

The International Scene: News and Abstracts

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ECARBICA. The Fourth General Conference of East and Central African Regional Branch of the ICA (ECARBICA), held in Malawi on April 5-9, 1976, passed a series of recommendations concerning migrated archives: (1) that it is important for these records to be recovered; (2) that archival institutions requiring such records prepare lists, using appropriate guides and finding aids; (3) that acting on this information the Executive Board of ECARBICA initiate a program for the retrieval or copying of such records; and (4) that ECARBICA approach UNESCO for financial assistance for such a program. The conference also recommended that heads of archival institutions urge their respective governments to consider means of supporting the Regional Training Centre for Archivists in Ghana when UNESCO/UNDP responsibility ceases.

FID Congress. The International Federation for Documentation (FID) held its thirty-eighth world congress in Mexico City from September 27 to October 1, 1976. Some 700 persons from 36 countries and more than 14 international organizations attended this congress, whose theme was "information and development." One aspect agreed upon by the General Assembly was a new approach to program development, seeking a greater utilization of the existing committee structure and providing a greater flexibility in tackling specific projects. Committee chairmen have thus been asked to reconsider their respective program activities in terms of projects, and a project is any separately identifiable piece of work which can stand by itself as an element of the total ongoing FID program. The important features of such projects are stated objectives, methods, a number of named participants, and a completion date. It is thought that by defining projects in this manner it will greatly help focus FID attention on topics of immediate concern to its membership and also facilitate interdisciplinary studies, cooperation between FID and other organizations, and a higher degree of regional activity. The General Assembly also expressed hope that project teams might take up topics of particular relevance to future FID congresses. The idea of projects, it is believed, will allow existing committees to undertake topics which do not easily fall within their purviews.

Latin America. UNESCO organized a regional meeting of experts for the development of national archives in Latin America at Bogota, Columbia, from March 29 to April 2, 1976. Participants included experts from seventeen Latin American countries, and observers from ICA, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Archives Committee of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), and regional and national organizations of documentalists, librarians, and archivists. The purpose of the meeting was to plan and evaluate the establishment and development of national archives systems in Latin American countries, adapted to the needs of national administrative structures within the framework of NATIS. The importance of the Bogota meeting lies in the fact that this was the first time UNESCO had convened in Latin America a regional meeting dealing with the planning of archives.

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As a basis for discussion, UNESCO had prepared a working paper which considered the current state of archival development in the region, action to be taken for the modernization of archives services and techniques, and the setting up of a national archives systems designed to provide more efficient services to users. Discussions ranged from considerations involving basic archival legislation and regulations to user education programs and public relations for archival agencies. Particular attention was given to the need to establish records management programs to serve the current administrative requirements of national governments, a measure which in the past had not been given a priority in Latin American archives.

From the Bogota meeting emerged several recommendations: (1) establishment of national archival and records management systems within the NATIS framework in each country of the region; (2) closer cooperation and coordination, whenever possible utilizing the Latin American Association of Archives, of archival activities in the region of UNESCO, OAS, PAIGH, ICA, and others; and (3) publication of necessary microfilming norms and requirements so that commercial firms respect the minimum specifications of archival quality. Maintaining that documents constitute irreplaceable sources of information which should be protected by law, and that countries have a right to keep for themselves as a national and cultural inheritance documents which originated in their own territories, the meeting supported UNESCO action concerning the transfer of archives to protect the integrity of this inheritance. Furthermore, the meeting held that "substitution of microfilming" for original documents is in itself unacceptable, and that legislation be enacted to prohibit the destruction of the originals without prior authorization from competent archives authorities.

Southeast Asia. The Third Conference of Southeast Asian Libraries (CONSAL) was held in Jakarta, December 1-5, 1975, and attended by some 200 participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. The theme of the conference was "Integrated library and documentation services within the framework of NATIS." On the first day of the conference there was a joint session of CONSAL III and of the third General Conference of the Southeast Asian Regional Branch of ICA (SARBICA) during which the participants discussed microfilm services in the Southeast Asian region. The primary purpose of the joint meeting was to demonstrate to policy makers in Southeast Asia that in the development of a national information system (NATIS), the library, documentation, and archives programs should be integrated.

At the third General Conference of SARBICA, the provisional application for membership of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma was unanimously approved. This brings to nine the number of member countries.

SARBICA-CONSAL Regional Microfilming Clearing-house has published in issue number 8 of the *Southeast Asia Microfilm Newsletter* (June 1976) the first part of a checklist of Southeast Asian official gazettes. This list pertains only to the members of ASEAN—the Association of South-East Asian Nations: Indonesia, Malaysia (Peninsula), Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore, Philippines, and Thailand. A list of gazettes from Indochinese and other Southeast Asian countries will appear in the next issue of the newsletter. The main article in this issue of the newsletter describes the extensive and diverse South East Asia holdings in the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books, of the British Library, London, with special reference to microfilming projects.

The Indochina Resource Center at Berkeley has microfilmed eight Saigon newspapers for research purposes. These newspapers provide a source of documentation presenting special insight into the early days of Saigon under its new government. For further information write to the Center, P.O. Box 400D, Berkeley, California 94704.

UNESCO. In accordance with a resolution adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its eighteenth session, the Department of Documentation, Libraries and Archives, in cooperation with ICA, held a consultation meeting on the transfer of archives on March 16–18, 1976, in Paris. After defining archives, right of access, and ownership, the consultation meeting's report recommended that bilateral or multilateral archival agreements should be formulated between the countries concerned, based upon the principle of provenance and the principles of territorial relevance. In certain cases the accepted distinction between archives of political sovereignty and those derived from administrative management can provide a basis for the solution of archival claims. As far as a settlement procedure is concerned, the consultation group suggested that after taking a preliminary decision at the political level regarding the opening of negotiations, archives authorities concerned should be directed to examine the problem in depth and take appropriate action, such as the identification of records to be transferred in the original and those of which copies should be provided. Also examined should be proposals for any financial settlement involved in the transfer and for access conditions. The consultation group also prepared a draft of a resolution to be submitted to the nineteenth session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

U.S.-Soviet Project. In a precedent-setting collaboration, a joint Soviet and American editorial board is preparing a documentary publication on the formative period of Russian-American political, economic, and cultural relations. The proposed title of this unusual documentary is the *Development of Russian-American Relations, 1765–1815*, and both Russian and American editions are planned. Publication is tentatively scheduled for early 1979. This unique project, which is viewed as a significant step in closer cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union regarding archival matters, evolved out of contacts between the National Archives and Records Service and the Main Archival Administration of the USSR. Selected records of significance will be drawn from the archives and other repositories of both countries, with documents annotated by Soviet and American scholars. Since the initial contact, the State Department and the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies of the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars have joined NARS on the American side of the project.

CANADA. The **Public Archives of Canada (PAC)** has published the first 212 finding aids in its "Finding Aids on Microfiche" project. The project aims to publish all finding aids of the manuscript and public records divisions by filming all new inventories of collections as they appear and existing ones as they are revised. Although PAC intends to sell the microfiche mainly on a subscription basis (\$98 for series I and II and approximately \$50 per year thereafter), researchers can purchase individual finding aids for fifty cents per fiche on a minimum order of \$4. Further inquiries should be directed to: Finding Aids on Microfiche, Manuscript Division, PAC, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3.

At a special ceremony in October 1976 the PAC acquired the records (1904–76) of

the Media Club of Canada, formerly known as the Canadian Women's Press Club. Papers in this collection are, however, restricted until June 1979.

The **Queen's University Archives**, Kingston, Ontario, recently acquired the records (ca. 1972-76) of Le Comité Organisateur des Jeux Olympiques de 1976 and the records (ca. 1961-76) of the *Queen's Quarterly*. Recent acquisitions of literary manuscripts include the papers (ca. 1939-73) of Dorothy Dumbville, the papers (1959-71) of Reginald Eyre Watters, and additions (ca. 1970-76) to the papers of Ralph Gustafson. Other accessions are additions (ca. 1800-1951) to the Jones family papers, additions (ca. 1830-71) to the Wells family papers, and additions (ca. 1922-60) to the Herbert Alexander Bruce papers. The Jones and Wells families were loyalists from Augusta Township, Ontario. The John J. Deutsch papers are now available for research after four months of work by three full-time staff members. A 150-page inventory of these papers is also now available to researchers.

Anne Stalker MacDermaid, acting archivist since June 1976 when Ian Wilson resigned to become provincial archivist for Saskatchewan, has been appointed for a five-year term as university archivist, effective immediately.

In addition to university administrative records, the **McGill University Archives** has received the papers of affiliated organizations and individuals as well as local church and business records. Among recent accessions are the following: records and pictures (1872-1956) from the High School of Montreal; student notebooks (1869-72) of George Mercer Dawson; correspondence and papers (1870s and 1880s) of T. Sterry Hunt; papers and research notes (1930-75) of Orville F. Denstedt; diary (1845-46) of William Logan; scrapbook (1862-91) of George Fenwick; correspondence and other records (1873-1933) of George E. Armstrong; reports and other related materials (1867-68, 1880-81) of G.P. Girdwood on forensic medicine; papers (1895-1973) of the McGill Students Society; ecclesiastical archives (1778-present) of the United Church of Canada, Ottawa-Montreal Conference; ecclesiastical archives (1819-1934) of the Erskine and American United Church; business records (1833-1904) of Lyman Ltd., Montreal, drug suppliers. Additions have also been made to previous holdings of the records of the Montreal General Hospital, McGill Medical Faculty, *Family Herald*, Royal Victoria College, and Montreal Ladies Educational Association.

The History of McGill Project at the university has produced a computerized subject listing of the papers of Sir John William Dawson (1820-99), a prominent educator and naturalist. This subject listing will greatly facilitate the work of researchers in the field of the history of the university, education, and science. In addition, it has been designed to serve other subject interests ranging from the development of Montreal and the implications of confederation upon English rights in Quebec to the spread of railways and the evolution of nineteenth-century social life. Researchers may consult a copy of the index at the McGill University Archives, and a complementary chronological listing of the Dawson papers is also available. The History of McGill Project plans to produce in the near future an author-recipient listing to the Dawson letters. For further information write to McGill University Archives, 3459 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec H3A 1Y1.

Recent acquisitions at the **York University Archives**, Downview, Ontario, include five reels of microfilm of annual reports and minutes (1847-1928) of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Works Committee of the Consumers' Gas Company, Toronto; and business correspondence, financial papers, galleys, production materials, manuscripts, and correspondence of contributors (1971-76) of the *Northern Journey*, a literary magazine established in 1971 in Ottawa by Terry MacCormack and Fraser Sutherland.

The **University of Waterloo Library**, Doris Lewis Rare Book Room, has added to its archival holdings two collections of interest to local historians. The first of these collections consists of the ledgers and day-books (1843-91) of Robert Forbes, a merchant and owner of woolen mills in Hespeler and vicinity. The second collection, also from the Hespeler area, consists of a group of papers of the Jardine family covering the period from 1795 to 1927.

In 1973 the library accessioned the papers of Elizabeth Smith Shortt, who was one of the first three women to graduate in medicine in Canada. This collection contains correspondence, manuscripts, personal documents, diaries, and family photographs covering the period from 1872 to 1970. Also included in the Shortt collection are the papers of her daughters, Lorraine Shortt and Muriel Shortt Clarke.

The National Council of Women of Canada in 1967 presented to the university the Lady Aberdeen Library on the History of Women. This unique library contained papers and manuscripts relating to Canadian women such as Lady Ishbel Aberdeen; Martha Louise Black, a member of the House of Commons and author of *My Seventy Years*; and Annie Hewlett, artist and broadcaster. Since the university acquired this special collection, a number of small collections have been added to the library's holdings. Some of these include materials on Emily Murphy and the "Persons" case; Dorothea Palmer's trial on the charge of distributing birth control information; and the papers of Elaine M. Catley. Larger groups of papers added include those of Claire Wallace, first woman to broadcast nationally over the CBC; Elizabeth Long, first supervisor of women's interests at the CBC; and Isabel Eccleston McKay, first president of the Canadian Women's Press Club.

Recent accessions to the manuscript holdings of the **Provincial Archives of Manitoba** include extensive additions to both the public and personal papers of former Lieutenant-Governors James Cox Aikins, James Albert Manning Aikins, and John Stewart McDiarmid. Additions were also made to the papers of Joseph Dubuc, Lloyd Stenson, and E. Gurney Evans. The provincial archives also acquired minute books, correspondence, membership lists, reports, and clippings (1910-73) of the Searchlight Book Club; records (1902-70) of the Junior Musical Club; records (1971-73) of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg; and records (1902-76) of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada, Winnipeg Branch.

The holdings of business records were augmented with the receipt of financial records of the former Despatch Taxi and Garage Company; minute books, ledgers, and wholesale dry goods catalogs of Gaults Limited; and financial statements and directors reports of the Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited.

The Western Canada Aviation Museum, Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada, Manitoba Lacrosse Association, and *Winnipeg Free Press* made significant additions to their collections of photographs and negatives. Rules and regulations concerning the use of and access to the collections of the provincial archives and the Hudson's Bay Company have been published.

Yukon Archives and Records Services. The Executive Committee (Cabinet) of the Yukon Territory has announced the transfer of the records management program from the department of the territorial secretary to the territorial archivist, effective April 1, 1977. The transfer is an attempt to improve direction and coordination in the records management and archives programs, and involves a total of seventeen records management personnel including the records administrator and all records clerks. As a result of this decision, the territorial government will have a totally integrated records management and archives program to control records from creation through disposition.

City of Toronto Archives. Recent acquisitions of the municipal archives include the papers (1970–75) of the Confederation of Resident and Ratepayer Associations; records (1973–76) of the Mayor's Task Force on the Status of Women; papers and working files of several city aldermen; and scrapbooks of William P. Hubbard (1842–1935). The aldermanic accessions include the papers of Dorothy Thomas, Dan Heap, Colin Vaughan, William Kilbourn, and John Sewell additions. These records are generally available for research with the permission of the respective aldermen. The Hubbard scrapbooks provide an unusual insight into the lengthy career of the city's most prominent Black politician.

The Metropolitan Toronto Central Library will move this summer from its current location at College and St. George streets to new facilities at 789 Yonge Street. All departments will be thus closed for approximately six weeks during the move. For this reason, therefore, anyone planning to visit the library for research purposes during the months of July and August is advised to write to the library for the exact dates of closing and opening. The new building is scheduled to be opened officially to the public on September 15, 1977.

City of Victoria Archives. On August 10, 1976, the city archivist proposed to the City Council that it "consider the formation of a society to take over its archives department to allow it to qualify for government and foundation grants." Because of the unsatisfactory situation with the archives department, the Association of British Columbia Archivists also joined in the movement to improve the archives. It sent a brief to the Municipal Council in which it stressed the need for "provision of a trained and experienced person or persons to direct the archival services of the City" and "for the archives to have a firm foundation in a proper building and with its other needs of staff and financial support met." As a result, the City Council approved in December 1976 the formation of the Greater Victoria Archives Society, and the mayor has promised to find a suitable location for the storage of archival documents.

During the second half of 1976 the **Archives Nationales du Québec** acquired the civil records (1800–75) from La Malbaie and Rivière du Loup. These records consist of *minutiers* of notaries and surveyors as well as baptismal, marriage, and burial registers.

Archives de la Ville de Québec. From the Quebec City "Cours municipale" the city archives has received 201 registers, dated from 1843 to 1929, of the *Cour du recorder*. In addition, the archives has published *l'Etat sommaire des Archives de la Ville de Québec* by Murielle Doyle-Frenière and is available upon request. Inquiries should be directed to: Archives de la Ville de Québec, Hôtel de Ville, Québec, Québec G1R 4S9.

One of the more interesting collections in the archives of **le Séminaire de Québec** is the records of Mme. Charles Frémont, who served for many years in the feminist movement at both the national and international level. The Frémont papers were acquired by the seminary following Mme. Frémont's death in 1963, but have only been recently arranged and made accessible to researchers.

The **Université de Montréal** has purchased the papers of the Bégon family, who served in the French maritime and colonial administration during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. A large percentage of the documents concern the private lives and activities of various family members who made their careers in Canada. The archives, which is in the process of organizing, microfilming, and describing these materials, hopes to make the Bégon papers available to researchers as soon as possible.

During 1976 the Division des Archives of **Université Laval** acquired the records (1919-1976) of the Alliance des professeurs de Montréal. These records constitute a valuable source of information on the beginnings of organized labor in the field of education. The collection arrived at the university archives shortly after a serious fire had destroyed a large part of the alliance headquarters. For this reason, therefore, the alliance records may not be available to researchers for some months to come.

One of the more interesting collections at **Université de Moncton**, New Brunswick, which has been recently arranged, are the papers of René Baudry, who served as the Public Archives of Canada representative in France between 1959 and 1972. The Baudry papers contain correspondence and notes on numerous personalities and on such subjects as Acadia, general Canadian history, and bilingualism and biculturalism.

Another source likely to interest those studying education in New Brunswick is the records (1947-69) of the Association des Instituteurs Acadiens. These records consist of minutes, memorandums, financial records, correspondence, and lists of Acadian teachers.

The **Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA)** has announced the publication of a *Directory of Canadian Records and Manuscript Repositories*. This directory lists approximately 300 Canadian archives, libraries, historical societies, and museums holding records and manuscripts, and includes such useful information as addresses, telephone numbers, names of repository heads, times of operation, and a brief description of the nature of the holdings. The directory is available for a charge of \$4.00 for nonmembers and \$3.00 for ACA members, from Valerie Cowan, ACA Treasurer, 24 Edward Laurie Dr., Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 2C7.

A copy of the constitution and by-laws of the ACA as approved on June 3, 1975, and amended in 1976 is printed in *Archives Bulletin* (vol. 1, no. 5, December 1976).

The **Association des Archivistes du Québec** sponsored in October 1976 an "Archives Day" throughout the various regions of the province. One positive result of this initiative has been a decision by the authorities at the Université du Québec à Rimouski to grant a sum of \$10,000 to a committee to study the possibility of establishing an archives depot in the Rimouski area.

ABSTRACTS

Argentina. [GEORGE S. ULIBARRI, National Archives and Records Service, and DONALD L. KING, Washington, D.C.] *Boletín Interamericano de Archivos*, volume 1 (1974). This is the first issue of a new Latin American archives journal to be published annually by the Interamerican Center for Training Archivists in the School for Archivists at the National University of Cordoba under the joint sponsorship of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). Aurelio Tanodi, one of the leading archivists in Latin America, is director of the Interamerican Center and also edits this journal.

Latin American archivists have been keenly aware of the need for a regional archives journal, and several attempts have been made to produce such a publication. In 1950, during the first meeting of the PAIGH Committee on Archives, publication of a regional archives journal was recommended. It was not, however, until 1958 that a publication entitled *Boletín del Comité de Archivos* appeared in Havana, which was at that time the headquarters for the PAIGH committee. Only four issues of the *Boletín* were published before it was indefinitely suspended. In an attempt to fill the void created by the suspension the Interamerican Technical

Council on Archives, established by the First Interamerican Archival Seminar at its 1961 meeting in Washington, D.C., published a brief newsletter between 1962 and 1964. The current journal originates from a recommendation made by the OAS Interamerican Council for Education, Science, and Culture at its 1972 Washington, D.C., technical meeting on the development of archives. In support of this recommendation to publish an archives journal to serve primarily the needs of Latin American archivists, the OAS provided the necessary funds and the Interamerican Center for Training Archivists and the School for Archivists at the National University of Cordoba proceeded to publish the new *Boletín*. According to the editor, the journal will cover a wide range of archival subjects of interest to Latin American archivists.

In an effort to provide a sense of continuity with the earlier publications, a large part of the first issue is devoted to summarization of the proceedings of various inter-American archival meetings held during the past decade. Other articles include: a description of the archival program of the OAS (pp. 11-14); recommendations for a program of inter-American archival practices (pp. 15-26); a report on the technical and economic assistance given by the OAS in 1973 to the national archives of Peru, Colombia, and Panama (pp. 27-29); and a report on the multinational seminar on planning and reorganization of national archives, held in Lima, Peru, in 1973 (pp. 30-38). Aurelio Tanodi discusses the question of archives in developing countries (pp. 74-82); Julio César Gonzalez describes the founding of the General Archives of the Province of Buenos Aires in 1821 (pp. 145-50); and Zulema Carracedo Bosch de Prieto writes about Argentina's Archivo General de la Nación (pp. 151-60). There are also special sections pertaining to personal notes; archives notes from Spain; a bibliography; and a directory of major archival institutions, repositories, inter-American organizations, and journals.

Boletín Interamericano de Archivos, vol. 2 (1975). The theme of this issue deals with the quality of archival instruction in Latin American, and Aurelio Tanodi provides (pp. 7-23) some general thoughts on this important topic. Archival training programs in Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, El Salvador, Brazil, Argentina, and several other Latin American countries are also examined. Other articles include descriptions of the National Archives of Brazil (pp. 151-59), the National Archives of Honduras (pp. 161-64), the General Archives of Puerto Rico (pp. 165-70), and the Archivo General de la Nación of Uruguay (pp. 171-73). In addition to these, there are the usual reports concerning the proceedings of various inter-American archival meetings held during 1974; reproductions of laws, regulations, and decrees pertaining to Latin American archives; bibliography; and archives notes from Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Spain, and Italy. The directory in this issue pertains to the various archival repositories in Brazil and Peru.

France. [PAUL V. GUITÉ, National Archives and Records Service] *La Gazette des Archives*, n.s., no. 93 (1976). In the main article in this issue, Michel Duchéin, chief curator of the French archives, and Jacques Charpy, chief curator of the Bretagne archives, describe (pp. 89-103) their impressions of a visit during June 1976 to archival establishments in Moscow, Tiflis, and Kiev. Although these two French archivists admit that such a brief tour does not allow them to undertake an in-depth study of the Soviet archives structure, they do present a general outline of the organizational framework of the archives in the Soviet Union. In their article Duchéin and Charpy stress the high position which the general administrator of archives occupies under the control of the Council of Ministers. Since the position is far from

being a merely marginal entity in the state apparatus, the general administrator in Moscow and the corresponding archivist in the Soviet republics play an active role in the administrative machinery of the state and, according to law, do participate in the socialist management of the economy. Both French archivists found that, although there is less importance given to the historical aspect of research, the use of Soviet archives is generally geared to practical utilization. As Duchein and Charpy see it, there is a need for a fuller study of the complex question of records management in the USSR and of the relationship between state archives and "administrative" archives. They conclude, however, that the French and Soviet archives systems are neither transposable nor comparable, but that Soviet experiences and realizations do offer sufficient material for further reflection.

Elisabeth Rabut, curator at the Archives Nationales, provides (pp. 105-13) a French translation of Filippo Valenti's critique of *Manuel d'archivistique*, which originally appeared in *Rassegna degli Archivi di Stato* (vol. 33, 1973). Valenti, who is director of the State Archives at Modena, states that the French manual fell far short of his earlier expectations. The Italian archivist had hoped to find that the manual would provide deeper and more penetrating thought, more lively topics for constructive debate, and more solid contributions to archival problems on the international level, but instead he found it to be merely a report of the situation in the French archives. Despite this disappointment, he did find considerable merit in some of the chapters, such as that on archives. Valenti also included at the end of his critique a short bibliography on Italian archival economy.

La Gazette des Archives, n.s., no. 94 (1976). The first of the two major articles in this issue pertains to the use of hospital records in the writing of quantitative history. Gabriel Désert of the Research Center for Quantitative History, University of Caen, states (pp. 145-64) that the documentary mass of hospital records, a very rich source of data, has been too long neglected by researchers. According to Désert, this documentation can and should become a valuable source for historical writing, if only the historian can view these records with a fresh outlook. To illustrate his hypothesis regarding the value of information taken from hospital records, Désert uses examples taken from research in the archives of the département of Calvados. Statistical graphs provide an extra dimension to the quantitative data presented in this study.

In the second article, which is on Spanish archival traditions and recent realizations, Anne Pérotin-Dumon, director of services at the Archives of Lot, points out (pp. 165-84) that the Spaniards have made remarkable progress in reorganization of their archives system during the past sixteen years. Major restructuring of the entire system became imperative following the aftermath of the bitter and devastating civil war (1936-39). In the subsequent years, Spanish archivists reunited the mass of ancient documents which comprise the heritage of Old Spain and overhauled the inadequate archival machinery by instituting a modern system of archives administration. By the advent of the 1960s, however, it became apparent that the rising flood of administrative records of the modern period needed somehow to be brought under control. In response to this, the government commenced the construction of new repositories in the provinces as well as the modernization of several existing facilities. As a result of these efforts, Spain, according to the author, now ranks among the modern nations for its advanced system of records disposition and repositories. Despite great progress already made, Pérotin-Dumon concedes there still remains much work to be done in specific areas and offers some proposals.

Other articles in this issue include a brief description (pp. 185-88) of an experiment in fire extinguishing by a new process that was conducted on May 4, 1976, at the Archives Nationales. This new process, developed by Y. Loosen for the protection of dense and compact shelving in archives, utilizes a bottle containing two kilograms of Halon 1301 (Flugex). Although test results proved satisfactory, further study is planned in order to obtain optimum economy in the installation of the new process. Michel Duchein presents (pp. 189-91) a brief critique of the study written by Belgian archivist Gustaaf Asaert, based on his 1973 visit to the National Archives and Records Service (NARS), on records management in the United States. Duchein finds it difficult, however, to accept Asaert's claim that 95 percent of the administrative records produced by various federal agencies are represented in the schedules drawn up by NARS. French experience in this area, according to Duchein, has shown that only 10 percent of the records produced by various French agencies are scheduled. The author, however, explains that the great disparity between the French and American figures might be the result of fear on the part of French archivists of destroying irreplaceable records. This fear also seems to surface in every regulation and even to dominate the thinking of French historians who always tend to find an argument for the indefinite preservation of every category of file. Also, Duchein presents (pp. 205-7) a review of Frank B. Evans's publication, *Modern Archives and Manuscripts: A Select Bibliography* (1975).

Note d'information, nos. 4-5 (1974). Issue number four contains a summary of the accomplishments of data processing in the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, including the French archives, during 1973. Installation of computers in several agencies under the control of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has resulted in a greater control of records in the area of records management than has been previously possible. The increasing importance of automation has spurred the formation of a five-year development plan. Among the agencies included in the plan are those responsible for Administration of the Museums of France, Administration of the French Archives, the Service of the General Inventory, the Service of Artistic Creation (*Mobilier National*), the Administration of Architecture, and the Service of Excavations and Antiquities. The objectives of an information retrieval system for each of these agencies are briefly but clearly defined. Securing qualified personnel for the proper functioning of an information retrieval program in the Ministry of Cultural Affairs is emphasized in the plan. The responsibilities of the French archives regarding automation are presented in a lengthy quotation from a report by the director general of the Direction des Archives.

Issue number five is devoted entirely to a study that was conducted in France and aimed at defining objectives and projects for automating the retrieval of information about transfers to records centers. A resume in English is also included.

German Federal Republic. [GEORGE O. KENT, University of Maryland] *Der Archivar*, vol. 29, no. 2 (May 1976). Three articles in this issue are condensed versions of papers presented at the fiftieth annual meeting of German archivists in September 1975: Wilfried Schöntag discusses (col. 165-68) the quantification of archival material with computers; Otfried Dascher reports (col. 173-82) on quantification as a historical method in relation to the use of archives; and Marianne Englert writes (col. 169-74) about limitations established by legislation in the use of personal data. Other contributions include an obituary of Max Miller by Eberhard Gönner (col. 157-64), the final installment of Carl Haase's study on the preservation and retirement of records (col. 183-96), an article by Gerhard Granier

on time limitations in the use of public archives (col. 195–202), a description of the arrangements of political party collections in the Main State Archives in Dusseldorf by Peter Dohms (col. 201–8), and a report on the eleventh meeting of Austrian archivists, at Krems, in September 1975, by Walter Goldinger (col. 207–8).

Der Archivar, vol. 29, no. 3 (July 1976). The four articles in this issue deal with a variety of archival subjects. Harald Jaeger discusses (col. 269–72) the training and employment of mid-level archival personnel as based upon the experience of the Bavarian archives administration; Gunther Bradler describes (col. 273–80) the structure and function of parliamentary archives; Wolfgang Leesch comments (col. 279–84) on German archival guides; and there is a report from a workshop of the Lower Saxon archives administration on the methods of restoring archival materials (col. 283–96).

Both issues contain the usual notes about meetings, personnel, book reviews, bibliographical entries, and administrative regulations.

Mexico. [CELSO RODRIQUEZ, Organization of American States] *Archivos*, no. 5 (1976). This entire issue pertains to the proceedings of the International Seminar on Archives Administration which was organized by the Secretariat of the Presidency and held at Mexico City in August 1975. Participants at this international seminar included members of the technical advisory committee of the Unidades de Correspondencia y Archivo as well as prominent archivists from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and France. On the subject of national experiences with archives, José Chanes Nieto, director general of administrative studies, offers (pp. 15–28) some thoughts about public archives in Mexico by pointing out some areas in need of reform. Leopoldo Sarmiento Rea, director of the national archives, describes (pp. 29–47) the experiences at the Mexican state archives, stressing the deficiency of a proper organization and the repeated failures toward archival reform. Other papers presented describing national experiences with regard to archives include those by F. Gerald Ham of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin relating the American experience (pp. 49–58), Wilfred I. Smith of the Public Archives of Canada describing the Canadian (pp. 59–84), Alfred W. Mabbs of the Public Records Office presenting the British (pp. 85–98), and Jean Favier of the Archives Nationales furnishing the French national experience (pp. 99–108). Each of these archivists elaborates also upon various aspects of archives with respect to his own situation: Favier, commenting on the subject of national planning of archival services, describes (pp. 111–28) the French policy for records disposition from executive departments, underscoring the principle that records of public officials belong solely to the state; Smith presents (pp. 129–52) legislative aspects of the archival organization within a federal framework as is the case in Canada; Mabbs analyzes (pp. 153–69) the advantages and disadvantages of the decimal system in the classification of documents; and Ham describes (pp. 171–79) professional qualifications for archives personnel in view of training, incentives, and financial considerations.

Republic of South Africa. [MARYNA FRASER, Barlow Rand Limited, Johannesburg] *S.A. Argiefblad/S.A. Archives Journal*, no. 18 (1976). This issue contains several articles commemorating the centennial of the establishment of the Archives Commission, 1876–77. Brief biographical sketches of the five men who comprised this parliamentary commission to “collect, examine, classify and index the Colonial Archives” are presented (pp. 39–45), and J. H. Snyman, assistant-

director of Government Archives, describes (pp. 16–19) the early beginnings of the commission. This issue also includes several articles focusing attention on business archives. J. F. Preller discusses (pp. 46–47) the problem of business archives from the archivist's point of view. He emphasizes that business records are not public records; that restrictions imposed by management with regard to access will, therefore, greatly vary from company to company; and that the initiative for preservation of these records should come from the business community. E. L. P. Stals of the Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit, however, approaches (pp. 48–50) the question from the academic standpoint by emphasizing the necessity of preserving these records as important source material for economic and social historians. In 1976 an ad hoc committee of inquiry was appointed to investigate the subject and made (p. 51) the following recommendations: (1) business organizations should be encouraged to deposit their historically valuable records in existing archives repositories for preservation; (2) where this is not feasible, these commercial organizations should be encouraged to provide the necessary facilities and staff to preserve their archives; and (3) the Government Archives Service should provide the necessary assistance, advice, and guidance to such organizations. With considerable current international interest in South West Africa (Namibia), S. A. Harper's article on the judicial administration in German South West Africa, 1884–1915, should appeal to the student of history of this territory.

Communication, vol. 8, no. 1 (September 1976). In this issue of the journal of the South African Records Management Association, Maryna Fraser states (pp. 10–17) the reasons for the establishment of a company archival program, analyzes the attitude of management toward such a program, and defines the position of the company archives in the organizational structure of the firm. She also offers some practical guidelines for the establishment of an archives department and outlines the task of the business archivist. In addition, Fraser mentions the relationship between the company archives and records management, public relations, and company library. Under the headings of "offense, defense and exploitation" she summarizes the value of an archives to a company. Frank A. Sims of the Chubb Lock & Safe Company deals (pp. 18–21) with the important archival question of fire protection for business records. The author points out in his introduction that, in this security-conscious world, the communications media are full of references to violence and robbery, but rarely is fire mentioned as a serious danger to businesses. In addition to indicating the accepted critical temperatures for paper, magnetic tape, and microfilm, Sims mentions the four basic requirements for creation of a fire protection unit. He concludes his article with practical recommendations for the protection of paper records, microfilm and other audio-visual materials, and computer tapes.

Switzerland. [GEORGE O. KENT, University of Maryland] *Mitteilungen der Vereinigung Schweizerischer Archivare/Bulletin de l'Association des archivistes Suisses*, no. 26 (November 1975). With this issue the *Mitteilungen* assumes a different format in an attempt to improve communication among members of the Swiss association. This issue includes an article by Peter Ruck entitled "Discussions on archival history: the beginnings of the Swiss archival system 800–1400" (pp. 5–40), and another article by Bruno Meyer on archives administration and retention plans (pp. 41–45). Catherine Santschi and Ernst Ziegler provide (pp. 46–60) an annotated bibliography of archives publications for 1974, and there are reports on the fifty-first (1974) and fifty-second (1975) annual meetings of Swiss archivists by Ulrich

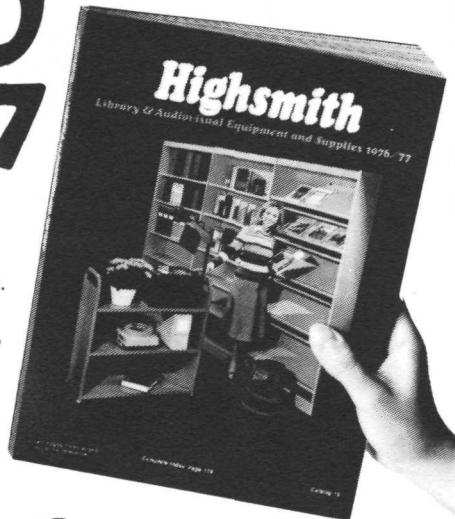
Helfenstein (pp. 73-78) and by Fritz Hausler (pp. 79-83), respectively. Book reviews, personal notes, and an obituary (pp. 90-92) by Willy Keller for Ferdinand Niederberger comprise the rest of this issue.

Venezuela. [Celso Rodriguez, Organization of American States] *Boletín Histórico*, no. 41 (May 1976). In this issue Iván Drenikof, chief of the Ancient and Rare Books Department at the National Library in Caracas, briefly describes (pp. 325-30) preservation practices for graphic documents in libraries and archives. Reference is made to the importance of controlling such factors as temperature, humidity, and purity of the air as well as the harmful effects of urban pollution and improper lighting. The use of insecticides, adequate designs for archival buildings, and other preservation techniques are also discussed. Other articles in this issue pertain to a variety of historical subjects.

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