

The International Scene: News and Abstracts

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The Archives of the *Times*. Gordon Phillips, archivist of the *Times* (London), has written an article in *Business Archives* (January 1976) describing this unique British newspaper archives. Like so much that has endured in England, this prestigious newspaper, founded in 1785 by the senior John Walter, has witnessed, reported, and documented major and minor news events that have occurred during its 191-year history.

The archives of the *Times* is not merely the permanent record of the development of a newspaper, but is a valuable source of material for a wide range of British home, colonial, and foreign history. In its daily operations, the *Times* has come to possess a vast assortment of documents distinctive in age and bulk and unique in social value and political interest. In addition to the usual records of a business organization, the archives contains noteworthy collections of papers of former proprietors, editors, and overseas staff members; routine editorial material; correspondence and memorandums often of a highly confidential nature; and briefings from field correspondents that frequently were too immediate, private, or partisan for publication.

As is the case in most commercial enterprises, few people within the *Times* organization looked upon the newspaper office as an archives center that should not be neglected. It was not until the 1920s that the effects of neglect first became apparent. Lord Northcliffe, proprietor of the newspaper, was touring the Far East and requested office records dealing with the *Times* policy on Far Eastern questions. A search eventually uncovered an abundance of material, but it also embarrassingly disclosed that records of historical importance were being haphazardly stored in whatever space happened to be available from basement to attics, and being stored with a minimum amount of care. Despite this discovery, little effort was made until 1930 to collect and arrange the widely scattered, 150-year accumulation of assorted records.

With the establishment of the archives and the appointment of John S. Maywood as archivist early in that year, the neglect came to an end. Under Maywood's direction a systematic policy of preservation was begun, as well as a serious effort to locate other records in outside repositories. The collection and arrangement of such a sizable and varied body of records has been a mammoth undertaking, and there is still much uncoordinated material to be processed and classified. As a consequence of its move to new facilities in June 1975, the archives has been overwhelmed with additional records.

In addition to trying to control an ever-increasing volume of documentation, the archives has had to deal with two problems not faced by other business archives: the

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problem of confidentiality, and the dilemma of office versus personal copyright of certain material written by the newspaper's employees. In general, the only restriction placed on the use of records is a thirty-year time limit, but the editor reserves the right to determine what papers relevant to recent and controversial history will be kept totally confidential. In the past, with the rule of anonymity prevailing, most people believed that no time limit was necessary; but there has been strong opposition to allowing public access to private letters by staff members to their superiors, even beyond the thirty-year limit. In 1967, however, Editor William Rees-Mogg opened the archives to responsible researchers and allowed access to records prior to 1948 which is the end of the period covered by the five-volume official *History of The Times*.

Historians and other scholars interested in Anglo-American relations since 1850 will undoubtedly find the archives a new source of primary material. For further information about the archives write to: Gordon Phillips, Archivist, Times Newspapers Limited, P.O. Box 7, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X8EZ.

Great Britain. The Church Information Office (CIO) of the Church of England has recently issued a long-awaited report on its inquiry into the nature, extent, and state of custody of the records of central Church of England bodies and their availability to researchers. The year-long probe, under the direction of C. J. Kitching of the Public Records Office, surveyed the General Synod, church commissioners, convocations, and numerous missionary and other ecclesiastical societies, as well as religious communities, but not those affiliated with dioceses or parishes.

The report, entitled *The Central Records of the Church of England*, reveals a general history of poor records management practices by most of the church bodies investigated. The survey found that the responsibility for maintaining records was still entrusted to individuals without any professional archives training, although there were notable exceptions. To protect the mass of historical manuscripts and other noncurrent records held in the custody of ecclesiastical bodies, the CIO report strongly urges the establishment of a records center in Church House to serve the needs not only of the General Synod but also of other interested church bodies. In view of the pressures of inflation upon all archives, the report suggests that some church bodies might find it expedient to solicit assistance, financial or otherwise, from private sources. Such assistance would undoubtedly protect important church records from accidental destruction by space-conscious administrators. CIO hopes that the findings of its survey will result in positive action to safeguard the records of the Church of England and to make available to researchers all ecclesiastical records more than forty years old, many of which have hitherto been closed to outsiders.

For more information or copies of the report, contact CIO, Church House, Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3NZ.

The bulletin of the Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick Library, Coventry, for April 1976, lists new accessions for the first quarter, including two major deposits of the papers of prominent individuals. In March the centre received the papers of Maurice Edelman (1911-75) Labour MP for Coventry (North) West, 1945-75, and member of the centre's advisory committee. Although much of the deposit is subject to certain restrictions, it includes subject files on industries and other topics related to Coventry or of general interest, constituency correspondence, and files

relating to five general elections. Selected papers of Sir Leslie Frederic Scott (1869–1950), who was Conservative MP for the Exchange Division of Liverpool, 1910–29, Solicitor General, 1922, and Lord Justice of the Court of Appeals, 1935–48, were deposited in the centre by his sister. Mostly, these papers comprise correspondence relating to his political and legal career and to his life-long concern for rural development. Of special interest to American scholars of jurisprudence are some two dozen letters from Oliver Wendell Holmes. Also, the Meriden Motorcycle Co-operative transferred to the centre the financial records of the Triumph Engineering Co. Ltd. for the years 1940–70. The records of this company, that dates from 1885 when it was known as the Triumph Cycle Co., suffered extensive damage and destruction from the 1940 blitz and postwar organizational changes.

Guatemala. The following newspaper article appeared in the Guatemala City *El Imparcial* on March 18, 1976, and was translated by George S. Ulibarri of the National Archives and Records Service:

Rescue work is underway to save four million documents which fell from the shelves during the recent earthquake [February 4, 1976] that devastated this Central American nation. The rescue work is being done by a working group from the History Department of the University of San Carlos.

The Sub-Committee on Archives which forms a part of the Commission on Rescuing, Preserving, and Restoring the National Patrimony is working in the regions most affected by the earthquake, in order to save the parish archives as well as the materials in the General Archives of Central America.

The rescue work, sponsored by the University of San Carlos [USAC], is being conducted under the direction of Celso A. Larra, Norma García Mainteri, and Arnoldo René Godoy. The work at the General Archives of Central America is coordinated by Arnoldo René Godoy, and consists of arranging and classifying about four million documents which fell from the shelves to the floor as a result of the earthquake. In addition, there are six student brigades working in the interior of the Republic endeavoring to determine what archives are in need of immediate attention. It has been reported by USAC that in some regions of the country, documents three and four hundred years old have been used to make paper airplanes.

Southeast Asia. The main article in issue number 7 of the *Southeast Asia Microfilm Newsletter* (December 1975) describes the progress of the Joint Library of Congress/New York Public Library Gazette Microfilming Project which was launched in 1973. In order to determine what Southeast Asian gazettes have already been published, SARBICA-CONSAL Regional Microfilm Clearing-house has compiled a preliminary checklist of all national and state or other local gazettes in the region. This action was prompted by a request from John Y. Cole of the Library of Congress, who is program coordinator of the project. The checklist has appeared as the appendix to the report on the Clearing-house for CONSAL III in Jakarta, December 1–5, 1975, for distribution to participants at the meeting for their comments. A more accurate and complete list is scheduled for inclusion in the next issue of the *Newsletter*. In an attempt to lower the total cost of the project, the Clearing-house has also been inquiring among various Southeast Asian libraries as to their ability and willingness to accept responsibility for filming some or all of their country's gazettes.

ABSTRACTS

Brazil. [LAURA V. MONTI, University of Florida] *Mensário do Arquivo Nacional*, vol. 6, no. 4 (April 1975). This issue includes (pp. 4–6) a report about the General Conference on the Developmental Planning of the Third World Archives, that was held January 27–31, 1975, at Dakar, Senegal. The need for developing nations to

obtain copies of records pertinent to their historical development from the archives of developed nations, and the need to preserve their oral traditions were the chief concerns of participants at the meeting. At the conclusion of the conference a four-year plan for the development of Third World archives was approved. The Latin American and Antilles project, which is one of six regional projects incorporated in the plan, provides grants for the training and improvement of archives teachers and administrative personnel; a joint meeting with the Latin American Society of Archivists; the establishment of a regional branch of ICA; the creation of a center of documentation; the acquisition of audiovisual equipment and establishment of an audiovisual course in archives; purchase of a mobile unit to microfilm regional documents; and the temporary employment of professional personnel. These and other projects included in the four-year plan will be financed by the conference-approved International Archives Fund.

Mensário do Arquivo Nacional, vol. 6, no. 6 (June 1975). This issue features (pp. 13-20) an article by Nadir Duarte Ferreira, researcher of the *Arquivo Histórico do Itamaraty*, on the private family archives of the Viscount of Rio Branco, José Maria da Silva Paranhos (1819-80). The archives, organized by his son the Baron of Rio Branco (1845-1915), contains approximately eleven thousand documents of which more than four-fifths have already been classified, catalogued, and arranged. Records in this archives pertain to the 1840-75 period in Brazilian history and correspond to the forty years the viscount served Brazil in various governmental positions. According to the author, the archives is important not only for the quantity of documents in it but for their quality.

Mensário do Arquivo Nacional, vol. 6, no. 8 (August 1975). In his inaugural address on the professionalization of the archivist, presented to the Society of Brazilian Archivists (pp. 17-21), Director Rui Vieira da Cunha notes an essential need to define the profession of the archivist in view of problems arising out of local situations. In the state of Guanabara, the *Serviço Público Federal* has taken various measures since 1962 that reveal a lack of knowledge about the problems of documentation and the role of the archivist. Da Cunha calls attention to a project for professional regulation (archivist profession) which is attempting to clarify the profession in relation to public service. The project also urges the appointment of an Executive Board with two representatives from the National Archives and three from the Society of Brazilian Archivists to define the archivist's profession within the general framework of the liberal professions. It is strongly felt that only a reduction in the legal regulations will provide the archives profession with flexibility to adjust to new requirements.

Mensário do Arquivo Nacional, vol. 6, no. 9 (September 1975). An article on technical assistance to the *Instituto Joaquim Nabuco de Pesquisas Sociais* (pp. 13-14) refers to efforts undertaken by the National Archives to aid in the restoration of documents and repair of microfilm equipment damaged by July floods in Recife. Flamarion Siqueira Ferri, chief of the microfilm division at the National Archives, personally inspected 3,000 microfiche, the equivalent to fifteen thousand reels of film, and found a total loss of the protective jacket and a 60 percent loss of actual film. Among the damaged microfiche were those pertaining to documents on the history of Brazil that had been filmed at the Portuguese Overseas Archives and the French Foreign Affairs Archives.

Mensário do Arquivo Nacional, vol. 6, no. 10 (October 1975). This issue features an article on the private archives in the National Archives (pp. 3-8) by Hamilton de Mattos Monteiro. He believes this section of the archives to be one of the most fascinating, for it contains correspondence and printed material of individuals who directly or indirectly shaped the history of Brazil. Reproduced in the article are examples of some letters from various collections to illustrate the richness and diversity of the private archives. He also cites the names of individuals represented in the archives and calls attention to the more noteworthy collections.

Mensário do Arquivo Nacional, vol. 6, no. 11 (November 1975). This issue includes (pp. 18-22) an article on the threatened destruction of important historical documents by legislative writ. The federal constitution insures the protection of historical documents, but passage of Law 5.869 (January 11, 1973) establishing a new Code of Civil Procedure, effective January 1, 1974, seemed to circumvent this constitutional protection. Criticism of the law centered on ominous Article 1.215 which authorized the disposition of legal documents by incineration, maceration, or any other suitable method five years after they have been deposited in the archives. In an attempt to silence growing opposition and eliminate potentially disastrous consequences of the law, Congress revoked the infamous article. A brief history of Brazilian legislation to protect the national documentary patrimony, and the conflict of these laws are also provided.

Arquivo & Administração, vol. 3, no. 2 (August 1975). Michael E. Carroll, chief of the Machine Readable Archives Division of the Public Archives of Canada, writing about archives and automation (pp. 7-13), defines the concept of automation and the meaning of EDP (electronic data processing) and the relationship to archives. The computer and the archivist have become permanently associated, and the association is aimed at improving not only the reference service of archival material but also historical research. According to the author, it should be possible in the future to retrieve assembled information almost instantaneously and to lessen the high cost of compiling detailed research tools. Following a brief history of automation, he describes two index information programs: SPINDEX II (selective permutation indexing) used in the United States, and RECODEX (records management and indexing) developed by Canadian archivists. Computers and archival automation programs offer great prospects, but he cautions that the complexities of computerization pose new and unforeseen problems for the archivist to resolve.

Included in this issue is an article on the need for a register of Brazilian archives (pp. 21-23). In 1958 the National Archives established the *Serviço de Registro e Assistência* (Service Archives Directory and Assistance) to provide researchers with a list of all archives in Brazil, and to remain in contact with these archives. The Archives Directory, initiated in 1968, lists 3,800 archives under five general categories: public, institutional, ecclesiastical, business, and private (personal). In the beginning the *Serviço* provided only technical assistance to those archives registered, but has expanded its functions to include archival training programs for businesses and state governmental agencies.

Czechoslovakia. [JOSEPH G. SVOBODA, University of Nebraska] *Slovenská Archivistika*, vol. 8, no. 2 (1973). This issue includes a translation of a Russian article by V. M. Mamonov and V. V. Prochorov describing the protection and arrangement of documents in Soviet record centers (pp. 9-14). Since almost 99 percent of the mate-

rial stored in record centers is eventually accessioned by state archives, there is much concern among archivists about the treatment records receive in these centers. The trend toward the establishment of so-called unified record centers to serve several record-creating units illustrates an increased awareness on the part of the Soviet government to provide more qualified staff and better physical protection of records. According to the regulations governing archives and documents in the Soviet Union, all record-creating agencies are responsible for the inventory and disposition of records destined for permanent retention in state archives. In recognizing the shortage of trained personnel in record-creating units, the Soviet government has established special sections within the state archives system that provide this essential service, on a contract-fee basis, to those agencies.

Soviet archivists readily acknowledge that the arrangement of records in record centers heavily depends upon the organizational schemes and filing systems used in various governmental offices. For this reason, therefore, a special effort is made to keep in constant touch with those record-creating agencies to insure the correct arrangement of the records.

German Federal Republic. [GEORGE O. KENT, University of Maryland] *Archivalische Zeitschrift*, vol. 71 (1975). The six articles in this issue pertain to the Middle Ages and the early modern period in European history and are primarily of regional interest. They deal with such diverse subjects as the Speyer fragment of the Ulfila Bible and its preservation, by H. O. Schömann (pp. 1-11); discoveries in the inventories of the Reichskammergericht in the Lower Saxon State Archives at Wolfbüttel, by W. Deeters (pp. 12-25); the establishment of the Lower Austrian Rechenkammer, by W. Kögl (pp. 26-41); the rebuilding and refurbishing of the Central Archives and Court Library of the Counts of Thurn and Taxis, by M. Piendl (pp. 42-55); problems in preserving the durability of paper, by G. Dessauer (pp. 56-63); and a response to Walter Koch's article on the Reichskanzlei between 1167 and 1174, by R. M. Herkenrath (pp. 64-74).

There is also an extensive book review section and a shorter section on reviews of foreign journals.

Der Archivar, vol. 28, no. 2 (May 1975). Articles in this issue deal with a diversity of subjects. H. Nusser discusses the transfer of files from lesser governmental agencies to provincial state archives (col. 141-44); E. Henning writes on the one hundredth anniversary of the secret state archives at Berlin-Dahlem, 1874-1924-1974 (col. 143-52); H. Thierfelder describes the archival-historical periods of the municipal archives at Lüneburg (col. 151-56); H. Stehkämper examines the various preservation techniques employed by the historical archives of Cologne on historic charters (col. 157-64); A. Wagner reports on the UNESCO Conference in Paris, September 23-27, 1974, on planning national archives and libraries (col. 173-80); and there is a report by the Lower Saxony archives administration on the methods of restoring archival material (col. 163-74).

Der Archivar, vol. 28, no. 3 (July 1975). This issue contains five of the papers presented at the forty-ninth annual meeting of German archivists in Braunschweig on September 30-October 2, 1974. Each of the papers reflects the wide range of interest among German archivists: E. Pitz calls for a greater emphasis on comparative history and a search for new methods to deal with general historical developments (col. 237-56); E. Meuthen reports on current practices for the publication of medieval business records (col. 255-74); H. Niggemeyer deals with sound recordings as a

historical source (col. 291-302); H. Jaeger discusses the problems and evidential value of the remaining records of the Nazi period (col. 275-92); and R. Vogelsang writes on the problems of supplementary microfilming from the standpoint of a municipal archives (col. 301-08).

Other articles in this issue deal with the municipal and church archives in Mainz, experiences with computers in the main state archives at Düsseldorf, and microbiological infections in archival material.

Der Archivar, vol. 28, no. 4 (November 1975). The three principal articles in this issue deal with: the problems of the preservation and retirement of archival material, by C. Haase (col. 405-18); the declassification and availability of the Nürnberg trial records, by H. G. Seraphim (col. 417-22); and a preliminary report on the recent construction of the state archives at Münster, by W. Kohl (col. 423-28).

As in previous issues in this series, there are regular features on personnel, meetings, legal and administrative provisions, book reviews, and bibliography.

Italy. [LAURA V. MONTI, University of Florida] *Rassegna degli Archivi di Stato*, vol. 34, nos. 2-3 (May/December 1974). In his article about the German school for archivists at Marburg, pp. 326-56, Elio Lodolini traces the history of this famous school from its creation in 1893 by Fridolin Kehr through its demise at the turn of the century and its revival in 1949. The school grew from the university department of auxiliary historical sciences at Marburg, but subsequently ceased to function when Kehr left in 1904 to take a professorship at Goettingen.

After the Second World War the German government, recognizing the need for trained archivists, revived the school at Marburg. Although the present school is a Hessian state institute, it trains archivists from throughout the German Federal Republic except for Bavaria which has its own school. Courses stress the school's dual purpose: training of professional archivists and fostering of scholarly research on archives. The curriculum, which the author describes in detail, comprises 1,070 hours of classwork, seven weeks of on-the-job experience in the Federal Archives, and a week-long trip to a foreign archives. The text of laws governing the archives school is given in an appendix.

The article by Pietro Burgarella, pp. 550-59, is a comment on the Albanian Archives that reflects the general tendency of this small Balkan nation toward centralization. Archival material has been deposited in one central location, the historical archives at Tirana. Records are divided into two major groups: pre-1944 which are housed in the Central Historical Archives, and post-1944 which remain in the agencies that created them. Reflective of the poor state of the Albanian Archives, there is no microfilm service, no program for the restoration of documents, no school for archivists, and few published articles on the subject. Restrictions placed by the government on the use of documents in the archives are so rigid as to make research very difficult. On the local level, the establishment of the state archives have not advanced beyond the study stage.

Romania. [CARL CHARLICK, Washington, D.C.] *Revista Arhivelor*, vol. 37, no. 4 (1975). This issue continues the series by Liviu Moldavan (pp. 374-83) on the organization, functions, and records of the Imperial/Royal Grand Tribunal. Instituted in 1737 by the Hapsburg Dynasty to govern and dispense justice in their Transylvanian possessions, it operated until the end of the nineteenth century. Under Charles VI and Maria Theresa it had an important, well-defined role. Previous installments of the series appeared in numbers two and three of *Revista* for 1975.