

The International Scene: News and Abstracts

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Fifteenth International Round Table on Archives. Through the courtesy of Dominion Archivist Wilfred I. Smith and the Public Archives of Canada, the Fifteenth International Round Table on Archives was held in Ottawa, October 7-10, 1974. The Round Table, which began as an independent international organization composed chiefly of heads of national archival administrations, is now organizationally a part of the International Council on Archives (ICA), which selects the Round Table officers and approves its programs. The president of the Round Table is currently M. Franjo Biljan, director of the Archives of Yugoslavia, who is assisted by M. Christian Gut, director of the Archives of the City of Paris, and M. Charles Kecskeméti, the executive secretary of the International Council on Archives.

The Round Table, which met in the Canadian Government Conference Center—a converted railway station—was the best attended to date, with sixty-four official delegates from thirty-eight countries and six international organizations, and thirteen observers, chiefly from Canada and the United States. Countries represented for the first time at a Round Table included Lebanon, Japan, and Australia. Simultaneous translation into French and English was available. The theme for discussion by the Round Table was "Archives and Public Relations," which was broadly interpreted to include publications, exhibits, and educational programs, as well as public information on activities. In preparation for the meeting a detailed questionnaire had been prepared and sent to member countries, and the responses were tabulated and analyzed in an extensive and valuable report prepared by M. Biljan. The report was then sent to invitees to serve as a basis for the discussions. Four working sessions, each with a chairman and a presenter, discussed various aspects of the report and of broader questions of archival theory and practice involving, respectively, publicity, publications, exhibitions, and educational services.

Despite the wide range of program activities authorized by the various national laws and regulations of the countries represented and the differing levels of archival development between countries, there

was virtually unanimous agreement on the part of the delegates that modern public archival agencies must serve the general public as educational and cultural agencies, while at the same time expanding their traditional services to governments and the scholarly community. This particular theme was especially appropriate for a Round Table meeting in Ottawa, where the Public Archives of Canada, under its "Diffusion" program, provides many successful examples of broad educational and cultural services. The Round Table proceedings, like those of previous Round Tables, will be published in French and English editions and may be purchased from the Executive Secretary of the ICA.

During the course of the four-day meeting the delegates and observers also enjoyed a bus tour of Ottawa and vicinity; a reception in conjunction with the opening of an exhibition, "Telecommunications: The Canadian Experience," at the Public Archives building; a reception at the residence of the Governor General by Her Excellency, Mrs. Jules Léger; a dinner as guests of the Secretary of State, the Honorable Hugh Faulkner, minister responsible for the archives, in the salon of the National Arts Center at Confederation Square; and a one-day bus tour of Upper Canada Village and to Montreal, with luncheon as the guests of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission of the Government of Ottawa, a reception by the Government of Quebec in the hall of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, and dinner in the old historic section of Montreal as guests of the ministry.

Following the Round Table a number of the delegates, led by Director General Filipp I. Dolguikh of the Archives of State of the USSR and president of the ICA, traveled to New York City and Hyde Park, New York, for a meeting of the executive committee of the ICA as guests of James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States and ICA vice-president. Mr. Dolguikh then visited the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and other archival repositories in the East, as did a number of other foreign archivists, several of whom were making their first visits to this hemisphere.

The Sixteenth International Round Table on Archives will meet in Kiev in September 1975.

Archives Committee of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History. With the financial support of the Canadian National Section, and of a unit of the Department of External Affairs, and of the Public Archives of Canada, a meeting of the Archives Committee of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) was held in Ottawa, October 14-18, 1974. Participating were the national archivists or other representatives from twenty Caribbean and Central and South American countries, representatives from five international archival organizations, and a number of invited guests. The conference was also attended by the Secretary General of PAIGH, José Saenz; the president of the Canadian National Section of PAIGH, Arthur

Blanchette; and Carmen Rovira of the Organization of American States. The program, arranged by the committee chairman, Bernard Weillbrenner, Assistant Dominion Archivist, featured discussions of archival training with particular attention to the needs of Latin American countries, and of various resolutions adopted by the committee at the 1973 Panama meeting of the Institute. All of the working sessions were held in the Federal Government Conference Center, and simultaneous translation in French, English, and Spanish was available. A detailed report on the conference is expected to be published during the next year.

The guest speakers for the sessions on training included Robert Garon of the history department of Laval University, Quebec, who teaches archival courses at that institution; Aurelio Tanodi, director of the Archives School at the National University of Cordoba, Argentina; Humberto Mundo Reyes, of Mexico; Frank B. Evans, who has directed archival training for the U.S. National Archives and serves as adjunct professor of archives administration in the department of history of the American University in Washington, D.C.; and Mario Herrera Acosta, of the National Archives of Panama.

The committee voted to establish a working party to determine standards on training, courses, and minimum requirements for professional positions. In other working sessions the committee agreed to create an information center in Ottawa to centralize and publicize works on archives administration and archival developments in the member states; established a publications committee under Tanodi's chairmanship; endorsed efforts by the Association of Administrators of Documents and Archives of Ecuador, through proposed legislation, to improve the administration of archives and their own professional status; requested further information on the practice of using archival buildings for the housing of other government agencies; endorsed efforts to obtain financial assistance for and to continue selective microfilming of archives under the auspices of UNESCO, and to promote the preparation of guides to facilitate use of such microfilm; established closer working relationships with the Spanish national archival administration; projected a series of guides or directories to archival repositories and their holdings in the member countries; submitted to UNESCO the names of Peru, Costa Rica, and Colombia as countries able and willing to cooperate in a pilot project on the development of archives; and organized a Latin American regional branch of the International Council on Archives. Assisting in this latter activity were Charles Kecskeméti, ICA Executive Secretary, and Alfred Wagner, program specialist in archives for UNESCO.

The delegates and observers were the dinner guests of the Canadian National Section of PAIGH; enjoyed a tour of the city and the surrounding area, a reception, and a dinner hosted by the Public Archives of Canada; and concluded their activities with a reception hosted by the Department of External Affairs.

Argentina. Rolando Ariel Perez, director of a project to prepare a guide to the sources of historical information in Argentina, solicits comments, suggestions, and criticisms by SAA members about his project. The first part of the proposed guide will provide material describing the sources for research in Argentine history. Volume 1 on archives and volume 2 on libraries will describe each institution's resources and list the materials facilitating their use. Volume 3 will provide bibliographical information. The second part of the guide, volume 4, will consist of a series of essays discussing specific research areas and problems, methods, and utilization of documentation, thus adding up to an interpretive complement to the first three volumes. After the first three volumes are published, they will be updated periodically with the aid of a computer. For more information contact Professor Ariel, Director, Guia Para Investigaciones Historicas En La Argentina, Sarmiento 643, 8° piso, Of. 822, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Australia. The Commonwealth Archives, which celebrated its thirtieth anniversary last March, has been renamed the Australian Archives. Its first director, Ian Maclean, also celebrates his thirtieth year at the head of the institution. In his honor, Alan Ives, the acting librarian of the Archives, has prepared a bio-bibliography of Maclean's contribution to the literature of the profession.

Great Britain. The bulletin of the Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick Library, for January 1975, describes one major deposit and two major purchases. The Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT) transferred its records, including records of many of the constituent unions of UCATT, to the Centre. Although the records are not comprehensive, many of the builders and woodworkers records go back well into the nineteenth century. Also, the Centre has purchased papers relating to Ben Tillett (1860-1943), the dockers' leader, and a collection of Trotskyist records and publications (1938-61) from K. Tarbuck.

India. Highlighted in the annual report for 1972 of the National Archives of India, published in 1974, are new accessions, including the papers of Shri G. P. Pant relating to the Kanpur Bolshevik Conspiracy Case of 1924; an increase in the number of research scholars to 658, a new record; the issuance of fifteen publications; and the promulgation of an Archival Policy Resolution to govern records management, disposition, and public access to records transferred to the National Archives. The report has separate sections on archival management, preservation and technical service, publications, personnel and miscellaneous matters, and the regional office (Bhopal). Appendixes list the scholars who used records and their topics, other inquiries received, the names of the fifteen trainees who received diplomas in archives-keeping, and brief budget totals for 1971-72 and 1972-73.

ABSTRACTS

Brazil. [LAURA MONTI, University of Florida] *Mensário do Arquivo Nacional*, vol. 4, no. 5 (May 1973). On pages 5-10 are summarized the recommendations of the VIIth International Archives Congress, Moscow, 1972 (see Morris Rieger's report, *American Archivist* 36[October 1973]: 491-512).

Jose Auguste Irigon, writing on document preservation (pp. 13-17) gives simple guidelines for preservation, beginning with a discussion of the enemies of documents: physical agents, such as humidity, temperature, and light; chemical agents, such as acids; and biological agents, such as insects. He describes insects which cause paper damage in Brazil and lists ways to avoid or minimize the damage.

This issue contains also a summary of the meeting organized by the Organization of American States on March 19, 1972, in Lima, Peru. Present were delegates from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, and Peru. The directors of archives in these countries organized a Latin American Association of Archivists as a step toward creating a branch of the International Council on Archives. The goal of the meeting was to implement in each country a national system of archives for the administration and management of public records. Discussion also related to personnel for archives. Matters discussed included training courses, schools, publication of a bulletin by the Organization of American States with a specialized bibliography, scholarships, selection of personnel based on special tests, and salaries. Recommendations adopted called for the national archives in each country to act in an advisory capacity for the administrative archives; for a census of public and private archives in each country; for endorsement of resolutions number 5 and 8 of the First Inter-American Meeting on Archives, in Washington in 1951; for further development of archival organization and descriptive techniques; for a glossary of archival terms to assist in the transcribing of historical documents of Spanish America; and for the organization of regional seminars among countries with common historical backgrounds. The national archives of each country should campaign continuously to awaken the conscience and interest of its government in archives, according to the delegates, and countries without archivist organizations should form them. Other recommendations called for the national archives in each country to have its own building with temperature and humidity controls; adequate distribution of working, deposit, and public areas; and lighting and equipment for fumigating, preserving, and reproducing records.

Mensário do Arquivo Nacional, vol. 4, no. 6 (June 1973). The Director of the Brazilian National Archives, reporting on the Round Table of the International Council on Archives, in Luxembourg, noted that Brazil was the only country from Latin America which presented a questionnaire to help prepare one of the working papers, was the only

country present from Latin America, and was the only Portuguese-speaking country. Discussions concerned the number of participants that should be invited. One of the topics dealt with by the participants was the archives of documents of xylographic and heraldic records and symbols of administrative offices. Director Lima presented to ICA the request for affiliation with it of the Brazilian Association of Archivists.

Mensário do Arquivo Nacional, vol. 4, no. 8 (August 1973). The Comissão de Estudos e Pesquisas do Instituto Histórico e Geográfico Brasileiro [The commission on research and inquiry of the Brazilian historical and geographical institute], presided over by Marcos Carneiro de Mendonça, was received in the National Archives by Director Raul Lima who expressed gratitude for the letter by the Marques de Barbaccua to King George IV of England given to the Archives by Ambassador Joaquim de Souza Leão Filho. The president of IHGB reported on a trip to Maranhao representing the Institute of History and Geography, and the director of the Archives presented a report of his institution.

Mensário do Arquivo Nacional, vol. 4, no. 9 (September 1973). An article on technical assistance for the National Archives (pp. 9-13) refers to an agreement signed by the Ministry of Planning and General Coordination and the Ministry of Justice, for assistance to the Brazilian National Archives through a work program that would study the current state of the archives and indicate the corrective actions that should be taken. Gajunana Ghantar, writing about the historical archives of Goa (the article reprinted from the publication of the Indian Society for Latin America, *Centro Regional de Goa*), pp. 14-16, traces the creation of the government archives in Goa at the end of the sixteenth century with the intention of concentrating all documents regarding the policies of Portugal in the Orient, especially in India. The contributions of successive directors are cited and so are the most important holdings of the archives. Included are the *Monções do Reino*, 458 volumes covering the period between 1560 and 1914. The archives of Goa are essential for the study of Portuguese history during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. After Goa achieved independence the new government took measures to improve the conditions of the archives.

Mensário do Arquivo Nacional, vol. 5, no. 3 (March 1974). Raul do Rego Lima, in his report on National Archives activities in 1973 to the Minister of Justice (pp. 1-68) deals with technical assistance, participation in cultural events, publications, defense of the national patrimony, administrative reforms, and the pact with the Federal Senate. The general report is followed by others from the various divisions, including the Consulting Section (Public Services), the Department of Restoration, the SDE (Serviço de Documentação Escrita), and the various

custodial units for legislative, judicial, executive, and historical documentation.

The Service of Cartography and Photography reported increased production by the Film Section and the Microfilm, Sound, Maps, Photography, and Phonography Sections. The Division of Service of Historical Investigation, or SPH, reported on publications acquisitions, and on training courses. The SRA (Servico de Registro e Assistencia) reported on the survey of work to assist the ministries and other institutions.

Czechoslovakia. [JOSEPH G. SVOBODA, University of Nebraska] *Archivní Časopis*, no. 3 (1973). Tomas Fiala (pp. 139-42) provides a sequel to his earlier paper dealing with disposition problems of technical records (see *Archivní Časopis*, no. 1 [1971]: 22-41; abstracted in the *American Archivist* 36[January 1973]: 97). The earlier article concerned the guidelines published in 1970 relating to the disposal of technical records; the present one is a commentary on the principles governing the archival handling of technical records, and was made available to archival institutions in Czechoslovakia in 1973. The article on the principles serves as an aid outlining methodology and step-by-step procedures in the arrangement and inventorying of those technical records adjudged to have permanent historical value. The handbook of guidelines, however, does not deal with the problem of integration of technical records into the structure of specific record groups. Because of the unique characteristics of technical documentary materials, such as uses of the records in originating agencies, qualitative and quantitative diversities, as well as research potential, it is necessary for archivists to devise a viable scheme for the inclusion of technical materials in record groups. This should be done in such a way that it will reveal their contents and thus better serve the interests of scholars and other researchers.

Archivní Časopis, no. 4 (1973). Four papers presented at a seminar on problems in arrangement and description of manuscript collections substantially make up the contents of this issue. The proceedings of the seminar, which took place at Pilsen, August 29-31, 1973, are summarized on pages 219-22 by G. Čechová, editor-in-chief of *Archivní Časopis*.

The first paper, by Antonín Boháč (pp. 185-206), concerns the author's experience in the Archives of the Memorial of National Literature. He notes that in addition to personal papers and institutional records, specialized archives frequently include artificial collections created through the collecting activity of individuals or established, for practical reasons, by archival agencies. There are also collections organized by types of material, such as newspaper clippings, obituaries, photographs, and microfilms. Finally, there is an expanding collection of miscellaneous materials (*varia*) filed alphabetically by names of individuals. When the quantity of materials within a file

warrants it, the file is removed from *varia* and becomes a separate manuscript collection. The main criterion for building such collections is to provide extensive documentation in a specific human activity, in this case Czech literature.

The author asserts that common sense and a practical approach based upon the well-qualified judgment of specialists must prevail in solving problems arising from conflicts with accepted archival theory. The arrangement of a collection is usually affected by types of materials (correspondence, manuscripts, personal documents, photographs, et cetera), although sometimes separate divisions documenting a special activity of the individual are created regardless of types of material. A note in an inventory's introduction should explain the method of arrangement. In addition to the inventory describing in varying detail the component parts of a collection, the author suggests that a master index be established to cover the writers of all letters in all collections. Though he dismisses the possibility of computer technology for more efficiently obtaining data from archives at this time, he urges that archivists study and be aware of the applicability of the new technology for use in years to come. Finally, he discusses problems relating to acquisition of collections, such as competition for similar materials among various archival institutions, lack of financial resources for purchases of manuscripts, and retention and dispersal of personal papers in the hands of family members.

Milada Wurmová, in her contribution (pp. 206-12), outlines the process of preparing inventories and catalogs to manuscript collections in the state archives at Brno. Although she views a master index to all names and subjects for all holdings as an ideal, she states that new institutions must presently be satisfied with inventories as the only finding aids available.

Karel Černý discusses, pp. 212-14, the treatment of manuscript collections of scientists and engineers in the National Technological Museum. He calls attention to the different nature of materials in these collections, which consist, for the most part, of technical and research notes and include only a relatively small number of letters and personal documents. Changes in the organization of scientific institutions, differences in life styles, and extensive use of telecommunications, in the author's view, point to diminishing importance of the contents of personal papers of scientists and engineers in the future.

Aleš Chalupa discusses, pp. 214-19, how manuscript collections of scientists and political figures are handled in the National Museum. Additions to collections are combined with already existing units. If the addition is very small, it is placed as an addendum to the collection and thus described in the inventory. When substantial quantities are involved, the materials are inserted into places where they logically belong and the inventory is reworked accordingly. The author also analyzes the arrangement of correspondence, which he divides into family, personal, and official. In a majority of cases, alphabetical order by name of correspondent, within each type of correspondence, ap-

pears most plausible. Exceptions to this rule are usual in official papers, which generally are arranged by topic. In many cases the archivist accepts the order as established by the individual or agency that created the record. If the correspondence files of the collection are received in chronological order, the archivist has to determine whether or not, from the point of view of researchers, this arrangement sheds better light on the activity of the individual. If so, the arrangement is retained and an alphabetical index of correspondents is appended to the inventory.

Despite some variations in arrangement and the preparation of finding aids, it appears that all four institutions handling manuscript collections conform in essentials to the methodology inherent in current archival theory. The main purpose of their effort is achievement of overall control of their holdings and facilitation of their use by researchers.

El Salvador. [By GEORGE S. ULIBARRI, National Archives and Records Service] *El Salvador—Situación y Planificación del Servicio de Documentos Públicos*, by Gunnar Mendoza L. (Paris: UNESCO Series 3026, 1974. 113 pp. Mimeographed.)

In early 1973 Gunnar Mendoza L., director of the National Archives and Library of Bolivia, and one of the outstanding archivists in Latin America, conducted, under the sponsorship of UNESCO, a survey of the archives of El Salvador. The final report of the survey, which took place in January and February of 1973, is the publication considered here.

The report begins with a brief discussion of four previous missions concerned with the archival situation in El Salvador: (1) the mission of Manuel Valle, Jr. (Chicago: The Public Administration Service, 1952); (2) the mission of Francisco Sevillano Colom (UNESCO, 1958-59); (3) the mission of Luis M. Rodríguez Morales (OAS, 1972); and (4) the mission of Aurelio Tanodi (OAS, 1972).

Gunnar Mendoza's survey included the use of questionnaires sent not only to government agencies but also to religious bodies and private firms, meetings and interviews with key officials, and personal inspection of the sites where records were kept. The personal inspections were usually conducted in the company of Rodolfo Ramos Choto, chief of the National Archives of El Salvador; Julio Cesar Duran Arrazola, president of the Association of Salvadorean Archivists; and other officials. Photographs were taken to show the poor care records received at the office of origin after the records became noncurrent. The report covers matters such as the need for archival legislation, space, and equipment; transfer of records to the National Archives and their arrangement and description; publications; personnel; and an adequate budget.

The archival holdings of the Salvadorean National Archives amount to 450 linear meters and cover the years 1820-1964. A fire in 1889 destroyed most of the government records before that date. Some

valuable noncurrent records have been destroyed in order to make room for current records.

The present archival situation in El Salvador is bad. Recommendations to improve existing conditions include the following: (a) creation of a National Commission for Public Records; (b) prohibiting the destruction of government records without proper authorization; (c) establishment of record centers; and (d) converting or upgrading the present Archivo General de la Nación into a National Office for Public Records.

This well-written and informative report, by no means limited to El Salvador in its usefulness, lays down a pattern that might be followed by other countries, particularly those in Latin America, wishing to improve the status of their archival institutions.

France. [PAUL V. GUITÉ, National Archives and Records Service] *La Gazette des Archives*, n.s., no. 84 (1974). Vital Chomel, director of archival services at Isère, says in his article on business archives in the départements that it was a uniquely French deficiency that caused the Directorate of Archives of France to lead the movement for the preservation of business archives, a responsibility not assumed by comparable agencies in Great Britain or the Federal Republic of Germany. The Germans established private centers for the preservation of economic archives as early as 1907, but the French were initially indifferent to the establishment of similar institutions in France. The author devotes most of his paper, originally presented to the 18th National Congress of French Archivists, to the definition of a policy for the preservation of corporate or business archives. He concedes the difficulty of such a task given the vast number of commercial and business enterprises in France, more than 1,758,000 at the beginning of 1971, and holds that choices must be made, options weighed, and critical judgments exercised. Even selective retention of such a number of business records is impossible. In his view, France needs a law similar to Denmark's of June 1962, giving to the Archives of France the task of receiving the archives of the nation's economic life and the granting of operational credits. Chomel finds that none of the established departmental archives, university or municipal libraries, or special libraries have adequate or easily accessible series of published documents in the economic field. Aside from the scientific value of such documents, the author insists that a diffusion of economic information is a normal requisite of a modern democracy. He praises the efforts of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to establish a solid base for the study of the traditional rural civilization of ancient France, and he hopes that these efforts will be complemented by a parallel undertaking to safeguard and make known the materials essential to an objective knowledge of modern-day technical civilization.

Isabel Brot, a curator in the Archives Nationales, in another paper presented to the 18th National Congress of French Archivists, discusses business records. Since World War II, and after the expulsion of

many French companies from Algeria and French government nationalization of large concerns in France, many records in the Archives Nationales have not been either arranged or inventoried, priority having gone to the preservation of records menaced by destruction. The establishment of the Interministerial City of Fontainebleau has provided a haven for some threatened records, but the problem would be less critical if there were enough personnel to arrange them. The Overseas Section of the Archives Nationales has assumed responsibility for canvassing business archives, and is preparing under the aegis of UNESCO and the International Council on Archives a guide to sources of Asia and Oceania. The author regrets the destruction of many records by business enterprises undergoing modernization. Fortunately for the Archives Nationales, however, many company executives have turned to private societies that specialize in the custody of archives. Other managers are coming to recognize the intrinsic value of their records as source material for historical and economic research and also have instituted records management programs.

The author sees as a mixed blessing the existence of private societies specializing in the preservation of business records. The Archives Nationales cannot satisfy the demands of private societies for technical assistance. Moreover, although legal authority exists for the archives to organize public archival services, opposition from nationalized banks and insufficient archives staff inhibit a more active role by the Archives Nationales. Brot views the overall situation with respect to business archives in France as truly alarming. Many important records have been destroyed and more disappear every day. The plight of business archives has been well documented, but none of the measures instituted to safeguard the records have proved effective. Pierre Villard requested in 1970 an archives law to assure their protection and financial cooperation from owners of records by the creation of mixed economic associations. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs set up a working group in the summer of 1972 to study the problems posed in preserving business archives for research. The financial inadequacy of the Archives of France was recognized, but representatives of professional federations balked at a law giving the state control over archives of certain private business enterprises that are of prime interest for scientific, economic, or social research. Agreement was finally reached whereby the Archives of France would prepare guides providing basic information on arrangement and disposition of business records and would conduct training courses for the archivists of commercial enterprises.

In conclusion, the author stresses the need for close contacts with the users of business archives and especially with university faculties who often apply directly to business establishments that are now opening up their archives with greater liberality. She hopes that the *École des Chartes* will train archivists toward economic history, but at the same time she concedes the practical difficulties in recruiting qualified personnel for positions already authorized.

In the "Varia" section of this issue, Chantal Bonazzi, secretary of the Commission of Private Contemporary Archives, describes the commission's efforts to safeguard private archives and use them for historical research. The commission, composed of representatives from various foundations, the academic community, and the Archives of France, held its first meeting in November 1973.

In the technical notes section, Michel Duchein offers some thoughts and reflections on shelving for archives, a subject which he finds not at all resolved despite the abundance of literature on the subject. He lists four essential qualities that such shelving should offer: (1) solidity (each shelf of one meter should support 100 kilograms), (2) safety (for the records and for personnel), (3) durability (the problem of anti-rust paint), (4) nonflammability (thus excluding wooden shelving). Duchein adds also a fifth desirable quality: controllability; and he informs us that a new edition of his work, *Les rayonnages d'archives*, is due in the near future.

Among the book reviews are several that should interest American archivists. Michel Duchein reviews Marie-Thérèse Chabord's *Les archives administratives*, and Chabord reviews Carlos Wyffels', *Archives contemporaines et dépôts intermédiaires*. Michel Quélin has high praise for Peter Robertson's book, published by the Public Archives of Canada, *Relentless Verity. Canadian Military Photographers Since 1885*.

The issue contains also a bibliography of French inventories and archival guides of 1973, the administrative chronicle for the last quarter of 1973, and reviews of foreign journals including *Prologue* and the *American Archivist*.

German Federal Republic. [GEORGE O. KENT, University of Maryland]. *Der Archivar*, vol. 27, no. 1 (February 1974). The greater part of this issue is devoted to the 48th annual meeting of German archivists, at Wuerzburg in September 1973. The general subject of the meeting was Changes of Administrative Organizations and Their Effects on Archives. The welcoming remarks by President Dahm are presented first, followed by a summary by E. G. Franz of the papers presented (cols. 7-18). First is M. Bulling's paper on the aims and problems of territorial reforms, dealing with the situation in Baden-Wuerttemberg (cols. 19-26); then G. Richter, discussing the effects on archives of territorial and organizational changes, writes on the effects on state archives with special reference to Baden-Wuerttemberg (cols. 27-38); and D. Hoeroldt discusses the effects on municipal archives in Nordrhine-Westphalia (cols. 37-44). G. Milkereit reports on a discussion session held on the correlation between structural changes in the economy and their effects on business archives (cols. 45-46). There are also short reports of meetings on municipal, ecclesiastic, seignorial, business and industrial, parliamentary, press, radio, and film archives (cols. 47-58).

Two reports outside of the annual meeting deal with the Fifth Archives Workshop, in Munich, by H-R. Jarck (cols. 59-62); and with

the tenth annual meeting of Austrian archivists, in Bregenz, by W. Goldinger (cols. 61-66).

Der Archivar, vol. 27, no. 2 (May 1974). Most articles in this issue are reports on automation and data processing presented at the 48th annual meeting of German archivists.

H. Schepers deals with the basic terminology, forms, and procedures of data processing in archival administration (cols. 173-80); H. Romeyk discusses the standards of evaluation and acquisition in connection with automated administrative procedures for new types of archival material (cols. 181-92); W. Buchmann writes on conditions for preservation, exploitation, and usage of computer processed data in archives (cols. 193-200); while H. Boberach, using the experience gained by the Federal Archives, deals with possibilities of automation for various archival tasks (cols. 199-212).

Other papers presented at the annual meeting deal with problems of communal archives in connection with change in the registration system for inhabitants of Bavaria (cols. 213-18), by W. Baer; biographical documentation of the archives of the Provincial Diet of Nordrhine-Westphalia (cols. 219-24), by K. Fischer; preserving the personal papers of provincial delegates in the Duesseldorf State Archives (cols. 223-28), by P. Dohms; the problem of legislative material as a source for interpreting laws (cols. 229-32), by C. Hillner; and a discussion of the difficulties in the task of archival evaluation of documentary material (cols. 231-36), by G. Granier.

The bibliography for 1969-70 deals with Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, and Poland.

Der Archivar, vol. 27, no. 3 (July 1974). Looking forward to the 49th annual meeting of German archivists, in Braunschweig at the end of September 1974, this issue contains four articles on regional archives: J. Koenig on the Lower Saxony State Archives at Wolfenbuettel (cols. 309-11); H. J. Querfuth on the municipal archives at Braunschweig (cols. 311-13); and H. Kuhr describing the ecclesiastical archives, and H. Nolte the industrial archives, of Braunschweig (cols. 314-16).

Other articles deal with the transfer of records from intermediate and lesser Federal authorities (cols. 315-32), by S. Buettner; possibilities of the use of archives for educational purposes (cols. 333-46), by H.-J. Behr; experiences and reflections on archival exhibitions, in connection with an exhibition at Karlsruhe (cols. 347-54), by H. Schwarzmaier, and with the contemporary history section at the Berlin Regional Archives (cols. 355-58), by H. J. Reichardt.

This issue contains also a section on administrative regulations for state archives of the Federal Republic, book reviews, and notes on meetings and publications. The bibliography for 1969-70 is on Czechoslovakia.

Scandinavia. [ALF ERLANDSSON, United Nations Archives] Follow-

ing are abstracts from the Scandinavian archival journals *RA-Nytt* and *Arkiv, Samhälle och Forskning* (Sweden); *Nordisk Arkivkundskab* and *Arkiv* (Denmark); and *Nordisk Arkivnyt* (Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, Finland, and Norway).

Since 1968 the Riksarkivet in Stockholm has published a newsletter called *RA-Nytt*, its main purpose to provide information concerning personal papers of private provenance. A survey of such papers in Sweden has been underway for some years now under the auspices of the Riksarkivet and the results of the survey are published in *RA-Nytt*.

Correspondence and other types of private papers from Swedish-American immigrants have been systematically traced and collected. These were used by the late Vilhelm Moberg in his extensive novels about emigrants, the last one titled *The Last Letter to Sweden*. These novels were the basis of J. Troel's two successful American movies, *The Emigrants* and *The New Land*. Moberg's success has inspired a great number of Swedish historians to continue his work on a scholarly basis. A special institute for emigration research was founded in Växjö in Middle Sweden. Its director, Ulf Beijbom, writing about the institute in the *Nordisk Arkivnyt* (no. 2, 1972), reports that the institute possesses the largest collection of "America-letters" in Scandinavia (about 7,000). It also has an extensive collection of journals and diaries kept by immigrants to North America and more than 2,000 photos. Beijbom has been active also in those parts of the United States where Swedish immigrants settled. He has been able to trace old registers and books from the churches of these first settlers and has made copies for the institute. There have been discussions about the formation of similar emigrant institutes in Norway, Finland, and the Federal Republic of Germany.

RA-Nytt (no. 2, 1973), includes an article about the papers of Alfred Nobel (1833-1896, the inventor of dynamite and founder of the Nobel Prize), and those of his family. The papers have two different origins and are kept by two different institutions. Alfred Nobel's own papers, originating from his estate, are kept in the Riksarkivet in Stockholm and have been known for many years. They include his correspondence from 1847 to 1896 and the records of the Nobel Foundation from 1897 to 1900. The Nobel family papers were discovered in 1969 in an attic of a house in South Sweden (Baastad) belonging to a niece of Alfred Nobel, and a year later were given by Olof Nobel to the provincial archives for South Sweden, in Lund. Alfred Nobel came from a family of inventors and technicians. His father, Immanuel Nobel (1801-72), was an internationally known Swedish inventor. For a number of years he was employed by the Russian government, and during that period invented the first marine war mines which were then used by the Russians during the Crimean War. He also collaborated with the Swedish-American inventor, John Ericson, and discussed with him a layout for a submarine. The papers include a number of Immanuel Nobel's original drawings and designs. Alfred Nobel had two brothers, Robert and Ludwig. In 1878 the Russian government

gave them the right to exploit the petroleum deposits in Baku in Southern Russia, where they developed one of the earliest oil industries in the world. This was based on the production of kerosene for lighting and heating. They devised a complicated distribution system and invented the first tankers as well as the first rail-borne tankcars. The Baku oil industry remained in the hands of Robert Nobel until the Russian Revolution in 1917. Descriptions and layouts of drill towers and other equipment are part of this collection. It also includes the correspondence between Robert Nobel and his brother Alfred from 1855 to 1895.

Markku Järvinen, in *Nordisk Arkivnyt* (no. 1, 1973), describes the new facilities for the Finnish National Archives. The history of Finland's archives goes back to 1809 when Finland was separated from Sweden. Finland then became a Grand Duchy under the Russian Tsar, and in 1819 its first archival repository was established in Helsinki. In 1890 the Finnish archives was given new quarters in a neo-classical style, a move generally viewed as an attempt to emphasize the autonomous position of Finland within the Russian empire. The new facility is an enlargement of the original 1890 building. It has large security storage areas carved into a cliff (9 stories) and new searchroom facilities. Space for lectures and for exhibits has also been provided. The shelving equipment is of the full-space mobile type common in Scandinavian archives.

The Danish archivist, S. Ramsbusch, in *Nordisk Arkivnyt* (no. 3, 1973), summarizes the "National Historic Records Program" proposed by Charles E. Lee and comments on *Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the USSR* by Patricia Kennedy Grimsted. Quoting her comparison between the archival system of the USSR and the USA, he notes that the American system lacks the centralization which characterizes the Soviet system; that the American national archival authority is limited to the archives of the federal government but leaves the majority of American archives (public and private) without any control or support; and that the result is several "underdeveloped" areas in the American system, of which New York City is one of the more remarkable examples. He notes also that the Presidential Library system is a source of continuing surprise and misunderstanding for foreign archivists.

The *Nordisk Arkivnyt* (no. 4, 1973) reports on an exhibit at the Riksarkivet in Stockholm commemorating the Swedish St. Birgitta, canonized in the fifteenth century and founder during the previous century of the order that bears her name. Some of her original letters from the years 1341, 1344, and 1348 were on display. Guest of honor at the exhibit was American Cardinal John Wright who visited the exhibit in October 1973.

Nordisk Arkivnyt (no. 1, 1974) introduces the first Scandinavian manual dealing with archival principles and techniques. It was written by one of Sweden's best known archival theorists, Nils Nilsson. The manual is regarded chiefly as a tool for training archivists in Scandinavia and fills a long felt need in this area.

In *Arkiv, Samhälle och Forskning* (no. 14, 1972) Beata Losman describes a new phenomenon in the Scandinavian archival experience: "Archives for the History of Women" (Kvinnohistoriskt arkiv), which is a foundation which collects material dealing with what in the USA is called the Women's Liberation Movement. Its holdings include the papers of Kerstin Hesselgren, one of the first female members of Sweden's parliament and a delegate to the League of Nations and to ILO; the papers of Hanna Rydh, chairwoman of the International Alliance of Women from 1946 to 1952; and a number of letters from Alexandra Kollontay, Soviet ambassador in Stockholm during World War II.

The archives has acquired also the records of several women's leagues and unions, one of which is the National League of Swedish Women (Svenska Kvinnors National Förbund), whose minutes date from 1895. The purpose of this league was to work for the political, legal, and economic equality of women. (*RA-Nytt*, no. 1, 1973)

The Manuscript Collection of the Royal Library in Stockholm is described by Harry Järy in *Arkiv, Samhälle och Forskning*, no. 14, 1973. A substantial part of the collection was brought to Sweden as war booty during the Thirty-Years War, a method of acquisition which the author compares with that used by the ancient Alexandrian Library. Included among the treasures sent to the Swedish library were *Code Gigas* ("The Devil's Bible") of the thirteenth century; *Codex Aureus*, considered perhaps the most important work of art in Sweden; and a 1398 manuscript by Jan Hus. During the plundering of Prague, Königsmarck, the officer in charge of the operation, found an old Bible inscribed in silver and gold letters on purple-colored parchment and bound with ornamental silver. This was the *Codex Argenteus*, "The Silver Bible," the only known translation of the Bible in the language of the Goths, made by their Bishop Ulfila in the fourth century. It became a part of Queen Christina's famous library and is now kept in the Carolina Library of the University of Uppsala. In a few cases, some books were left; the monasterial library of Zlota Koruna in southern Bohemia today has a collection of old books kept under the title "Books Not Stolen by the Swedes."

Nordisk Arkivkundskab is a new archival publication introduced in Denmark in 1972 by Harald Jørgensen who explains in the introduction to the first issue that the main purpose of the publication is to provide articles that can be used in a training program for professional archivists. The first two issues were devoted to (1) the conservation and restoration of archival materials (1972), and (2) archives and the general public (1973).

The third issue in 1973 of the magazine *Arkiv* includes an article written by Birgitte Dedenroth-Schou about an old index to archival sources concerning Iceland, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands. One subject recurring in these records is the English fisheries and trade in Iceland (1404-1699). It all reminds us that the "Cod War" is a very old conflict.

USSR. [DAVID M. CROWE, JR., National Archives and Records Service] *Sovetskie Arhivy*, no. 1, 1974. This journal is a bimonthly publication of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism and the Institute of History of the Academy of Science, of the USSR. This issue includes an article by V. F. Privalov on technical problems in the preservation of documents in the Soviet Union (pp. 51-60). After noting a number of methods used in the United States, Great Britain, and France to aid documentary preservation, such as air conditioning, smoke detection devices, and special areas for audiovisual records and microfilm, Privalov notes that the archives of many nations do not have these latest scientific advances. Soviet archivists have therefore done considerable research on uncontrolled archival climates, with particular concern for the effect of mould, moisture, and gases on documents in such environments. They have also made detailed studies of various restorative processes and their effects on fading texts and dyes, and of the effects of disinfection and fumigation on documents. Privalov feels that these methods have certain negative aspects, including the amount of labor used to disinfect and fumigate, and the additional moisture absorbed by documents during these processes. While Soviet archivists are interested in microfilm, they question the durability and quality of it when subjected to constant use. Privalov suggests that offices initiate the use of special paper, inks, typewriter ribbons, and paste, and create other controls to promote archival preservation.

In another article, E. S. Romanov discusses problems surrounding the selection of an IPC (Information-Search System) for archives in the USSR (pp. 61-68). Romanov notes the efforts of the Stanford Research Institute to discover an effective IPC based upon the information flow, the quantity of documents, the number of requests, and the overall expense of the system. The Soviet search for an IPC went beyond these considerations and dealt with the complex search system of any effective IPC. Romanov discusses two possible plans for an IPC, a VPM (perforation computer) or an ETsVM (electronic-figure computer). After a complex, diagrammatic discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of these two systems, the author explains that the Soviet State archives chose the former and rejected the latter because of its "economic deficiencies."

L. S. Virsis, in his article, proposes the implementation of a common, library-bibliographic classification plan for all local, republic, and national archives throughout the Soviet Union (pp. 69-76). His scheme would eliminate what he regards as wasteful repetition in various classification programs and indexes.

Shorter articles and discussions in this issue deal with topics of particular interest to Soviet archivists. V. V. Dymny touches on available documentation of the Moscow Bolshevik organization between 1914 and 1917 and its role among students (pp. 76-84), while E. V. Garnaga (pp. 88-90) deals with material on *kolkhozes* (collectives) in the Khmel'nitsky regional archives. Other contributions reflect the wide range of Soviet archival interest, such as M. B. Bylgakov's piece on

the dating of fourteenth- through sixteenth-century manuscripts in the Central State Historical Archives in Leningrad (pp. 97-101), and K. F. Nefedova's work on oil industry resource materials in Soviet archives (pp. 93-97).

Yugoslavia. [C. CHARLICK, Washington, D.C.] *Vjesnik historijskih arhiva u Rijeci i Pazinu*, vol. 18 (1973). As in previous issues of this bulletin of the historical archives in Rijeka and Pazin, this one illustrates the emphasis of modern archival institutions in Yugoslavia on their role as centers, with liberal access policies, for historical research. Included herein are an analysis of sixteenth-century local land records and property assessments, recorded in Latin and archaic German (69 pp.); a linguistic concordance of a local fourteenth-century law code, written in various evolutionary forms of Italian (82 pp.); an extract from a report in the Venetian State Archives on a local peasant uprising in 1653; an article on the founding of privileged royal cities along the Croatian littoral in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries at the instance of the Hungarian rulers, with Latin documentation; a survey of the laws on inheritance by children in various cities of Dalmatia, as evolved from legal sources going back to the Codes of Theodosius and Justinian (35 pp.); and a history of shipbuilding in the Yugoslav city of Rijeka, specifically its establishment during the period of Hungarian domination, 1862-1918, in German (70 pp.). This research is centered on the region at the head of the Adriatic Sea, including the city of Rijeka, Yugoslavia's principal port, and the Istrian peninsula, for many centuries a crossroads of Italian (Venetian), Austrian, Hungarian, and native history. The volume also contains reports about local manuscript collections and archival resources in the Franciscan Monastery of Košljun, the city of Pola, and the Austrian provincial capital of Graz.

Archivist, vol. 23, nos. 1-2 (1973). This semiannual publication includes a retrospective survey (pp. 160-67) of the twenty years since the founding in 1953 of the Yugoslav Archivists Federation, the publishers of this periodical which the federation took over in 1951 from a predecessor organization, the *Glavni Arhivski Savjet*. Most of the issue is devoted to reports and recommendations presented at the 7th International Congress at Moscow in August 1972. It includes also a lengthy discussion by Franjo Biljan, Sergij Vilfan, and Milosh Miloshevich on the "Informational Functions and Resources of Archives for Scientific Purposes."