

Reviews

MARILLA B. GUPTIL and
JAN S. DANIS, *Editors*

Oral History Program Manual, by William W. Moss. (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1974. ix, 110 pp. \$13.50.)

The first commercially published, hard-back manual on the craft of oral history has come from the pen of William Moss, the director of the John F. Kennedy Library oral history program. This well-written book is both a compact guide for oral history procedures and a backward reflection on the first decade of the Kennedy project, one of the largest single-focus and permanently staffed oral history programs in the nation.

Oral history as defined by Moss is "a systematic collection, arrangement, preservation and publication (in the sense of making generally available) of recorded verbatim accounts and opinions of people who were witnesses to or participants in events likely to interest future scholars." He adds the qualification, "at least with programs that concentrate on major historic events and personalities."

Oral tradition is generally accepted as essential in documenting the history of illiterate and semiliterate societies. However, here we have a project dealing with the most cultivated presidential administration of modern times, and Moss's experience has led him to conclude that oral history has an equally important function in "literate record-keeping societies." He explains: "frequently the banal is preserved [in official papers] while the significant is left off the record. . . . Too often the record of the meetings at which debates occurred read like rational seminars or academic dialogues. Only the personal testimony of those present, their views of themselves and others in the debates, can suggest the depth to which personal egos were engaged in the arguments, and further, that perhaps more was at stake than the objective pros and cons of the issues before a meeting."

He points out also: "the appetite of scholars for what is relevant and significant has taken on new dimensions in recent years . . . the scholar's need for evidence extends far beyond the data and exposition traditionally committed to written records."

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

But if oral history can add a new dimension to written documentation, it also presents its own peculiar problems in that it "deals with a dynamic and ever changing source of data, the minds and memories of interviewees. Documents may decay with time, but they do not very often change before your very eyes. Interviewees, on the other hand, are capable of rapid and startling changes. Memory is not merely a passive reservoir of data . . . it is engaged and integrated with the present. . . . What is captured by oral history is seldom an exhaustive study of all the relevant data, but a segment of human experience—the interaction of interviewer and interviewee—in the context of a remembered past, a dynamic present, and an unknown, open-ended future."

Moss gives careful thought to persistent quandaries of oral history: ethics, legal arrangements, what sorts of information to go after with this technique, and research uses. He discusses how to define the boundaries of an inquiry, how to select interviewees, and then how to conduct the interviews themselves. His treatment of interviewing does not so much cover specific rules as it presents a point of view which allows an interviewer to deal compatibly with an interviewee: "there is seldom deliberate lying in oral history. . . . More often there is a kind of subtle interpretive rationalization that an interviewee has indulged in to permit himself to be comfortable with events and achievements that have not lived up to his expectations. . . . Seldom does it pay for an interviewer to challenge or pick apart such propositions directly, for this would require undoing the work of a lifetime. . . . What the interviewer can do that is most useful is to identify the bias."

He tells how to be well prepared, how to be silent, and how to organize the interview by taking more than one "cut" through the subject. For instance, try first the autobiographical, followed by the interviewee's impressions of other actors, then institutions and groups involved in the events or a detailed chronological story. Getting more specific, he suggests stock questions for a checklist. His final admonition, however, is one easily forgotten in the pressures of an inquiry: remember, it is the answers we are after, not the questions. Though the sophisticated nature of the discussion on interviewing will make it more profitable to the experienced interviewer than to the complete neophyte, the latter will find it useful later in checking his first interviews to see if he has fallen into the pitfalls about which Moss warns us.

More than half the book deals with processing the interviews and other nitty-gritty such as staffing and equipping an oral history program, all based on the Kennedy project's careful insistence on regularized procedures and meticulous record-keeping. These can spare a new project much floundering around. Most programs will not choose to adopt all of the specific procedures outlined, but some will prove suitable for any type of project. For example, in discussing transcription, Moss talks about a common problem: "Rules of spelling, punctuation, grammar and composition were devised for written com-

munications . . . and they are not easily applied to transcribing conversations." Pointing to the difficulties of speech peculiarities, explosive distortions of words, dialects and arcane jargon, and inescapable background noises, Moss says, "It is understandable, then, that even faithful transcription of a tape recorded interview is at best only an approximation, an imperfect reflection of what is on the tape, just as the tape is itself an imperfect record of the actual interview." The goal is to make the transcript accurate, readable, and useful to the researcher. He includes in the appendix the Kennedy Library's directions for transcribers.

Some of the methodology that apparently works for his single-focus project, however, will not work for one with diverse subject series. For instance, the Kennedy project uses a staff separate from its interviewers for checking the transcript against the tape and doing any necessary "editing" (meaning punctuation, paragraphing, eliminating false starts, correcting spelling, and improving readability without changing the literal substance of the dialogue). The separate staff was employed when they found that "the widely roving and inquiring imagination of the interviewers does not lend itself readily to the more punctilious and pedantic tasks of enforcing the rules of punctuation and format."

We at the Bancroft Library, an example of a diverse-subject project, have found that no one but the interviewer—the person with the speciality and the background research in the field—can spot those transcribing inaccuracies which on the surface may read or audit logically or can insert in brackets those crucial facts that the interviewee left unstated in the mistaken assumption that "everyone knows that."

There are some subjects that Moss omits. The book does not deal with volunteer projects, many of which can be very successful; or projects with wildly fluctuating budgets, which most have; or donated tapes; or catch-as-catch-can interviews taped by a busy archivist who is already familiar with a body of material and who can accession the untranscribed tape as a valuable adjunct to the collection. There is not much about finding aids. (The *SAA Forms Manual* includes examples of oral history forms that can help fill in some of these omissions.) And it does not touch on the major problem of most projects: how to fund themselves.

The book does provide a useful frame of reference for institutions thinking of starting a project and for on-going programs which can use it as a checklist with which to compare their own procedures. It can also be especially valuable to funding agencies which, faced with the task of assessing the comparative quality of oral history proposals, need an understanding of the processing steps that a budget must cover and the difficulties, unique to the oral method, of defining the boundaries of a project. "Planning for oral history is not definitive at the beginning or any point along the way," Moss explains, "and a program staff must feel its way through trial and error. . . . Oral history resembles wildcatting for oil in that superficial indicators may suggest the presence of rich sources below the surface, and disciplined research may

justify further exploration, but one never can be quite certain of the extent and quality of the deposits until after considerable investment has been made to tap the sources. Some wells are unexpectedly dry while others unaccountably bring in rich gushers."

This, then, is a book of thoughtful conclusions by an experienced oral historian with a genius for lean prose and the apt phrase. He leaves it to the reader to distill for himself from the Kennedy Library experience those do's and don'ts applicable to a specific project.

The Bancroft Library

WILLA BAUM and AMELIA FRY

A Study of Basic Standards and Methods in Preservation and Restoration Workshops Applicable to Developing Countries, by John Davies. (Brussels: International Council on Archives, in cooperation with UNESCO, 1973. vii, 89 pp. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

A Study of the Basic Standards for Equipping, Maintaining, and Operating a Reprographic Laboratory in Archives of Developing Countries, by Albert H. Leisinger, Jr. (Brussels: International Council on Archives, in cooperation with UNESCO, 1973. vii, 101 pp. \$3.50.)

John Davies, author of the preservation workshop study, is the head of Repositories and Technical Services, National Archives of Malaysia. As secretary-general, Southeast Asian Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, he knows particularly well the needs of developing countries. His volume is concerned mainly with "the minimum requirements for the organisation of an effective conservation programme applicable to archival materials." Since paper forms the major bulk of archival materials, it receives the author's primary emphasis. There are fleeting references to parchment, vellum, papyrus, palm-leaf manuscripts, binding, and other writing surfaces. Davies notes that conservation activities should be realistically planned, considering national conditions and priorities. He recommends selective restoration based upon criteria that include urgency, use, and enduring value.

The major portions of the study are devoted to a presentation of preservation and restoration methods and techniques, including binding, conservation workshop equipment and materials, and administration of conservation facilities. The appendix contains valuable sections on deacidification and paste formulas and methods of preparation in selected archival institutions and lists some suppliers of equipment, tools, and materials. A select bibliography is included. Layouts of various preservation workshop areas are reproduced. The continental flavor of the work is apparent, particularly in the list of suppliers who are, with few exceptions, either European or Asian. The paste formulas cited are those used in the major English archives and in India and Malaysia. The paperback volume makes useful reading for anyone desiring a brief review of restoration workshop needs.

Originally written for use in developing countries, the excellent study by Albert H. Leisinger, Jr., of reprographic laboratories in archives offers one of the most concise statements currently available on the subject. The paperback volume contains a distillate of the author's quarter-century of experience in the field. The clarity of the writing makes the work a recommended one, no matter how sophisticated the reader's background. The text successfully reviews the uses of microfilm, quick copy devices, and still photography in archival settings. It covers the applications of microphotography to archives, the disadvantages of microfilm, basic reprographic equipment, the reprographic laboratory, technical microfilm operations, archival operations, microfilm storage equipment, the technical library, and administration. Included are a select bibliography and relevant appendixes containing drawings of photographic laboratory layouts and lists of equipment, manufacturers, and suppliers. In the text, reprography is defined, and the necessity for these basic facilities in archives is discussed. The high quality requirements of archival microfilm are presented. Roll microfilm is cited as the preferred medium for most archival filming projects.

Leisinger emphasizes that the integrity of the original records should be maintained on the film through proper arrangement, identification, indexing, and the recording of all significant record detail. This is the major goal of all archival microfilming.

Mayo Foundation

CLARK W. NELSON

Guide to Ohio County and Municipal Government Records for Urban Research, by Paul D. Yon. (Columbus: Ohio Historical Society, 1973. 216 pp. Map, photographs. \$4.00.)

In approaching the introduction to this volume, skip the first paragraph of superfluous and misleading rhetoric which mistakenly implies that America's transition from a rural to an urban country was completed in the 1960's. Proceeding directly to the second paragraph, the reader will more quickly learn the rationale for conducting a survey of county and municipal government records in Ohio, which eventually produced this volume. Further on, the reader will also learn that the Ohio Historical Society, operating on a cost-sharing grant from the Federal Library Service and Construction Act, employed Paul D. Yon to crisscross the Buckeye State in 1970 and 1971 inventorying county and municipal records and talking with public officials about their records-keeping practices—honorable employment to be sure, especially when coupled with the objectives of preserving and making available records to aid historians and other researchers and assisting local officials with more efficient records programs in Ohio's municipalities and counties.

The Ohio Historical Society, operating under state statute since 1959 as the official coordinating agency for governmental records manage-

ment and through a network of American History Research Centers at Western Reserve Historical Society and six state-funded universities, has initiated an ambitious program to identify local records; to assist local officials in maintaining records of historical, administrative, legal and fiscal value; and to aid interested researchers seeking information from such records. This volume represents one phase of that society's worthwhile endeavors in this field. Two companion publications related to local records have also been published and distributed by the Ohio Historical Society. These publications are a manual describing the local records program of the society and a manual introducing researchers to local records potentially valuable for research.

Seventy-six counties comprise the 41,222 square miles known as Ohio, yet this guide contains survey results from only sixteen of the counties. The records related to sixteen municipalities are also reported. Some explanation as to why information on only sixteen counties was reported and the criteria for including sixteen municipalities could be helpful to archivists and others who contemplate similar undertakings in their states. In fact, more information, however brief, on the problems and frustrations inherent in such surveys might have been instructive. For example, a copy of the survey form could have been included in the volume, thus preventing the inevitable "Were the right questions asked?" and "What information did they seek?"

The volume is divided into two sections, one on counties and the other on municipalities. The entries are arranged alphabetically by county and municipality; by office, agency, and board within each of the major governmental units; and by records series within each of the smaller office, agency, and board units. Each record series entry is succinctly, but clearly, identified and contains inclusive dates, size, and location of the material. A legend of thirty-one items identifies the abbreviations used and the eight universities, libraries, societies, and companies where some local records are housed.

The reader who accepts Webster's definition of "guide" as "to show the way to" might be disappointed in this volume. The *Guide* seems well organized, but some improvement could be made in regard to the actual location of the records series from various county and municipal offices. In one instance the reader can, for example, locate the appearance docket of the clerk of courts for the Common Pleas Court of Montgomery County in "a basement (B) office (O) on a cabinet (c.) shelf (s.)." In this instance, one might legitimately ask, "what basement?" In another case the researcher will find the blotter-civil cases of the clerk of courts for the Common Pleas Court of Montgomery County in "a basement (B) on a cabinet (c.) shelf (s.)." In other instances records may be identified as located either in an office (O) or in basement storage (BS) or a courthouse basement office (CH-BO). In some cases attention to the details of location is so commendably thorough that a seeker of records could go right to the cabinet shelf in a basement office and obtain the records sought. In other instances the researcher would not be so fortunate. The major fault in the

location category seems to be a lack of consistency and attention to detail. The usefulness of this guide will be quickly diminished if more detailed information on locating certain records is not available somewhere. Also, the *Guide* will be rapidly outdated should the local official responsible for some records move them to another office and/or storage area. The Ohio Historical Society will, it is hoped, obtain funding to achieve more permanent and centralized location of these county and municipal records.

In the municipal section of the *Guide* the reader should note the paucity of information concerning the papers of the mayors in various cities. The inclusive dates for the mayors' files in most municipalities are so recent that they lead to questions concerning the location of the papers of previous mayors and perhaps to a larger question concerning the legal status of such files in Ohio as either personal or municipal property. In a time when such issues are in the news, it would have been a bonus from this volume to learn the state of things in Ohio.

Finally, the reader will note the absence of information on the availability of most record series to researchers at the various courthouses, offices, and basements. Can the researcher use the material on the spot, or do the records have to be transferred to one of the network centers? Since the purpose of the *Guide* is to locate records for researchers, some attention to the accessibility of such records would have been helpful. A final comment urges striking the words "for Urban Research" from the title of the *Guide*. It is quite clear that the records identified in this volume go well beyond the amorphous urban sphere of research interest. As noted in the introduction, government officials, genealogists, journalists, and social scientists, as well as urban historians, will find the *Guide* an aid to their research. And in this respect, the *Guide* fulfills its purpose. The volume should also aid archivists in other states who are about to undertake such surveys; however this point is ignored in the introduction.

Wayne State University

DENNIS EAST

Selected Manuscript Resources in the Washington State University Library, compiled by staff of the Washington State University Library. (Pullman: Washington State University Library, 1974. iv, 94 pp. n.p.)

Selected Manuscript Resources in the Washington State University Library is a bibliography of most of the manuscript collections held by the Washington State University Library at Pullman. The entries are concise and convey the bibliographic and content information important to the researcher: title of collection, volume of material, subject and dates of the collection, a short note on the content, and the availability of finding aids.

An index of collection titles, subject headings, and some of the correspondents is appended to the volume. If there is a major criticism of

the guide, it is that the name index of correspondents is extremely limited. A more comprehensive name index would spare the researcher having to write for shelf lists of the various collections or to ascertain whether or not the manuscript holdings contain any of the correspondence of a major American or Pacific Northwest personage.

One of the major criticisms of recent guides to manuscript collections is that they make no provision for updating. The criticism can be applied to this volume also. As the introduction points out, however, such a publication as this does provide wide distribution at minimal cost and does indicate whether or not an archival institution may have holdings applicable to a given subject or geographic region. Until an economical and workable method for supplementing guides to manuscript collections is devised, or until a national publication which takes into consideration collections of regional and local importance is provided, guides of institutional or state holdings, even though seldom or irregularly updated or supplemented, will provide a valuable service to researchers.

University of Montana Library

DALE L. JOHNSON

Colonial and State Records in the South Carolina Archives, A Temporary Summary Guide, by Marion C. Chandler. (Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1973. 52 pp. No price indicated.)

Researcher demand for indexes to archival holdings is reflected in the daily mail of depositories. In an effort partially to answer this demand, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History has published a simple list of records originating in or maintained by various departments of the state and provincial governments since 1671. A simple, alphabetical arrangement of the record titles has been used with no effort made towards grouping the series within the record groups. This "temporary summary guide" is designed as a systematic guide for future work in inventory, arrangement, and description.

The *Guide* hints at a wealth of significant research holdings in South Carolina history, interspersed with questionable records such as "hunting license stubs, 1920-21." Inclusion of the dates and volume of each series answers some of the reader's questions regarding existence and extent of the holdings in an area of interest. Quality must be determined through correspondence with the department or from personal inspection of the papers.

Scholars interested in the history of South Carolina government will need this guide to the archival holdings and are forewarned that additional research in other depositories will be necessary to fill in the gaps in these official records in the Department of Archives and History.

Tennessee State Library and Archives

CLEO A. HUGHES

Minerva Handbücher, Archive. Archive im deutschsprachigen Raum, 2 vols., 2d ed. (Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1974. Vol. 1: xv, 736 pp. Vol. 2: 681 pp. DM 480.00.)

This new handbook to archives in the German-language area represents an updating as well as a reduction in scope of volume 1 of the first edition (1932) which included entries on archives in several countries not listed in the 1974 edition. Nevertheless the volumes fulfill the need for an up-to-date compendium on German archives, a need felt strongly by archivists, historians, genealogists, and other researchers in Germany and wherever details on German language archives are desirable.

The work offers a good deal of information on approximately two thousand archives including the larger document depositories in the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, Austria, and Switzerland, as well as less inclusive entries on a few specialized archives in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Luxemburg, and Liechtenstein. The archives described in the two volumes are ordered alphabetically by their geographical location, volume 1 containing places beginning with letters A through N, and volume 2 with letters O through Z, plus indexes. The data given consist generally of the names and addresses of the archives, conditions of using and access to the records, and business hours. These details are followed by a short history of the archives and a brief description of its holdings. A section on literature lists books and articles pertaining to the history and development of the archives and to finding aids to the records deposited there. The indexes (270 pp.) provide very brief information on nearly eight thousand archives, including those described in the main body of the work. The first of the three indexes is organized by type of archives. It consists of state and federal archives; legislative archives; local archives (broken down into district archives and town, community, and counsellors archives); church archives (subdivided into Protestant, Catholic, monastic, religious sects, and Jewish archives); archives of learning, research, and cultural institutions; political party, labor union, and association archives; theater, film, press, and radio archives; business archives; private document collections; and archival training centers. A geographical index aligns archives by countries, and the third index lists place names alphabetically with archives.

The handbook thus is well systematized and provides, generally, sufficient detail to be of considerable use to researchers. In a few instances, however, some important collections of records are not mentioned. For example, the Nuernberg trials record collections obtained by the Geheimes Staatsarchiv in Berlin-Dahlem are not included in the entries for Berlin, nor are the holdings of the Institute für Zeitgeschichte. Unfortunately, the Berlin Document Center with its massive biographical and nonbiographical collections of Nazi party and SS records is not even listed in the indexes of the compendium. Sometimes the location given is not sufficient. In the case of archives

in the city of Berlin, there is often no distinction made between East and West Berlin. Occasionally the most recent finding aids are not included. For instance, the entry for the Politisches Archiv des auswärtigen Amtes in Bonn states that volume 4 of *A Catalog of Files and Microfilms of the German Foreign Ministry Archives 1920-1945*, compiled and edited by George O. Kent (Stanford: Hoover Institution Press, 1972), is in preparation, although the volume has been available since 1972. There is no indication in the entry that important collections such as Inland II geheim records of the German Foreign Ministry described in volume 3 of the *Catalog* have been rearranged by the Politisches Archiv with entirely different document identifications, thereby reducing considerably the usefulness of the *Catalog*. Other important finding aids, such as the *Guides to German Records Microfilmed at Alexandria, Va.* (67 so far), are not listed with the records which they describe. No effort has been made to include important collections of German-language records in other countries. Captured German and related records in the National Archives or church and cloister archives in the state of Pennsylvania are two examples. It has these shortcomings, but the work is nevertheless a useful compendium.

National Archives and Records Service

JOHN MENDELSON

The Legacy of Josiah Johnson Hawes: 19th Century Photographs of Boston, edited, with an introduction, by Rachel Johnston Homer. (Barre, Massachusetts: Barre Publishers, 1972. 132 pp. \$12.50.)

A collection of the works of a significant, though neglected, early photographer, *The Legacy of Josiah Johnson Hawes* is more than just an interesting picturebook. The photographs were taken by a man who began his career as a self-taught painter of portraits and landscapes. He soon moved into the new field of daguerreotype portraiture and subsequently, with the introduction of a true photographic process using glass negatives, became one of nineteenth-century Boston's important photographers. The images that are reproduced in this book are exceptional examples of the photographer's art. They are, in addition, a valuable record of the life and culture of Boston and surrounding areas in the period between 1840 and 1870. Architectural historians will find here not only such well-known examples of the architectural art as Ammi Young's United States Customhouse or Alexander Paris's Quincy Market, but a much wider selection of the architecture and building types of the period. Scholars of American history, especially of urban history, who are interested in the physical development of urban areas, will find these portraits of nineteenth-century Boston revealing. In fact, anyone who is seeking a better understanding of the nineteenth-century urban milieu will enjoy these sharply focused and sensitively composed views of the urban

scene. Their significance to those whose professional life is spent collecting, preserving, and organizing historical records, it seems evident, is their vivid demonstration of the potential of such photographs as an important and viable source material.

Author Rachel Johnston Homer, a photographer who has extensively researched the history of photography, provides an introduction to the collection of photographs which is the major focus of the book. A biographical sketch of Hawes and his partner, Albert Sands Southworth, outlines the training of the two men, the establishment of their daguerreotype firm on Tremont Row in 1842, and the development of their photographic business. Developments in the art and method of photography during the period are outlined by the author who suggests their effect upon Hawes's photographs. A brief review of the historical events of the period that are pertinent to the photographs is included along with an evaluation of both the photographic method and the photographer's point of view on the visual record that has been produced.

The major portion of the book is the visual record. Identifications and architectural data are provided with each illustration. The greater part of the collection of glass negatives from which the original prints in the book were made were unidentified when they came into the possession of Holman's Print Shop in 1934, but most have subsequently been identified, according to the author, by Walter Muir Whitehill, David McKibben, and others on the Boston Athenaeum staff. One piece of desirable information that was omitted was a notation on the survival of the structures in the pictures. Some were undoubtedly destroyed by natural disasters such as the fire of 1872, while others were demolished for some later building project. This type of information not only would be of interest to the preservationist but also would provide insight into the dynamics of urban physical development.

The buildings and streetscapes of Boston during a period of rapid growth and change are the major subject of the Hawes photographs. Structures that housed the various activities of city life, libraries and schools, government and business buildings, places of entertainment and residence, display a range of architectural styles. Colonial churches and federal-style shops and warehouses are shown beside mid-Victorian public buildings and row houses. Scenes of shipyards, wharves, and harbors display one of Boston's major commercial activities, while shots of Union recruits drilling on Boston Common in 1863 and fire ruins in 1872 illustrate some of the significant historical events of the period.

Boston in Hawes's photographs, as Homer suggests, appears as a "spacious place," where the rhythm of life was relaxed. In part, this is due to the actual physical stage of development. In one particularly stark and empty view of the Back Bay, for example, recently filled lands appear as open flat spaces between segments of new row houses.

A more important reason for the open views is suggested by the author's description of the photographer's working habits and attitudes. In a conscious effort to exclude people and vehicles from his architectural photographs, Hawes did his work either early or late in the day. Buildings were isolated and given portrait-like qualities. Further, the photographer's selection of subject matter excluded most of the poorer sections of the city. Predominantly, homes of the wealthy were represented by a photographer who had known financial insecurity early in his career and, as Homer suggests, did not photograph places where there was no one to commission the work or buy the prints. Yet, taking into account the effect upon his work of such factors, Hawes's photographs invest the city with an immediacy and freshness that belie their age. The clarity of details, from architectural ornament to street paving textures, sharpens the viewer's awareness of the visual richness of the urban environment. The creative license or point of view of the photographer, while it isolates certain elements of day-to-day city life, provides vivid images that emphasize the basic structure of the urban form that was the setting for the period's life and culture.

That this collection of photographs is extant is indeed fortunate. The glass negatives from which the original photographs reproduced in the book were made were preserved by Hawes's son, together with the earlier daguerreotypes. Homer reports that in 1934, when the daguerreotypes were divided among several institutions, none expressed interest in the glass negatives, which were physically much more difficult to handle. Happily, the negative collection, upon the death of Hawes's son, came to Holman's Print Shop where it was preserved. This circumstance, as the author relates, contrasts sharply with the fate of another Massachusetts photographer's collection which was scraped clean of emulsion and made into a greenhouse.

The Legacy of Josiah Hawes is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of architectural detail, interior furnishings, buildings, and streetscapes, the physical setting, in short, of life in nineteenth-century Boston. The book makes widely available a group of photographs which not only enrich our knowledge of a particular city but also provide valuable data on American urban life in general. The vivid detail and rich subject matter point up the importance of such materials as photographs, which are one of the most effective, often the only, documentation of various often-neglected strata in the life and culture of the American past. As such, it is hoped that the book will stimulate the collection and preservation of a wide variety of photographic materials, not only as examples of the photographer's art but as the visible record of American experience.

Emory University

ELIZABETH LYON

The Correspondence of W. E. B. DuBois, vol. 1, *Selections 1877-1934*, edited by Herbert Aptheker. (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1973. xxv, 507 pp. \$20.00.)

William Edward Burghardt DuBois, born in Massachusetts in 1868, received his education at Fisk and Harvard Universities and the University of Berlin. He also received a number of honorary degrees from both American and European universities as well as international awards. For more than twenty-five years DuBois taught at the University of Pennsylvania and at Wilberforce and Atlanta Universities. He was the author of nineteen books of history, sociology, anthropology, and fiction; the editor of eighteen additional titles; a contributor of weekly columns to leading black newspapers for more than two decades; and a writer of many articles and reviews. During a period of forty or more years, he edited five magazines. For a similar number of years he was a founder and leader of the Niagara Movement, the N.A.A.C.P., and the Pan-African Movement. DuBois died on August 29, 1963, remembered as a staunch opponent of racism, colonialism, and imperialist war, and as one whose focus was always the welfare of people of African descent.

This is the first of three projected volumes of the letters of the scholar, teacher, writer, editor, and reformer. The volume contains an impressive calendar-type table of contents which makes a very good "register of letters." The title and date of the five sections of the book are shown, together with the date of each letter, the name of the writer or recipient, a minute purport, and the page number. The introduction, though short, contains some biographical information on DuBois and background material on plans for the publishing of the papers and acknowledgements.

The editor, a recognized historian of the Afro-American experience, made the decision to concentrate upon the historical dimensions of DuBois and therefore excluded practically all personal correspondence. From the apparently voluminous collection of material, representative letters having significant historical and public quality were selected, omitting all essentially repetitious correspondence. The letters are arranged chronologically and topically, and each letter is preceded by an introductory statement. The annotations are at the bottom of the page. A distinct difference in the typeface used in the introductory note and that in the letter would make reading easier.

The correspondence begins with the first known letter from DuBois, written to his grandmother in 1877, and ends with his resignation from the N.A.A.C.P. in 1934. The correspondence with a very large number of prominent figures and ordinary people of the period deals with the major issues concerning black America during those crucial years, including the Niagara Movement, the N.A.A.C.P., the Garvey Movement, and the historic conflict between DuBois and Booker T. Washington. From the twenty-one-page index one can readily find the

page containing a letter written to or from a particular individual as well as mention of that individual within other letters. Scattered throughout the volume, and enhancing it, are thirty-two illustrations.

The papers of W. E. B. DuBois, including his writings and speeches, are essential for an understanding and appreciation of the history of Blacks in the United States. Because the choice of letters published in this volume is so highly selective, it is hoped that sometime in the future all of the papers presently assembled, those that are presently not available for print (p. 266 n.), and those that are sure to come to light as a result of this volume will be published on microfilm, thus making a vast amount of material more easily accessible to scholars.

National Historical Publications Commission

SARA DUNLAP JACKSON

A History of Iowa, by Leland L. Sage. (Ames: The Iowa State University Press, 1974. xii, 376 pp. Illustrations, photographs. \$9.95.)

Iowa is a young state. The first European settlers arrived in the 1820's, and the last Indian cession of Iowa territory was in 1851, five years after Iowa's admission to statehood. Neither part of the effete East nor the wild West, Iowa has been important chiefly as an agricultural state. Within its borders lies one quarter of all the Grade 1 land in the United States, on which are produced agricultural commodities with an annual value exceeding that of all the gold mined in the world in that year. Iowa's population has grown slowly since the turn of the century, and it was not until 1960 that the U.S. Census reported that Iowa had become an urban state, a condition reached by the nation as a whole in 1920. This recent urbanization reflects mainly the growth of agriculture-related industries that process agricultural raw materials and manufacture agricultural equipment and supplies.

Against this economic background, it is unfortunate that Sage has chosen to focus narrowly on politics in this first modern, scholarly history of the state. He writes of the political maneuverings and intraparty fights with obvious relish, and his blend of national and local political issues, always a problem in writing state history, is excellent. The first chapter, on the topology of the state, written by a geographer, is an encouraging example of cooperative scholarship. But the political approach to Iowa's history results in some curious distortions.

One difficulty arises in Sage's handling of periods of agrarian radicalism, a recurrent tendency in the Hawkeye State. He concludes, for example, that during the period 1878-1900 "there was not much to generate excitement except the developments in federal monetary legislation, the beginnings of railroad regulation, and a fight over Prohibition." This assessment can only be reached by minimizing the problems of farm mortgage indebtedness, low farm prices, intrastate migration, local effects of railroad location and railroad rates, and the growth of the cooperative idea. Sage is right that Iowa was not swept

into the Populist prairie-fire to the extent that Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas were, but he underestimates the agrarian radicalism that did exist. Iowa produced the 1892 Populist candidate for president, James B. Weaver of Bloomfield; several Populist newspapers and magazines were published; Populist and National Farmers' Alliance conventions were held within the state. Sage's treatment of agrarian discontent during the 1920's and 1930's is better, but he ignores completely the resurgent radicalism during the agricultural depression of the 1950's which led to the formation of the National Farmers' Organization (NFO) with headquarters at Corning, Iowa. During the late 1950's and early 1960's the NFO sponsored "holding actions" modeled on those of the Farmers' Holiday Association in the early thirties, and placed the NFO squarely in the tradition of Iowa agrarian dissent.

Sage's brief forays into business history reveal a Mississippi River bias. He devotes the most space to the lumber industry which flourished briefly in northeastern Iowa, while barely mentioning the giant meat packing industries, the agricultural engineering operations (other than those associated with the development of the tractor), or the revolutionary plant-hybridization firms in the state's interior. Nor does he treat the major industries not related to agriculture, such as the insurance center in Des Moines, the Maytag firm in Newton, and the heating and refrigeration factories in the Amana colonies.

Part of Sage's problem stems from source materials. General historians rely on monographic studies, and those on Iowa history have been produced largely at the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa, utilizing the collections of the State Historical Society. The society's holdings have focused on Iowa political leaders and on businesses and families in the Mississippi River towns. The studies available to Sage were therefore slanted toward topics which could be developed easily from these collections. But if Iowa history is to be understood as a whole, biases must be recognized and exorcised. When a German family in 1890 left Davenport on the Mississippi and traveled by wagon three hundred miles to the northwest, breaking the prairie at last at a lonely point miles from the easy transportation of a river, they encountered quite a different Iowa from that known to the sawmill employee in Clinton, where the steamboats that served St. Louis and Vicksburg and New Orleans called and local politics were daily discussion topics. There was a physical difference and perhaps a psychological one as well. When dealing with the history of a state which is really a peninsula between two great rivers, it is necessary to look at the local differences.

Finally, Sage provides no description of what it was or is like actually to live and work in the state. What made life in Iowa unique, and what made it similar to that of other states of the Midwest? There are diaries and manuscripts extant which describe the miserable work of breaking the prairie and watching the snakes slither off as the dirt rolls over; the exhausting process of picking corn by hand, tossing the best

ears into a liquor box behind the horse to be saved for next year's planting; the women working in the fields with the men, shocking oats and raking hay even in the later stages of pregnancy. Life in Victorian Iowa was not all political conventions and high-necked dresses, and so it must be told.

These comments should not obscure the real value of the book. For too long Iowa has needed a state history, and Sage has begun to fill the void. Now his competent survey of Iowa political history must be supplemented by social and economic studies, and perhaps someday the full scope of Iowa history will be revealed.

Ames, Iowa

TRUDY HUSKAMP PETERSON

Pat Garrett: The Story of a Western Lawman, by Leon G. Metz. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1974. 328 pp. Illustrations. \$8.95.)

Since the author is the archivist of the University of Texas at El Paso, readers of this journal may have an interest in the archival insights he brings to historical writing. The subject, unfortunately, is not one that can serve as a true test of the historian's sophisticated exploitation of archives, for much of Pat Garrett's activity simply eluded conventional documentation. Lest any readers unfamiliar with western history not understand why, it must be stated that Garrett's claim on eternity was that he killed Billy the Kid in 1881. For better or worse, Billy has gripped the popular imagination sufficiently to warrant scholarly treatment. Whether enough significance rubbed off on his executioner to warrant a biography remains debatable.

Devotees of western gunmen would probably agree that Garrett deserved a biography, though their level of interest in western history cannot be accepted as the norm for the specialty. But granting Garrett's merits, the question becomes whether sufficient reliable evidence exists for a scholarly biography. This is where archival judgment should be pertinent. On the basis of the footnotes and bibliography in Metz's volume, one must judge that there was a paucity of such evidence. The author relies extensively on the notoriously partisan newspapers of the Southwest and interviews—some recorded by others. Since these interviews came about sixty years after Garrett's death and eighty after Billy's, their reliability remains questionable. The reader has no evidence that the author has evaluated this kind of information and gets the strong impression that he accepted it at face value. In addition, because so little of Garrett's life can be documented by archives and manuscripts, the author perforce relies on the unscholarly books related to Garrett and his circle. The unhappy result is that Metz's biography rests on unsure foundations.

Irrespective of the lack of reliable data, Metz essays a full treatment of Garrett's life, recognizing that its highpoint was the killing of Billy

the Kid. To deal with aspects of Garrett's experience other than law enforcing—husband, father, rancher, drinker, womanizer, customs collector—Metz ncludes much information of solely antiquarian interest, but never provides any real insight into Garrett's personality. Here he becomes entrapped by the style of western history that glorifies minutiae of fistfights and gun battles, failing to ask the big, important questions. The author's immersion in details of his subject leads to such a statement as "Within two years after Pat's death scarcely a man in Texas or New Mexico did not believe that a giant conspiracy was involved and that Jim Miller had committed the slaying." I warrant that most of the men in Texas and New Mexico were completely unconcerned. None of my many male relatives living in Texas in 1910 ever spoke to me about these events. The real problem with this kind of historical writing is that it glorifies the insignificant and is rooted in the quicksand of unreliable evidence, which is not to say that significant statements cannot be made about western badmen (witness the work of John Cawelti and Kent Steckmesser). The present book unhappily does not ask the right questions and furnishes unimportant answers.

University of Maryland

WALTER RUNDELL, JR.

Reunion without Compromise: The South and Reconstruction, 1865-1868, by Michael Perman. (London: Cambridge University Press, 1973. 376 pp. \$17.50.)

American historiography is not lacking in books dealing with the politics of Reconstruction, but studies such as Michael Perman's, which analyze the southern response to the programs of Andrew Johnson and the Radical Republicans, are rare. *Reunion without Compromise* is a chronology of the attitudes and policies of the southern political leaders from the close of the Civil War to 1868 when referendums were held for the new state constitutions. Basing his study largely on contemporary newspapers and the private papers of leading politicians, Perman concludes that the policies of reconciliation propounded by Andrew Johnson and the moderates in Congress were bound to fail because the South's political leadership, which had now passed to the antisecessionists, was no more willing or able to compromise on the issue of the Blacks than the secessionists who had split the Union in 1861. According to Perman, even the Radicals miscalculated the South's determination to resist measures that would grant the Blacks even a semblance of equality, for the South was offered the choice of rejecting or accepting the conditions for reentry into the Union as stipulated in the various Reconstruction Acts. The emancipation of nearly four million Blacks, in Perman's words, was a "radical situation" demanding a "radical solution." It therefore mattered little when or what kinds of concessions were made to the South, for although

militarily defeated, the former Confederacy was unwilling to compromise about the Blacks, making reconciliation between the sections impossible.

Reunion without Compromise is a valuable book for students of Reconstruction, for if its thesis is correct the only feasible method of dealing with the South was to use force. Since this book is written in a rather narrow context, namely that of the public statements of various southern leaders, the thesis might be altered somewhat if the subject of the status of Blacks in American society were under review. The book has other faults. Its language is a bit tedious, and in many instances the author seems to belabor points unnecessarily. Perhaps an organization other than the basically chronological one employed by the author would have made the book more readable and the thesis more clear. The reader is confronted also with a large number of names of people, many of whom never became national leaders but who are introduced with little or no background information. In his notes on sources, the author says that he examined the records of the secretary of war and the United States Army Continental Commands in the National Archives when he was uncertain about the eventual direction of his research; but he indicates that only from time to time were these sources of great use to his study. Since Perman deals mainly with what southerners said rather than with the interaction of local leaders with the military commanders stationed in the area, this may be true; however, there is in the archives a wealth of material relating to Reconstruction, and that material apparently was not used.

National Archives and Records Service

ELAINE EVERLY

The Allied Occupation of Japan, 1945-1952, An Annotated Bibliography of Western-Language Materials, compiled and edited by Robert E. Ward and Frank Joseph Shulman. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1974. xx, 867 pp. \$50.00.)

The occupation of Japan after World War II was an enormous venture. More than military control of a defeated nation, it was a systematic and comprehensive attempt by the United States to mold a new Japan into a society that would include democracy and western values in its foundation. The eighty-month occupation, September 1945 to April 1952, is a unique and significant period in Japanese and American history and lends itself to an extensive variety of scholarly pursuits.

In the introduction to their bibliography, Ward and Shulman comment on the paucity of scholarly studies on the occupation period. While there is no shortage of literature on the subject, "a very small proportion of this is a product of serious systematic scholarship." The blame for this deficiency has often been placed on the diversity and decentralization of source materials and the continued security

classification of the records of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP). Publication of this volume is a major event and should prove to be a substantial contribution to the solution of the problem of identifying scattered sources. In addition, publication coincides with the declassification of major parts of SCAP records. This excellent bibliography and the now-accessible records should provide the impetus that scholars need to increase the number of serious studies that this important period warrants.

This volume was compiled under the auspices of the Social Science Research Council–American Council of Learned Societies' Joint Committee on Japanese Studies, and it represents a joint effort by American and Japanese scholars. A companion volume on Japanese-language materials, *A Bibliography on the Allied Occupation of Japan*, was compiled by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and published in 1972.

The western language volume includes material that appeared through 1972. It consists of 2,537 entries that include 3,170 items covering virtually every facet of the occupation and some aspects of both the presurrender and postsurrender periods. Ten of the thirteen sections are arranged topically by major functions and aspects of the occupation and thereunder by specific activity, such as land reform, constitutional change, and the purge. Items within each subsection are listed alphabetically by author. Each section and subsection is preceded by a brief essay on a particular aspect of the occupation. The three remaining sections provide descriptions of other bibliographies, major newspaper and periodical sources, and archival material. Cross-referencing has been provided for material that is concerned with more than one aspect, and author and periodical indexes are included. Extremely valuable, although slightly inaccurate, are the list of high ranking occupation personnel and the organization charts of SCAP headquarters.

There is no subject index. The editors consider the table of contents and the appendixes sufficiently detailed to make a subject index unnecessary. For the most part their hope is well founded, although a detailed subject index including subject matter below the major topical headings would enable the researcher to examine relevant entries rather than the ten to twenty pages that may include the material of interest. A researcher who invests \$50.00 in a bibliography has the right to expect complete indexing.

The only disappointment contained in this long-awaited volume is its sketchy description of archival materials. Only one chapter is given to these critical primary sources. The one-page description of SCAP records in the National Archives, the central collection of the records of the occupation, is less than the scholarly community requires. The compilers could not have provided a complete item index to the records, but it certainly was within their resources to examine the records in enough detail to provide brief descriptions of the files of each of the major sections of SCAP. The importance of the material

warrants more than a surface description. The bulk of the records has been declassified since the publication of the bibliography, and the pursuant increase in demand will make the brevity of the description an obvious shortcoming to interested scholars.

Despite this one disappointment, this work should become the definitive bibliography on the occupation period. It has been compiled with meticulous care and contains citations to virtually every book, article, dissertation, and oral history project that pertains to the occupation. There is no question that this book belongs on the shelf of every institution wishing to serve the needs of students of twentieth-century Japanese history.

National Archives and Records Service

JAMES J. HASTINGS

Briefly noted

The National Archives and Records Service has released the 1974 edition of the *Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications*. This catalog is the result of a five-year project to provide once again a roll-by-roll listing of all NARS microfilm publications. Through the use of computers, automated typesetting, and a newly developed archival indexing system, SPINDEX II, it will be possible to list and keep current roll-by-roll information on the 104,000 rolls of microfilm now available for sale, as well as 2,000 new rolls that are added each year.

The new catalog contains roll-by-roll lists of the records of the Continental Congress and the Department of State, but only such data as the publication title and price for the remaining microfilmed records. Future editions will be issued approximately annually and will be expanded as the data is converted until each roll is listed individually. Copies of the catalog are available on request from Publications Sales Branch (NEPS), National Archives (GSA), Washington, D.C. 20408.

In publishing *The Development of a Revolutionary Mentality: Papers Presented at the First Symposium, May 5 and 6, 1972* (Library of Congress: Washington, 1972, \$3.50), the Library of Congress is off to a good start on its Symposia on the American Revolution, having published the papers and related commentary within the year of the sessions. (The same cannot be said for the compiler of this note!) Richard B. Morris, chairman of the symposium, commences with an introductory essay; it is followed by "America and the Enlightenment," by Henry Steele Commager; two papers on European and American republicanism by Caroline Robbins and Pauline Maier and comments thereon by J. H. Plumb and Jack P. Greene; a paper on corruption and power in Britain and provincial America by Richard Bushman, and Edmund S. Morgan's comments thereon; and Mary Beth Norton's "The Loyalist Critique of the Revolution," and the last paper, "Men

With Two Countries," a comment on Norton's paper by Esmond Wright. (For each paper there are Morris's introduction of the speaker and a short career resume.)

Commager's paper is an admirable short summary of the Enlightenment as it shone forth in "America," England and Scotland, and the Continent. The other papers give one much to contemplate about republicanism, corruption and power, and loyalty (loyalism)—and not just in their eighteenth-century manifestations. [M. J. Dowd]

The April 1974 issue of the *Journal of the American Association of University Women* includes (pp. 35-36) an article entitled "Some Collections of Special Use for Women's History Resources in the United States," by Elizabeth S. ten Houten. The article lists and briefly discusses some of the important collections in this complex and diversified field. The author begins with two recently published especially outstanding sources for study in women's history, those at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and at Bowie State College, Maryland. Also mentioned are the collections, presumably well known to all scholars in the field, at the Schlesinger Library, which is possibly the largest single collection of personal, family, organization, and association holdings, and the not-so-large but more extensive international collection in the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College, which includes social and intellectual history of women. The article continues with a cross-section of major sources under various categories, such as regional, medical, religious, public, and organizational collections, in addition to collections on individual women and in the newest form of record collecting—oral history sources. The listing admittedly skims the surface and is mainly concerned with major sources in larger collections in the United States, as a starting point for researchers, and suggests the need for a union listing, especially by profession, specifically on women. [ANGELA WILK]

Vincennes University announces the publication by its university press of the *Guide to the Regional History Collections of the Byron R. Lewis Historical Library*, compiled by the director of the library, Thomas Krasean. The *Guide* is a 48-page finding aid to the Vincennes University Archives and its regional history collection for the lower Wabash area. The archives dates from 1801 and includes minutes of the board of trustees and faculty, papers of university presidents, student and university publications, and business records. The regional history section contains manuscripts, county records, newspapers, a genealogical collection, microfilmed census records, and an oral history collection concentrating on the effect of the Great Depression in southwestern Indiana. The *Guide* can be ordered for \$1 from Thomas Krasean, Vincennes University, Vincennes, Ind. 47591.

Two recent library journals have each devoted an entire issue to map collections. The first is "Map Librarianship," *Drexel Library Quarterly*,

volume 9 (October 1973), published by Jeremiah Post, map librarian of the Free Library of Philadelphia. This issue was compiled with the beginning map custodian in mind and therefore should be of interest to those archivists who for the first time are confronted with maps. Articles of particular interest are "Map Cataloging—An Introduction," by Gail N. Neddermeyer; "Map Classification," by Mary Larsgaard; "Non-Geographic Methods of Map Arrangement and Classification," by Ralph Ehrenberg; and "Preservation and Maintenance of Maps," by Marie T. Capps. The second work devoted exclusively to maps is "Map Collections," *Illinois Libraries*, volume 56 (May 1974). This issue evolved from a series of papers prepared for a map workshop sponsored by Western Illinois University and the Illinois State Library in Macomb, September 21, 1973. Principal speakers at the workshop were Mary Galneder, map librarian at the University of Wisconsin, and John Bergen, map librarian and professor of geography at Western Illinois University. While *Drexel Library Quarterly* is more substantive, the emphasis in *Illinois Libraries* is bibliographical. In the latter, archivists will find most useful "Map Classification, Cataloging, and Filing: Bibliographic Notes" and "Map Collection Space, Equipment, Preservation: A Selected Bibliography." Bergen's "Map Reading and Map Appreciation" should also be read by all archivists. [RALPH E. EHRENBURG]

The Indiana Jewish Historical Society of Fort Wayne has published *The First Hundred and Twenty-Five Years*, by Ruth G. Zweig, a history of Achduth Vesholom Congregation, the oldest congregation in Indiana and today the largest congregation in Fort Wayne. The society has undertaken several special projects including collecting information on Indiana Jews who served in the U.S. armed forces, Jewish-owned businesses in Indiana over one-hundred years old, biographical data on all rabbis now serving in Indiana, and family histories.

A Guide to Manuscript Repositories and Institutional Records in Ohio (300 pp., \$8.00) has been issued by the Society of Ohio Archivists and may be ordered from Stephen Morton, SOA Secretary-Treasurer, Bowling Green State University Library, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

The Guide for Oral History Programs, edited by Richard D. Curtiss, Gary L. Shumway, and Shirley E. Stephenson and jointly published by California State University at Fullerton and the Southern California Local History Council (347 pp., \$8.00) is available from Oral History, California State University, Fullerton, Calif. 92634.

Received from the National Archives of Finland is their *Suomen Kirkonarkistojen Mikrofilmien Luettele* [Summary inventory of microfilms on parish records in Finland]. The translation of the title is theirs, and the book includes translation of all textual matter into Swedish and English, making it a pleasure to read. To simplify the reading further,

the parishes are listed in their Swedish names as well as the Finnish, and all lists are intelligently spaced in clean, clear type. The inventory includes Evangelic-Lutheran as well as Orthodox parish records, some military congregations, the Finnish congregation in Stockholm, and the Swedish and Finnish congregations in St. Petersburg. The inventory is made up from work done during 1948–55 as part of the microfilming program of the Genealogical Society of the Church of Latter-day Saints (for which an appreciatory note is included), along with the microfilming done subsequently by the National Archives of Finland. This excellent catalog goes far toward countering the effects of the Tower of Babel. No price is given with it, but presumably it can be ordered from the National Archives of Finland, Helsinki.

The *Censo—Guía de Archivos Españoles* is a two-volume, processed publication, published in 1972 by the Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas (Central Office of Spanish Archives and Libraries). Designated as a census of Spanish Archives, for lack of a better term, this publication contains a list of all parish and municipal archives in Spain, with minor exceptions. The arrangement is alphabetical by name of province and thereunder alphabetical by name of city or town. The following information is usually given for each archival institution: name of city or town, whether parish or municipal archives, name or title of archival collection, amount of records, that is, number of bound volumes, expedientes, folders, or bundles, and inclusive dates. The first volume contains the archival institutions in the province of Alava through the province of Jaen (pp. 1–592). The second volume (pp. 593–1,061) covers the provinces of Leon through Zaragoza. Luis Sánchez Belda, director general of the Spanish Archives and Libraries, prepared the introduction found in volume 1.

Also published in 1972 by the Spanish Archives was the *Catálogo de las Consultas del Consejo de Indias*, compiled by Antonio Heredia Herrera in two volumes. The Consejo de Indias (Council of the Indies) was the governmental body having responsibility for governing the Spanish possessions in the New World. The “consultas” are the recommendations the council made to the Spanish king concerning such matters as the appointment of admirals, generals, and other government officials; salaries; and New World colonization projects. The “consulta” was prepared by the council members and sent to the king, who returned it with a notation, either approving or disapproving the recommendation. There are 4,042 consultas in the two volumes, numbered consecutively and arranged chronologically from April 12, 1529, to November 7, 1598. The original consultas are in the Archives of the Indies, dispersed in different series. The consultas reflect the thinking of the Spanish monarch and his top officials with respect to matters affecting the Spanish colonies in America. [GEORGE S. ULIBARRI]