

ABSTRACTS OF ARCHIVE PUBLICATIONS

WESTERN EUROPE

Belgium

In 1923 the Association des Conservateurs d'Archives, de Bibliothèques et de Musées, which had been founded in 1907, established a semi-annual publication entitled *Archives et bibliothèques de Belgique*. After a few years this title was changed to the present form, *Archives, bibliothèques et musées de Belgique*. The annual volume of approximately one hundred and fifty pages¹ contains major articles, minor contributions, proceedings of the association, official news, necrologies, book reviews, and the list of members. Most articles are written in French, a few in Flemish. Each number has a detailed table of contents, as does the annual volume.

Archives, bibliothèques et musées de Belgique, xv (1938), No. 1

NELIS, H[UBERT], [*Archiviste général-adjoint du Royaume*, Brussels], Notice historique sur le chartier de Brabant, XII^e siècle-1936 (Historical note on the archives of Brabant, twelfth century to 1936). Pp. 3-27.

"An historical note on the *Trésor* or archives of Brabant is an interesting undertaking. . . . Not only does it make known the origins, the organization and the course of an archival depository . . . but it throws light on the conservation of the privileges, basis of public law in our duchy—a subject of constitutional history and a study of diplomatics and archives." The archives originating at Louvain, the ducal seat, were later moved to the Chateau de Genappe, then, from 1361 on, were located in the Eglise de Sainte Gertrude at Nivelles. The inventory from that period is now preserved in the general archives of the kingdom at Brussels. From the sixteenth century to 1667 they were kept in the Chateau de Vilvorde. In 1666 many of the materials were sorted out, some of the important items sent to the Algemeen Rijksarchief at The Hague, the rest to Brussels, there to remain in the Chambres des Comptes until 1794. Except for the period of exile at Vienna, 1794-1875, the archives have remained at Brussels.²

BONENFANT, PAUL, [*Archiviste de l'Assistance Publique, professeur à l'Université Libre de Bruxelles*, Brussels], Inventaire des Archives de l'Assistance Publique de Bruxelles: IV. Fonds de la Suprême Charité (Inventory of the archives of the office of public charities of Brussels: Part IV, collection of the Suprême Charité [Flem.: Overcharitaet]). Pp. 28-53.

The organization of the Suprême Charité was established by Charles V in 1531, and, by an imperial ordinance of 1539, received a governing board of four, who "had, from the first, supervision over all the existing charitable institutions." These men, with their assistants in each parish, controlled the actual distribution of funds, supervised accounts, and exercised police power (to the end of the seventeenth century) over mendicants. The internal organization of the institution changed during the centuries, and, under French rule, in 1795 it became the Bureau de la Bienfaisance. Its archives passed to the city, then to various central charitable administrations, and, finally, since 1925, to the Commission d'Assistance Publique de Bruxelles. "The classification of the items in the inventory which follows has been established on the basis of the inventory from the end of

¹ I have been able to examine only the numbers analyzed below, the latest available.

² This copiously documented article was to have been continued, but the author died before the year was out.

the sixteenth century, but the principles of classification therein have had to be sharply defined and rounded out in a very large measure in taking account of the later evolution of the institution." The inventory, subdivided into appropriate sections (pp. 37-51), is followed by an alphabetical index (pp. 52-53, small type).

Procès-verbaux des séances de l'Association, réunion du 28 novembre 1937 (Proceedings of the sessions of the association, November 28, 1937). Pp. 54-62.

Each of the three sections (archives, libraries, museums), under its own president, passed routine business and participated in discussion of professional news. The library section voted to request the appropriate minister to permit the status quo in promotions within the library service, and to propose legislation on the uniform recruitment of the professional staff. The general session was primarily devoted to a visit to the Musée du Congo belge.

Chronique (Official and professional news). Pp. 62-75.

Among such miscellaneous items as personalia, honors received, publications of the municipal archives of Brussels, the report of the municipal museum, the scheme of personnel classification and assignment to the several royal archives, are two more extensive: The *Annales Instituturum Urbis Romae* has published as volume four of its library the *Guide international des archives: Europe* (T. 1, the *Guide* proper; T. 2, popular illustrations of selected documents; T. 3, reprint, from *Archivi*, 2d s., I (1933-1934), 251-295, of an article by J. Pistolesse which in fifty pages "gives us a very good sketch of the history of the archives in the different countries of Europe," from the eleventh century to the present day); and the report of the Commission des Études Bibliographiques et Bibliothéconomiques in favor of (a) a university degree and special diploma for librarians, and (b) the degree in the appropriate field for appointment to specialized libraries.

Archives, bibliothèques et musées de Belgique, xv (1938), No. 2

VAN HOVE, J[ULIEN], [*Bibliothécaire à la Bibliothèque Royale*, Brussels], La normalisation en matière de bibliothéconomie et de bibliographie; rapport présenté à la Commission des Études Bibliothéconomiques et Bibliographiques (Standardization in library economy and bibliography; report presented to the Commission on Library Economy and Bibliography). Pp. 77-108.

In 1936 the International Federation of Library Associations requested the national associations to gather the information which would lead to "definitive and international regulation of the following points: (1) alphabetical classification . . . , (2) bibliographical citation . . . , (3) periodical reference . . . , (4) organization of the catalogue and bibliographic card . . . , (5) transcription." Before presenting his report to and for the Belgian association, the author reviews the previous Belgian studies on the format of paper, format of books, indication of book formats, standardization of equipment in book depositories, standardization of bibliographic references (with digests of various reports), bibliographies, and catalogues. On pp. 104-107 he summarizes his findings, on pp. 107-108 he lists practical items in bibliographic citation.

PÉRIER, G[ASTON]-D[ENYS], [*Bibliothécaire du Ministère des Colonies*, Brussels], La bibliothérapie (Bibliotherapy). Pp. 109-110.

A highly laudatory note on the methods of rehabilitation through reading as conducted at Tuskegee Institute.

GESSLER, J., [*Professeur à l'Université de Louvain*], Critische aantekeningen op palaeographisch gebied; I. Palaeographica uit Engeland (Critical observations in the field of paleography; I. Paleographica from England). Pp. 111-113.

Corrections to the poor transcriptions made in a Belgian list (1895-1897) of items in the British Museum of Dutch-Belgian provenience.

L., E., Le centenaire du Public Record Office (The centenary of the Public Records Office). Pp. 113-115.

A succinct report on the history of and the exhibition at the Public Records Office on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary.

Procès-verbaux des séances de l'Association, réunion du 27 février 1938 (Proceedings of the sessions of the association, February 27, 1938). Pp. 116-126.

At the "Section des Archivistes" Ivan Delatte, *archiviste-paléographe aux Archives Générales du Royaume*, discussed the value for research in local history, social and economic studies, of the collections of mortgages, registers of private documents, property surveys in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In the "Section des Bibliothécaires." Mme. A. Gobeau-Thonet, *bibliothécaire à l'Université de Liège*, read a paper, to be published in a later number, on the organization of university libraries in the United States. The "Section des Conservateurs de Musées" heard a report on folklore studies, and the general session, after passing routine business, visited the Bibliothèque des Bollandistes.

Chronique. Pp. 126-130.

The main item is the report of the fifth Flemish congress on library economy and bibliography which devoted most of its attention to the problem of catalogue systems. *Bibliographie* (Book reviews). Pp. 130-132.

The main item (reviewed favorably) is Jan.-F. Vanderheyden [*Bibliothécaire à la Bibliothèque Royale*], *De openbare catalogus in de Amerikaansche bibliotheek*, Louvain, 1937. 124 pp. Reprinted from *Verslagen en Mededeelingen van de Kon. Vlaamsche Academie*.

Nécrologie. P. 132.

Notice of the death of Hubert Nelis.

Liste des membres de l'Association des Conservateurs d'Archives, de Bibliothèques et de Musées. Pp. 133-145.

The officers; the regular members, associate members, foreign associate members in separate alphabetical lists which indicate the professional status and home address of each one.

Table des Matières. Pp. 147-148.

Classified table of contents for the annual volume.

LESTER K. BORN

The Netherlands

Nederlandsch Archiefblad, XLVI (1939), No. 2

Officiël Gedeelte

Mededeelingen van het bestuur (Communications from the board). Pp. 87-88.

This section merely announces the names of several new members, and corrects several items in the report of the last meeting.

Niet-officiëel Gedeelte

PANHUYSEN, G. [W. A.], [*Chartermeester (hoofdcommies) aan het Rijksarchief in Limburg en inspecteur van de gemeente-en waterschapsarchieven in de provincie, Limmel-Maastricht*], SCHRAMMEN, M. H. A. I., [*Hoofd van het bureau der Provinciale Griffie van Limburg, Maastricht*], Het archief der provincie Limburg tot 1861 (The archives of the province of Limburg up to 1861). Pp. 88-104.

The nature of this paper, first prepared by request as a lecture before the Study Club for Communal Documentation, is indicated in the opening paragraphs. "Since an archives originates as a result of the activities of an administrative body, and, following fixed rules, grows, develops, and changes, because the nature of the archives changes with the changes in function of the body or of the official, and because, finally, each archivist must study the rules according to which the archives has been formed—for each archives has, as it were, its own personality, its own individuality which the archivist must learn to know before he can proceed to the arrangement of it—we think it a good idea first to set forth something about the history of the province of Limburg during the first half of the nineteenth century, and also something regarding the time which preceded the formation of this province." Pages eighty-eight to ninety-five are occupied solely with history; the remaining pages describe the intricate pattern of classifications, dossiers, indexes, etc., required by the many changes in governments, in whole and in part, and in types of administration, whether under German, French, Belgian, or Dutch rule.

MARTENS [VAN SEVENHOVEN, A. H.], *Uitleening vandoop-, trouw-, enbegräafboeken* (The lending of baptismal, marriage, and burial records). Pp. 104-105.

The author answers Haga, who had taken issue with his points on the subject of lending, by saying that (1) while the law of September 2, 1919, could be used to cover all cases in doubt, a more specific rule should be given; (2) a researcher cannot always tell beforehand what registers he will need; and (3) that considerable work, because of the checking required, will be added by the matter of correspondence.

LAMMERTS, M. D., [*Commies aan het Algemeen Rijksarchief, The Hague*], *Archief-soldaten* (Archives soldiers). Pp. 105-106.

A brief historical note on the wanderings and dangers (in 1830) experienced by the archives of the general staff now housed in the Algemeen Rijksarchief at The Hague.

Boekbespreking (Book reviews). Pp. 107-131.

Berichten (News and notes). Pp. 132-138.

Bijlage (Addendum). No pagination.

This is a note by A. Haga, on an inserted sheet, about the recent important discovery in the Royal Library at Stockholm of some thirteen hundred Dutch papers from the years 1618-1664.

Nederlandsch Archievenblad, XLVII (1940), No 2

Officiëel Gedeelte

Mededeelingen van het bestuur (Communications from the board). P. 83.

Niet-officiëel Gedeelte

STAPEL, F. W., In memoriam Professor Dr. E. C. Godée Molsbergen. Pp. 83-84.

The life and works of a teacher who specialized in colonial history and who, from 1922 to 1936, was the archivist of the Netherlands East Indies.

E. [BELL], C. C. D., [*Oud-Rijksarchivaris aan het Algemeen Rijksarchief*, The Hague], in memoriam J. K. Bondam. Pp. 85-86.

A summary of the work of the late *oud-hoofdcommies* at the Algemeen Rijksarchief.

SMIT, J., [*Hoofdcommies aan het Algemeen Rijksarchief*, The Hague], De Weeskamers, haar taak, inrichting en werkwijze in het huidige gebied van Zuid-Holland (The orphans' court, its function, constitution, and method in the present province of South Holland). Pp. 86-114.

The author reports his finds from diverse documents under fifteen heads, starting with the origin in 1352 and proceeding to the function which, he says, must be presented by a series of pictures since it was never uniform in the several areas. Then follow the organization of the court before the revolt against Spain, the decline of the court and its reorganization during the war, the origin of the Rhineland court and laws, the laws in South Holland, in Schieland, Delfland, Land van Putten, Land van Voorne, respectively, local organization and local laws, composition of the administrative board, laws of the Hof van Holland, the orphan court or the sheriff's archives, and the control and method of the court.

KORVEZEE, E. H., [*Chartermeester (hoofdcommies) aan het Algemeen Rijksarchief*, The Hague], Merkwaardige handschriften in het archief van een Hofje te's Gravenhage (Noteworthy manuscripts in the archives of an almshouse at The Hague). Pp. 114-118.

Five historical manuscripts, which have escaped general notice although listed in 1914, and fifteen maps, which have been well described, are noted on the occasion of their loan to the archives at The Hague. The author tentatively establishes their presence in the almshouse archives through the family connections of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century administrators of the institution.

VAN EEDEN, W., Het Algemeen Rijksarchief en het Skandinavische archiefwezen, supplement (The General Archives of the Kingdom and the Scandinavian archives; supplement). Pp. 118-122.

Notice of the second installment of *Norske Lensrekneskapsbøker* (Norwegian district account books), with the observation that the general introduction and index will appear in the seventh part, and digests of the *Meddelanden från Svenska Riksarkivet* (Communications from the Swedish Archives) for 1937 and 1938.

Boekbespreking (Book reviews). Pp. 122-130.

Analysis of the first volume (1938) of the *Argief Jaarboek vir Suid-Afrikaanse Geskiedenis* (Archival Yearbook for South African History), in which "the emphasis falls much more upon history than upon archival science," of the first two items in the *Bibliotheek voor Geslacht- en Wapenkunde* (The genealogical and heraldic library), of THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST (Volume 11),¹ which "periodical is now to be found in the library of the Algemeen Rijksarchief," notice of the *Manual for the Arrangement and Description of Archives* . . . translated by Arthur H. Leavitt ("The translation is literal and faithful"), and of H. O. Meister, *Aktenkunde, ein Handbuch für Archivbenutzer*.

Berichten (News and notes). Pp. 130-135.

The usual personalia, curiosia, and notices of local archival exhibitions.

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¹ Translated in detail elsewhere.