

SHORTER NOTICES

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The *Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in Illinois*, published by the WPA Historical Records Survey (Chicago. 1940. Pp. 55), is a directory of forty-three agencies that preserve manuscript material in Illinois. One-half of the depositories included are connected with colleges and universities; seven are local historical societies; two are state agencies in Springfield; and the largest is the McCormick Historical Association, which houses over a million items. For each depository concise data is given on its history, accessions policy, and research facilities, followed by a narrative list of its collections or "holdings"; a statement on the extent of their arrangement; and bibliographical references. In addition to "manuscript collections" in the narrow sense, other types of holdings are occasionally described in this *Guide*, such as state archives, business records, transcripts and facsimiles of foreign archives, map collections, and small groups of scrolls, musical scores, illuminated manuscripts, drawings, and photographs. On the other hand the main bodies of federal, county, and church archives in Illinois are excluded (except where archival fragments have migrated into manuscript collections), since these are being handled in separate publications of the HRS.

When this "preliminary edition" is revised, doubtless other depositories will be added, such as the historical societies in Boone, Bureau, Madison, and Woodford Counties; the several enterprising neighborhood historical societies in Chicago; and the College of Commerce at the state university, which is busy collecting business records. When the individual entries are revised, the provenance of the archival groups should be more exactly given and the bibliographical references made more complete. Also the titles of the collections might be more easily read if they were listed in a column rather than in narrative form. The index could also be improved by avoiding vague headings such as "politics" and "Americana" and by consolidating series of headings that refer to the same items, such as "Hilgard" and "Hilgard Letters," and "Yates," "Yates Collection," and "Yates MSS." Finally, since this guide, like those for the other states, will become such a general reference tool for archivists and users of archives, it deserves something better than mimeographing.—MARTIN P. CLAUSSEN

Research Methods in Public Administration (New York. The Ronald Press Company, 1940. Pp. xv, 447) by John M. Pfiffner is primarily intended as a manual for "techniques of applied governmental research which can be taught by the universities," particularly to those students in the first-year cur-

riculum of graduate study in public administration. Chapter x treating of bibliographical methods in studies of governmental agencies has a special interest for the student archivist.

Most archivists charged with the treble responsibility of successful public relations, effective administration, and extensive research will appreciate the author's attempt to strike a balance between the scientific and "horse sense" elements comprising one staff (pp. 208-209). "There will always be places in governmental research for persons whose scholarly inclinations have been smothered by gregarious instincts." The fact that scholarly inclinations even though smothered are presupposed should not be forgotten. The author recognizes, however, that "there are certain hazards in having pronounced extroverts become the administrators of governmental research." While scholarship needs defenders in public life and research needs leaders who are adept at organization, management, public relations, and finance, he who gets too close to the frailties of human nature and who is himself gregariously inclined may tend to adopt a defeatist attitude toward the scientific study of mankind. Having marked ability to judge situations and people, he will then claim to possess "horse sense," the only way of understanding human nature. Such an attitude "is fatal to the scientific spirit as applied to social, economic, and political questions."

The summary description (pp. 213-216) of some of the categories of public records which "constitute the most important source for many studies" in administration can serve as a caution to those who must appraise public records for purposes of accession or destruction. To the author's section (pp. 147-151) on the pros and cons concerning the preservation of work papers by agencies engaged in governmental research can be added the experience in the National Archives where the many uses of the work papers of President Taft's Commission on Economy and Efficiency have been demonstrated. If such papers become burdensome, an archivist might be consulted with profit not only to him and the agency involved but to governmental research in general.—E. J. L.

Examination of the "Tentative Bibliography on the Conservation of Cultural Resources in Times of War" (Washington. The National Archives. Pp. 7. Processed) recently issued shows how little has been published on the highly important question of what records should be selected as meriting costly measures of protection in times of emergency. Let it be hoped that more efforts such as Hilary Jenkinson's "The Choice of Records for Preservation; Some Practical Hints," *Library Association Record*, xli (London, November, 1939), 543-544, will be made to answer this question both for librarians and private manuscript custodians, to whom the "practical hints" are addressed, and for official archivists. Of two basic principles expressed in this paper by Mr. Jenkinson, one is that "the necessary selection of *current office documents* for

final preservation as *Records* should have taken place long before the 'Record' stage is reached." The corollary is that evaluation of various record groups should be part of a normal continuing program and should not wait an emergency. The second noteworthy principle enounced by Mr. Jenkinson is interesting primarily as a brief statement of a general criterion for selection. One should find and preserve, he says, ". . . documents which were in their time the essential ones for office work; and which consequently preserve for us . . . a Record of what the business, or institution, or individual in question was engaged upon when they were made." His remarks were reprinted, along with a statement by the Master of the Rolls, in *Reprints*, No. 8, of the British Records Association, under the title, *The Preservation of Records in Wartime*.—PHILIP C. BROOKS

Twenty-fifth Biennial Report of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives for the Period Ended June 30, 1940. (Des Moines. 1940. Pp. 54.) This report is of particular significance because of the reorganization in 1939 of the former Historical, Memorial, and Art Department of Iowa. As Mr. Ora Williams, the new curator, remarks, "The inclusion of the reference to the archives [in the official name] for the first time indicates a new recognition of the tremendous importance of this very vital part of the general historical work." The fact that it obtained this recognition only after it had actually been the depository of Iowa's public records for thirty-three years may suggest one reason why state archival work should not properly be considered as simply one more of the many functions of a state historical society. Quite aside from the differences in the size, techniques, and even purpose of a state archival establishment as compared with the various divisions of an historical society, there is the practical question of whether or not an independent agency of proven or potential administrative value may not be in a stronger position to obtain the necessary funds to carry on its work. It is to be hoped, however, that another generation will not have passed before Iowa heeds the plaintive plea of its superintendent of archives for greatly needed additional space and personnel.—JESSE S. DOUGLAS

Although written primarily by librarians (contributors include one historian and sixteen librarians), *The Acquisition and Cataloging of Books*, edited by William M. Randall (Chicago. 1940. Pp. x, 408), is of interest to the users and critics of present-day library service as well as to librarians generally. Its aim is to consider the processes of acquiring and preparing library materials for use and whether these processes "have received more consideration and have consumed a greater proportion of the total funds devoted to library purposes than they should." Giving full weight to varying opinions as to the differences between proper archival and library use of these methods, nevertheless the

findings of these specialists supply the archivist with interesting and informative reading.

Although dealing for the most part with printed materials this publication does not ignore archival material. Thus A. F. Kuhlman emphasizes the importance of the HRS work on state and local records, and William W. Bishop points out that librarians "can no longer afford to be ignorant of manuscript and archival library practice." The latter states further that "In ten years there will either be no archival and manuscript problems for us—or we shall have the bulk of European and American materials of this sort in our hands in film copies."

All archivists should be in touch with important movements looking toward the organization and servicing of books and other research materials such as that represented by the movement for the creation of union catalogues. In his paper on "The Union Catalog Idea" it is interesting to note that Arthur B. Berthold gives credit for the inception of this idea to an archivist, Gerard Langbaine, provost of Queen's College, Oxford, and keeper of the university archives, who advanced his proposal in a letter to John Selden dated March 16, 1651.

Aside from special points mentioned above the book discusses the various types and methods of cataloguing and classification, the techniques of micro-filming, the approach of the humanist versus that of the scientist to research materials, the union catalogue movement, and cost accounting as applied to cataloguing methods. A selected reading list of sources is appended.—DORSEY W. HYDE, JR.

The *Madras Record Office, Annual Report for 1939-1940* (Madras. 1940. Pp. 11) is a short, well organized and easily read illustration that problems and methods of archival science have reached a certain degree of welcome uniformity throughout the civilized world. Were it not for the fact that it emanates from a distinguished scholar in India, from its general appearance we could easily take it to be the product of some one of our eminent neighbor archivists. That is not to say that problems and methods peculiar to Madras are not brought to the fore. Indeed they are and they vary sometimes colorfully from our own. For instance when the question of the material to be used for shelves arose, "the final decision was made in favor of teakwood in preference to enamelled steel, zinc plates or asbestos, on account of its superior qualities in preventing friction, condensation and rust, its resistance to insects and its kindliness to records."

The ghost of war stalks in Madras just as it does here at home. The curator reports that six "attenders" were taken away from work of mending volumes which consumes much chiffon and were detailed on flattening work. The reason for the change was to reduce the consumption of chiffon, "the price

of which has risen very high on account of war conditions." This is probably the shape of things to come. It is also interesting to note that "at the outbreak of war in Europe, a flood of urgent requisitions poured in . . . for papers on different subjects dealt with during the last Great European War. . . ."

Two methods of document preservation not mentioned in any way in the report are lamination and microfilming. Flattening of documents, however, would seem to be done on a rather extensive scale. The sections of the report relating to repair and preservation of records as well as those relating to reference work and to publication of old records seem particularly interesting.—CHARLES A. ROCHELEAU

The pamphlet entitled *The Lincoln Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library* (Springfield, 1940. Pp. 21), compiled by Paul M. Angle, is a short guide not only to the "Lincoln collection" itself (primarily an assemblage of autographs), but also to the more valuable research materials on Lincoln in the papers of his contemporaries as well as in newspapers, books, and pamphlets. This pamphlet seems to be written for the amateur "Lincoln fan" rather than for the serious scholar, but it is useful for the archivist as an example of a descriptive report in which the entire holdings of a depository are analyzed in terms of a single research theme.—MARTIN P. CLAUSSEN

The *Biennial Report of the State Department of Archives and History for the Period Ending June 30, 1938 Including a Bibliography of West Virginia in Two Parts* (N.p., n.d., 1940? Pp. xiii, 143, 392. \$2.00 paper bound), compiled by Innis C. Davis and Emily Johnston with the assistance of other members of the staff of the West Virginia Department of Archives and History, is the first comprehensive bibliography of West Virginia to be published.

The compilation is a classified bibliography divided into two parts. The first part is devoted largely to secondary material, including books relating to West Virginia and West Virginians, as well as books written by West Virginians and those printed in West Virginia. The second part is more than twice as long and comprises official publications of the state from 1861 to 1939. The arrangement in this part is by subject or state agency. The entries in the first part are brief, being limited to the name of the author, the title, and the place and date of publication. To this information is added in the second part the name of the publisher and the pagination. Occasional titles are incomplete, particularly for things which were not found in the department. No annotations are employed. The unusual method is followed of placing the table of contents, which is arranged alphabetically rather than according to the order of printing, at the end of the volume. For Part I there is an author index, while for Part II there is a topical index, which is arranged partly according to the order of printing and partly in alphabetical order.

Of particular interest to the readers of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* is the section on "Manuscripts," Part I, pp. 113-120. This lists material in the State Department of Archives and History, including both state and local archives; in the West Virginia University Library; and privately owned. Other archival material preceding and relating to the erection of the state is listed at the beginning of Part II.

This work is a valuable reference tool for persons interested in West Virginia literature.—HENRY P. BEERS

NEWS NOTES

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THE SOCIETY of AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

The Society's committees on emergency activities of archivists have been active in compiling information and in co-operating with other organizations. The work of two of them is dependent in part upon the accomplishments of the Committee on the Conservation of Cultural Resources established by the National Resources Planning Board. This Society is represented in that body by R. D. W. Connor, chairman of its Committee on the Protection of Archives against the Hazards of War. His group and the Committee on Emergency Transfer and Storage of Archives, of which Collas G. Harris is chairman, are co-operating with the larger unit. The Committee on Emergency Transfer and Storage of Archives is also conferring with the Historical Records Survey concerning the possibility of a survey of depositories that would be available in case of emergency.

The Committee on the History and Organization of Government Emergency Agencies, of which Solon J. Buck is chairman, decided at a meeting on March 27 that much of its attention should be devoted to making known and available for use the unpublished sources of information concerning the history and organization of emergency activities during the First World War, with the emphasis on activities that are significant with reference to present problems. The committee hopes to bring about the compilation of a handbook concerning the organization, activities, and records of the federal World War agencies and, in connection therewith, it adopted a resolution urging the archivist of the United States to give as much priority as possible to the work of surveying, accessioning, arranging, and describing the records of such agencies. The committee also adopted a resolution calling attention to the proposal of the Historical Records Survey to undertake to put in order and inventory the records of state and local governmental agencies and semi-public organizations relating to their emergency activities during the World War period and requesting the president of the Society to communicate with custodians of such records and urge their co-operation in the project. The committee will endeavor to promote research by graduate students, teachers, members of local historical societies, and other competent individuals on subjects in its field that are pertinent to the present emergency.

The Committee on the Collection and Preservation of Materials for the History of Emergencies is directing its efforts toward state and local governmental and private emergency organizations in order to spread an understand-

ing of the value of current documents which may in the future be of historical importance. That group, under the direction of Herbert A. Kellar, chairman, is also making a clipping file regarding emergency organizations, and plans to compile a list of such agencies outside the federal government.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The archivist of the United States announces that Roscoe R. Hill, chief of the former Division of Classification since May, 1935, has been appointed chief of the Division of State Department Archives.

Gaston Litton, an assistant archivist in the National Archives, and for some time editor of the news notes in this journal, has accepted the position of librarian of the National University of Panama and is assuming his duties during the present summer session.

Civilian problems during the World War are reflected in such recent accessions of the National Archives as records of the United States Housing Corporation, 1918-1935, of the Shipbuilding Labor Adjustment Board, 1917-1919, and of the War Savings Committee in Kansas City, 1918-1921.

Recent additions to the naval records in the National Archives include correspondence of the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography, 1842-1863; copies of letters sent by the Bureau of Navigation, 1850-1912; correspondence of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, 1891-1912; file copies of printed material originally distributed as confidential information to navy officers and officials, 1903-1936; miscellaneous records of Marine Corps forces in Cuba, 1912, and in China, 1930-1934; and ship files of radio messages received and sent by naval and transport vessels, 1917-1919.

In order to make the material in the National Archives more available for use by scholars and other investigators, a systematic program for the compilation of finding media was recently initiated. The major bodies of archival material are being identified and registered as "record groups," and preliminary checklists covering the various parts of each record group are to be compiled. These checklists will list the series, files, volumes, or other units of material approximately as they are found without waiting for final arrangement; and copies of these checklists will be available in processed form for use within the National Archives. As soon as possible all the checklists for a given record group will be integrated, revised, and issued in processed form for general use as a preliminary inventory; and eventually, after the material has been definitively arranged, this document in turn will be superseded by a final inventory. Other types of finding media, such as calendars, special lists, and indexes, will also be compiled from time to time as the need arises.

An experimental program for the production of edited microcopies of archival material has been undertaken by the National Archives as an outgrowth of its regular photographic services. When orders for microfilms of complete files or series of archival material of general research interest are

filled, a negative is retained as a "file microcopy" in order to avoid the necessity of photographing the same material repeatedly. In preparing such material for reproduction, title pages, tables of contents, introductions, and sometimes lists of documents, calendars, and even indexes are supplied as circumstances make desirable; and the products are called "edited microcopies." Projects of this sort now under way include the letters received by the Michigan Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1819-1835, the correspondence of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1848-1873, and the territorial papers of the State Department relating to Colorado, 1859-1874; and, as soon as they are completed, positive prints of these edited microcopies may be purchased by anyone interested. Others projects will be undertaken in response to the needs of the National Archives or the requests of interested institutions and individuals.

A "Tentative Bibliography on the Conservation of Cultural Resources in Times of War" has been compiled by members of the staff of the National Archives, from which copies may be secured upon request.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Among the recent accessions of the Manuscripts Division of the library are copies of early county archives and church minutes prepared by the Historical Records Survey. Carbon copies of typewritten transcripts made in 1939-1941, in bound form, have been received for the state of Indiana as follows: Daviess County, Commissioners' Record, 1820-1832 (1 vol.); Floyd County, Commissioners' Record, 1818-1824 (1 vol.); Harrison County, Commissioners' Record, 1831-1838 (2 vols.); Jefferson County, Commissioners' Record, 1817-1822 (2 vols.); Johnson County, Board of Justices, 1826-1831, and Commissioners' Record, 1831-1838 (2 vols.); Knox County, Common Pleas Court Minutes, 1796-1799 and 1807-1810 (4 vols.), and Common Pleas and County Business, 1806-1813 (2 vols.); Marion County, Commissioners' Record, 1822-1827 (1 vol.); Posey County, Commissioners' Record, 1817-1820 (1 vol.); Rush County, Commissioners' Record, 1836-1844 (2 vols.); Vanderburgh County, Commissioners' Record, 1818-1831 (2 vols.); Vigo County, Commissioners' Record, 1837-1844 (2 vols.). Similar copies made in 1940-1941 of records of Tennessee, filling twenty-two three-inch box-portfolios, have been received for the following counties: Bledsoe County, Minutes of the Circuit Court, 1834-1841; Carter County, Minutes of Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Vol. 2, 1819-1820; Gibson County, Minutes of County Court, Vol. A, 1824-1828; Greene County, Minutes of Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Vol. 10, 1810-1812, 1815-1816, and Minutes of County Court, 1820-1822; Hamilton County, Minutes of Chancery Court, 1864-1866, Minutes of Chattanooga Baptist Church, 1852-1882, Minutes of Concord Baptist Church, 1848-1872, Minutes of Good Spring Baptist Church, 1838-1876, and Probate Record No. 1 in three parts,

1864-1870; Jefferson County, Minutes of Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1818-1824, in two parts, and Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Book No. 8, 1821-1831, in two parts; Knox County, Minutes of County Court, Books 0, 6-9, 11-12, 1792-1795, 1806-1818, 1820-1824, and Minutes of Superior Court, Vol. C, 1798-1803; Lincoln County, Minutes of Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1810; Madison County, Minutes of County Court, Vol. No. 3, 1828-1833, Parts 1-2, and Vol. No. 4, 1833-1840, Parts 1-2; Monroe County, Minutes of Chancery Court, 1832-1842; Montgomery County, Minutes of County Court, Vol. 2, 1808-1810, Vol. 7, 1816-1817, Vol. 8, 1817-1818, and Vol. 9, 1818-1819; Obion County, Minutes of County Court, No. 1, 1824-1848; Robertson County, Minutes of Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Book 3, 1811-1815, and Minutes of County Court, Vols. 4 and 5, 1815-1820; Rutherford County, Minutes of County Court, Books L, N, O, Q, R, S, T, U, 1817-1827; Shelby County, Probate Court Will Record C-1, 1830-1847; Smith County, Minutes of County Court No. 8, 1819-1820; Union County, Minutes of County Court, Vol. 1, 1854-1858; Washington County, Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1822-1826; Weakley County, Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1835-1846, Parts 1-2; White County, Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1817-1819.

Other materials also received by the Manuscripts Division from the Historical Records Survey include the following items: Mimeographed monthly reports of the Historical Records Survey, Florida, 1938; carbon copy of typescript of accounts of Seth Griffin and Aristachus Griffin of Granby, Connecticut, 1787-1819; typescript of part of a diary of E. E. Johnson of the Indiana Volunteers, 1862; photostat of a speech of Abraham Lincoln, November 10, 1864, and related papers; a compilation of craft names, masters, crew members, marine hospital tax, and cargoes carried on floats and keel-boats down the Mississippi River during one month, May 1-29, 1807; list of miscellaneous broadsides in the Library of Congress; microfilms of minutes of the New York Supreme Court of Judicature, 1704-1776; typescripts of translations of Spanish manuscripts (originals of which are in Spanish archives) made by the North Carolina Historical Records Survey from reproductions in the possession of the North Carolina Historical Commission; photostat of a letter of George Washington, 1783; typewritten copy of a letter of Washington in 1792; and a photograph and typescript copy of a letter of Washington in 1798.

WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

During the months of February, March, and April of this year, the Historical Records Survey projects published inventories of the archives of thirty-four counties, thirteen towns and other municipalities, two state departments, twenty-seven federal agencies, thirteen guides and calendars of manuscripts,

nineteen directories and inventories of church archives, three guides to vital statistics records, and fifteen miscellaneous publications. This brings the total number of Historical Records Survey publications, according to the national headquarters, to 1,273 at the end of April. As this goes to press the total figure has been increased by nearly fifty additional volumes published in the month of May.

George M. McFarland, formerly editorial co-ordinator on the staff of the director of the Historical Records Survey projects, resigned in February, 1941, to accept a position with the Department of the Treasury.

Richard G. Wood, WPA state supervisor of Research and Records Projects for New Hampshire, reports that "old law" naturalization index projects, such as were described in the previous issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, have also been operating in New England. Naturalization certificates in New Hampshire have been found among town records as well as in the county and municipal court houses.

The minute book of an early secret fraternal organization of Ogden, Utah, was recently discovered by Wilbur Dodson, research worker for the Utah Historical Records Survey. Hugh O'Neill, editor of the survey, has sent the volume to the Utah State Historical Society in Salt Lake City for deposit.

GENERAL NEWS

Plans are progressing for the fifth annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists to be held on Monday and Tuesday, October 6 and 7, at Hartford, Connecticut, and for the first annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History to be held in the same city on Wednesday, October 8. Oliver W. Holmes and Edward P. Alexander, who are chairmen of the respective program committees, are co-operating in the development of programs which will interest the members and friends of both organizations. It is hoped that many will come prepared to remain all three days. The annual dinner of the Society of American Archivists, with the president's address, will be held on Monday evening. The corresponding event for the American Association for State and Local History will be on Wednesday night. It is hoped that on Tuesday night a joint session of the two organizations may be held. The purpose of this session will be to discuss the work of historians and archivists during and following the World War, with a view of considering the lessons to be learned therefrom in planning a program for the proper preservation of the history of the present world emergency.

The Federal Records Conference under the auspices of the Society of American Archivists recently held two meetings in Washington, D.C. On the evening of March 19 in the Administration Building of the Department of Agriculture there was a discussion of the subject "Communications Procedure in the Department of Agriculture," illustrated with a slide film and discussed

by John S. Lucas, chief of the communications division in that department. The second session occurred on April 29 in the third floor hearing room of the Federal Trade Commission building. The subject under discussion at that gathering was "Archives in Embryo," which concerned procedures involved in the preparation of government communications. William H. Galbraith, chief of the Mail and Files Section of the Federal Trade Commission, headed the panel which included Robert M. Barnett, director of personnel of the Social Security Administration; Philipp L. Charles, chief of the Mail, File and Docket Section of the Securities Exchange Commission; and J. Stewart Wilson, office manager of the Rural Electrification Administration.

The American Association for State and Local History held a joint round table discussion with the American Association of Museums at the latter's annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on May 15. Edward P. Alexander, of the New York Historical Association, presided at the meeting which analyzed factors "Helping the Small History Museum." Eugene D. Rigney, of the Ross County (Ohio) Historical Society, Walter K. Long, of the Cayuga Museum of History and Art of New York, and John Riply Forbes, of the Kansas City Museum, approached the subject from the point of view of the need of the museum. The help available was discussed by William D. Overman, of the Ohio State Museum, Ronald F. Lee, of the National Park Service office in Washington, and Benjamin Knotts, of the WPA Art Program.

The appointment of David C. Duniway, of the staff of the National Archives and member of the Society of American Archivists, to become secretary-treasurer of the American Association for State and Local History has been announced by C. C. Crittenden, president. Mr. Duniway will succeed Miss Dorothy C. Barck, of the New York Historical Society, who had consented to serve temporarily after the reorganization of the association in December, 1940.

At a meeting of the council of the American Association for State and Local History at Washington, D.C., June 8, 1941, C. C. Crittenden, president of the association, was elected editor of its publications. Dr. Crittenden will personally edit the bulletin series which is to be inaugurated in the near future. Bess Glenn of the National Archives, formerly of the South Carolina Room of the library of the University of South Carolina, was appointed editor of the news letter which the association is to publish. S. C. Stevens, director of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, is in the process of editing a new edition of the *Handbook of Historical Societies* previously published by the Conference of Historical Societies. New applicants were elected to membership sufficient to bring the enrollment of the association to more than 175 individual and more than eighty institutional members.

Emilio Rodriguez Demorizi, recently-named director of the National Archives of the Dominican Republic, visited the United States during the months of January and February. Señor Rodriguez, a prominent lawyer and historian, is secretary of the National Academy of History of the Dominican Republic. While in the United States he spent much time in Washington conferring with officials of the National Archives and the Library of Congress.

Legislation affecting archives and archival establishments has been reported for a number of states since the April issue of this journal. *Iowa*: Ora Williams, curator of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, has called attention to the passage of a bill by the Iowa legislature to systematize and make more effective the method of transferring records from the state departments to the archival depository. *Maryland*: Two bills were passed during the 1941 session, according to archivist Morris L. Radoff. One permits the destruction of old records in any of the state offices, if they have been refused by the Hall of Records and if permission is granted by the Board of Public Works. The other law permits the government records to be photostated, where copies are necessary. *New Jersey*: The Public Record Office by law has been transferred to the state library. *North Dakota*: The state legislative assembly, declaring that the vaults of the county auditors were inadequate to care for the current records, gave approval on March 17 to a law providing for the destruction of certain old records "by burning" after they are ten years old. *Minnesota*: The state legislature approved on April 28 an act "pertaining to the production, custody, care, preservation, and disposal of public records," which amended earlier legislation.

News has been received of the intention of Max Farrand to retire on June 30 as director of the Henry E. Huntington Library.

The advisory committee of the Wisconsin State Historical Society has announced the selection of Edward P. Alexander, of Cooperstown, New York, to fill the superintendency vacated by the death on January 27 of Joseph Schafer. Mr. Alexander has been director of the New York State Historical Association since 1934. It is expected that he will enter upon his new duties in Madison on the first of next October.

This journal notes with deep sorrow and regret the recent passing of Worthington Chauncey Ford, editor of note, former chief of the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress, and for many years secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

A committee of the Auditors' Section of the District of Columbia Bankers Association has been at work for several years in an endeavor to work out a

uniform schedule for the destruction of records for banking institutions of the district. Oliver W. Holmes, chief of the Division of Interior Department archives of the National Archives, addressed the section at a dinner on May 8 on the subject of "The Old Records of Business; Some Thoughts on What Should be Preserved and What Destroyed."

ARIZONA

Mulford Winsor, who is director of the Department of Library and Archives for the state of Arizona, reports the transfer to that agency of a substantial quantity of noncurrent records of Maricopa County.

KANSAS

The personal papers of Chester I. Long, United States senator from Kansas from 1903 to 1909 and president of the American Bar Association during 1925 and 1926, have lately been acquired by the Kansas Historical Society. This important acquisition includes approximately 28,000 items and contains correspondence, copies of speeches, scrapbooks and miscellaneous papers covering the period from 1889 to 1917.

MARYLAND

The archivist of Maryland reports the publication of his fifth annual report, covering the fiscal year which began in October, 1939. This is the first of the archivist's annual reports to be printed and distributed. A "Preliminary Guide to the Materials in the Hall of Records" is now being prepared for possible distribution about November 1. Among the new acquisitions of the Maryland Hall of Records are files of the clerk of the circuit court for Frederick County (with the exception of certain early land records) and the papers of James Thomas, governor of the state from 1833 to 1835.

MICHIGAN

The William L. Clements Library has increased its holdings of British manuscripts affecting American history by acquiring the papers of Henry Goulburn on the negotiation of the Treaty of Ghent. This collection numbers over two hundred letters and documents, consisting of correspondence between the British commissioners and their home government, and between the American and British delegates. There is also included a signed and sealed copy of the Treaty of Ghent in the handwriting of Henry Clay, one of the American commissioners. It appears that Goulburn, one of the British delegates, took charge of the papers of the British treaty commission upon the termination of its labors, and added them to his personal library.

A "Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the William L. Clements Library," by Howard H. Peckham, is to be published by the University of

Michigan Press late this summer. It is to contain a description of each important collection, listing the names of the writers of the letters, with a general index.

The University of Michigan Historical Collections in Ann Arbor, according to a report from Director Lewis G. VanderVelde, has acquired during the past quarter a number of significant private collections of manuscripts. Among these are the following: the papers of General John Gibson Parkhurst, minister to Belgium, from 1888 to 1889, and long an active leader in the Democratic party in Michigan; the first installment of a body of papers relating to Joseph W. Fordney, member of the House of Representatives from 1899 to 1923, and joint author of the Fordney-McCumber tariff; the papers of Lucius L. Hubbard, state geologist, regent of the university, and a participant in the copper mining industry in the state from 1899 to 1933. Important additions have been made to the collections of records of local chapters of fraternities and sororities. Inactive materials of the departments of English and physics of the university have also been transferred to the Michigan Historical Collections. Agreements have also been made by the collections with the state organizations of three religious denominations—the Baptist, Congregational, and Presbyterian—to care for their inactive records. Under this program, which makes the materials available to interested students without impairing the church's condition of ownership, a steady stream of church history materials of various sorts is finding its way into the Michigan Historical Collections.

MISSISSIPPI

William D. McCain, director of the state Department of Archives and History, reports the acquisition of private papers of a number of individuals and incomplete records of several business firms, to the extent of some 2,000 loose items and over fifty volumes.

NEW JERSEY

The new law of the state legislature transferring the Public Record Office to the state library appoints the state librarian as director of the office without salary. The present state librarian, Haddon Ivins, has designated George J. Miller as assistant director. As soon as suitable equipment is available, the Public Record Office will be moved to the state library.

NEW YORK

Miss Dorothy C. Barck reports that the New York Historical Society is compiling a list of its manuscript collections, which is to be published in 1941.

NORTH CAROLINA

The membership of the state historical commission has been increased from five to seven members by action of the state legislature. The members serve

without pay for overlapping six-year terms. C. C. Crittenden, secretary of the commission, addressed the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies at its recent annual meeting in Harrisburg, on the subject "History for the People."

OKLAHOMA

The annual meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society was held at Lawton on May 12-13. Meetings were conducted at Cameron College, at the Fort Sill Indian Boarding School, and in the historic old chapel at Fort Sill. The members and friends heard addresses by Edward Everett Dale of the University of Oklahoma; Grant Foreman, of Muskogee; and Governor Leon C. Phillips. A tour of the fort and of other historic sites concluded the sessions.

Miss Mary Thoburn has presented to the society a collection of manuscripts belonging to her father, the late Joseph B. Thoburn. Doctor Thoburn, a former secretary of the society, was at the time of his death the society's curator of the Union Memorial Room. Of especial interest among the papers of this collection are documents dealing with the Boomer Movement and David L. Payne, who worked for the opening of the unassigned lands to settlement.

The society has also acquired a collection of fourteen volumes of newspaper clippings dealing principally with the administrations of former governors of Oklahoma. The donor is Renell Haskell, former secretary of the state bar association.

Through the efforts and encouragement of James W. Moffitt, secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society, rapid strides are being made in the formation of groups interested in local history in the state. Since the April issue of this journal, a county historical society has been formed at Medford, to be known as the Grant County Historical Society. A similar organization has been formed at Ada for Pontotoc County, with Professor G. M. Harrel of East Central State College as president. This group is co-operating with the public library of Ada. Preliminary plans have been perfected for the organization of a society for Creek County, for which purpose a meeting is scheduled to take place at Bristow in June. These organizations have as their major objective the building up of collections of manuscripts and other historical works dealing with their respective counties.

At a meeting of the Oklahoma Education Association on February 7 the history section was revived, with the election of the following officers: president, T. M. Ballenger of Northeastern State Teachers College; vice president, James D. Morrison of Eastern Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College; secretary, James W. Moffitt, Oklahoma Historical Society.

TENNESSEE

The state library of Tennessee, according to Mrs. John Trotwood Moore, who is the librarian and archivist, has secured the historical and genealogical papers of the late W. A. Provine, who was curator of the Tennessee Historical

Society at the time of his death. This collection includes many materials on state history: biographical sketches of Tennessee leaders; early church and school data; old maps, pictures, pamphlets, and books; and folders of original papers of Colonel Joseph Brown, and of the Ewing family of Tennessee.

WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. Bess Harrison has been appointed state historian and archivist of West Virginia.