarizes the history of cartography as a craft and an art from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century, and it sets the stage for the later essays. By emphasizing the effects of the forces of inertia and of change on the form and content of maps, Skelton illustrates the close relationship between the creation of maps and their classification and analysis.

The second essay examines the high rate of loss and destruction of early maps—"more severe than that of any other class of historical document"—as well as the conditions and circumstances that saved many early maps from the ravages of time. Custodians of early manuscript maps will not be surprised to find that mapmakers and land surveyors lead the list of "enemies of maps." Little interested in the future, they were practical men who had no idea of the historical value of the documents they created. It is this very naïveté, according to Skelton, which

makes maps important, impartial historical documents. Two reasons are given for the survival of those early maps: archives and the private collector. Official and private archives receive high marks for protecting their collections from normal hazards, but it is the story of the private collectors that Skelton traces in detail from the beginning of the fifteenth century to the present time. The latter have served scholarship not only by preserving maps that have suffered alienation or dispersal but also, as Skelton shows, by often taking the lead in the study of maps. High on Skelton's list of scholar-collectors are curators Justin Winsor and P. Lee Phillips, who enriched the literature of cartography with their descriptive work on map collections.

In the final two essays, Skelton considers the study of maps—past, present, and future. He traces four attitudes that have dominated map study at different periods or the work of different scholars. These are (1) maps as material for reconstructing the physical landscape, (2) maps as evidence of human life or organization, (3) maps as illustration of the state of geographical knowledge and thought, and (4) maps as products of cartographic skill and practice. The first two deal primarily with content and are considered the province of the historical geographer and the political and economic historian; the last two deal with form and are of more interest to cartographic historians. Although form and content are often treated separately, Skelton stresses their interaction. From the point of view of the custodian, the main theme that characterizes the study of maps from the seventeenth century to the present is the varying emphasis placed by curators and scholars upon the tools of map study, particularly between the production of facsimile reproductions of selected early maps and the preparation of inventories of surviving maps. While today the inventorying of maps has gained ascendancy over the publication of facsimiles, Skelton reminds us that during an earlier period, facsimiles had a higher priority than inventories. Facsimiles not only have served to preserve the content of maps but also have greatly facilitated research by encouraging the comparative study of maps.

Written primarily for the cartographic historian, these essays also should interest archivists and curators who have custody of maps, as well as those scholars who use maps as source documents. Unlike most map custodians, Skelton had a keen awareness of the documentary nature of early maps and understood the distinction between archival and "artificial" collections. He was able also to communicate those concepts and ideas in a natural and thoughtful style.

National Archives and Records Service

RALPH E. EHRENBERG

À la Carte: Selected Papers on Maps and Atlases, compiled by Walter W. Ristow. (Washington: Library of Congress, 1972. x, 232 pp. Illustrations. \$4.00. From the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office.)

À la Carte is a collection of twenty papers on maps and atlases cataloged among the three-and-a-quarter million maps and more than thirty-two thousand atlases in the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress. The essays are arranged in two groups. In the first are seven papers that describe unique sixteenth- and seventeenth-century maps and atlases. American maps are featured in the thirteen articles of the second group.

Eighteen of these essays appeared in the *Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress* between 1944 and 1967. The two papers not published in the *Quarterly Journal* have been included because of their close relationship to one or more of the articles. One is "John Disturnell's Map of the United Mexican States," by the late Lawrence Martin, chief of the Geography and Map Division from 1924 to 1946, which was published in volume 5 of Hunter Miller's *Treaties and Other International Acts of the United States of America* (Washington, 1937). The other is Walter Ristow's "Captain John Smith's Map of Virginia," originally issued in a descriptive leaflet to accompany a facsimile edition of Smith's map, published by the Library of Congress in 1957.

The authors are nine present and former Library of Congress staff members, and the compilation was made by Walter W. Ristow, chief of the Geography and Map Division. With the exception of four papers by Lawrence Martin, all the papers have been reviewed, edited, and updated by the original authors. Martin's essays were edited and, in some instances, extensively revised and expanded by the compiler who, if we include his editing of Martin's contributions, is the author of half of the selected essays. The other seven authors are Nelson R. Burr, Arthur G. Burton, Howard F. Cline, Frederick R. Goff, Clara E. LeGear, Paul G. Sifton, and Richard W. Stephenson.

The volume is generously illustrated, and photocopies of all the maps and other illustrations appearing in the publication are available from the Library of Congress. Instructions on how to order photocopies are given in one section. There is an extensive index.

While the articles are detailed, always scholarly, frequently provocative, and sometimes esoteric, they are also smooth and delightful reading. *À la Carte* is not à la carte—it is a complete banquet, easily digestible by those who have an appetite for cartography.

Texas State Archives

JOHN M. KINNEY

The American Newsreel, 1911-1967, by Raymond Fielding. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972. xvi, 392 pp. Illustrations. \$9.95.)

Most people are aware of the existence of the motion picture newsreel, having many times during their lives been entertained and thrilled by the endless stream of images that flickered across the screen twice a week in ten-minute issues. The American newsreel existed for over fifty years as an integral part of the normal movie-going experience, but few people today would remember the newsreel as accomplishing what its name implies—delivering the news. What is remembered with nostalgic reverence is the incredible array of water sports, festivals, midgets, animal acts, beauty spectacles, and ceaseless parades that passed in carnivallike fashion before the grinding cameras.

And this cherished memory may be altogether accurate, for Raymond Fielding, professor of communications at Temple University, has concluded in his historical study of the American newsreel that "its values belonged to show business rather than to journalism" and that the newsreel's primary purpose was to "satisfy the appetites of an entertainment-seeking audience" rather than to present serious reportage.

From its inception in 1911, the newsreel was always part of the motion picture business, and Fielding carefully traces its growth, content, and style in a traditional chronological fashion, showing not only the fierce competition that developed among the major newsreel companies but also the continuous occurrence of fakery, re-creation, and blatant fraud that gradually eroded the authenticity and veracity of newsreel content. On rare occasions the newsreel did live up to its potential, dramatically recording such unforgettable images as the assassination of King Alexander in 1934 or the crash of the *Hindenburg* in 1937; and the author, with splendid illustrations, recounts these highlights in full detail. Gradually the newsreels died, almost without notice, and Fielding documents their decline as the various companies gradually ceased production because of a variety of factors ranging from loss of competition, censorship controls, and rigidity of content, to the impact of television news coverage.

Fielding's account makes enjoyable reading, for he has packed this pioneering study with a wealth of information and peppered it with fascinating anecdotes. Despite the great number of footnotes and the length of the bibliography, however, the author's sources are largely contemporary accounts and secondary works. There is little evidence that newsreel production records were researched or that the newsreel films themselves were actually used as primary sources in the study. While Fielding does imply that dangerous pitfalls await the film scholar who attempts to use newsreels in historical research, he never treats seriously or develops critically the question of the fundamental nature of the newsreel as historical evidence. It would also have been helpful,

as a guide to future researchers into this virgin territory of film research, if the author had appended an essay outlining the availability of newsreels in archival institutions and film libraries.

National Archives and Records Service

LESLIE C. WAFFEN

Correspondence of James K. Polk, vol. 2, 1833-34, edited by Herbert Weaver and Paul H. Bergeron. (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1972. xxxvi, 645 pp. \$15.00)

This is the second volume of a project financed by the National Historical Publications Commission, the Tennessee Historical Commission, and Vanderbilt University to publish the important correspondence of the eleventh president of the United States, James K. Polk. In a pointed review of the first volume, covering the years 1817-32, which was published in a prestigious historical journal, the critic accused the editors of utilizing faulty identification methods and for "unwittingly dehumanizing a man not overly possessed of personal warmth by omitting the complimentary closings to his letters." The reviewer claimed that they had done this by leaving out "Affectionately yr husband" in the sole surviving letter written to his wife. This charge resulted from the critic's disregard of an editorial notice in the preface succinctly stating that in the interest of conserving space: "Except in rare instances, complimentary closings have been omitted."

The reader should bear in mind that this magnificent reference series pertains exactly to what it purports to pertain—the correspondence of James K. Polk. It is not a scheme to create charisma or to develop a favorable biography for the principal. Volume 2 is an effort to reproduce accurately the original text of each letter selected by the editors written from or to Mr. Polk in the years 1833-34. No one should attempt to read anything else into the effort but the originally stated objective.

The only correct way to assay this volume, or any other implementation of the series, is from the viewpoint of the researcher for whom it is intended. Anyone who has stayed the crank of a microfilm reader, while he peered and puzzled at an original handwritten letter by James K. Polk, knows the true value of this work. At first glance, Polk's writing appears to be fairly legible, but one only has to read a few lines before he starts considering the advisability of enlisting the services of a cryptographer. Polk's handwriting may not be as horrible as that of Martin Van Buren, but it is extremely difficult to read. The same observation may be applicable to letters written by other correspondents in this volume. The presidential microfilm collection is an excellent source for those remote from the National Archives or the other pertinent repositories, and this work provides Polk's letters in crisp, clean print without mystification or additional mental strain.

Here one finds a wealth of information concerning James K. Polk's early political activities. During these years, he served as member, then chairman, of the influential House Ways and Means Committee. He was also actively engaged as President Jackson's floor leader, supporting his decision not to recharter the Second Bank of the United States and arranging for the removal of federal deposits. One finds information concerning his unsuccessful campaign, June 1834, against John Bell, a fellow Tennessean, to become Speaker of the House. Vital information is revealed about Polk's alignment with the Jackson forces in Tennessee against the local opposition favoring Judge Hugh Lawson White, a native son, over Jackson's designated heir, Martin Van Buren, in the presidential election of 1836.

This work complies with the highest standards of indexing. The table of contents gives a chronological listing by year, date, and author. The comprehensive index at the back of the book is of the "name-place" variety, and it proves to be accurate on all items checked. It should be a boon to genealogists, as well as graduate students, because it contains the names alphabetically of all individuals mentioned in the letters. All in all, this volume should be a welcome addition to the personal library of any professional historian and a required acquisition for all reputable reference libraries.

Southeastern Louisiana University

JAMES EDWARD MURPHY

The Journal of Madam Knight, introduction by Malcolm Freiberg and wood engravings by Michael McCurdy. (Boston: David R. Godine, 1972. vi, 39 pp. \$10.00; deluxe edition \$35.00.)

The journal records Sarah Kemble Knight's five-month journey—which followed generally the route of the present New Haven (Penn-Central) Railroad—beginning early in October 1704, from Boston to New York City and back, with long stopovers in New Haven and New York. Born in Boston in 1666, she, as "Widow" Knight, kept shop there. She was certainly one of the "Most Unforgettable Characters of early eighteenth-century New England" and, as Freiberg further notes, "endowed with qualities enabling her not merely to compete easily but to survive nicely in a man's world." Although she sought guides for parts of her journey, no male accompanied her for protection: she traveled alone. In 1714 Widow Knight followed her daughter, who married John Livingston (of the New York Livingstons), to Connecticut, buying property in Norwich and New London and keeping a shop and later an inn. She died in New London in 1727, leaving an estate of £1,800.

In hand, the "trade edition" of the journal is a lovely little volume, bound in full linen of a handsome russet shade and set in Monotype Baskerville on Mohawk Superfine paper, with rust-inked wood engrav-

ings throughout. (For \$35.00 you would get a copy "printed on Rives, bound in quarter leather, and . . . signed by the artist.") The introductory note, an outgrowth of the entry on Sarah Knight prepared for *Notable American Women, 1607-1950: A Biographical Dictionary* (ed. Edward T. James et al., Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971), is accompanied by a bibliography of references to her.

Freiberg says that the manuscript journal has long since disappeared; the text is taken unchanged, except for correction of three typographical errors, from the first edition, published in 1825. Madam Knight's spelling has not been modernized, and superior letters have been reproduced in this edition. Malcolm Freiberg, editor of the Massachusetts Historical Society, wrote the introduction; but no editor is listed, and apparently no editing or annotation was done. The reader encounters many of Madam Knight's expressions not in current use (for example, *vantage*, *bait*, *alfogeos*, and *versall*), and must stop to consult the unabridged dictionary, where he finds a few with meanings that seem to fit the context. For the most part, however, if he does not have available the *Oxford English Dictionary* (sometimes called *A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles*), he will miss much of her pungent comment on scenes, people, and surroundings. How unfortunate that such a beautifully produced edition could not have had all the principles of historical editing brought to bear as well!

Freiberg assesses Madam Knight truly, as a "redoubtable lady . . . an extraordinary diarist—keenly and wittily observant, possessed of a sharp eye for local color and a sure ear for the words of others (particularly her inferiors), gently self-mocking, and quite without pretence or guile." At the end of a daily entry, she often summed up her experiences in verse. One snippet must be given:

*I ask thy Aid, O Potent Rum!
To Charm these wrangling Topers Dum.
Thou has their Giddy Brains possess—
The man confounded wth the Beast—
And I, poor I, can get no rest.
Intoxicate them with thy fumes:
O still their Tongues till morning comes!*

"And I know not but my wishes took effect; for the dispute soon ended wth 'tother Dram; and so Good night!"

National Archives and Records Service

MARY JANE DOWD

Fundamental Filing Practice, by Irene Place, Estelle L. Popham, and Harry N. Fujita. (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1973. 245 pp. Illustrations. \$5.95.)

The records manager's reference shelf today includes many books on the subject of filing, far more than those devoted to any other facet of records management. While the basic content of most filing books is substantially the same, each attempts to present the subject in a slightly different manner, either through emphasis on specific filing systems or through use of examples and illustrations. Each provides a liberal number of filing illustrations and equipment pictures to give the reader a good insight into the practical applications of the subject. Chapters are usually followed by questions and case studies. Further, as a result of the increasing acceptance of records management in business and college curricula as well, filing books have added limited sections or chapters on records retention and protection and microfilm. Forms and reports control as records management techniques are most often completely neglected. Into the arena comes *Fundamental Filing Practice*. It fits into the same pattern as its predecessors. Fortunately, it has some very redeeming characteristics.

Fundamental Filing Practice is a workbook. It concentrates on participation by students through a series of review questions, review exercises, and projects after each chapter, noting that "In preparing the teacher-learning projects, which are such a large part of the text, the authors developed projects that involve decision making as well as knowledge about filing systems." This is one of the unique features of the book and comes across very effectively. The projects are similar, in many respects, to those offered in *Filing and Records Management*, by Place and Popham, and thus it is recommended for use in conjunction with that book. These authors have put their expertise to work in a well-written and direct approach to filing. In their treatment of filing, they cannot be faulted. Their treatment of the total concept of records management and their limited coverage of other elements of records management leave much to be desired.

To one not versed in records management, the introduction to *Fundamental Filing Practice* creates the impression that records management is what the book is all about. According to the authors, their considerable research included company records centers and archives, none of which is mentioned in the book itself. "Practical exercises throughout this book . . . help the student understand how to select and safeguard vital records. . . . They give an understanding of records retention schedules and how to build them." This would indicate more than the four pages devoted to these subjects in the book. The authors would better have discussed "total records programming elements" in the introduction to their book and stayed with their filing practices throughout the text. This is evident from the omissions and errors in

their treatment of scheduling, vital records, and microfilm. Their exercises and projects offer no thought-provoking assignments on these topics. It is difficult to understand the need to dilute an authoritative treatment of filing by inserting items just because they represent the popular trend. This failing applies as well to books that are titled *Records Management* and are principally filing books. At least *Fundamental Filing Practice* meets the major part of its content.

The appendixes provide an interesting supplement to the book. They include a glossary, a listing of associations in filing and records management, a listing of filing equipment and supply companies, standard divisions for alphabetic guides, and a retention schedule. Through no fault of the authors, addresses change and new organizations come into being—an inevitable weakness when such listings are provided. The use of a “canned” retention schedule makes the subject of scheduling seem cut and dried. Citing examples of legal requirements or making reference to the bibliography would have been more valuable in emphasizing the importance of scheduling.

Fundamental Filing Practice, notwithstanding the few philosophical criticisms, is a commendable addition to the library of records management knowledge. It will prove valuable to the records management practitioner as a reference book and to the educator as a guide and classroom text in filing. In fact, any individual who wants to improve his or her knowledge of filing will find it to be an excellent workbook.

Lockheed Aircraft Corporation

WILLIAM BENEDON

Microfilm Guides

Dartmouth College Library. *The Microfilm Edition of the Papers of Daniel Webster: Guide and Index to the Microfilm*, edited by Charles M. Wiltse (Ann Arbor, Michigan: University Microfilms in collaboration with Dartmouth College Library, 1971. 175 pp.), fills a long-standing gap in United States history satisfying the essential purpose of the National Historical Publications Commission-sponsored documentary program. The handsome, hardbound finding aid includes a comment on the search for papers, a section of mostly personal acknowledgements, a publication history of Webster materials commenting on the unsatisfactory letterpress editions, a survey of the major Webster deposits, and an explanation of the arrangement of papers and filming procedures. There is also an extremely useful Webster chronology and an extensive bibliography. The roll notes are exemplary—brief and informative. This edition of the papers does not include Webster’s official State Department Papers (available through NARS), most of his federal court papers (also available through NARS with some notable exceptions being his briefs for the Charles River Corporation and Dartmouth College), and papers for cases argued before local and state courts (to be issued in a separate

microfilm edition). The some 16,000 items of this edition are divided into four manuscript series arranged chronologically: Rolls 2–28, Correspondence, 1798–1853; Roll 29, Business Papers; Rolls 30–37, Congressional Records, 13th–32nd Congresses; and Rolls 38–41, State Department and other federal agency records. Roll 1 contains alphabetical card-catalog entries, and each item is identified in the film. Researchers will certainly appreciate the uniformity of the film, which is arranged and edited to save them the effort of constant refocusing, rewinding, and rotating of either their viewers or their heads. The uniformity was accomplished through the use of Xerox copies and refilming without any shuffling of originals or damage either to the papers or to the sensibilities of archivists—so the editor hopes. Unfortunately, this concern for the user did not always extend to the index, in which a few irregularities could have been eliminated through the utilization of more repeated entries (instead of cross or see references). Presumably the film is obtainable under the conditions governing most NHPC-sponsored projects and the guide can be purchased, but there is no mention of availability or price. Printed on good paper, the publication's typography is excellent and its three-column index is quite legible.

Maryland Historical Society. *A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the William Wirt Papers*, by John B. Boles (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1971. 23 pp. \$1.00), describes "the largest and hitherto the least used" collection of Wirt Papers now in the possession of the Maryland Historical Society. It includes an admirable biographical sketch of Wirt, a bibliographic essay, and a brief description of the papers and filming procedures. The basic arrangement for filming of the material was to begin with the correspondence in chronological order, following it with the letterbooks and miscellaneous items with roll notes indicating the dates covered. In the guide to the film there is a selected list of correspondents and subjects covered, but most of the correspondence is personal and family oriented. Portraits of Wirt (front end paper) and Elizabeth W. Wirt (back end paper) are an attractive feature of the pamphlet. The film may be purchased at \$10 per roll (\$200 for the complete edition including guide) from the Maryland Historical Society's Curator of Manuscripts. The publication meets all the standards of the NHPC program, but if the papers are as valuable as the editor and society would have us believe, then a full-scale index would not have been out of order.

That the Maryland Historical Society should join the Enoch Pratt Free Library in producing a *Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the John Pendleton Kennedy Papers*, by John B. Boles (Baltimore: Peabody Department of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, 1972. 30 pp. \$1.00), was not altogether unfitting, as is explained in the text. And that the editor of the Maryland Society's William Wirt Papers (see above) served in the same capacity for the microfilm edition of Wirt's biographer yielded continuity and experience. While the text of the finding aid discusses

the origin of the papers with an extensive biographical sketch of and essay on Kennedy, there is only a summary comment regarding the papers, which were described in detail by Lloyd W. Griffin in the *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 48 (1953): 327-36. Contained for the most part in bound volumes, the papers presented a problem in layout for filming. The difficulty was overcome by the use of extensive roll notes for the eighty-four items, with roll indications and a roll list providing item holdings, although nothing could improve the near illegibility of certain faded originals. Individual rolls are available at \$10 (\$270 for the set) from the library.

Minnesota Historical Society. The NHPC has also encouraged such independent efforts as the *Guide to a Microfilm Edition of the Mexican Mission Papers of John Lind*, by Deborah K. Neubeck (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1971. vi, 22 pp. \$2.00). The early pages of this well-produced guide contain an introduction by Lucile M. Kane, a map of Mexico, and a photograph of Lind. The text includes a brief comment on the material selected for filming from the society's larger collection of Lind Papers and on filming procedures, followed by a brief biographical sketch, an outline of events in Lind's life, a comment on the historical background of the papers, and selected chronology of the Mexican Revolution, 1910-20. The description of the papers, as is their arrangement, is chronological; however, the bulk of the material relates to the period 1913-14. There are a bibliographical note, roll list, and selected list of authors and subjects. The microfilm is available from the society at \$17.50 per roll or \$105.00 for the entire seven rolls.

National Archives and Records Service. *Records of the Russian-American Company, 1802, 1817-67*, by Raymond H. Fisher (Pamphlet Describing National Archives Microfilm Publication M11, Washington, 1971. v, 195 pp.), is a handsome, paperbound volume with excellent typography. While the introduction contains a discussion of provenance, contents, and editing of the Russian-American Company records with notes, the main part of the pamphlet is devoted to a calendar of the first six volumes and to "Communications Received by Governors General, 1802, 1817-29," which "provides a good representation to the kinds of material that one can expect to find in the Company's records." There is also a selective bibliography, a roll list to the microfilm publication of ninety-two volumes contained on seventy-seven rolls, and, in the appendixes, a list of governors general of the company and glossary to the calendar.

McGill University Archives. *Abraham de Sola Papers: A Guide to the Microfilm*, prepared by Mrs. Emmanuel Miller with a foreword by John C. L. Andreassen (Montreal: McGill University Archives, 1970. iv, 89 pp.), is essentially a calendar to the papers, prepared by their

owner. There is also a chronological index, an alphabetical index to names and subjects prepared by Sandra Guillaume of the archives, and a foreword by the university archivist discussing the provenance of the papers and their importance. Copies of the limited edition (200) are available from Mr. David Rose, Jewish Public Library, 5253 Decarie, Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada, and the microfilm at \$15.00 from the archives.

Also issued is a *Guide to the Watercolors of Anna Dawson Harrington on Color Microfilm, 1869-1914, Accession No. 1138*, by Nicholas de Jong (Montreal: McGill University Archives, 1971. 7 pp.), which contains a roll list to the four volumes of watercolors with a notation of subject, date, and reduction ratio for each of the ninety-eight items. The finding aid and microfilm are available for reference and loan, and microfilm technologists will be interested in de Jong's introduction, "Color Microfilm—One Application." Both these mimeographed publications from the McGill University Archives possess utility and legibility sufficient for in-house finding aids; however, ugly, uneven margins detract from the pamphlets, and the paper tapes over the stapled red poster-board covers are likely to crumble.

North Carolina Office of Archives and History. A different type of finding aid from the NHPC Microfilm Guides is *North Carolina Newspapers on Microfilm*, compiled by Roger C. Jones, 4th ed. (Raleigh: North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, 1971. vi, 105 pp. \$2.00), which represents "virtually all of the newspapers published in North Carolina prior to 1901 and many after that date, with the exception of papers still being published." Entries are alphabetical under the place of publication and provide titles, inclusive dates, and reel numbers with references indicating title changes. Titles added to the fourth edition of the check list are preceded by an asterisk, and those newspapers substantially refilmed by a double asterisk. There are three appendixes: the first continues the check list of eighteenth-century newspapers from the previous editions, the second contains a list arranged by county of cities and towns of which newspapers have been filmed by the department, and the third embraces a statewide alphabetical list of newspaper titles and variations. There is an introduction by H. G. Jones discussing the department's continuing program of microfilming North Carolina newspapers and alterations made in the fourth edition of the check list which is to be supplemented from time to time. While the multilith pamphlet is not intended to be permanent, the tape over the attractive cover is yielding to wear, and more care in typing would have produced a more sightly format. Still, the publication is legible; the user, in and out of the state, will benefit from this valuable and expanded check list.

Briefly noted

Archives of American Art Journal, vol. 12, no. 4 (1972) contains a brief biography of the nineteenth-century artist Lilly Martin Spencer, based on the artist's papers recently donated to the archives. Although Mrs. Spencer has long been overlooked by art historians, this biographical article by Elsie F. Freivogel provides interesting insight into problems and opportunities faced by a talented nineteenth-century woman. "Some Recently Discovered Thomas Eakins Photographs" by Garnett McCoy, also in this issue of the *Journal*, describes and reproduces important photographs by and of Eakins, one of America's greatest artists, found among the papers of Philadelphia artist Thomas Anschutz. Additionally, this issue of the *Journal* publishes letters from the papers of artist Alexander H. Wyant and an excerpt from the 1885 Paris journal of Benjamin Tupper Newman. Seventeen collections acquired or micro-filmed by the Archives of American Art during the third quarter of 1972 are also described in this issue of the *Journal*. [Maygene F. Daniels]

The *Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress* for January 1973 contains an article on André Malraux's first attempt with cinematography, a pictorial review on the Matson Collection of photography in the Middle East, a report on Walt Whitman's earliest known letter recently acquired by the library, and an account of the Music Division's annual acquisitions. Additions to the latter include manuscripts of composers George Antheil, Robert Alexander Schumann, George Gershwin, and others. Among additions to the Archive of Folk Song Section is a duplication of Indian folklore housed in the National Archives.

As part of its observance of the American Revolution Bicentennial, the Library of Congress has published *Creating Independence, 1763-1789*, an annotated bibliography of background reading for young people on the American Revolutionary War period. Compiled by Margaret N. Coughlan, Children's Book Section, with an introduction by Richard B. Morris, Columbia University, it can be ordered for seventy-five cents by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or in person from the Information Center, Main Building, Library of Congress. A single copy of the *Quarterly Journal* can be had for sixty-five cents from the same sources.

Microcard Editions has issued *Reader in Government Documents*, edited by Frederic J. O'Hara, ninth book of its Reader Series in Library and Information Science. Pertinent to the National Archives are sections on depository libraries, Federal Register finding aids, records in the National Archives, and Office of Records Management information retrieval systems. Copies are available at \$12.95 from Microcard Editions, 901 26th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

The second in a series of reports on conferences held semiannually by the National Archives and Records Service has been published, *The*

National Archives and Statistical Research, edited by Meyer H. Fishbein. Like the other conferences, the two-day discussion of archival resources for statistics was convened to exchange ideas among archivists, historians, and researchers. The first book in the series, *United States Polar Explorations*, was released last year. A third volume, *The American Territorial System*, will be published later this year. Each book is priced at \$10 and is available from the Publications Sales Branch, National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. 20408. The volumes will be reviewed in later issues of the *American Archivist*.

The American Society for Information Science (ASIS) has published the report of a study on copyright issues and pending legislation entitled *Omnibus Copyright Revision—Comparative Analysis of the Issues*. The report, prepared by the Cambridge Research Institute of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is the result of a study commissioned by the Copyright Study Group, a group of fifteen professional associations, including ASIS, that requested an impartial analysis of the impact of copyright-revision legislation on communications. Cost is \$38.40 to members of the Copyright Study Group and \$48.00 to all others. Write to Publications Division, American Society for Information Science, 1140 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

ASIS also announces publication of *The Invisible Medium: The State of the Art of Microform and a Guide to the Literature*, by Frances G. Spigai. Commissioned by the ERIC Clearinghouse on Library and Information Sciences (ERIC/CLIS), which is operated by ASIS for the National Institute of Education, the publication has been issued in cooperation with the ASIS Special Interest Group on Reprographic Technology and with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Media and Technology at Stanford University. The author describes the many types of microforms, explains the differences between each type, and discusses their uses, benefits, and drawbacks. The publication also discusses related technological events of the past decade, lists microform equipment, and provides an annotated bibliography of literature on micrographics. It may be purchased from ASIS for \$3.50.

The ERIC Clearinghouse on Library and Information Sciences (ERIC/CLIS) announces a publication by Science Associates/International, Inc.: *Trends in Modern Subject Analysis with Reference to Text Derivative Indexing and Abstracting Methods: the State of the Art*, by Kieth C. Wright. The author reviews modern classification and subject heading theory; the literature of automatic indexing, abstracting, and classification; and problems of large file organizations, word meanings, and the limitations of "automatic" methods. An extensive bibliography is included. It is available as INFORMATION, Part 2, Volume 1, Number 5, September-October 1972, from Science Associates/International, Inc., 23 East 26th Street, New York, N.Y. 10010 for \$7.50.