

SHORTER NOTICES

EMMETT J. LEAHY, Editor
Box 6154, Washington, D.C.

The long title of the *First Annual Report of the Archivist of the United States on the part of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, 1939-1940* (United States Government Printing Office, 1941. Pp. 7) covers a brief description of the activities concerning that institution, turned over to the federal government July 4, 1940, after the close of the reported year. It is hoped that the architect's description of the building included in this report indicates a return to normalcy in the planning of adequate office facilities in archival structures. The cost of the building and equipment is given at \$344,642.21. A photograph of the library and an appendix containing the resolutions establishing it, approved July 18, 1939, not 1839 as given in the report, are included. It is hardly necessary to add that in the establishment of this library, an eminent public servant has provided a most suitable means for rendering an account of his stewardship to the nation. There is no more fitting conclusion to the democratic process than the ultimate availability of the full record thereof.

Every user of ink will become better informed regarding his most important medium of expression through a careful reading of *Inks*, by C. E. Waters, Circular of the National Bureau of Standards C426 (United States Government Printing Office, 1940. Pp. ii, 77. \$.15). This document meets a long felt need for a concise and illuminating treatise which explains the origin, use, and content of many different inks.

Mr. Waters' thorough treatment of the subject includes not only a discussion of ancient formulae but also indicates the modern method of manufacture together with a statement of the advantages and disadvantages of inks made from various important ingredients, such as carbon, diammonium hydroxyferrigallate, and silver, as well as the accepted iron gallotannate product which plays such an important part in our permanent record work.

Washable inks, quick-drying inks, invisible inks, and indelible inks, with many others of greater or less importance, are given exhaustive consideration. Inks for use on special materials in the field of plastics, glass, and metals are cited with suggestions regarding their use.

The effect of ageing and processes for restoration are treated in a thorough and conclusive manner. Detailed methods for testing these several types of ink are enumerated with explanations covering weights, measures, and necessary equipment for their manufacture. An extensive bibliography of printed material available in many libraries is listed for those interested.

We who are record-conscious will profit immensely by a thorough reading of this informative booklet.

HAROLD S. BURT

Examiner of Public Records
State of Connecticut

This article—Elgin G. Fassel, "Destruction of Life Office Records with Retention of Miniature Film Copies," in *Proceedings* of the 1939 Annual Conference of the Life Office Management Association (New York, 1939), pp. 36-49—by an assistant actuary of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company is symptomatic of the widening interest in commercial circles of the possibilities of microfilming. The author, writing in terms of the records in the central office of an insurance corporation, strongly recommends the periodic microfilming of certain categories of those records with consequent destruction of the originals and preservation of the microfilm copies. Photographic equipment needed in a reduction program is briefly discussed and there are set forth in parallel columns the principal types of insurance records and recommended ages at which records belonging to those respective types should be microfilmed. Curiously, since no explanation of the exception is vouchsafed, the author advocates the permanent retention in their original form of company ledgers and policy registers. Eight "Practical Suggestions," such as prompt destruction of office duplicates of terminated policies coming into company possession, are offered. Reduction programs are self-liquidating, it is asserted, through release of filing space and equipment. Of four appendices three relate to physical and one to legal aspects of microfilming.

W. NEIL FRANKLIN

The National Archives

J. Ignacio Rubio Mañe, "El Archivo General de la Nación, México, D.F., República Mexicana," *Revista de Historia de América*, No. 9 (August, 1940), pp. 63-170, including two plans and two appendices; also published separately under the same title by Editorial "Cultura," México, D.F., 1940.

This article, monographic in proportions, is a concise description of the *Archivo General de la Nación* in Mexico City. The study is divided into four parts: an historical section tracing the development of the care and preservation of the records of the viceroyalty and the republic from 1550 to the present time; a list of viceregal secretaries, 1788-1821, and of directors of the General Archives, 1823-1940; a description of the physical layout and contents of the present establishment; and notes concerning archival publications. There are two appendices. One is a list of the present personnel; and the other, a reproduction of the *Proyecto de Ordenanzas* of 1792. This treatise offers a good picture of the evolution and present condition of the oldest and best known of the archival establishments of America.

The historical section describes the formation of the archives of New Spain, particularly the records of the office of the viceregal secretary. Dr. Rubio Mañe considers the files of this office to have formed the nucleus from which the *Archivo General* subsequently evolved. He provides new details concerning the administration of the colonial records, and his contribution is enhanced in value by including the text of Revilla Gigedo's *Proyecto* of 1792 in an appendix, and the architect's plans for remodelling part of Chapultepec to house the viceregal archives.

The author then narrates the vicissitudes through which the archives passed during the period of the movement for independence and since the establishment of the national government. Of particular interest is the discussion of its evolution since 1910. Here may be found information not yet available elsewhere in print concerning the recent developments in internal administration and relationship with other agencies of the Mexican government.

One of the most important parts is that which describes the modern establishment and its contents. Here the physical arrangement of the space in the national palace occupied by the *Archivo General* is discussed, followed by remarks upon the contents of the sections into which each floor is divided. An important feature is the brief inventory of the principal *fonds*, wherein recent accessions are noted. A floor plan clarifies the arrangement of the plant. Accompanying this part of the article is a paragraph concerning the library and its contents.

The last section, erroneously numbered V instead of IV, discusses the publication of archival material. Dr. Rubio Mañe divides productivity into three periods, 1847-1852, 1853-1857, and 1910-1936. It is significant that he omits discussion of the period from 1858 to 1910. This portion of the article is actually a critical bibliography, wherein the author distinguishes between those publications which were edited under official auspices and those produced privately.

The subdivision of the study into many numbered sections and subsections is somewhat confusing. Furthermore, failure to distinguish typographically between the major documentary *fonds* and their integral series is also to be deplored. In general, however, Dr. Rubio Mañe has made a distinct and constructive contribution to archival science, which is not only a credit to his country and profession but also a work which should serve as a model for the treatment of other archival establishments in Latin-America. However, from the checkered history of the *Archivo General*, one must regretfully conclude, that the existence of an official depository does not imply the safety of the records, unless those in charge are responsible and trained custodians receiving adequate moral and financial support from the government whose records they guard. The continuation of the present staff of well-trained scholars should contribute to the steady improvement of this valuable archival institution.

RALPH G. LOUNSBURY

The National Archives

The editorial board of the Archives of the Union of South Africa has released the second volume of the *Archives Yearbook for South African History*. (One volume in two. Capetown. Cape Times Ltd., 1939. xx, 193, and xvii, 205 pp.) The interest of this work falls more in the realm of history than archival science. Part I is entirely devoted to the publication of the completed portion of the final volume of Sir George Cory's work, "The Rise of South Africa." This sixth and last volume of Sir George's history was interrupted by his death on April 28, 1935. The six chapters printed deal primarily with Sir George Grey's administration, the establishment of the independent republics in the North, and the early history of the Church of England. The entire work covers the years to 1857.

Part II of the *Yearbook* is entitled "Die Vrystaatse Republiek en die Basoetoe-Vraagstuk" (The Free State Republic on the Basuto Question). Dr. J. J. G. Grobbelaar, the author, discusses the early nineteenth century conflict over the territory between the Caledon and Orange Rivers. The three Basuto Wars and the subsequent annexation of Basuto Land by the British are considered. The concluding chapter describes the results of the struggle in the development of the republic.

"A Series of Population Maps of the Colonies and the United States, 1625-1790," by Herman R. Friis (*The Geographical Review*, July, 1940, pp. 463-470) is condensed from his study with the same title and contains a comprehensive bibliography and additional maps which were issued in mimeographed form by the American Geographical Society. Mr. Friis has produced a creditable series of ten maps showing the growth and spread of population in the colonial period of the United States. Rural population is shown by dots, each of which represents approximately 200 inhabitants, while the urban areas with populations of upward of 3,000 are designated by graduated circles. The years selected are 1625, 1650, 1675, 1700, 1720, 1740, 1760, 1770, 1780, and 1790. The addition of pertinent place names, especially the urban centers shown individually, to at least one of the maps would have been a great aid to the reader and particularly to the foreign reader. There is also included a physiographic map which shows the natural barriers that retarded the westward movement as well as the gateways through which immigrants poured. The accompanying text presents a summary of the historical basis for the westward movement. A variety of materials was used in preparing this study of a phase of our country's growth that has never been presented in such detail.

CLARA EGLI LeGEAR

The Library of Congress

Sailing Vessels in the San Diego Trade: Bulletin No. 1 of the Maritime Research Society of San Diego (San Diego. 1940. Pp. 7. \$.15) includes a short history of the port of San Diego with a table of the average time and vessels which made the best time between San Diego and principal ports. There

is also an alphabetical list of all foreign vessels and square riggers in the domestic trade touching at San Diego revealing the type of vessel, nationality, tonnage, and year of arrival.

Ohio Cherishes Her Rich Historic Tradition, The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society (Columbus. 1940. Pp. 32) is an attractive pamphlet describing the society and its work. A list of the many other historical societies in Ohio is included.

NEWS NOTES

GASTON LITTON, Editor

Box 6154, Washington, D.C.

THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

The fifth annual meeting of the Society will be held at Hartford, Connecticut, October 6 and 7, 1941, under the auspices of the Connecticut State Library. James Brewster, state librarian, as chairman of the local arrangements committee, will be host to the members and guests attending the sessions. Oliver W. Holmes, of the National Archives, is chairman of the program committee. It is hoped that special attention can be given at the meeting to business archives in view of the importance of Hartford as an industrial center. The work of the special committees on emergency activities of archivists will also be a subject for discussion.

Two events for members of this Society were scheduled and held in connection with the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New York City, December 27-30, 1940. A tour by bus to Hyde Park on Sunday, December 29, to visit the newly established Franklin D. Roosevelt Library was made by twenty-five members of the Society and friends. Fred W. Shipman, director of the library, was the host to the party and conducted his guests through the new building and the grounds. The annual joint luncheon of the Society and the American Historical Association was held on Monday, December 30, at the Pennsylvania Hotel. W. Rex Crawford, of the Department of Sociology of the University of Pennsylvania, addressed the gathering on "The Useful Past." Professor Crawford was chairman of the research staff employed by the Social Science Research Council last summer to study the types and availability of materials for research in the social sciences in the National Archives. Waldo G. Leland, who was re-elected president of the Society at the Montgomery meeting, presided.

The second meeting of the Federal Records Conference under the auspices of the Society was held on the evening of January 29, 1941, in the third floor hearing room of the Federal Trade Commission building in Washington. The subject, "The Role of Records in Public Administration," was discussed by Ernst Posner, of the American University, Helen Chatfield, Treasury Department archivist, and Edna F. Poeppel, of the Federal Reserve Board. Dr. Posner summarized the history of record administration in Germany, and Miss Chatfield commented from the point of view of United States government records. The significance of modern practices in the management of business archives was emphasized by Miss Poeppel.

Committees for 1941

The following persons have accepted appointments to membership on the committees indicated for the year ending at the fifth annual meeting:

Special Committees on Emergency Activities

Protection of Archives Against Hazards of War: R. D. W. Connor, chairman; Julian P. Boyd, and Luther H. Evans.

Emergency Transfer and Storage of Archives: Collas G. Harris, chairman; Sargent B. Child, and Margaret C. Norton.

History and Organization of Government Emergency Agencies: Solon J. Buck, chairman; Wayne C. Grover, Dan Lacy, Morris L. Radoff, and J. M. Scammell.

Collection and Preservation of Materials for the History of Emergencies: Herbert A. Kellar, chairman; C. C. Crittenden, and James W. Moffitt.

Regular Committees

Public Relations: William D. McCain, chairman; Herbert E. Angel, Edward J. Hughes, Grace Lee Nute, and Robert H. Slover.

International Relations: Samuel F. Bemis, chairman; Ignez B. C. d'Araujo, C. Graham Botha, Roscoe R. Hill, James F. Kenney, and Ernst Posner.

Terminology: Solon J. Buck, chairman; Nelson M. Blake, Thomas A. Knott, Olga Paul, and Theodore C. Pease.

Training of Archivists: Theodore C. Pease, chairman; Samuel F. Bemis, Lester J. Cappon, A. R. Newsome, Ernst Posner, Abbott Smith, and Clarence A. Walton.

Committee on Record Administration: E. J. Leahy, chairman; and Helen Chatfield.

Publication Policies of Archival Agencies: Leon de Valinger, Jr., chairman; C. C. Crittenden, Preston Edsall, Luther Evans, and Alice E. Smith.

Maps: S. W. Boggs, chairman; Lloyd Brown, Clara Egli LeGear, and W. L. G. Joerg.

Business Archives: William D. Overman, chairman; Lewis Atherton, William H. Galbraith, N. S. B. Gras, and Herbert Kellar.

Uniform State Legislation: A. R. Newsome, chairman; and Francis S. Philbrick.

Membership: Martin P. Claussen, chairman; Harold S. Burt, Charles M. Gates, Virginia Leddy, and Robert H. Slover.

Nominations: Lawrence C. Wroth, chairman; Christopher B. Coleman, and W. Neil Franklin.

Auditing: George H. Ryden, chairman; and David L. Darden.

Local Arrangements for Fifth Annual Meeting: James Brewster, chairman.

Program for Fifth Annual Meeting: Oliver W. Holmes, chairman; Harold S. Burt, Lester J. Cappon, Glenn H. Lathrop, and Robert W. Lovett.

Special Committee on Filing Equipment: Virginia Leddy, chairman.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 1938, to December 31, 1939

Balance per Books

Balance on hand, December 31, 1938\$ 955.38

Income:

New memberships:

Individual	24	@	\$ 5.00	....	\$120.00
Institutional	6	@	10.00	....	60.00

Renewals:

Individual					
Annual	175	@	5.00	....	\$875.00
Two years'	4	@	10.00	....	40.00

Institutional

Annual	27	@	10.00	....	\$270.00
Two years'	1	@	20.00	....	20.00

Subscriptions:

Annual ¹ —New	18	@	5.00	\$ 89.13
Renewal	19	@	5.00	95.00

Proceedings:

Copies ²	4	@	2.50	\$ 11.50
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THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST

Copies ³	178	@	1.25	\$107.27
Reprints			2.45	2.45
Registrations	103	@	.75	<u>77.25</u>

Total income\$1,767.60

Less: returned check and bank charge 5.45

1,762.15Total expenditures 1,529.74Net income \$ 232.41

Balance on hand, December 31, 1939\$1,187.79

¹ Includes one check on Canadian funds, cashed for \$4.36 and English draft cashed for \$4.77.² Includes balance of payment by Miss Blanche LaDura of \$1.50.³ Includes 100 extra copies of the July, 1939, issue of THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST at \$9.77.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 1938, to December 31, 1939

Balance per books, December 31, 1938\$ 955.38

Deposits for 1939\$1,767.60

Less:

Returned check\$5.00

Bank charge45 5.45

Net deposits\$1,762.15

Total deposits\$2,717.53

Checks drawn\$1,529.74

Balance per books, December 31, 1939\$1,187.79

Balance per Bank

Balance per bank, December 31, 1938\$ 983.33

Less:

Outstanding checks #64\$18.00

#679.95 27.95

Balance per books, December 31, 1938\$ 955.38

Deposits for 1939\$1,767.60

Less:

Returned check\$ 5.00

Bank charge45 5.45

Net deposits\$1,762.15

Total\$2,717.53

Checks paid\$1,504.59

Balance per bank, December 31, 1939\$1,212.94

Less:

Outstanding checks #106\$ 3.75

#108 9.15

#111 9.25

#1123.00 25.15

Balance per books, December 31, 1939\$1,187.79

Itemized Deposits

Total Deposits\$1,767.60

Deposits:

February 4, 1939	\$162.75	
March 6, 1939	4.77	
March 7, 1939	120.00	
March 31, 1939	70.00	
May 12, 1939	235.00	
May 27, 1939	173.75	
June 27, 1939	177.50	
July 27, 1939	137.50	
August 28, 1939	95.00	
November 1, 1939	330.95	
December 6, 1939	151.02	
December 27, 1939	109.36	\$1,767.60

Less:

Returned check Honolulu	\$ 5.00	
Bank charge .....	.45	5.45

Net deposits for 1939\$1,762.15

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 1938, to December 31, 1939

Expenditures under Budget

Secretary's office:

Budget allowance for calendar year 1939\$ 225.00

Expenditures:

Stenographic service	\$100.75
Post Office box	11.00
Postage	24.50
Telegrams56
Letterheads, mimeographing	29.60

Total expenditures	\$ 166.41
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Balance authorized under budget unexpended for 1939\$ 58.59

Treasurer's office:

Budget allowance for calendar year 1939\$ 80.00

Expenditures:

Stenographic and bookkeeping service	\$ 75.00
Postage	5.00

Total expenditures\$ 80.00

Publication fund:

Budget allowance for calendar year 1939	\$1,100.00
THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST, 4 issues	\$1,027.67

Balance authorized under budget unexpended for 1939\$ 72.33

Committees:

Budget allowance for calendar year 1939	\$ 100.00
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Expenditures:

Committee on Membership:

Stenographic service	\$ 3.25
Letterheads, etc.	17.80
Mimeographing	2.78
Postage	4.00

\$27.83

Committee on Nominations:

Stenographic service	\$ 1.00
Postage	2.00
Mimeographing	2.50

5.50

Committee on Terminology:

Stenographic service	\$ 2.00
Postage	2.00
Mimeographing	9.00

13.00

Total expenditures of committees\$ 46.33

Balance authorized under budget unexpended for 1939\$ 53.67

Committee on Uniform State Archival Legislation:¹

Travelling expenses	\$91.50
Luncheon	3.75

Total expenditures\$95.25

¹ Special appropriation of \$200 voted at the council meeting on October 12, 1939.

Other officers and council:

Unexpended balance authorized under budget for 1939 \$ 10.00

Third Annual Meeting:

Budget allowance for calendar year 1939 \$ 100.00

Expenditures:

Programs	\$31.00
Stenographic service	4.50
Postage and programs	6.00
Luncheons	18.65
Dinners	45.32
Badges	6.20
Telephone	2.41

Total expenditures \$ 114.08

Amount expended in excess of authorization under budget \$ 14.08

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The *Sixth Annual Report of the Archivist of the United States* (101 pp.), just published, describes the activities of the National Archives during the fiscal year 1939-1940, including assistance rendered to the national defense program. The report is illustrated by a series of eleven reproductions of documents in the National Archives and includes among the appendices a newly issued set of regulations for the use of records and a list of publications based on material in the National Archives.

The records of the Washington office of the National Recovery Administration, with the exception of a few files in the custody of the Departments of Agriculture and Labor, are all now in the National Archives. Recent transfers include files relating to the organization and administration of the NRA; files concerned with the formation, amendment, and administration of codes; and reference and research files.

Among the records recently transferred to the National Archives from the General Land Office are letters received from surveyors general and from registers and receivers of land offices, 1803-1833; correspondence, leases, and other records relating to the War Department's supervision of lead and copper mines on the public domain in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa, 1824-1847; and miscellaneous records of land offices in Arkansas, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana, and Ohio, 1829-1920.

Recent additions to the growing body of agricultural records in the National Archives include the general correspondence files of the Extension Service and of its predecessor agencies, 1907-1933; correspondence of the

divisions of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics dealing with agricultural finance, land economics, farm population and rural welfare, cotton, wool, and hay, feed, and seed, 1926-1931; and correspondence, reports, manuscripts of studies, and other records of the Division of Chemical Engineering Research, 1914-1929.

Among maps recently transferred to the National Archives are seventy-five items relating to the District of Columbia, 1791-1895, including the originals of Nicholas King's wharfing plans, 1797, and of his plats of the city of Washington, 1803; copies of township plats used by the General Land Office in examining mineral land patents, chiefly in the Southwest, 1870-1900; Reclamation Bureau plats showing farm units of irrigation projects in the Far West, 1907-1940; and Tennessee Valley Authority maps showing drainage, cultural features, and place names in the Tennessee River drainage basin, 1934-1940.

Photographic materials recently received by the National Archives include about three thousand negatives of photographs showing construction activities of the Corps of Engineers, 1875-1902, and a collection of forty-nine of the earliest motion-picture "nickelodeon" shows, 1894-1917, a gift of Thomas Armat.

Solon J. Buck, director of publications of the National Archives, is the author of an article entitled "The Living Past" which appeared in *Pennsylvania History*, VIII (January, 1941), 47-58. This article discusses the importance of "documentation," including the preservation and availability of archives, in the evolution of civilization.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

The director reports that the library has received a part of the papers, books, and special collections of the President. The manuscript materials include the papers of Mr. Roosevelt as assistant secretary of the navy, as governor of New York, and as candidate for vice president and president. A few files of the presidential papers have been received. President Roosevelt has placed in the library part of his collection of ship models and books on naval history. Several hundred museum items, consisting of gifts to the President, have also been accessioned. Manuscript materials received from sources other than the President include a collection of the papers of Harry Hopkins.

WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

The Regional Immigration and Naturalization Service Office in Salt Lake City is sponsoring under the Nationwide Research and Records Defense Project a work important to the national defense. The program includes preparation in each state under its jurisdiction of an index of all naturalizations

before September, 1906. The card index will be kept in the Salt Lake City office. The territory includes Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and parts of Nebraska, Idaho, and Nevada.

During the past year more than six tons of official records and manuscript materials have been collected by the Historical Records Survey from the various county offices in some eleven counties in New Mexico and placed in the official depository established by the Historical Society of New Mexico at the state university. These materials are now being assorted and filed.

Blair Flegal, formerly state supervisor of the Historical Records Survey for North Dakota and now state supervisor of the public records project, reports the recent compilation and publication of a *Bibliography of Theses at the University of North Dakota*.

The national office of the Historical Records Survey has received a grant of \$5,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation for the purpose of providing assistance in editing the inventories of public records.

In co-operation with a committee of the American Historical Association and the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, the survey has been collecting information regarding current accessions of manuscripts by depositories throughout the country. The initial response to this effort has been gratifying, and if it continues it is planned to issue an annual volume listing current accessions, both of manuscripts and archives.

During the months of November, December, and January the survey has published inventories of the archives of thirty-five counties, nine towns and municipalities, and sixteen of the federal agencies in the states. In addition, sixteen church directories and archival guides were published, as well as nine guides and calendars relating to manuscripts. Four volumes of the American Imprints Inventory series and seventeen miscellaneous volumes have been published during the period.

A complete bibliography of the Historical Records Survey projects publications as of September 12, 1940, has been issued. This bibliography describes nearly a thousand separate publications. An attempt to meet the increasing demand for these volumes has been made by establishing regional depositories in each state which receive the publications of neighboring states. These regional depositories have been added to those which receive all Historical Records Survey publications.

The manual of instructions for preparing inventories of public records has been published in preliminary form and a final edition is in process of publication. This manual formalizes the four years' experience of the survey in preparing inventories of public records. A similar manual has been issued outlining in detail the procedures for preparing guides to manuscript depositories, guides to manuscript collections, and calendars and lists of a single collection. Although these manuals are of interest to archivists, no arrangements can be made at the present time for their general circulation.

GENERAL NEWS

The New York Historical Society was the host to the members and friends of the Conference of State and Local Historical Societies on December 27, 1940, when the conference held its annual meeting in connection with the American Historical Association. At that session the plan of the policy committee of the conference was adopted. This plan proposed the abolition of the conference, which had been in existence since 1904, and the creation in its stead of the American Association for State and Local History. This change was effected because it was felt that there existed the need for a stronger organization that would include historical societies and agencies in the United States and Canada, and both individual and institutional memberships. C. C. Crittenden, who had served as chairman of the conference for the past two years, was elected to the office of president of the new association. Edward P. Alexander became the vice president and Dorothy C. Barck accepted temporarily the office of secretary-treasurer. Elected to the council were Dorothy C. Barck, George C. Brown, Sargent B. Child, Herbert A. Kellar, Ronald F. Lee, Harlow Lindley, James W. Moffitt, Roy F. Nichols, Jean Stephenson, and S. K. Stevens.

The Council of the American Historical Association has appointed a special Committee on the British Sessional Papers to study the possibilities of copying the House of Commons Reports, 1801 to 1900, for subsequent reproduction and use in this and other countries. It is fortunate for copying purposes that most, if not all, of these reports, which comprise some 4,000,000 pages, can be located in various depositories in the United States. No one institution, however, has a complete set. Edgar L. Erickson is chairman of the committee, which includes Milton R. Gutsch, Frank J. Klingberg, Warner F. Woodring, and C. W. deKiewiet.

The usefulness of microfilm copies has recently been extended by the development of a low-cost reader which has a particular appeal to students. While the cost of films has long been within the means of students, they have heretofore been virtually chained to the readers which only institutions can afford. With the advent of this new reader the advantages of microfilms are more generally available. The instrument, costing at present \$32, is particularly adapted to home use and short runs of films. It will also find extensive use as an auxiliary reader, taking the place of the customary viewers, when the search is limited to matters of reference. An instrument such as this has long been on the "want" list of students and investigators who have discovered the advantages of microfilms. Dr. Vernon D. Tate of the National Archives, with the co-operation of the Spencer Lens Company of Buffalo, New York, was chiefly responsible for the development of the device.

The following changes in personnel have been reported: *Bancroft Library*: Vivienne Caire, on leave of absence for three months, has been replaced by Mrs. Mildred Luna; *Harvard University Archives*: Clifton K. Shipton, custodian, was elected librarian of the American Antiquarian Society which he will fill contemporaneously with his Harvard connection; *Mississippi Department of Archives and History*: William D. McCain, director, has been elected president of the State Library Association and chairman of the State Library Commission of Mississippi; *New York State Education Department*, Division of Archives and History: Hugh M. Flick, senior archivist, has enlisted in the 134th Medical Regiment and is now stationed at Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, North Carolina; *Vermont Historical Society*: Edward A. Hoyt, to be librarian-curator, and Agnes K. Lawson, to be assistant librarian-curator; *Franklin D. Roosevelt Library*: James L. Whitehead, formerly instructor in the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania, to be assistant archivist, and Eleanor McGonagle, formerly head cataloguer in the Tufts College Library, to be junior archivist.

The death of Dr. Joseph Schafer, since 1920 superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, is noted with deep regret. He was an earnest advocate of "increased use of federal, state, and local archives" in the writing of history, and the archivist and student of local history may best pay their tribute to his memory by reading his stimulating articles on "Documenting Local History" (*Wisconsin Magazine of History*, v (1921-1922), 142-159), "The Microscopic Method Applied to History" (*Minnesota History Bulletin*, iv (February-May, 1921), 3-20), and "The Wisconsin Domesday Book" (*Wisconsin Magazine of History*, iv (1920-1921), 61-74).

CALIFORNIA

A number of important acquisitions to the Bancroft Library of the University of California are reported by Director Herbert Ingram Priestley. The Fernández Leal Codex, an original pre-Cortesian manuscript depicting the story of a southern Mexican emigration dating from the fourteenth century, is the gift of W. W. Crocker. This document, valued at \$50,000, is being studied by George Tompkins. Herbert E. Bolton, former director of the library, is preparing for publication another acquisition, an early manuscript copy of the Venegas "Noticia de la California." The records of the Miller and Lux organizations, which were important in shipping, cattle raising, and land enterprises on the Pacific coast have also been acquired. Other acquisitions being given preliminary examination are the records of the Guadalupe Quicksilver Mine, near San Jose, and the Kentfield papers, relating to a shipping firm of San Francisco. Mrs. Inez Mejia has contributed several hundred items of Aztec pottery.

The Bancroft Library has enlarged its space by some 200 square feet of

floor in the Edwards Stadium, which now contains the material of the Panama Pacific Exposition and several hundred journals and ledgers of the San Francisco Wholesale Dairy Produce Exchange.

ILLINOIS

The Archives Division of the Illinois State Library has announced the recent gift by the Board of Supervisors of St. Clair County of the J. Nick Perrin Collection, comprising over five thousand documents relating to the French, British, and American régimes of Cahokia and to early St. Clair County at Belleville, dating from 1737 to 1850. The archives staff has not yet had time to explore the richness of this new accession, yet the collection is well known to historians and several descriptions have been published. In this collection is a volume entitled "Registre des Insinuations des Donations aux Siege des Illinois" which has entries covering the years 1737 to 1769. A translation of the "Registre" is being prepared by Josephine Boylan, district supervisor for a WPA museum project which used the volume in connection with the recent restoration work at Garrison Hill Cemetery.

The following articles by Margaret C. Norton, archivist of the Illinois State Library, are to be noted: "What the State Archives can do for the Business Man," *Chicago Filing Bulletin* (November, 1940); "How State Archives Serve the Public," *Birmingham News Age Herald*, November 10, 1940; "Archives and Libraries" in *Illinois Blue Book, 1939-1940*, 427-443; "The General Assembly and Its Records," *Illinois Libraries*, xxii (January, April, May, June, 1940), 25-29, 17-22, 22-28, 23-28.

MASSACHUSETTS

To Robert W. Lovett the Society is indebted for the information that the Harvard University Archives has acquired the papers of Francis E. Abbot (Harvard, A.B., 1859, and Ph.D., 1881), one-time editor of the *Index* and president of the National Liberal League.

The first edition of *A Pamphlet Prepared for the Information of Officers of Instruction and Administration* was published by the Harvard University Archives early in 1941. Clifford K. Shipton, custodian, is the author of an article, "Gold In Archives," *Harvard Alumni Bulletin*, xliii (January 25, 1941), 469-473. Clarence E. Walton, assistant librarian in the Harvard College Library, gave a course on archives during the winter quarter in the Department of History at Harvard.

MISSISSIPPI

The offices of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History were moved from the new capitol to the recently constructed War Memorial Building on February 10, 1941. The department was originally organized

in the old capitol in 1902 and moved to the new capitol in 1903. Nearly thirty-seven years later the department is again moved back on the grounds of the old capitol into the War Memorial Building. The collections have been in the process of being moved for several months.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Dartmouth College Library, which collects Daniel Webster manuscripts, reports the recent acquisition of twenty unpublished letters of Webster belonging to the period from 1801 to 1818.

OHIO

The Hayes Memorial Library has added to its collection of letters of Rutherford B. Hayes, and also purchased, or received by gift, a number of papers of important figures in the Hayes period, among them being Schuyler Colfax, John Sherman, Benjamin Harrison, O. P. Morton, and B. H. Bristow. A rather unusual accession is the Mary Clemmer Ames correspondence which contains revealing personal letters from Justin S. Morrill, William H. Seward, and Schuyler Colfax.

OKLAHOMA

Recent accessions to the Oklahoma Historical Society include a collection of pictures and relics relating to railroad building in Oklahoma, and the personal files and collections of Judge C. Ross Hume, relating to attempts to form new counties in Oklahoma. The society lent to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City some samples of Choctaw pottery which are being displayed there currently. The state budget officer recently held a meeting of various departmental heads to discuss plans for filming noncurrent state records. The secretary of the society, James W. Moffitt, has made a survey of laws dealing with the acquisition and disposal of county records in the various states. The mezzanine floor in the society's newspaper stack room is being extended in order to take care of the newspapers which are being added to the collection at the rate of some six hundred bound volumes yearly. The collection now totals eighteen hundred bound volumes.

VERMONT

The Vermont Historical Society reports that it has acquired the Dunham-Thompson papers which belong to the years 1824 and 1840 to 1842. This correspondence concerns the condition and history of many of the towns in the state. The Dunham correspondence has never been published. Thompson used his letters, although not fully, in his *Gazetteer of Vermont*, published in 1824, and in his *History*, published in 1842. This collection contains a great amount of valuable material hitherto unpublished on the local history of the state.

VIRGINIA

Lester J. Cappon, consultant in history and archives at the University of Virginia, reports that the manuscript division of the university library has acquired the minute book of Byrd District school trustees board, 1871-1900, Goochland County, Virginia. The minute book is in two volumes.