

The International Scene: News and Abstracts

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The International Council on Archives, with headquarters in Paris, France, is experiencing financial difficulties in completing the publication of the *Guide to the Sources of the History of Africa* because of the devaluation of the dollar abroad. The publisher solicits sufficient orders for the work to avoid carrying on at a loss. Interested persons should send subscriptions to Inter Documentation Company AG, Poststrasse 14, 6300 Zug (Switzerland).

First SAA Archives Study Tour Visits Archives of Western Europe. On their return trip in 1972 from the ICA Moscow Congress, several American participants visited archival agencies in Europe. At about this time, too, the Society's Committee on International Archival Affairs was considering the recommendations of the Committee for the 1970's, one of which was that the Society become more responsive to the needs and interests of the membership, perhaps through organizing and conducting tours. Encouraged by the experience of those recently returned from abroad, the committee began planning its first archives study tour. Arrangements were made to visit between August 12 and 31 more than twenty archival repositories in six Western European countries. Travel arrangements were handled by Sanders World Travel, Inc., which had coordinated the Moscow trip.

On Sunday evening, August 12, twenty-two travelers, members of the Society and their families, departed Dulles International Airport, arriving the following morning in London. After checking into their hotel, they were taken on an orientation bus tour of the city, a tour that emphasized historic sites and concluded at the Imperial College Archives. Mrs. J. Pingree, the college archivist, gave a brief history of the repository and a tour of its fine facilities. After viewing a special exhibition illustrative of the holdings, the group met at a reception a number of college officials, faculty members, and local archivists.

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Highlights of the second day in London were a morning visit to the Public Record Office including the Portugal Street annex, a reception by Keeper of Public Records Jeffery Ede and his senior staff, and an afternoon visit to the Greater London Record Office, where Miss E. D. Mercer, the head archivist, and her staff provided another informative program and generous reception. The following morning several of the group accepted the invitation of Dr. Felix Hull to visit the Kent Archives Office in Maidstone and later rejoined the others at the India Office Library and Records Office. There, in addition to the archival facilities, they saw a special exhibition of representative holdings and of items relating to the United States, arranged by Miss Joan Lancaster, the archivist. Departure from London was scheduled for midafternoon of the fourth day, making possible a stop that morning at the Archives of the House of Lords where Assistant Clerk of the Records David Johnson conducted the party through the impressive tower repository.

On Thursday afternoon, August 16, the archivists flew from London to Cologne and traveled by bus to their hotel in Bonn. The next morning they proceeded by train to Koblenz where they were met by English-speaking staff members of the Bundesarchiv, who conducted them through the film archives, located in the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, which commands a magnificent view from a hillside opposite the confluence of the Moselle and the Rhine Rivers. Afterward the group went to the headquarters building of the Bundesarchiv for a luncheon, an orientation and tour of its facilities and of a specially prepared exhibit, and a reception with senior staff hosted by President of the Bundesarchiv Dr. Hans Booms and Dr. Wolfgang Mommsen, the former president. Most of the group boarded one of the cruise ships on the Rhine for the late afternoon return trip to Bonn.

Although the next day was Saturday, a special program had been arranged for the group by Dr. Hugo Stehkämper, Director of the Historisches Archiv der Stadt, in Cologne. Several members elected to visit instead the Zwischenarchiv—West Germany's major records center for the Bonn government—located at St. Augustin-Hangelar, and open that morning as a special courtesy by the Bundesarchiv. The Historical Archives of Cologne proved to be as impressive in some ways as the city's famous cathedral. Masked with the facade of a typical office building in the business district, the repository is a model in design, construction, equipment, and facilities, and its holdings are among the oldest and richest of any municipal archives. Several English-speaking guides had been recruited for the visit, and after an instructive tour, the visitors were given attractive sets of historical prints and other publications. A tour of the cathedral and nearby historic sites concluded the visit to Cologne.

The group divided on Sunday morning, August 17, some flying to Zurich and others going there by train, which provides a scenic trip along the Rhine. On Monday morning in Zurich the party was shown the library and rare books and manuscripts department of the modern

Federal Institute of Technology as guests of Director Dr. J. P. Sydler. Several of the group made also an unscheduled visit to the Thomas Mann Archives, located in a former residence next to the library. That afternoon the touring archivists were received by Dr. O. Helfenstein, Director of the Staatsarchiv des Kantons, and Professor and Mrs. Ernst Posner. A special exhibit of documents on early Swiss contacts with the United States had been prepared at this historic repository. Afterward the group enjoyed a reception at the Municipal Wine Cellar as guests of the city government. The second day in Zurich featured an inspection of the Zentralbibliothek, where Mr. R. Mathys, the Assistant Director, and his staff had prepared a special exhibit of America-related rare books, prints, and manuscripts in newly designed exhibition facilities. A bus tour of the Zurich area that afternoon concluded with a memorable excursion to Lucerne.

On Wednesday, August 22, the archivists flew to Rome. Their historical orientation of the city that afternoon terminated at the Archives Section of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, where a tour and hospitality were provided by FAO Archivist Miss Patricia Wright. The patio roof of the FAO building, which is surrounded by Roman ruins, provided an excellent view of the city. One of the most valuable experiences of the entire trip occurred the next day when the group had an extended tour of the Archivio Segreto Vaticano. Vice-Director Monsignor Herman Hoberg, in addition to giving an historical orientation and showing the wide array of historic documents on the tour of the facilities, took the archivists through the Vatican Library. Both the archives and the library are normally closed during August. That afternoon and the following morning were spent in seeing St. Peter's, the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican Museum, and historic sites in other parts of the city. The final afternoon in Rome the group inspected the Archivio Centrale dello Stato at its relatively new quarters in EUR-Roma. Again, as a special courtesy, transportation and English-speaking guides were provided for a tour of a repository that was otherwise closed during the month.

That second weekend afforded a more slackened pace. Flying from Rome to Madrid on Saturday morning the group spent that afternoon and Sunday touring the city and independently visiting museums and historic sites, including those of nearby Toledo. Monday, August 27, featured the Archivio Historico Nacional where the Director, Dr. Luis Sánchez Belda, had arranged for the archives to be reopened and for tours of the facilities, particularly of the National Service for Document Restoration and the National Microfilm Service. An interesting exhibit of documents had been prepared by the archival staff, and the tours of the two technical services were notable for the advanced level of technology in evidence as well as for the amount and highly specialized character of the equipment.

The next day, August 28, the party flew to Lisbon where they were met by Dr. Luis Silveria, Inspector-General of Portuguese libraries and ar-

chives. The afternoon was given to touring the city and the following morning to independent visits to various institutions and sites. In the afternoon, Dr. Silveria led the archivists through the facilities and a special exhibit at the new National Library and then took them to the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum where they thoroughly examined its outstanding restoration laboratory. The group was honored at a reception given by the directors and senior staff of the Gulbenkian Foundation and afforded a special after-hours tour of the exhibit areas. Later that evening Dr. Silveria, assisted by a number of archivists and librarians from the institutions he directs, served as host for a dinner and a Fado performance at one of Lisbon's leading restaurants.

The accelerated pace continued on the final day in Lisbon, Thursday, August 30. The visiting archivists went to Arquivo Nacional Torre do Tombo, where they viewed a special exhibit of America-related documents and enjoyed a reception; they were guests of the State Office of Information and Tourism and surveyed its Duarte de Souza Library of rare books and prints; they were received by Colonel Silva Sebastiao, Mayor of Lisbon, in the Municipal Palace at a formal and lavish reception that was filmed for national television; and they toured the building's Historical Archives of the Municipality of Lisbon, where a special exhibit on the history of the city had been arranged by Chief Archivist Dr. Lia Ferreira Amaral. The following morning, Friday, August 31, the group departed Lisbon for New York City.

In addition to participating in a formal and relatively heavy schedule of archival visits, most members took full advantage of afterhours sights and sounds. Indeed, there are few more pleasant ways to reinforce the knowledge and understanding thus gained of European archives than with the associated memories of London theatres, castles on the Rhine, nights views of Zurich and Lucerne, open-air opera at Caracalla, the Villa d'Este and illuminated Tivoli, the Plaza de Toros, tablado flamenco, forcadés at the Campo Pequeno, and the strains of Fado. All in all, there was general agreement that the tour, thanks primarily to the hospitality and the many special courtesies extended by our colleagues of the institutions we visited, was not only professionally valuable but also thoroughly enjoyable. [Frank B. Evans]

CANADA

Provincial Archives of Alberta, Edmonton. An inventory of the records of the Anglican diocese of Athabasca has been completed in near-print form, and copies are being distributed to repositories concerned. The Public Records Committee has been set up and is forming guidelines for the records management service.

Glenbow-Alberta Institute Archives, Calgary. A large new building designed to house all the departments of the Glenbow-Alberta Institute is presently under construction, with completion planned for 1975. During the ensuing years archives staff will be involved in background research and photograph selection for museum displays. In the new

block-long building the archives and library will occupy one complete floor, where research and storage facilities will be greatly expanded. Much significant material has been acquired, including correspondence and other papers of the Alberta Wheat Pool (1923-60); personal and business papers (1915-50) of N. A. Farrow, Calgary druggist; original negatives of R. A. Bird, Calgary photographer, mainly of the 1920's to the fifties; correspondence of Paul A. W. Wallace, mountain climber, teacher, writer, and university professor in Alberta, 1912-21.

Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Minister of Provincial Affairs announced in 1972 that the government had approved in principle the installation of a records management program under the direction of the archives. A minute of council followed, directing all departments of government to turn over all inactive files to the Provincial Archives. Meanwhile the Provincial Archives made plans for the operation of the program and prepared draft legislation that was submitted in November 1973. Plans were made also for the space and personnel to accommodate the records and to facilitate operation of the program. However, in the session of 1973 the House of Assembly passed a partially amended version of the old Archives Act, and the budget contained no provision for the acquisition of new space and personnel for the Provincial Archives.

The Provincial Archives has witnessed also some organizational changes within the past year. On December 1, 1972, Premier Moores made public a white paper on the organization of the Public Service of Newfoundland. As a result, the Provincial Archives was moved from the Department of Provincial Affairs to a newly created Department of Tourism. Before, the Provincial Archives had formed an independent division within Provincial Affairs and reported directly to the deputy minister, but with the reorganization the archives became a branch of the Historical Resources Division of the new Department of Tourism.

Recently the archives took on additional responsibilities when the Minister of Tourism appointed it to administer the Newspapers and Books Act, under which the archives must acquire and preserve official copies of all newspapers published in the province. Minister of Tourism Tom Doyle announced in August formation of the Museum-Archives Building Committee to prepare a design report and preliminary drawings for a proposed new provincial museum and archives complex. Cost of the study will be funded under a \$63,500 grant recently received from the new museum program of the Secretary of State.

Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa. In April 1973 the Manuscript Division underwent a major reorganization. In the past few years this division's holdings grew to 80,000 linear feet of government records and private papers, with a projected annual increase of about 10,000 feet. To forestall unwieldiness and imbalance inherent in a unit of such size, a new division was created.

The Public Records Division, with responsibility for approximately

55,000 linear feet of federal government records, is divided into four sections: State and Military Records, Trade and Communications Records, Resource Records, and a Public Service Section, which operates researcher registration, photoduplication, microfilm loan, and circulation services for the Manuscript and Public Records Divisions.

The Manuscript Division, with 25,000 linear feet of private papers, the records of private organizations, and records of foreign and other governments, contains seven sections: Pre-Confederation, Prime Ministers, Public Affairs, Socio-economic papers, Ethnic Archives, Research and Inquiries, and External Relations. This restructuring should enable the textual archives portion of the Public Archives of Canada to maintain a high level of service during a period of rapid growth and to retain a flexible response to changes in technology and public demands. The Diffusion Program of the historical branch of the archives, an outgrowth of discussions and meetings held in June 1972, is being developed within the framework of the Secretary of State's policy of cultural diffusion. This program will reinforce and transform existing services so that the large resources of the Public Archives will become both more accessible and better known to researchers and the general public. There will be dissemination of original sources by the deposit of microfilm in the ten Provincial Archives. Selections will include the papers of earlier prime ministers, and finding aids, together with federal government records and finding aids of particular regional interest in Canada. For example, immigration records will go to the Prairie Provinces and Upper Canada sundries to Ontario, while all provinces will receive a copy of the unprinted Sessional Papers of the House of Commons. The new microfilm will be 16mm, and a microfilm reader has been dispatched to each of the provinces to supplement local resources.

An enlarged publication program, covering not only manuscripts but also watercolours and photographs, maps, and printed material is already under way. In this connection, descriptive catalogues of maps of cities such as Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec City, and Toronto are being prepared. Along with reproductions of documents of these types, finding aids of general interest will also be issued. Publication will take the form of volumes, microfiche and microjackets, slides, and facsimiles. Several publications will combine historical manuscripts with contemporary illustrations. Finally, for students and the general public, there will be two forms of exhibitions of documents. Displays of original material will be restricted to well-equipped archives, galleries, museums, and other institutions. Duplicates and facsimiles will enter a more general display network. Among the five exhibitions on tour are "Trails of 98," which makes use of the work of artists who went on the Klondike Gold Rush, "Pictured Opinions" from a number of Canadian cartoonists, and "Relentless Verity," which features the work of Canadian military photographers of the last ninety years. Thus the diffusion program is designed to appeal to the scholar through microfilm and finding aid publications, the responsive reader through the text and pictorial records publications, and the general public through the exhibitions.

Public Records Division. The new Public Records Division established in April 1973 consists of four sections and one unit. The State and Military Records Section, with J. O'Brien as the new head, is responsible for the records created and collected by those departments and agencies concerned with central government administration (such as the Privy Council, the Treasury Board, and the Public Service Commission) and those dealing with military and related matters (such as national defence and veterans' affairs). Headed by A. Martineau, the Trade and Communications Records Section is responsible for the records created and collected by those government departments and agencies concerned with the promotion and regulation of trade, commerce, and communication (such as Trade and Commerce, Transport, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and the Canadian Radio-Television Commission).

The Resource Records Section, headed by H. Naugler, is responsible for the records created and collected by those government departments and agencies concerned with human and natural resources (such as Indian Affairs, Energy, Mines and Resources, and National Health and Welfare). The Data Processing Unit is responsible through an automated programme for the production of detailed indexes and other finding aids for lists of files and provides a common service to three sections. The Public Service Section, with J. Cumming as acting head, is responsible for the public service operations of the Public Records and Manuscript Divisions. These comprise the photoduplication service, the control and interlibrary loan of the microfilm holdings of both divisions, the service of the search room, and the control of access by individuals to the research facilities of the two divisions.

The Public Records Division is now embarked on a new publication programme designed primarily to produce in concise form copies of the inventories of the various record groups the division holds. In addition, thematic inventories on certain subjects will be produced from time to time. The first major projects in the programme are the production of the inventory for the records of the Indian Affairs Branch (Record Group 10) and a thematic inventory of the sources for the study of immigration and land settlement which are in the custody of the Public Records Division.

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development currently has a four-man team in the Public Records Division screening restricted files of the Indian Affairs Branch (Record Group 10). These are files which postdate 1 January 1950. It is hoped that when this project has been completed, most of the Indian Affairs files will be accessible to researchers.

Significant accessions have been received in the Division since April of this year: Indian Affairs Branch—Maritime field office records representing most aspects of administration for the Amherst Region (1942–70), the Eskasoni Agency (1939–70), the Miramichi Agency (1923–69), the Saint John River Agency (1935–71), and the Shubenacadie Agency (1948–69). Indian Affairs Branch—records from the Fort Smith Agency Office, North West Territories (1946–69), the Quebec Field Office (1868–1971), the

Sept Isles District Office (1923-70), the Maniwaki Agency Office (1868-1967), and the Restigouche Agency Office (1925-71). External Affairs—classified registry files of Canada House, London (1936-55). External Affairs—operational files of the Canadian Embassy, Washington, D.C. (1927-63). Militia and Defence—a list of the members of the 1870 Red River Expedition who received land grants for their services. Railways and Canals—numbered files of the Railway Branch of the old Department of Railways and Canals (1901-36). Transport—registry files of the Ministry of Transport comprising numbered correspondence of the Departments of Public Works and Railways and Canals (1866-1936).

Yukon Archives, Whitehorse. The Yukon Archives in Whitehorse is located in a 5,500 square feet environment-controlled facility of contemporary design. The *raison d'être* of this regional repository, officially opened on December 10, 1972, is analogous to that of a provincial archives. A comprehensive *Archives Ordinance* (comparable to a statute and assented to in 1971) empowers the archives to identify, acquire, preserve, describe, catalogue, and make available those public records, private manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, maps, and in-print secondary sources that pertain to and document the overall history and development of the Yukon.

An interrelated records management programme was introduced giving priority to a department-by-department records inventory and the subsequent preparation of records retention schedules. Nine thousand square feet of inactive records centre storage space was secured. Records management regulations with provisions for an interdepartmental records management committee and the appointment of departmental records officers were issued on February 6, 1973. Arrangements have been made with the Dominion Archivist for the return of about fifty cubic feet of Yukon Territorial Government records temporarily deposited in the Public Archives in 1959 and 1968. Included are general correspondence files (1896-1934), regarding churches, townsites, education, post offices, transportation, mines and industries, surveys, newspapers, exhibitions, associations, and government administration; commissioner's office letterbooks (1899-1902); gold commissioner's office letterbooks (1899-1914 and 1920-24); comptroller's office letterbooks (1899-1902); and territorial court records (1898-1906).

Records of Dawson Mining Recorders have been microfilmed, and, although technically they are federal records, the Public Archives has concurred that they should be retained here rather than transferred to Ottawa. The Yukon Archives will receive approximately 600 cubic feet of Dawson mining records, 1895-1971. This record group has two main series, placer and quartz mining records, of which the former series is by far the most extensive, covering all the creeks and tributaries in the Klondike Gold Fields. The placer series is further subdivided into applications for grants (1898-1971), registered documents (1896-1971), renewal grants (1933-71), certificates of work (1899-1906), abstract claim

record books (1896-1971), indices of original locators (1896-1908), free miners certificates (1897-1907), royalty ledgers (1898-1909), and water rights record books (1900-1963). Recently accessioned also are 25 cubic feet of Dawson City municipal records (1900-66), containing financial records, council minutes, subject correspondence files, and tax and assessment registers (1902-56).

The Yukon Historical Society, on behalf of the MacBride Museum in Whitehorse, had donated private manuscripts and corporate records in excess of 25 cubic feet, nearly half of them embodying White Pass and Yukon Route River Division records, i.e. sternwheeler log books (1899-1951); summary log book (1901-05); ships articles and crew lists (1904-46); daily port log of St. Michael, Alaska (1914-23); superintendent's annual reports on operations (1902-35); captain's reports (1906-27); monthly returns on arrivals and departures of steamers from Alaska and Yukon ports (1915-34); Whitehorse meteorological and activity reports (1902-56); and personnel records (1903-46). The remainder of the donation includes Yukon Telegraph Service records (1899-1919); Whitehorse port register (1901-19); papers of the Watt Brothers, Dawson financial and insurance agents (1905-19); the scrapbook of Martha Louise Black, a naturalist and Member of Parliament; and records of the Whitehorse Chapter of the Arctic Brotherhood (1901-03).

The archives photograph collection, representing the work of more than thirty different photographers, has expanded to nearly 5000 prints, with copy negatives for well over half of them. A native oral history programme on the life and times of Skookum Jim, the "Discoverer of the Klondike," cosponsored by Skookum Jim Memorial Friendship Centre and the archives, has been moderately successful for a first attempt.

A collection of select promotional and documentary films about the Yukon is within the realm of the archives. Prints of two feature-length colour films, shot during construction of the Alaska Highway and Canal Projects, have been purchased. Another recent accession is some 3,000 feet of unedited 1939 colour film of Yukon communities, people, and social activities. Scheduled as the next major acquisition are two colour films by Walter A. Wood of the Arctic Institute of North America, one of his 1939 expedition into the Steele Creek area and the other documenting four field-seasons on the Seward Glacier, 1948-51, and including footage of the initial exploration of the glacier and the first ascent of Mt. Vancouver in 1949.

An art gallery in the building affords the archives the opportunity to mount periodic thematic displays utilizing originals, facsimiles, blow-ups, slide presentations, and films. From June 30 to September 2, 1973, the archives, as a tribute to "The Last Great Gold Rush," presented a commemorative historical photograph exhibit of over 100 prints supported by facsimiles of vintage newspapers and maps.

As an adjunct to primary sources, the archives maintains a constantly expanding in-house library of some 2,000 volumes of Yukon and northern history books and pamphlets, technical and scientific studies, economic

and ethnographic surveys, bibliographies, and relevant reference works. On an annual subscription basis, the archives receives sixty professional, historical, and northern periodicals and journals.

At present the archives has a staff of three, two of whom are qualified archivists. The recruitment of another archivist to specialize in government records and the addition of an archivist assistant have been proposed in the upcoming 1974-75 fiscal year budget forecast.

ABSTRACTS

Southeast Asian Archives, vol. 5 (July 1972). In "The Archival Revolution: The Challenge of Modern Archives to the Archivist," pp. 4-14, Michel Duchein, chief conservator, National Archives of France, analyzes the implications of recent archival trends (the "archival revolution") for the profession. In recent years, there has been a tremendous increase in both the quantity and quality of records. The growth in size and complexity of modern government has produced a concomitant growth in the amount of documentation generated. The technological and communications revolutions have created entirely new forms of records, audiovisual and computerized data systems, while the quality of the more traditional record forms (paper) has markedly deteriorated. These quantitative and qualitative changes require the development of more sophisticated techniques of records management and control, of arrangement and description, and of storage and preservation.

Concurrently with these challenges, the archivist is faced with an unprecedented demand for access to the records under his control. Increasingly, scholars are turning to those types of history—demographic, social, economic—that require the examination of governmental records available only in archives. Additionally, historians are investigating the very recent past for "contemporary" histories, confronting the archivist with the problem of access to hitherto restricted or closed records or to records that have not yet been properly or completely arranged and described. Answers to these challenges, Duchein feels, are available through the adaptation of modern technology and the renovation of traditional methodologies. Above all, he asserts, the archivist must secure the cooperation of those who create and those who exploit the records, the administrators and the historians.

In "Development of Conservation of Records in the National Archives and Library of Malaysia," pp. 15-19, John Davies, head of the Repository and Technical Services, National Archives of Malaysia, traces the efforts of the Malaysian Archives to preserve and restore the government records entrusted to its care. Burdened since its inception in 1957 by a lack of space and facilities and an acute shortage of trained personnel, the National Archives of Malaysia (NAM) has nevertheless made sustained efforts to rehabilitate its holdings. In 1962, a bindery was established to facilitate restoration, and in 1965, the Preservation Division was organized. Since renamed Repository and Technical Services, it has promoted a comprehensive and coordinated effort to provide complete

restoration services and to educate governmental departments, agencies, and officials in the techniques of document protection. Pending the construction of a permanent archives building, a temporary repository, the Records Service Center, was constructed in 1965 to house and protect government records. In 1966, a microfilming unit was added to photograph early newspapers and important series of early records as an alternative to restoration. The continuing problems faced by NAM in its preservation effort are a lack of trained personnel (and of a training program or center) and the lack of research and testing facilities.

"A Proposal for the Creation of an Institute of Archival Science for Southeast Asia (IASSA)," pp. 89-96, by Serafin D. Quiason, director, National Library of the Philippines, examines the present state of archival science and professional training in Southeast Asia, finds them virtually nonexistent, and proposes that a training program for archival personnel, the Institute of Archival Science for Southeast Asia (IASSA), be established. IASSA would be a two-semester, eight-month, training course emphasizing regional and archival history, archival methodology, records conservation and restoration, documents reproduction, records management, and public administration. Quiason points out that in addition to serving the archival needs of the region, IASSA would be another valuable experiment in Southeast Asian cooperation.

National Archives and Records Service

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Brazil

Mensário do Arquivo Nacional, vol. 4, no. 1 (January 1973). "Documents in the Independence Room" (pp. 5-15) reprints speeches made by several officials on the occasion of the delivery to the National Archives of Brazil of all the documents concerning the celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Brazilian independence. The documents were presented to the archives by the Central Executive Commission. General Antonio Jorge Correia explained the nature of the material and praised the cooperation received from the National Archives, to which he awarded a medal and a diploma.

The director of the National Archives, Raul do Rego Lima, in his answer announced that a special place, the Independence Room, has been established to house the documents, that the collection would be open to the public, and that the Independence Room would keep only objects and documents concerning the celebration of independence through the years.

Mensário do Arquivo Nacional, vol. 4, no. 2 (February 1973). Notes on the First Brazilian Archival Congress (pp. 4-10) are provided by the Brazilian Association of Archivists. They discuss the place, the purposes, and the results and reprint the twenty recommendations of the Congress, which stress the need for the creation of a national system for archives, the establishment of a curriculum for advanced courses on ar-

chival matters, the need for a system for retention and elimination of documents, the microfilming of historic documents, and similar matters. Included are the introductory remarks of the director of the National Archives of Brazil, who refers to the decade of the seventies as the golden era of archives and who discusses the resolution of UNESCO to outline a program for the development of archives throughout Latin America.

Arquivo & Administração, vol. 1, no. 1 (April 1973). Hagar Espanha Gomes, writing about archivists and their relationships with documentation and libraries (pp. 19-22), describes the situation of archives in Brazil during the decade of the seventies and how several national and international institutions are geared to group together the activities of documentation centers, archives, and libraries. In the latest definition of documentation as research, classification, reference, and dissemination of information, the author sees a similarity between archives and libraries. They both collect documents, in his view, classify them according to a preestablished scheme which reflects (in synthetic manner) their contents, and distribute those contents by means of communication.

Archives and libraries have also the same objectives—to preserve and make available for use the materials entrusted to them. Archivists should be interested in library techniques because library science provides archivists with the elements to develop their techniques and teaches them how to raise the profession to a greater degree of proficiency. Having thus found common ground for the three disciplines, the author adds that in Brazil the library science schools are too busy with scientific documentation, and they forget the public and business libraries, while the archives schools are busy with training personnel to be qualified. Not one of these schools takes into consideration the training of personnel for the archives and information services of the “empresa” (offices, industries, newspapers, etc.) where employees are obliged to accomplish both types of work. The author sees the need for more conventions, meetings, and personal contact between documentalists, archivists, and librarians.

Antonio Garcia de Miranda Netto, addressing himself to archives and cybernetics (pp. 9-11), gives a definition of archives and several of cybernetics and finds in such definitions some points of contact. He considers the most important relationship between archives and cybernetics the fact that both deal with problems of memory. Archives represent the memory of an institution, and cybernetics deals with human memory that through experience accumulates a universal thesaurus which allows a fast correlation between the form received by the senses and the context in which they should be inserted. Since this operation does not differ very much with the accumulation of data in archives, and since in the author’s judgment the goal of archives and cybernetics (to provide information) is identical, he sees a strong relationship between the two disciplines.

Czechoslovakia

Slovenská Archivistika, vol. 7, no. 2 (1972). Elo Rákoš, writing on work methodology with contemporary archival materials in Poland, pp. 265-75, indicates that archivists of central Polish archival institutions are concerned with two main responsibilities: care of documentary materials in the pre-archival (records center) stage, and their arrangement and description as archives. The Department of Contemporary Archives in Warsaw since 1952 supervises the activity of record centers for the records of government offices, institutions, and businesses, including record inventorying and records disposal. The result of such control is eventual orderly transfer of materials into archival repositories. The record centers have a threefold aim: (1) service to records creators, (2) safeguarding materials of historical value in close cooperation with state archival repositories, and (3) concern about the progress of science and technology. The inventory control of records is based upon a subject-oriented filing system (decimal). Each subject file is provided with a control card indicating all relevant details about the material. Combined control cards, which may be reproduced in quantity or published, thus constitute an inventory for an organic body of records. Records created after 1944 are controlled by inventory cards only. The arrangement of records corresponds to the organizational structure of record-creating offices. Upon transfer of the records to the Central Contemporary Archives, archivists often have to combine the records of the same provenance which have been scattered in various repositories. In addition, they attempt to fill gaps in one record group with records from other records groups, even though such practices violate the principle of provenance.

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France

La Gazette des Archives, n.s., no. 71 (1970). In 1961 the Association of French Archivists voted to issue a manual that would be a synthesis of earlier French treatises on archival techniques. The result is an 805-page publication, *Le manuel d'archivistique de l'association des archivistes français*, which is the collective work of forty-two French archivists, each a specialist in a particular area. The association's committee on publications, which planned the publication, supplied transitional material and cross references to assure a cohesive whole. An abstract of the contents of the volume is given together with the names of the archivists who prepared particular sections. The volume includes an alphabetical index and a detailed table of contents. It can be purchased from S.E.V.P.E.N., 13 rue du Four, Paris 6^e, for 46.40 F (paperback edition) or 55.70 F (cloth edition).

The manual contains an essay by M. Pérotin on the creation of archives and their management before their permanent transfer to archival agencies. This issue of the *Gazette* contains three articles (pp. 225-58) on

the subject of records management, illustrative and critical of points covered in Pérotin's essay, to make members of the association more aware of the importance of problems involved in records management programs. The articles are by Michel Duchein, Rose-Anne Couédelo and Louis Gérault, and Alice Guillemain.

La Gazette des Archives, n.s., no. 72 (1971). In an article on the central bureau of administrative military archives at Pau (pp. 9-15), J. Barbe says that the B.C.A.A.M. was born of the need to centralize the contents of the various archival depots dispersed throughout the metropolitan area and in North Africa and that it now occupies an important part of the Bernadotte quarter of Pau. One of the larger barracks of France, it was built in the middle of the last century and since 1961 has been adapted and equipped to house the records of decommissioned commands and medical units of the Land Forces, matriculation registers, officer dossiers, and records of retired personnel of the national service. As the result of social legislation granting additional rights to certain categories of personnel, there has been a rebirth of interest in civil and military organizations and veterans' associations, and more than 130,000 letters were received in one year. The B.C.A.A.M. differs from other military archives that make available to searchers records of historical interest in that its own staff members examine the files and answer all questions regarding veterans. Thus it employs a large staff of 80 military and 151 civilians. A memorandum on the technical equipment in use at the bureau and an illustration of the building are appended.

La Gazette des Archives, n.s., no. 73/74 (1971). In an article on business archives and their interest for historical research (pp. 83-91), Jean Vidalenc observes that business archives are of interest not only for economic history, but also for political, social, and military history. He notes that business records have long been treated with contempt and with little care for their preservation but that the data which historians can find in business archives are great and vary according to the documents preserved. Charters, lists of shareholders, contracts and commitments, mergers with neighboring firms, French or foreign, all contain information not available in the reports of prefects or consuls. The minutes of administrative councils, even more than those of general assemblies, permit one to follow the evolution of a firm and eventually to determine its relationship to the general political situation. Thus our knowledge of the diplomacy of the Third Republic, particularly of the Russian alliance, was modified by recent research into the history of the house of Rothschild, research based on bank records.

Records of the business of transportation (contracts with local and national firms to transport products to markets, ports of embarkation, and to foreign countries) give data on the origin and nature of the transport lines and on trade statistics that are often masked in vague customs or municipal statistics. The immobile aspects of a business, such as the

buildings, their size, operation, and maintenance, and the construction of warehouses provide data from which the growth, diversification, and influence of an industry can be traced. Financial and accounting records throw light on wages, salaries, and commodity prices, data too often vague and general in official records.

Private archives also include data on social problems, the composition and activities of the working class, and the effects of industrial and political crises on the employers and the employed. The limits, gaps, and distortions of official statistics should be brought to the attention of the historian who depends on them alone. An example of the use of such data is a recent study of French railroads during World War II, based on private archives, which shows the part the railroads and railroad workers played in the war and in the resistance and which could not have been written from official government records. Recent studies of textile firms in Rouen give further proof of the importance of local business records and demonstrate the need for their preservation and for a depot for housing them. The records now preserved in the national and departmental archives are those of very large corporations or of banks or of firms that failed.

One could never understand the history of the Roman Church if the only records preserved related only to cardinals and the excommunicated.

La Gazette des Archives, n.s., no. 75 (1971). Writing about archives and the computer in France, prospects and directions for research (pp. 159-77), François Burckard notes three aspects from reports on archives and the computer: the use of the computer for the storage and conservation of data, the use of the computer by researchers and the role of the archivist in this regard, and the use of computers directly by archivists. Following detailed discussions of these problems, there are appended ten directives on the use of computers for research and a bibliographical essay on source materials about the use of computers and about automatic data processing.

National Archives and Records Service

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Great Britain

Journal of the Society of Archivists, vol. 4, no. 7 (April 1973). In "Pre-Archival Records Control in East Sussex" (pp. 581-87), S. C. Newton describes the theory and practice of pre-archival records control (PARC) as it has been developed by the East Sussex Record Office. The goal of the archivist is the creation of fonds, "secure, ordered, significant, and accessible." By virtue of his professional training, he is by far the best-equipped person to determine the true archival value of any record. PARC is a method whereby the archivist asserts his control over a mass of documents "not of an obvious archival quality" in order to establish this value. It envisions for him a far more active role in the actual creation of archives than is traditionally the case in orthodox records

management. The principles of PARC require the archivist to exercise his professional responsibilities in three phases. First, he establishes *record primacy*, whereby agency records are organized in such a way as to distinguish clearly between those of "immediate archival significance" and those requiring the application of controls to determine final disposition. Second, through *active interrelated appraisal* the archivist subjects the structured records to continuous evaluation, measuring them against the mission of the originating agency and against the fonds to which they would ultimately be assigned. Third, through the *integration of documentary stock* the records are arranged physically in the records center on a basis best to enable them to perform their assigned functions, administrative or historical. When the control period has elapsed and the mass of documentation ceases to be pre-archival, it should be in a form and of a value suitable for archival material—fonds, the creation of which was controlled at every stage by the archivist.

Archives, vol. 10, no. 47 (April 1972). In "Archives in France" (pp. 86–93), J. R. Ede, Keeper of Public Records, reviews *Manuel d'Archivistique* (Paris 1970) compiled by l'Association des archivistes Français, which he describes as "an encyclopaedic work which in concept and content is far in advance of the classic Dutch, British, Italian, and German manuals of the past." (See the review article by Ernst Posner in the *American Archivist*, 35 [January 1972]: 51–58.)

Much of the remainder of the issue is devoted to the thirty-ninth annual meeting of the British Records Association, in London, 2–3 December 1970. Three discussions of general interest are highlighted. "The Place of Exhibitions in the Use of Archives," pp. 107–9, stresses the financial and temporal difficulties attending the presentation of such displays and questions their ultimate utility. "Postal History and the Preservation of Records," pp. 110–13, examines the archival problems associated with stamp collecting and emphasizes the need for archivists to become more familiar with postal history in order to recognize potentially valuable philatelic documentation (such as stamps and postmarks). "The Art Historian and His Archive Sources," pp. 113–16, discusses the value of documentary evidence in the identification and dating of works of art, laments the unwillingness of some critics to accept such evidence (however incontrovertible) when it contradicts their own theories, and points out the necessity of making archival resources available to art galleries, museums, critics, and historians.

National Archives and Records Service

ROBERT MATCHETTE

Italy

Rassegna degli Archivi di Stato, vol. 32, no. 3 (September–December 1972). Pietro Burgarella and Giuseppe Scarazzini, writing on legislation in force and present organization of historical archives in Spain (pp. 508–520), maintain that in spite of some unsolved problems Spain is one of

the most advanced countries in the world in the archival field. They attribute this to a clear and precise goal: the incorporation of all archives into the state archives.

The *Cuerpo facultativo de archiveros y bibliotecarios*, founded in 1856, is today under the *Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas*. This organization is at the same time a branch of the *Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia*. There is thus a union between similar institutions—archives, library, and museum, and the archives are given an historic-cultural orientation.

The authors explain how personnel are selected and how the holdings are organized into Historical Archives, with documents before the twentieth century, and Administrative Archives housing modern documents. Ecclesiastical and private archives are also discussed. For the safekeeping of all archives, a microfilming branch of the *Dirección General* has been created, which is in charge of reproducing records in the various archives. A National Service for Restoration of Books and Documents has also been created, which renders service in the National Archives. The goal in Spain today is to have one archives which will bring all the administrative documents of government offices into the *Archivo General de la Administración Civil* which, as the documents acquire historical value, will transfer them to the *Archivo Histórico Nacional*. A similar arrangement is planned for documents produced by the Army.

Jole Mazzoleni, on the occasion of the opening of the new study rooms in the Naples State Archives, explained their conveniences and features which include the concentration of all inventories and other research tools within the immediate reach of scholars. She also spoke on two great Neapolitan archivists, Riccardo Filangieri and Fausto Nicolini, recalling their lives, their dedication to the Naples States Archives, and the work they accomplished.

Added to the article is a plan of the Naples State Archives showing the new study rooms (pp. 574-581).

Rassegna degli Archivi di Stato, vol. 33, no.1 (January-April 1973). In a round table on industrial archives (pp. 9-76), the situation of industrial archives in Italy was characterized as unsatisfactory because of the inefficiency of the public administration, the lack of understanding of the problem by business executives, and the limited number of requests from researchers in economic history.

The archivist is handicapped when dealing with industrial archives because he has to decide what kinds of specialized records should be kept for research purposes. There is need for the training of archivists for this special kind of activity; there is also a need to create an atmosphere of research in archives of industries. The round table included governmental officials, industrial leaders, and economic historians, who discussed problems, proposed solutions, and planned the future of industrial archives in Italy.

El Salvador

Repositorio, vol. 1, no. 4 (February 1971). Davis E. Mearns, in "Some Thoughts on the Administration of a Manuscript Repository" (pp. 52-54), expressed on the occasion of the *Reunion Interamericana Sobre Archivos* in October 1961, noted that the administration of a collection of private manuscripts is not a science, not a profession, not an art, but a task, a function, and a responsibility. In spite of the differences between repositories, there has been a great deal of progress in developing rules for their administration. The author cites the best-known American publications dealing with archives administration and comments on them. He then refers to the need for the archivist in charge of manuscripts to define the scope and the goal of the collections to be supervised and to keep within the established limits.

George S. Ulibarri, writing on similarities and differences between archives and libraries (pp. 55-62) discusses those areas he considers the common grounds of archives and libraries: service to the public, methods employed to organize and describe independent pieces, professional development of employees, and the preservation and restoration of "fonds." Differences exist in the way the two types of institutions accomplish the evaluation and the selection of those "fonds," in the task of organizing and classifying them, and in their description and cataloging. The author notes also that public archives are administration instruments of the government which they serve. Public archivists there must pay attention not only to the documents of the past but also to those of the present, serving as a middle man between the researcher and public officials.

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Mexico

Bibliotecas y Archivos, no. 3 (1972). Carlos Díaz Aroche has compiled a bibliography (pp. 13-46) under twenty-four archival headings, such as Archives in Latin America and Spain, cataloging, classification, restoration, preservation, and studying and teaching. It includes works in various languages, and the author reminds readers that while this bibliography is a modest one, it has involved great effort and good will and is intended to help Latin American archivists.

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S. A. Archives Journal, no. 14 (1972). M. Potgieter, senior archivist, Cape Archives Depot, in "Indexing the Elliott Photographic Collection" (pp. 11-19), describes the new system of indexing the ten thousand photographs that comprise the Elliott Collection of South Africana. The con-

tent of the photographs was made the basis of the finding aid, and the collection was subsumed under four broad categories: Person's Names, Place Names, Subjects, and Reproductions of Pictorial Material. The last two headings were further subdivided. Index cards were prepared for each photograph and were filed under as many categories as was necessary, with appropriate cross-references. The author notes that the system was not operational as the article was being written and that experience might lead to minor modifications.

"The S. A. Archival Service and Microfilming" (pp. 25-29), by J. H. Cilliers, assistant director, Records Management Section, presents a brief history of the use of microfilm by the archives of South Africa. Initially, the Archival Service filmed only the oldest and most valuable of its holdings and is still engaged actively in this project, as it is in the filming of documents in foreign repositories bearing upon South Africa. The Archival Service is deeply involved in microfilming documents still in the custody of the generating agency, a process that requires a thorough investigation to assure that the historical value of the records is sufficiently high or the savings in storage space resulting from the destruction of the originals is sufficiently great to justify the expense. Where the destruction of the originals is not anticipated, other factors enter into the decision to microfilm: document security (safeguarding of valuable documents), research convenience (providing additional sources for precise copies of the original), document protection (protecting fragile originals from the deterioration of over-handling), and size convenience (reducing bulky originals to a common, easily stored and used form).

National Archives and Records Service

ROBERT MATCHETTE