

The International Scene: News and Abstracts

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CANADA. News notes relating to Canadian institutions have in some instances been published in recent issues of the *Canadian Historical Review*. Members contributing items of news of Canadian institutions for this department should send them to Jay Atherton, Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3.

The **Public Archives of Canada** has accessioned the papers of Rabbi Stuart E. Rosenberg, the Rabbi (1956-73) of the Beth Tzedec Synagogue in Toronto. Rosenberg worked also as a historian, biblical scholar, and journalist. The collection includes correspondence, sound recordings, and manuscripts.

The Public Archives has reorganized its National Map Collection into five sections: Early Canadian Cartography, Modern Cartography, Government Cartographical and Architectural Records, External and Internal Services, and Documentation Control. Significant acquisitions include a 1667 manuscript world atlas created by Ioh. Henricus Breüning, who is thought to have been a monk or priest in Württemberg, Germany; and charts of Canadian waters from the *Arcano del Mare* (1646) by Sir Robert Dudley. The Dudley work was the first sea atlas by an Englishman and the first in which the Mercator projection was used. In addition, the Public Archives purchased the personal collection of Arctic maps of Coolie Verner of the University of British Columbia. These 170 maps greatly enhance the National Map Collection's early material on the Arctic.

The Sound Archives auditioned extracts of talks by William Aberhart (1878-1943) at the Canadian Historical Association annual meeting in Edmonton, Alberta, in June 1975. This venture has stimulated a number of research inquiries plus several important acquisitions. Four 16-inch disks containing the August 15, 1937, proceedings of the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute were uncovered at the Queen's University Archives. In these recordings Aberhart, then premier of Alberta, responds to Prime Minister MacKenzie King's disallowance of Alberta legislation. In addition, from the Alberta Social Credit League, the Public Archives received copies of radio talks by Aberhart and other Social Credit politicians concerning the federal and provincial elections held in the spring of 1940.

As of noon, May 26, 1976, the Sound Archives began receiving and recording all news items produced by the "Newsradio" broadcast system for its member stations. This system, which supplies news items to its member stations throughout Canada, has now been connected to the archives by means of a direct telephone line. All transmissions are recorded on tape for further use by archivists and researchers.

The cataloging of the CBC Affairs tapes from 1958 to 1968 (1,400 tapes in all) has been completed. The material consists mainly of radio and television interviews,

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commentaries, and talks. The majority of the collection consists of the material prepared for the "This Hour Has Seven Days" program during its two seasons on national television from October 1964 to May 1966. Other series covered include: "Compass," a workshop for young story editors and directors, 1965-66; "Document," an irregularly scheduled public affairs series that began in 1962 and continued through most of the 1960s; "Close Up," from 1957 into the 1960s; and "Inquiry," a 1961 to 1964 half-hour program on national and international topics relevant to Canada, and a direct predecessor of "This Hour Has Seven Days." Further information on the complete collection is available from the Sound Archives.

As a result of the interest in the session "Historical Research and Photographic Archives" at the 1976 Canadian Historical Association annual meeting, the National Photography Collection intends to host a research workshop for historians interested in photographic archives. This pilot workshop will be designed to explore a specific series of photographic records from the collection, with the intention of analyzing and assessing the value and potential of the still photograph as primary evidence for historical research. Also to be published are a Guide for Researchers, and a Guide for Departments and Agencies, the latter coinciding with a general survey launched by the division to locate photographic records in federal government departments and agencies.

The **Provincial Archives of Alberta** recently acquired the records (ca. 1965-75) of the Edmonton Citadel Theatre; records (ca. 1910-70) of the St. Mary River Irrigation District; records (ca. 1950-70) of the Royal Glenora Club and its predecessors; theatrical records (ca. 1900-20) accumulated by the Springer family of Edmonton concerning the Pantages vaudeville circuit; County of Wetaskiwin school district minutes and tax assessment rolls (ca. 1907-49); and also records (variously dated, ca. 1934-75) of mutual telephone companies in Dalby, Fairplay, Heather Brae, Stearns, Open Valley, Thorhild, Wang, Bon Accord, and Tongue Creek.

The **Edmonton City Archives** was established in 1971 and operates within the Parks and Recreation Department of the city administration. Through the city's records retention program, all significant documents pertaining to the affairs of the City Council and Administration are eventually to be deposited in the archives. Current holdings include Edmonton town-city records dating back to the 1890s.

The archives also houses a number of important private collections, including those of Emily Murphy, Edna Kells, Elmer Roper, and W. A. Griesbach. The newspaper collection includes complete runs of the Edmonton *Bulletin* and the Edmonton *Capital*. There is also a large photograph collection, and the archives staff is actively engaged in photographing current sites and recording interviews with prominent Edmontonians.

The **Glenbow Library and Archives** has moved from its home in the old Carnegie Library in Calgary, Alberta, to the new Glenbow Centre at 9th Avenue and 1st Street, S.E., in the same city. At the new center, the library and archives occupy the entire sixth floor and have a large reference room open to researchers concerned with western Canadian history.

Interesting recent accessions include: minutes, annual reports, and other papers (1890-1972) relating to the Calgary Board of Trade and its successor the Chamber of Commerce; correspondence and financial records (1920-73) of the E. P. Ranch, the southern Alberta ranch formerly owned by Edward, Prince of Wales; papers (ca. 1917-60s) of J. O. (Pete) Sanderson, geologist, concerning the oil industry of West-

ern Canada; papers (1910-65) of Harold Wigmore McGill, regarding his military (WW I) and political (Alberta MLA) careers and his work with the Department of Indian Affairs; and a collection (1920s-40s) of views relating to early flying and World War II air training in Alberta.

Two special programs involving Glenbow Archives are currently underway: the collection, in conjunction with the Jewish Historical Society, of manuscript and photographic material relating to the Jewish Community in Alberta; and the documentation through manuscript material, photographs, and an oral history program of the history of nursing on the frontier and in northern regions, carried out by Joy Duncan under Glenbow's guidance. The latter project particularly is resulting in acquisition of some very interesting and significant material.

At the **London Public Library and Art Museum** of London, Ontario, in August 1975, a unique purchase was made jointly by the London Room and the London Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. "The Wolfe Street Book," in the care of the London Room, is a collection of drawings, photographs, and historical documentation compiled by Nina Lubojanska while a student at Althouse College. It is available on microfilm. Other recent acquisitions include "Stained Glass in London," a photographic and written catalog of existing stained glass in the city, containing also a history of stained glass and information on glass companies in London and Toronto; and a collection of seventeen manuscripts of plays written and produced in London between 1949 and 1954 by Martin and Mary O'Meara.

Several archivists working in the National Photography Collection at the Public Archives have taken the initiative in forming a **Photo Archives Group** made up of archivists and others concerned with the preservation and use of photographic records in Canada. Those wishing information should contact Richard Huyda or Claude Minotto at the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3.

Linda Johnson of the Yukon Archives at Whitehorse is the new president of the **Association of Canadian Archivists**.

The new president of the **Association des Archivistes du Québec** is Gilles Héon of the Archives Nationales du Québec à Trois-Rivières.

François Beaudin of the Université de Montréal has been appointed the new archivist for the **Province of Quebec**.

At the **Saskatchewan Archives**, on July 12, 1976, Ian E. Wilson, formerly archivist of Queen's University, became provincial archivist of Saskatchewan. Wilson, who succeeds Allan R. Turner, will reside in Regina. Douglas Bocking has been named associate provincial archivist and will continue to reside in Saskatoon.

Recent accessions by the Regina and Saskatoon Offices of the Saskatchewan Archives include the papers of a number of persons who have been active or are still active in provincial or federal politics. Included among these are papers of the following: John S. Burton, MP for Regina East (1968-72); A. P. Gleave, MP for Saskatoon-Biggar (1968-74); R. Hnatyshyn, present MP for Assiniboia (1971-74); A. T. Proctor, MLA for Moosomin (1934-48) and Minister of Highways (1938-44); J. G. Richards, MLA for Saskatoon-University (1971-75); Hon. E. Tchorzewski, MLA for Humboldt and Minister of Consumer Affairs (1971-75); Walter A. Tucker, QC, MP for Rosthern (1935-48 and 1953-58), MLA for Rosthern (1948-53), and leader of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party (1946-53). Also acquired were the papers of George Spence who was MP for Maple Creek (1925-27), MLA (1917-25 and 1927-

38), and member of the Executive Council (1927-29 and 1934-38). Spence was also director of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (1938-47) and a member of the International Joint Commission (1947-57). Another important accession was the papers of the Honorable Robert Leith Hanbidge who was MP for Kindersley (1958-63), and lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan (1963-70).

The Saskatchewan Archives has also acquired local and provincial government records and the papers of individuals and organizations. Substantial additions have been made to the photograph collection and the microfilm holdings of local government records and Saskatchewan weekly newspaper files.

York University Archives accessions include correspondence, scripts, and financial papers (1946-75) of James Mavor Moore concerning the Charlottetown Festival, CBC, New Play Society, and Spring Thaw; the multiple listings (1953-73) of the Toronto Real Estate Board; and correspondence, briefs, reports, films, and tapes (1969-75) of the Stop Spadina Save Our City Co-ordinating Committee (Toronto).

DENMARK. Recently, the Archivist of Denmark has been granted the sum of 25 million Danish Kroner for the construction of a much-needed archival center, which will include underground facilities. [Harold Larson]

GREAT BRITAIN. The **Public Records Office** announces that the removal of records to its new headquarters at Ruskin Avenue in Kew, which is about ten miles from central London, will begin in January 1977. The transfer of over two and a half million documents will take about six months to complete and, barring any problems, the searchrooms at Kew will open to the public in June.

Prior to the opening of the new searchrooms, researchers may request documents which have already been transferred to Kew and these will be made available at Chancery Lane and Portugal Street searchrooms with as little inconvenience as possible. To keep researchers fully abreast of the situation throughout the transfer phase, the Public Records Office will post notices with up-to-date information about the availability of records in all searchrooms.

According to the proposed timetable, the first records to be moved will be those stored at Ashridge and at Porchester Road (British transport historical records) facilities, and this will result in permanent closing of searchrooms at both places. Searchrooms in Chancery Lane and Portugal Street will, however, only suspend operations for a four-week period (probably in early May) immediately prior to the opening of the Kew facility. While the Chancery Lane searchrooms will resume full operations after the four-week closure, only the Census Room at Portugal Street will reopen until space is made available in Chancery Lane. Public Records Office officials also report that the customary two-week closure of searchrooms for annual stocktaking, previously scheduled for September 25-October 8, 1977, will be postponed until the following year.

Researchers planning to visit the Public Records Office during 1977 are advised either to write or telephone (01-405-0741 ext. 277) for up-to-date information regarding the move and the availability of records they wish to use.

The bulletin of the **Modern Records Centre**, University of Warwick Coventry, for July 1976, describes two major deposits and a major purchase. The National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) and the Transport and General Workers' Union (T&GWU) transferred large quantities of records to the centre. The NUR deposit includes also

various political and other publications collected by the union, and a group of publications of the International Transportworkers' Federation. T&GWU records, including those of many of its constituent unions, are subject, however, to the restriction that researchers must first secure permission from T&GWU before access is granted. Also, the centre has purchased through a grant from the Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund over 800 manuscript sermons and other texts by Silas Hocking, who was an important late nineteenth-century Methodist minister, novelist, and social commentator. The purchased material covers the 1871-96 period.

NEW ZEALAND. The Archives Committee of the New Zealand Library Association (NZLA) has appointed a three-member subcommittee to investigate the need for a separate organization to deal with archives, manuscripts, and records management. At present, members of the committee view such an organization as more an interest group rather than a distinct professional organization. Membership would be open to all who support the organization's aims, and annual dues are contemplated to be five or ten dollars. There is widespread sentiment that formation of an archives and records association would play an important role in New Zealand and have influence with the central government. Some of the proposed association's aims include: establishment of standards for preservation and use of records, sponsorship of archival training programs, enactment of stronger legislation to protect public records, and encouragement of efforts to staff national archival institutions with qualified personnel.

At a meeting held (February 1976) in conjunction with the annual NZLA conference at Christchurch, the Archives Committee endorsed the resolution "That effective steps be taken to form a New Zealand Archives and Records Association."

NORWAY. Because of inadequate space and equipment, Norway has begun construction of a new archives building to be completed in about two more years. Two-thirds of this structure will be underground. [Harold Larson]

USSR. The Inter Documentation Company of Switzerland (IDC) reports in its May 1976 newsletter that it has undertaken, in collaboration with Patricia Kennedy Grimsted of Harvard University, a project to locate and reproduce on microfiche all the important items listed in the bibliography of her work, *Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the USSR* (Princeton University Press, 1972). Of the more than 600 selected items, 306 items have already been filmed in the Library of Congress, Harvard University, the universities of Helsinki, Moscow, and Oxford, and from the private collection amassed by Grimsted during her numerous research trips to the Soviet Union. The bibliography itself is highly detailed and carefully annotated, and much of the listed material has been impossible to locate in the West. IDC believes the project will make accessible to western scholars a number of important collections unknown outside the Soviet Union.

ABSTRACTS

Belgium. [PAUL V. and SIMONE U. GUITÉ, Washington, D.C.] *Archives et Bibliothèques de Belgique*, vol. 47, no. 1-2 (1976). In this issue a French and a Dutch archi-

vist examine the subject of archives guides. Michel Duchein, head of the *Direction des Archives de France*, states that archival practice in the French language has restricted the use of the term *guide* to three basic types or categories: those that describe the depository as a whole, those that describe a series or record group, and those that describe by research subject or theme. Duchein elaborates further on each of these types of guides.

J. M. F. Ijsseling of the municipal archives of Breda describes (pp. 146-58) archives guides in the Netherlands. According to the author, the archives administration in the Netherlands is characterized by the maintenance of remarkable inventories. The major portion of the article is, however, devoted to a survey of guides in the state and municipal archives and other archival depositories.

Miscellanea Archivistica, vol. 10 (1975). Archivist of the Kingdom Carlos Wyfells reviews (pp. 5-15) the archives situation in Belgium as affected by the law of June 24, 1955, and the enforcement decree of December 12, 1957. The legislation established an inspection division within the General State Archives whose primary function is to generate the disposition of current and noncurrent records of municipal authorities and public institutions. Subsequent legislation also established a number of depositories in the various judicial districts of Belgium. Wyfells claims that a lack of space and trained personnel in the archives as well as a corresponding absence of qualified record managers in the various ministries have hindered practical application of these decrees. He does add, however, that the contacts made between the General State Archives, government, and local authorities will eventually provide beneficial results. Also, Archivist Wyfells pays particular attention to the exigencies of archives administration in Belgium and to the need for strengthening, qualitatively and quantitatively, nonscientific personnel.

Andrée Scufflaire of the sigillography section describes (pp. 17-26) the casting of seals in the newly-opened workshop at the General State Archives. Construction of the Albertine Library required the demolition of the old workshop in 1952. The new facility contains twenty-eight metallic closets grouped in fours, back to back, on each of the building's two floors. A description of the technical processes involved in the casting of seals and of the results the archives workshop had achieved by 1974 is included.

J. Pieyns of the information retrieval service of the state archives at Liège states (pp. 27-39) that the use of information storage and retrieval systems in the archives has revealed a number of common applications and principles. These include: indexing, preparation of catalogs and inventories, information retrieval, arrangement and preservation of machine-readable records, records management and statistical analysis, and problem-solving techniques. Since the necessary resources are expensive for implementation and maintenance of a retrieval program, Pieyns questions the role of such a costly item in an archival institution like the Liège archives. As he sees it, the situation will force the state archives into this area as the archives accessions an ever-increasing amount of records of a machine-readable nature. There is no dispute about the usefulness of computer technology in archives, states Pieyns, provided that the expended money and scientific effort is proportionate to the desired ends. He also expresses a desire to see greater cooperation and collaboration between administrative personnel in the central state archives and their counterparts on the provincial and local level. Only in this atmosphere will the proper accession, preservation, and exploitation of these "new archives" be accomplished.

In another article in this issue, Pieyns describes (pp. 53-74) a research project utilizing computer and parish registry tables. It is known by the acronym, NAMADE, which comprises the first two letters of the French words for birth (*Naissance*), marriage (*Mariage*), and death (*DEcès*). Parish registers and the accompanying alphabetical tables are the most widely used body of records at the various depositories, and implementation of the system could greatly facilitate reference service.

R. Laurent, in reviewing the status of the education office at the state archives (pp. 41-51), laments the fact that there is no distinct educational programs staff with strong teacher contacts. Under the existing arrangement, archivists from the sigillography branch coordinate the archives educational program and its participation with other organizations. These archivists, with the assistance of other archival personnel, carry out educational programs. Although this arrangement does produce results, it has its shortcomings. Laurent discusses some objectives that a good educational programs office might provide: establishment of permanent exhibits in the provincial depositories, reorganization of the permanent exhibit at the General State Archives, and distribution of instructional material to visitors. The key factor limiting the scope of any proposed project is, however, adequate funding. The annual budget for educational services is only 400,000 Belgian francs, and this sum must be distributed among fifteen depositories. An adequate budget would, Laurent claims, enable the education office to enact many worthwhile projects.

Brazil. [LAURA V. MONTI, University of Florida] *Arquivo & Administração*, vol. 3, no. 3 (December 1975). In an article on the evaluation and selection of archival documents (pp. 7-14), Nilza Teixeira Soares, director of archives coordination in the Chamber of Deputies, discusses the serious problem of the proliferation of records and their evaluation for archives. In Brazil this problem has reached such an acute state that the author calls for immediate action to establish criteria to preserve and protect the documentary patrimony. According to Soares, a mere reduction in the quantity of records would not only be a waste of time and money, but would also jeopardize archival preservation. Effective records control starts with the administrative unit that creates them. To insure continued uniformity during the entire creation-disposition cycle, Soares perceives a need for a national policy. With such a policy there would be a permanent board, working in conjunction with a group of subject specialists, to oversee the selection and preservation of records. Since evaluation is so important in the appraisal process, it is imperative to determine primary and secondary values of the records. As the author sees it, the administrative unit which creates the record has the responsibility to indicate the primary value, whereas the committee of specialists merely defines the informational (secondary) value. In any effective records reduction program, the key to success is cooperation. Only with total cooperation of all concerned parties can the pitfalls of a haphazard approach to the proliferation/reduction problem be avoided. Soares also raises the issue of government apathy which could seriously affect the program, and thus urges steps to arouse official interest in the advantages of sound records management practices. As a possible solution to the massive production of records and the accompanying storage problem, the author suggests creation of intermediate archives (records centers) which other countries have found beneficial.

Jeanete da Silveira Lopes considers (pp. 22-25) the possibility of applying data processing methods to archives and microfilm. There is also an up-dated bibliography of English language works on records management and information retrieval systems.

Mensário do Arquivo Nacional, vol. 6, no. 7 (July 1975). An article on a new approach for archives (pp. 19-23) refers to the report, *Les Archives et les Relations Publiques*, which was submitted by Christian Gut, director of services at the Archives de Paris, to the Round Table of archivists at the fifteenth international conference in Ottawa (October 2-10, 1974). From a questionnaire sent to sixty archives in forty-one countries, Gut found that, as a general policy, most archives do not have a separate unit in charge of public relations. In a few instances, however, this function was delegated to one or two archivists. Gut also learned from the questionnaire that frequently the director of the archives would act as public relations officer, but this situation tends to handicap the program because his other responsibilities limit the time he can devote to public relations. As a result of the Gut report, the conference members endorsed several recommendations: full utilization of the news media, especially television; publication of periodic reports containing descriptions of archival collections; increase in use of exhibits by archives, despite spiraling costs; and a comprehensive study of the French and Irish experience in the educational field.

Mensário do Arquivo Nacional, vol. 6, no. 12 (December 1975). This issue reports (pp. 19-20) the September 1975 visit of the director of the National Archives to the state archives at São Paulo. Jose Mindlin, state secretary of culture, science and technology, had extended the invitation to see if something could be done to improve the situation at the São Paulo archives. Although the municipal archives appeared to be in good condition, the director and his staff uncovered several weaknesses and dangerous archival practices requiring immediate correction. Their recommendation was that: (1) Paulist archivists should spend some time at the National Archives in order to familiarize themselves with standard archival practices and various technical aspects as employed at all large institutions; and (2) the state archives should be transferred to a new, larger facility that would meet the general needs of the archives and the public. While many individuals regarded the visit as a prelude towards the eventual integration of the São Paulo archives into the national archives system, a few people heralded the event as the beginning of a new era of cooperation between federal and state archives in Brazil.

Czechoslovakia. [JOSEPH G. SVOBODA, University of Nebraska-Lincoln] *Archivní Časopis*, nos. 1-2 (1974). František Hofmann discusses (pp. 6-25, 71-91) at length in these two issues the problems concerning complex record groups. In the first part of the essay he outlines the most essential components underlying archival theory—principle of provenance and *Registraturprinzip*. Following an examination of recent archival theory about such record groups in several communist and noncommunist countries, he concludes that, despite differences, the core of the provenance principle remains valid but there are considerations which tend to modify its application. At the Fifth International Congress of the ICA (Brussels, 1964) various methodologies in organizing archives were considered and the more important ones incorporated into international archival terminology. Consequently, the following archival principles are applicable: principle of pertinence, that is, classification of documents according to subject matter regardless of the source of origin; principle of respecting internal structure of a record group; principle of restoring the original order; and, principle of administrative organization and competence, that is, record groups and subgroups reflecting internal structure. According to Hofmann, there are three basic levels affecting these principles: (1) ideological considerations

(Jenkin's strict impartiality versus Soviet principle of Communist Party loyalty); (2) considerations affecting the limits of record groups and their basic internal arrangement; and (3) rules pertaining to the arrangement of subdivisions within record groups (series), such as alphabetical, numerical, or by type of material. The author admits, however, that in Czechoslovakia little attention has been paid to these principles in archival literature or even to archival theory as such.

Since the concept of a complex record group varies so much from one country to another, Hofmann reviews the definition to illustrate its meaning in Czechoslovakia. According to the 1965 Czechoslovak *Archives Handbook*, the term refers to a record group that results from the activities of several agencies serving the same institution. Examples of such record groups are the archives of the nobility, churches, cities, unions, and the like. A further description of some of the principal complex record groups in this eastern European nation, and of the problems Czech and Slovak archivists must deal with in their arrangement and description, is included. By way of conclusion, Hofmann stresses the need for a firmer theoretical base in approaching the various problems that arise in the archival field. In respect to Czechoslovakia, he believes that the most important theoretical archival principles are too often sacrificed for the sake of practical considerations. In the case of complex record groups this is particularly true.

Archivní Časopis, no. 2 (1975). In his essay, (pp. 75–81), Josef Polišenský provides an overview of the present state of the archives in the Netherlands. He stresses in particular the interest of Czechoslovak scholars in available Dutch sources for documentation of the history of Bohemia. The era of the abortive Czech revolt against the Hapsburgs in 1620 and the part in exile of the life of Czech evangelical educator Jan Comenius (1592–1670) are two areas of special concern to these scholars. W. J. Formsma's *Guide to the Archives in the Netherlands* (1967) is the standard work on the archives, and outlines the organizational framework of the Central Federal Archives in The Hague as well as that of the smaller political divisions in the Netherlands. Polišenský also affords a brief description of several Dutch archival institutions and centers of documentation, including the city archives of Amsterdam, the archives of the Dutch Reformed Church in The Hague, and the State Institute for World War II Documentation in Amsterdam. A list of Dutch archivists who are active in archival theory is also included.

Archivní Časopis, no. 3 (1975). In this issue, Vladmír Opěla discusses (pp. 117–23) the archives of the Film Institute. The activity of the archives, established in 1943 by the Czech-Moravian Film Center, is to collect, preserve, arrange, and describe films produced both in Czechoslovakia and elsewhere. The Czechoslovak collection includes all categories of films from the earliest days of cinematography to the present, whereas the foreign film collection consists of representative films produced throughout the world that document the evolution of film making. Of particular interest, however, is a collection of slapstick comedies produced between 1912 and 1929 as well as a collection of documentary films illustrating important international events. Arrangement of the foreign film collection is according to various categories: films by outstanding directors and producers, films that received awards at major film festivals, films that were most enthusiastically received by the public in the country of their origin, films considered commercial successes, and films that were remakes of earlier versions. Opěla claims that, based on quality and size of the collection, the institute's archives is one of the top five film repositories in the

world. There is currently approximately fifty million meters of film in the archives with an annual increment of one million meters. Earlier efforts of the institute tended toward the accessioning of large numbers of films, but recent emphasis has been geared toward quality and improvements in arrangement and selection of films. Although approximately 60 percent of the films in the archives are of the highly flammable and self-ignitable nitrocellulose base, there has been little effort made to transfer the film to the safer acetate base film. Opěla also points out the need for the establishment of a special film laboratory to restore damaged films, especially since many of the films are used for television documentaries. By making the institute's film archives available to scientists, historians, film reviewers, and producers, the author perceives the Film Institute bridging the gap in cinematography between the past and the present.

Sborník Archivních Prací, vol. 24, no. 2 (1975). Otakar Bauer summarizes (pp. 511-28) the work of the first modern archivist-theoretician E. Spiess (?-1794). The principal ideas of this German scholar, who was the chief archivist of the Plessenburg archives in the margravate Bayreuth-Ausbach in the latter part of the eighteenth century, are incorporated in his *Discourse on Archives* (1770). While Spiess dealt with many aspects of archival administration and care, his main contribution lies in his formulation of several basic archival concepts which placed him ahead of his time. He firmly believed that it was a government's responsibility not only to maintain public records but also to provide for their proper care. To this end, therefore, he urged legislation to protect valuable archival materials from destruction. Also, Spiess was among the first who saw archives as a potentially valuable source for research. Without being aware of it himself, Spiess even touched upon the concept of provenance and stressed the need for an orderly disposition of unwanted records. As a corollary to his insistence on the uses of archives, he developed a notion of archival control based on the inventory, description, and systematic arrangement of records. In his discourse on archives personnel Spiess elaborated on the desirable traits all archivists should possess, and, even at such an early date, he observed that insufficient salaries are not conducive to the retention of competent archival personnel.

Sborník Archivních Prací, vol. 25, no. 2 (1975). In his article on accounting records of industrial enterprises as historical sources (pp. 451-73), Edmund Knesl discusses the problems pertaining to the availability and uses of older industrial accounting materials. In most instances, however, only fragments exist and these are virtually useless for research purposes. In order to establish the interrelationship and logic of various types of accounting records, it is imperative that archivists possess some understanding of basic accounting methods. Archivists will then be able to select the proper types of records for permanent retention which in turn will become useful research tools for the scholar's interpretation. The accounting records of the Western Moravian Electric Works, available since 1914, constitute, in the author's opinion, a useful collection for historical study. Knesl also outlines several record series within this collection and indicates historical data that may be obtained from them.

France. [PAUL V. GUITÉ, National Archives and Records Service] *La Gazette des Archives*, n.s., no. 91 (1975). The leading article in this issue (pp. 215-37) pertains to public access to archival documents. Gildas Bernard, director of services at the

archives of Calvados, and Bernard Mahieu, head of reception and research services at the Archives Nationales, point out the great disparity in the service provided researchers at large and small archives. In the former institutions the heavy work load of the archivists compels them to devote only the minimum amount of time to individual researchers, whereas in the smaller archives the staff has fewer restraints and can provide more individualized attention. The authors seem, however, to be most concerned with the plight of records in larger institutions and the damage done to records by heavy reference use. Although the high cost of microfilming is still an obstacle in pursuing a comprehensive microfilming program at almost all archives, both archivists perceive microfilming and microforms as the only alternative currently available to preserve on a large scale heavily used fragile records, or excessively voluminous records. Spiraling construction costs for new facilities to house the growing quantity of records is rapidly lessening the cost ratio between new construction and microfilming. Bernard and Mahieu also discuss the use of information retrieval systems in providing access through publication of finding aids and inventories. Included in this article are three reports by work groups on each of the methods of providing access to archival records: microfilm, information retrieval, and inventories.

Vital Chomel, director of services at the archives of Isère, analyzes (pp. 238-48) archival policy toward the "New History." He states that history today is essentially a conceptualization which he defines as the progress of analysis on the confused immediate. To conceptualize, according to the author, is to introduce the non-event or to emerge from the consciousness of vaguely conceived realities. This concept of history, states Chomel, merely increases the need for archivists to reopen the dialogue with contemporary historiography and make available to historians archival sources of the present. New problems demand new approaches and new objectives. Chomel would like, therefore, to see a new archives policy of consciousness (sense) which would decipher documentary resources in archives as well as question dormant sources.

Ivan Cloulas, head of the information service at the Archives Nationales, reports (pp. 249-57) on the international seminar held at Chelwood Gates (Sussex) in August 1974. At this international conference archivists from thirty-six countries met to discuss the application of automatic data processing techniques in archives and to exchange information about various information retrieval systems in use in their respective countries.

This issue contains also a summary of the twentieth national congress of the Archives de France that was held at Valence on October 2-4, 1975, and the proceedings of the general assembly of the association of French archivists that was also held at Valence on October 1, 1975.

New Zealand. [LAWRENCE H. McDONALD, National Archives and Records Service] *Archifacts*, no. 7 (April 1976). The main articles in this issue of the bulletin of the Archives Committee of the New Zealand Library Association reviews (pp. 1-2) the two-year-old controversy between freedom of information and individual privacy. During the past session of the New Zealand parliament the Labor government tried unsuccessfully to enact legislation that would expunge criminal records to aid the rehabilitation of offenders, control listening devices, and appoint a privacy commissioner to investigate all violations of privacy rights. Although each bill failed to become law, the implications of the proposed legislation did alarm archivists. So far the entire privacy/freedom of information debate has scarcely

made reference to archival institutions, but archivists perceive basic questions that could profoundly affect archives which contain a wealth of personal information. There is also apprehension that extension of freedom of information requirements may dictate which records archives may not destroy, while restrictive privacy legislation may determine what documentation archivists will be allowed to retain or even be required to remove from their holdings. Under any subsequent legislation, access policy to whole groups of records may even require review. A most disturbing aspect for archivists is, however, that they will not be the ones who will determine which records should or should not be kept if the needs of society require otherwise.

Ian Horsfield describes (pp. 4-7) the records of the First New Zealand Expeditionary Force, 1910-40, the New Zealand military contingent that fought in World War I. These records, which represent only the 10 percent salvaged from the municipal dump in 1934, have been transferred to the National Archives and are available to researchers, without restrictions.

There is also a book review section, a list of accessions by various New Zealand archival institutions, and a section containing news items.

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