

The International Scene: News and Abstracts

FRANK B. EVANS, *Editor*

The Provincial Archives of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. Many photographic negatives, prints, and business papers came to the archives following the death of Gladys Reeves of Edmonton, long-time associate of the late Ernest Brown, pioneer photographer. The material is a valuable supplement to the extensive Brown collection already in the archives. Cornelia Wood, former member of the Legislative Assembly, gave a tape recorded interview and much Social Credit political material. A survey of resource material available in the archives on ethno-cultural groups has been completed and will eventually be included in the growing archives publication program. Archives Information Leaflet No. 1, issued in June, deals with Alfred Blyth, whose internationally recognized works are now in the archives. A display of his prize-winning photos, trophies, and reproductions is being held in a Provincial Museum gallery during the summer.

Great Britain. The annual report for 1973 of the Lancashire Record Office notes that by the end of 1974 a new record office for the county will have been established in Bow Lane, Preston. In detailing the year's work, the report notes a slight decline in the number of searchers, a decline more than offset by an increase in the number of postal enquiries. Included in the report are a detailed analysis of use and users of the holdings, lists of accessions (chiefly school and church records) with interesting excerpts, and a long list of unpublished works based upon the holdings. A brief account is provided of the Thomas Hope Floyd Collection and of the activities of the county archaeologist.

New Zealand. *A Summary of Work, 1973*, the annual report of the National Archives of New Zealand, contains thirteen typescript pages providing evidence of progress and discussion of problems in records scheduling, appraisal, and disposition; accessioning, arrangement, and description; and preservation and use of archives. Records center and records management activities are reported also. The report indicates that planning is continuing for new accommodations in the proposed

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National Library Building and that arrangements have been made with the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation for the preservation of television film. The section of the report about reference services contains an interesting analysis of uses and users of the archives. To the report are appended a detailed list of accessions since the last annual report and a valuable thirteen-page description by O. R. Davie of map holdings.

Spain. The Archivo General de la Administracion recently published a bulletin with photographs describing the newly completed intermediate archives at Alcalá de Henares, located a few miles from Madrid. The building, constructed between 1969 and 1973, is windowless, fireproof, and air-conditioned. In addition to administrative offices and research facilities, there are a specialized library, auditorium, exhibition hall, bindery, fumigation room, and photograph laboratory. The building is equipped to house 1,400,000 "bundles" and 1,500,000 volumes. [DONALD L. KING]

U.S.S.R. The visit to the United States this spring of Soviet historian Robert Ivanov and the return visit of Maclyn Burg of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library were featured in a photographic story in the July issue of *Soviet Life*. Ivanov did research at the Eisenhower Library and Burg lectured on oral history at the Institute of World History of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences in Moscow. *Soviet Life* is the English language magazine circulated by the U.S.S.R. in the United States under a reciprocal agreement.

On 15 May 1974 the **Association of Venezuelan Archivists** elected the following to serve for the coming year: President Coronel José Daniel Vera Custodio, Vice President Ermila de Veracoechea, Secretary in Charge of Correspondence Carmen Trujillo T., Secretary of Public Relations Luisa M. de Maldonado, and Treasurer Bertalibia Bossio Penso. Elected as Council Members were Angel A. Paredes Rodríguez, Magaly G. de Montes, Rvdo. Padre Fray Cesáreo de Armelada, Dolores Bonet de Sotillo, and María Elena de Krestonosic. [GEORGE S. ULIBARRI]

ABSTRACTS

Bulgaria. *Izvestiia na dŭrzhavnite arkhivi* [Bulletin of state archives], vol. 25 (1973). This annual volume contains a detailed study by Jordanka Kaludov (pp. 115-57), begun in volume 24, of documents on the condition of subject (Christian) peoples in the European part of the Ottoman Empire from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. (For an abstract of the earlier work, see the *American Archivist*, no. 3, volume 36 (July 1973):440.)

Izvestiia na dŭrzhavnite arkhivi, vol. 26 (1973). The function of archives in Bulgaria has been given a new direction, according to P. Panayotov (pp. 3-18). Legislation in 1972 reaffirmed the role of Bulgarian archives as a documentary arm of government, and an Archival Information System (ISA) was set up to this end, encompassing some 40,000 bodies of archival material around the country, that concern all kinds of political, cultural, and technical subjects, and total over 500 million document items. At the same time, steps have been taken against excessive decentralization and dispersal of archival holdings. A series of catalogs, guides, and manuals will supplement this program.

Romana Handzhyev (pp. 312-14), describes the handbooks and guides issued for using the records of the Central State Historical Archives. These guides follow a rigorously classified and cross-referenced subject catalog.

Izvestiia na dŭrzhavnite arkhivi, vol. 27 (1974). Ivan Paykov (pp. 11-23) discusses a project to integrate into the State Archives a vast number of documents from private and personal sources. This type of project was recommended as far back as 1956 at the Third International Congress of Archivists in Florence. Progress, however, has been slow. Up to 1971, out of a total of 40,000 groups accessioned by the State Archives only slightly over 900 have come from private sources. The chief impediment has been the necessity of sifting and analyzing the historical significance of the material and the establishment of proper criteria for this work. A similar project is proceeding at the Central Historical State Archives (pp. 237-44).

Izvestiia na dŭrzhavnite arkhivi, vol. 28 (1974). Apparently an extra volume for 1974, this issue contains articles inspired by the thirtieth anniversary of the socialist regime in Bulgaria. They deal with revolution and liberation efforts in 1944 and are chiefly of local and national interest.

The issue includes also a detailed review of the *American Archivist* for 1972. Nearly every major article is footnoted and the reviewer, Kostadin G'rdyev, concludes that the journal is "edited in a manner interesting to archivists as well as historians, since it throws light on a wide range of current problems of archival methods and practice, and furnishes a wealth of information about historical work and documents." [CARL CHARLICK]

Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences has published supplement 1 (arranged by Jiří Beran, Prague: 1973, 173 pp.) to its *Guide*. The supplement describes the materials acquired by the academy during the 1960's and structurally reflects the pattern of the 1962 *Guide*. The academy, established in 1952 as the main organization of scientists and scholars active in various academic and artistic disciplines, promotes research and provides opportunity for further

training of scholars chiefly in the mathematical and physical sciences, technological sciences (engineering), chemical sciences, life sciences, and social sciences. It is responsible for organizing meetings of scholars and for promoting scientific international relations. It also publishes scholarly contributions of its members.

The *Guide* is divided into five parts dealing with the records of (1) older organizations, (2) the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, (3) manuscript collections, (4) documentary materials, and (5) photoreproductions. For scholars interested in the history of science the first part, describing the records of older organizations, is probably most significant as it provides documentation for the background of scholarly activity in the Czech countries (the State Observatory is the oldest institution; its records cover the years 1775-1952). Each entry begins with the organization's administrative history, and the principle of provenance is followed throughout. Major subject content and significant correspondents are listed. The volume of each record series is indicated in number of cartons, fascicles, or packets. Availability or lack of detailed finding aids for each record group is stated, and to each entry is appended a bibliographical note.

The most substantial part of the *Guide* is that describing manuscript collections of Czechoslovakian scholars. Included are the papers of artists, literary critics, historians, engineers, lawyers, physicians, scientists, and others. Each entry begins with a biographical sketch that is followed by a note on acquisition and the quantity of materials. Descriptions are similar to entries in the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections published by the Library of Congress. However, the entries are more lengthy and usually include extensive lists of correspondents and subject areas.

The fourth part of the *Guide* describes collections of photographs, portraits, busts, medals, and similar items. Collections of microfilms and photoreproductions in other repositories (including those outside Czechoslovakia or belonging to individuals who prefer to retain the originals) conclude the descriptive part of the *Guide*. A name index listing all individual scholars whose names appear in the text, a subject index, and a list of contents, concludes the volume.

Slovenska Archivistika, no. 2 (1971). Zdenek Samberger, writing about the development of archival theory in Czechoslovakia after 1945 (pp. 243-76), continues his article published in *Slovenska Archivistika*, no. 2 (1970) and abstracted in the *American Archivist* for July/October 1972. Despite some criticism, the provenance principle was firmly established in Czechoslovakia after 1945. Brennecke's "free" provenance principle did not take root, however. The internal structure of many record groups, particularly those of former administrative districts in Slovakia, had to be altered. In cases of personal and professional papers of individuals, the general rule was to respect the wishes of the donors. The relationship between auxiliary historical sciences and archival theory was of importance for the development of a

scientific archival concept. The writer discusses archival publications in Czechoslovakia after 1945 and considers their relevance to administrative history, statistics, demography, and source studies. Progressively, a scientific archival concept became of paramount interest. Archivists were exposed to the new archival terminology by means of various instructional media and handbooks. Theoretical problems were suggested in plans for archival organization. The publications revealed, however, that the scholarly approach toward practical archival tasks lacked uniformity.

Archivni Casopis, no. 1 (1973). Jaroslav Vrbata, writing about problems involved in the selection of archival materials (pp. 26–36), suggests that schedules governing disposal and retention of records fail to determine accurately the records' enduring value. Even though schedules are often detailed, they do not indicate the criteria necessary for selection of documents. According to the writer, the retention of archival materials should be a means for systematic documentation of the evolution of society and nature. The evaluation and selection of documents for permanent retention should be an organically flowing process, closely tied to practical needs of society and, therefore, controlled by binding regulations. He then attempts to outline the methods of evaluation in order to establish the criteria that would be objectively valid in terms of his postulate. In presenting his arguments he is not concerned with a records management approach to records evaluation; he concentrated on analysis of archives as such and is interested primarily in the value of the contents of records. To decrease the archivist's dependence on the advice of subject specialists, he proposes that specific considerations be in the minds of practising archivists while appraising the records: whom or what the document is about; where and when the event took place; and date and place of the original. In his view, less important for evaluation is the consideration of how and why the event occurred. Such an analytic approach allows the archivist to arrive at more objective criteria for disposition. In some instances the value of documents is obviated retrospectively, as in cases of school records of or childrens' drawings by individuals who later became important. Another element in arriving at criteria is eventual possible uses of archival materials. The author believes that acceptance of this analytical approach to evaluation is an indication of a truly professional archivist's concern.

Archivni Casopis, no. 2 (1973). Dagmar Culková, writing about groups of records made available for research by means of an index to their contents (pp. 74–85), notes that in some cases original registers to older records were lost, and, even when preserved, they do not effectively serve the needs of modern research and reference. A name and subject index is a compromise between an extremely brief inventory and a calendar that is too time-consuming. The author describes the techniques of the indexing process on records originating in the offices of

the Czech vice-regency and Czech State Board covering the years 1707-47, records that lacked any satisfactory descriptive finding aids. Key words, secondary headings, dates, reference numbers, and suitable cross-references are employed to make the index readily available for the varied purposes of modern research. The writer believes that the main advantage of this method is the speed at which large groups of records can be provided with accurate finding aids. Among the disadvantages she lists is lack of objectivity in choosing key words. This can be remedied, however, by extensive use of cross-references.

Reporting on utilization of the archives of the Skoda works at Pilsen (pp. 93-107), Marie Bauerová notes that the Skoda works, founded in 1859, constitutes one of the oldest industrial complexes in Europe. Consequently its archives constitute the most valuable repository of business and technological records in Czechoslovakia. They may be used by Skoda works staff, by interested individuals, or by the general public. The archivist must, therefore, be knowledgeable about the records to transmit effectively, by means of various media, relevant information to potential users. The author describes in detail how the employees of the Skoda works, whether engineers, administrators, or workers, are exposed to these archival resources. Brief articles in internal Skoda organs (journals, newsletters) and displays on special occasions and anniversaries are effective means of publicity, and similar approaches can be adopted for the wider community. In addition, contact with schools at all levels should be maintained. Visits of individual classes to view illustrating technological developments in the Skoda works should be encouraged. Particular attention should be paid to historians in the fields of technology and business and to university students who might use the archival resources for their dissertations. Cooperation should be extended to the radio, television, and film industries in providing the documentation needed in their respective areas. Military units may be interested in the displays of weaponry for which the Skoda works are particularly famous. The author mentions as gratifying the interest demonstrated by car club members, who often visit the archives to obtain information regarding their antique cars.

Archivní Zprávy Čsav, no. 3 (1972). J. Levora, discussing the evaluation and arrangement of manuscript collections (pp. 20-38), provides a critical historical survey of views held in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries by archivists and librarians. While he is concerned with all personal and professional papers of individuals as well as with records of clubs, associations, unions, and similar organizations, he gives particular emphasis to materials important for the history of science and technology. Reference is made to the notion of "literary archives," a term coined in the early nineteenth century by J. W. Goethe. The German philosopher Wilhelm Dilthey, in a work published in 1889, believed that archival methods of arrangement were better for manu-

script collections than application of librarians' classifications. More recently, the influence of the provenance principle as applied to manuscript collections has been summed up by German archivist H. O. Meisner, who defined "a group of literary and other documentary materials connected with the physical entity of the individual and his activity" as "personal archives." The author points out that in the past librarians often destroyed organic unity of such papers by distributing them, piece by piece, in the library's artificial manuscript collection oriented by subject matter or names of signatories of documents. Although by now the principle of provenance has been somewhat accepted by librarians, many differences in the treatment of manuscript materials remain. With regard to the internal arrangement of manuscript collections, Levora points out that adherence to original order is often difficult, if possible at all. In such cases rearrangement based on the study of the person's life and work is necessary. While topical organization of the collection is then preferable, in many cases the collection can be satisfactorily arranged by the physical types of materials.

Sborník Archivních Prací, no. 2 (1972). Jaroslav Pánek, surveying archives in Yugoslavia (pp. 432-69), elaborates upon the historical stages of archives administration and general care of documentary sources in that country. His sketch of the histories of areas presently comprising the Yugoslav federation underscores tremendous difficulties in the preservation of their archives. Not until 1950 were all archival materials placed under state care. A law established a central federal archives in Belgrade and archives in each republic which still lacked them, and it encouraged cultural and educational institutions to take proper care of their own records. Subsequent legislation in 1964 defined archival materials, restructured the federal Yugoslav archives, and established the Archives Council of Yugoslavia. The main principle emerging from this legislation was the relative independence of each archival institution, whether on the federal, republic, regional, or district level. The Archives Council makes general recommendations about retention of records and deals with other archival issues, but each archival institution is responsible to the administrative organs of the district, region, or the republic for its own internal structure, programs, policies, and performance goals within the framework of the federal law.

The author discusses also a number of specific problems of Yugoslav archival institutions; buildings; education and training of archivists (attempts made to establish a college of paleography and archives were not successful); records centers; disposal and retention schedules; finding aids; organizational activity of archivists (each republic has its own society, with the Union of Societies of Archivists at the federal level); participation of Yugoslav archivists in international archival

affairs (the Third Round Table on Archives took place at Zagreb in 1957); uses and popularization of archives (displays, lectures); archival terminology and bibliography; publication of archival sources; periodical publications; preservation (engineers in Yugoslavia improved upon the lamination method by constructing a laminator which, by a hot process, partially saturates as well as coats a document); and several special types of archives (agricultural, labor, film, private). [JOSEPH G. SVOBODA]

France. *La Gazette des Archives*, n.s., no. 83 (1973). Francis Denel, director of the Archives of the Western Pyrenees, relates (pp. 223-27) an experience in microfilm substitution undertaken in 1971 at that archives. The operation was undertaken because of a lack of space and was applied to only a few categories of disposable records, including identity cards and papers, and drivers licenses. The dossiers of foreigners represented about 13 percent of the total population of this frontier département in 1972, or approximately 230 of 5,500 meters of records, the total capacity of the depot. After consultation with representatives of Kodak, and with the consent of the Technical Services of the Directorate of the French Archives, a portable camera was chosen. Legislation requires at least thirty years before the destruction of records in this category. After being microfilmed the records were placed in a warehouse or stored in the depot. Microfilming permitted greater utilization of these documents, but the success of the operation depended upon a similar undertaking by the services that produced the documents. Denel does not claim that his archives represents a model for other archival institutions in France nor does he wish to make of his institution a service specializing in microfilm to the detriment of the archival programs.

Michel Quétin of the Archives Nationales, in a summary prefaced by Guy Duboscq, presents (pp. 229-41) the results and a commentary on a survey of photographic equipment in use in archival agencies in France. The survey included all forms of rapid copying as well as microfilming, and two excellent maps graphically portray the extent of photocopying as well as the location of equipment and facilities.

Étienne Taillemite, president of the Association of French Archivists, offers a synthesis (pp. 243-52) of the discussions of the regional meetings of the association in 1973 on archives and public service. The discussions centered upon Article 72 of the 1921 statute governing the departmental archives which states: "The archivist shall place at the disposal of the public the communicable documents asked of him; make known, moreover, to researchers the methodology of the instruments of research; and, in a general manner, assist them to avail themselves of his, i.e. the archivist's, experience. It is not, however, incumbent upon the archivist to do the research that is normally required of those concerned and which is possible for them to do for themselves."

Questioning whether this article is valid or whether a new wording is required and examining the limits of the role of the archivist as a guide of public queries, the author notes that in daily practice there is an inevitable hierarchization respecting the service provided to researchers, one based upon the nature of the research. Two schools of thought exist among French archivists: the first, or liberal, would give to researchers, whoever they may be, the maximum possible assistance; the second, or conservative, would deliberately eliminate certain categories or researchers, such as genealogists or the merely curious.

There are no widely-accepted criteria for reference service to researchers. Research leading to publication is esteemed by many; others value the precious dialogue between the archivist and the researcher that brings out valuable knowledge. The author maintains that there is near unanimity as to the possibility of creating an institutional hierarchy in the demands of research; in his view extreme flexibility and a greater number of guides and inventories to the various record groups is essential. As for the public influencing the arrangement and the inventorying of records, the majority believe that archivists should be entirely free in their work and in their judgments concerning the priorities to be accorded in the establishment of programs. Certain archivists would like to see a developing dialogue with the research community and especially with the universities.

Reemphasizing the importance of guides and inventories as a method for instruction in research in archives, Taillemite maintains that existing ones in France are so complex that they are at times almost incomprehensible. Clearly, improvements are necessary. Three reforms he recommends are initial instruction in the universities for beginning researchers, guides and pre-guides to instruct even younger students, and inventories directed and placed at the public's disposal and not for internal use only. Many inventories have not been edited with a view to their utility for the public.

Among other topics discussed were the increase in queries by mail and the use of microfilm and photocopying equipment by the public. Reproduction presents problems such as deterioration of the documents and the loss of control over them. Furthermore, the view of most French archivists continues to be that all photocopying constitutes an impoverishment of the original documents. The synthesis closes with a return to the opening discussion on whether article 72 should be modified. The majority favor the status quo with, however, a sizeable minority demanding significant modifications.

Jean Valette, director of the Interministerial Center for Archives at Fontainebleau, offers some reflections (pp. 253-95) on the handling of personnel dossiers during their pre-archival and archival stages. His views should be of special interest to American archivists, particularly those in public agencies that have given relatively little attention to the subject of personnel records.

In addition to the usual chronologies of developments within the

French archival structure, this issue also contains a formal account of the 1973 meeting of the Association of French Archivists, and brief notes on publications received. [PAUL V. GUITÉ]

Yugoslavia. *Archivist*, vol. 20, no. 2 (1970—published May 1972). In an introductory note (pp. 87–94), Bozhidar Manić looks back on twenty-five years of archival service in Yugoslavia. The country won its independence as a result of World War I, first as a kingdom (to 1941), thereafter as a socialist republic. Its archival effort has been and still is strongly rooted in the past, which reflects the heterogeneous origin of the country, part Austrian, Hungarian, and Serbian. The strenuous efforts of recent years, backed by comprehensive legislation, have rebuilt an effective archival program.

The principal section in this issue (pp. 95–179) is by a group of authors, including S. Viljan, president of the Federation of Yugoslav Archivists, who survey the history of archival accessioning, registration, and classification, starting with the mid-eighteenth century in the provinces belonging to the Austrian crown and at later dates elsewhere. The article is a mine of information not only on archival theory and practice but on the checkered history of the country.

Archivist, vol. 21, no. 1–2 (1971—published December 1973). Charles Kecskeméti, executive secretary of the ICA, writing on *Archives Development and National Sovereignty* (pp. 1–16), is quite critical of archival efforts in the developing countries of Africa, efforts which he sees as costly, mistaken imitations of the programs and policies of wealthy Western industrialized nations. The issue contains also a summary review (pp. 91–94) of the problems inherent in preparing the *Guide to Historical Sources of Foreign Countries*, initiated in 1958 under the joint sponsorship of ICA and UNESCO. The chief problem lay in selecting topics and striking a balance between completeness and the inevitable limitations to essentials. As the project progressed, Yugoslavia agreed to supply two volumes dealing with Latin America and Africa, the Near East, Asia, and Oceania. This contribution relates to Yugoslavia's resources in maritime affairs, commerce, and emigration, all of which significantly recall the historic archives in such cities as Dubrovnik, Zara, and Split that flourished during the Renaissance era.

Archivist, vol. 22, no. 1–2 (1972—published January 1974). Nearly the entire issue is given over to news of internal organization and reports of the Federation of Yugoslav Archivists and regional affiliates in the several constituent republics of Yugoslavia. The organization was founded in 1953 as successor to a previous archivist federation. Chief among its publications is this periodical, which is older than the organization and which the latter took over in 1954. Since then thirty-five issues have appeared, coming out from one to four times per year (normally twice yearly), but not always on time. The organization has published also a dictionary of archival terms, a textbook on archival

practice, and several issues of *Yugoslav Archives*, some of which were translated into foreign languages. To cover the cost of publications the federation asked state and local archives throughout the country to contribute 2 percent of their revenues. Of the ninety-one organizations approached, thirteen responded affirmatively, but about 10 percent of the promised subscription remains unpaid. The federation receives subsidies also from republic and national cultural organizations. Only an insignificant part of its publishing revenue—about 3 percent—comes from sales and subscriptions to the periodical. Figures are given for three and a half years, 1968 to 1972, during which three issues of *Arhivist* appeared. The cost of printing and distribution has been about \$2,000 per issue, and an edition numbers 1,300 copies; but a large number, about 900, are distributed free of charge to member and supporting agencies. The newstand price per copy is \$1 (15 dinars), \$2 abroad. [CARL CHARLICK]

POSTAL NOTICE

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