

## The International Scene: News and Abstracts

RONALD J. PLAVCHAN, *Editor*

**A NEW FOUNDATION.** In an attempt to assist in the preservation of valuable manuscripts and to make them available to scholars via abstracts and translations, the **International Documents Center (IDC)** was incorporated on 22 November 1977 as a non-profit foundation. Efforts are underway to secure proper financing, staffing, and possible affiliation with an educational institution in the Washington metropolitan area. At present, the small IDC staff is contacting scholars and interested individuals to join the foundation in a joint project for the collection and preservation of Latin American manuscripts and archives. For further information, write to Vincent T. Tanzola, S.J., 2730 North Pershing Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR DOCUMENTATION (FID).** Following up its experimental issue of a newsletter on education and training programs for specialized information personnel, which was published as a supplement to the November 1977 issue of *FID News Bulletin*, FID is preparing two regular editions in late 1978. The first issue was scheduled to be published by the end of September and the second by the end of December. The newsletter, compiled by the FID Education and Training Committee, will differ somewhat from the experimental edition in both format and coverage. The staff has taken into consideration comments submitted by readers after the trial issue and the newsletter will thus provide up-to-date information on education and training programs and activities in the areas of information science, documentation, libraries, and archives.

**LATIN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ARCHIVES.** During the Interamerican Seminar on Regional Development for Archives, held in Washington in 1976, the Latin American Association of Archives (ALA) established six permanent working committees to deal with six aspects of archives: legislation, personnel, terminology, accessibility, conservation, and archival administration. By July 1978 the ALA general secretariat had received reports only from three of these committees. Following the report of 18 March 1978 the Committee on Legislation has compiled a list of prevailing legislation relating to archives in nine Latin American countries. The committee intends to use the compilation in a study of the value and function of the laws in relation to modern archival principles. A preliminary report has been prepared and distributed to each member of the committee, for comment. The Committee on Terminology reports the formation of national committees in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Uruguay, and

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Materials for this department should be sent to Ronald J. Plavchan, Presidential Materials Staff, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20408.

Venezuela. Both the ALA committee and the national committees have received nineteen articles, and a proposal on an archival dictionary and a translation of proper terms have been made for submission to the ICA Committee on Terminology. Also, a comprehensive study of archival terms used in different Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries has been initiated at the Interamerican Center on the Development of Archives (CIDA) in Córdoba, Argentina. The Committee on Conservation has distributed a questionnaire to ALA member countries, but only six countries had responded to the questionnaire by 5 June 1978.

Six proposals and recommendations have been submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration. In reference to ALA assistance to the National Summary Guides project, the Committee on Accessibility has asked the Executive Committee to allocate \$3,000 for fiscal 1979–80 and \$15,000 for fiscal 1981–82. Other items submitted to the Executive Committee include: a recommendation that the International Council on Archives (ICA) organize in collaboration with ALA a regional seminar on archival planning to be scheduled for the third trimester of 1979, a proposal that ALA sponsor in 1981 or later a regional seminar in Latin America on the subject of records management, a proposal to study the possibility of establishing a new regional center on archival training for specialists in records management and for technicians in restoration and reprography, and a proposal to solicit fulfillment from the Committee on Information of a regional seminar on archival information in Latin America. The Executive Committee has also been urged to submit to the Spanish-language representative in the ICA Committee on Archival Terminology an account of the progress of the work of the ALA Committee on Terminology. Since the ICA committee is preparing a multi-lingual glossary of archival terms, members of the ALA committee strongly believe that the international body should not ignore the lexicographic peculiarities of Spanish-speaking peoples outside of Spain but include them in the new glossary which is in preparation. [ALBERTO LEE LOPEZ, Latin American Association of Archives]

**SWARBICA.** The formation of an archival association by the countries of South and West Asia as a regional branch of the International Council on Archives (ICA) in December 1976 marked a major step toward archival developments in the region. Founding member countries included Bangladesh, India, Iran, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The inaugural conference was held in New Delhi on 10–11 December 1976, at which Cyrus Parham, archivist of Iran, was elected chairman and A. Dewaraja, director of the Sri Lanka Archives, vice-chairman for a two-year term.

The Executive Board at its meeting on 11–12 December 1976, in New Delhi, and on 6 April 1978, decided to publish a newsletter and a journal. The fixed annual rates for SWARBICA membership were set at 3000 rupees (\$390) for national members, 500 rupees (\$65) for institutional members, and 100 rupees (\$13) for individuals. The board also decided to hold a symposium at Colombo, Sri Lanka, in the last week of January 1979 to exchange ideas on professional and sub-professional matters relating to archival training and to assess the requirements of member countries. The board asked R. C. Gupta, deputy director of the Archives of India, to prepare a working paper for the symposium, and this is currently being circulated among the members for comment. The board

has also approved the establishment of a Regional Reprography Demonstration Center at New Delhi as a part of the existing Institute of Archival Training.

Since its inception in 1976, Pakistan and Afghanistan have joined SWARBICA. Six state archives and seven Indian universities have also joined the ICA regional branch. Efforts are underway to involve more individuals and institutions in other SWARBICA countries in archival development work and policies in the region.

In April 1978 SWARBICA issued its first edition of the *SWARBICA Journal*, and anticipates the issuance of its second annual journal toward the end of 1978. SWARBICA is also preparing a feasibility study of the region's archival resources for UNESCO's projected guide to sources of Asian history. K. D. Gupta has been compiling the data which will be printed in the *SWARBICA Journal* in installments. [N. H. KULKARNEE, SWARBICA and National Archives of India]

**BANGLADESH.** The Bangladesh Archives, which currently shares a building in Dacca at 103 Elephant Road with the Rubber Planting Project, is preparing to construct a new, 109,000 square feet, archives, with some design advice from NARS. Although no construction has taken place, the site for the new building has been selected near the Parliament building and funds have been approved for its construction. According to the plans, the proposed archives will share the site with the national library. No date has been set for completion of the project.

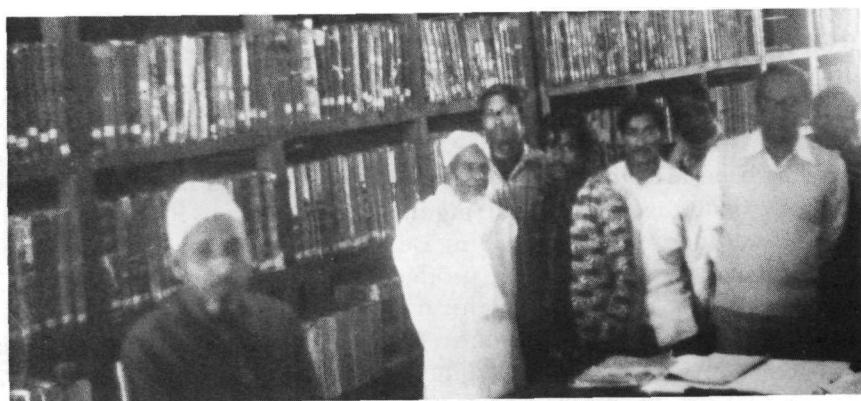
The current size of the archives staff numbers twenty, including archivists, administrators, technicians, and maintenance personnel.

The holdings of the Archives consist of 1,300 linear feet of records, dating from 1840, temporarily housed in a rented building. An additional 100,000 linear feet of material, currently in the Secretariat Record Room and not under the archives' control, will be transferred to the archives once the new building is constructed. In the meantime an archives staff member is preparing an inventory of these materials to assist in controlling and servicing the records. Also, in an effort to ensure against the possible loss of non-current or permanently valuable field office records, the Establishment Division, which has records management responsibility for government agencies, has requested the district and subdivisional headquarters to submit these records to a central storage facility. They will be kept in temporary storage until the completion of the new archives building. [JOHN J. LANDERS, National Archives and Records Service]

**GREAT BRITAIN.** October 17, 1978, marks the first anniversary of the opening of the public reading rooms in the **Public Record Office (PRO)** at Kew in the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey. At this moment, however, it is still unclear to what extent and in what ways the public use of records has been affected by the move to Kew. There is no question that the delays in the final stages of transferring the new building to PRO and the uncertainty surrounding the public opening deterred many users, especially foreign scholars. Despite some delays in the production of documents, the PRO staff was able to maintain service to readers during the transitional stage with the exception of a five-week period in September-October. There was an unusually large number of readers utilizing the reading rooms during July and August 1977 in an attempt by users to complete their research while the records still remained in central London.



Administrative offices of the Bangladesh Archives, 1978.



Some of the staff of the Bangladesh Archives in the stack area of the Secretariat Record Room.

In the *Nineteenth Annual Report of the Keeper of Public Records on the Work of the Public Record Office, 1977* (1978), Jeffery R. Ede reported a 3 percent decrease in the number of researchers using the PRO reading rooms, in comparison with 1976 statistics. Possible reasons for the decrease were the closure for five, instead of the normal two, weeks and suspension of the Saturday morning search-room service since June 1977, in the Round Room. Saturday morning service has also been suspended at Chancery Lane and in the census room at Portugal Street as an expression of dissatisfaction on the part of some staff associations with the terms on which their members were transferred to Kew. The Advisory Council on Public Records in its 1977 annual report has expressed a desire not only to resume Saturday morning service at both Chancery Lane and Kew, but also to keep open the searchrooms one or two evenings per week as is the practice at the British Library.

The Modern Records Department is continuing work on the preparation of a new *Guide to the Contents of the Public Record Office* in a format which permits periodic updating of the whole text and, although currently limited to the State Papers and modern departmental records, allows for the inclusion of medieval and legal records. During 1977, as parts of the new *Guide* have been completed, they have been made available in the reading rooms. Part II, which contains descriptions of the nature and contents of individual classes of records, is available in the new format and new editions will be issued at regular intervals, together with an index (Part III). Part I consists of sections, each pertaining to the administrative history, functions, and records of a government department or other organization for which there are records permanently preserved in the PRO. These sections are also being placed in the reading rooms as they are completed, but it will be some time before the entire text is available to readers.

The PRO has begun using the PROMPT computer system in the reading rooms at Kew. It permits a reader to use the keyboard of a computer console to request documents. Details of the request are transmitted to the appropriate repository area, after having first been checked by the computer to insure that references are valid and that the requested documents are not already in use by another researcher or otherwise unavailable. When invalid references are keyed or documents are unavailable, the researcher is instantly so informed by the computer. In addition to speeding up the transmission of researchers' requests, the system also provides, for administrative purposes, statistical and other information about the public use of the records. Work on the data base has not yet been completed and numerous amendments and additions still remain to be made.

Changes associated with the reorganization of the lists and finding aids at both Chancery Lane and Kew, as well as the implementation of the PROMPT computer system at Kew, have rendered parts of the PROSPEC information system unnecessary. As a result of this situation, PROSPEC is primarily used in connection with the production and maintenance of Parts II and III of the new *Guide* and with a Repository Location List, which continues to serve as the basis for a revised Summary Inventory. Modifications have been made to the computer programs used for both of these purposes to enable changes to be made to conform with the format of the appropriate outputs. Work on the thesaurus of subjects for the index to the *Guide* is progressing, but has been delayed by work on Part I.



The bulletin of the **Modern Records Centre**, University of Warwick, Library, Coventry, for July 1978, reports additions to a number of existing deposits, of which the largest is the surviving archives of the Association of Scientific Workers. The centre's coverage of pressure groups has also been significantly extended by the deposit of signed minutes and other records of what was in many ways the precursor of the modern pressure group, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). The centre reports that it has decided to include a transcript or facsimile of a document from its holdings in subsequent issues of the bulletin, but only when space permits. The first reproduction is from the papers of Rowland Barrett (MSS. 83). It is a letter from the local hosiery union to the Leicester socialist newspaper, *The Pioneer*, expressing appreciation of support during the Wolsey labor dispute in 1913–14.

Among the numerous trade union records available at the centre are the extensive records of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, stemming from a series of legal actions commonly known as the Taff Vale Case. As a result of the character of the records and the interest in them, the centre has published the catalog compiled by Christine Woodland as a 28-page booklet (No. 3) in its Occasional Publications series. Transportation historians as well as labor and social historians should find this publication of great interest. For copies of *The Taff Vale Case: A Guide to the ASRS Records* (price is 40p per copy in addition to postage on overseas orders), write to the Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick Library, Coventry CV4 7AL, England.

**INDIA.** The **National Archives of India** has accessioned 765 files of the Ministry of External Affairs and 26 bundles from the Department of Science and Technology. Among the private papers received by the Archives are further installments of the collections of Rajendra Prasad and Benarsi Das Chaturvedi. Materials donated to the National Archives include a photograph of Martyr Sukhdev, a list of the famous *Komagatamaru* passengers, the five-volume manuscript of *Tarikh-i-Turktazan-i-Hind*, and nine printed and illustrated documents dealing chiefly with the British East India Company in the seventeenth century. Material purchased by the Archives include: Hindi documents relating to the labor movement in the former Gwalior State (1918–25), an outsize copy of a Persian Court document of Oudh in 1835, a family history of Salar Masud Ghazi (Persian), *Haft Aqlim*, Persian poems of Abul Faraj, and an original farman (1682) of Aurangzeb.

The microfilm library was strengthened by the following accessions: 29 rolls of U.S. State Department records (1910–29) relating to India-Burma; 5 rolls of correspondence (1849–62) between Indian officials and Australian governors; 41 rolls of factory records; a roll of the Linlithgow collection; a roll of a Persian manuscript of Taluka Baldahi (Ahmedabad) from the India Office Library and Records, London; some materials of Indian interest in the Hungarian archives under an exchange program; and a taped interview between B. P. Koirala and Jayaprakash Narayan.

The **Record Management Division** has assisted in the preparation of retention schedules for twelve ministries and departments in New Delhi; three Union Government's offices at Patna, Calcutta, and Jaipur; as well as two offices at Bombay and Cochin. Staff members appraised nearly 100,000 twentieth-century files maintained by eight ministries and departments, and almost half of the files

have been retained. The appraised files include those of five Residencies housed in the National Archives pertaining to the nineteenth century. Information on archival assets was received from 109 Union Government agencies for further processing, whereas the division provided 17 agencies with on-the-spot advice concerning records management. A report on the implementation of the Archival Policy Resolution for 1976-77 has been submitted to the Indian government.

A major achievement in 1977 was the publication of the *Guide to the Records of the Ministry of Home Affairs (1748-1957)*, in cyclostyled form, now available in the National Archives. A similar guide to the records (1756-1954) of the Foreign Department is under compilation. Work is still progressing on the preparation of subject lists of the files of the Foreign Department (Secret, 1802-05), Home Department (seven branches, twentieth century), P.S. to Viceroy (Honours branch, 1910-45), and files of the Public Works Department (1860-1921) among public records. Volume 8 of the *National Register of Private Records*, which is based on lists received in 1966-67, has been issued in cyclostyled form. The National Archives has also published the *Resolutions of the Indian Historical Records Commission (1948-73)*. Additional material, consisting of approximately 20,000 pages, has been selected from the National Archives and the state archives of Delhi, Orissa, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh for the projected ten-volume documentation on the struggle for freedom, 1937-47. The Indian Council of Historical Research will edit and publish the documents under the title "Towards Freedom."

The National Archives is continuing to provide technical assistance on conservation to other institutions in various parts of the world, including the Dacca Museum in Bangladesh and the Malaysian Archives. In the area of conservation, the Archives has restored nearly 200,000 sheets of brittle paper during the past eighteen months. Two Masino Impex impregnators have been procured from Yugoslavia, one for the main archives building in New Delhi and the other for the regional office at Bhopal.

As a direct result of a space shortage at the main archives building and delays in construction of the archives annex, a records center has been established. The Jaipur records center, opened at the beginning of 1977, currently houses some records of the Tariff Commission and proposes to accession the records of the Hindustan Salt Ltd. and the Salt Commissioner, Jaipur.

Under a cultural exchange program concluded with the Soviet Union, two Soviet archivists, Bogatov Boris Nicolovitch of Moscow and Mirzabaev Alim Azizovitch of Uzbekistan, visited various Indian archival repositories 10-24 October 1977. Archives visited included the National Archives, the State Archives of Delhi, the Andhra Pradesh State Archives at Hyderabad, and the Tamil Nadu State Archives at Madras.

**The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library**, which specializes in the acquisition of private papers of prominent individuals in modern India, has enhanced its holdings through purchase or donation in 1977. A few of these were further installments of earlier collections of non-governmental papers. The more substantial additions included: papers of J. T. Sutherland (1842-1936), an advocate of India's cause in the United States; papers of Sir Jagdish Prasad (1910-55), a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council; papers of Baba Ramchandra (1912-50), a peasant leader; papers of Ajit Prasad Jain (1950-76), who held

important positions in free India; and papers of Indulal Yagnik (1892–1976), a prominent leader from Gujarat. The library also received for permanent custody about 400 files (1925–51) of the All India Trade Union Congress.

The National Council for the newly formed **Association of Indian Archivists** held its first meeting on 10 September 1977. P. Basu, former director of the National Archives and retired member of UNESCO information service, presided over this meeting which sought to improve the status of the profession, to offer honorary archival services to business houses and similar bodies, to modify the constitution, and to appoint committees to deal with records management, reference, reprography, conservation, and non-governmental records.

The Association for the Conservation of Cultural Property has decided to house the **National Research Laboratory for the Conservation of Cultural Property** at Lucknow in northern India. Among its active projects is the restoration of a large number of Vaishnav Sampradaya manuscripts in the custody of the Vrindavan Research Institute, Mathura District. The laboratory also seeks to train conservators in modern, scientific techniques via seminars and workshops. Since January 1977 the association has issued a regular newsletter.

**Indian State Archives. Andhra Pradesh:** a special task force has been established to weed out records of ephemeral value. The Office Manual of State Archives and the first two volumes of "Who's Who in the Freedom Movement in Andhra Pradesh" have been sent to the printer. **Assam:** in addition to its normal functions, the Secretariat Record Office has been segregating records relating to the recently separated state of Meghalaya. **Bihar:** the state government on 7 June 1977 formally took over the Darbhanga Raj Records Office and has transformed it into a regional records repository. Its holdings should prove very valuable for the study of the economic history of north Bihar. The principal accessions of the state archives include the records (late nineteenth and early twentieth century) of Patna Commissioner's Office and 1,500 files of the Labour Department. Following an appraisal visit to the Deputy Commissioner's record room at Dumka in April 1978, 15,000 files were recommended for destruction. **Delhi:** the state archives has been making special efforts to acquire papers in private custody. As a result of this effort, nearly 2,000 documents have been thus far acquired by the archives, including a copy of *Shahanama* in prose and photocopies of four nineteenth-century Delhi newspapers. **Goa:** the Directorate of Historical Archives is planning to publish a selection of Marathi documents in *modi* script relating to the Maratha campaign against Bassein. Its library has received as gifts 13,000 rare Portuguese, English, and French newspapers and periodicals. The government of India, however, plans to place the directorate under its administrative control. **Gujarat:** the state government has formed seven district records survey committees and is also considering a proposal to place district records offices under the control of the state director of archives. The regional records survey committee met on 22 September 1977 and decided to activate a program of acquiring important papers in private custody. **Jammu and Kashmir:** the regional records survey committee has located 327 items worthy of inclusion in the National Register of Private Records. **Karnataka:** the state archives continues to be hampered by staffing problems, but a regional records survey committee has been formed to locate old papers of importance in private custody. **Kerala:** at the regional archives at Ernakulam efforts are underway to transfer onto paper the palm-leaf records relating to Cochin Tirumala Devas-



wam. **Maharashtra:** acquisitions of the state archives include 285 bundles pertaining to former Ichalkaranji Jagir. The first volume of a document catalog relating to Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur (1885–1922) has been sent to the printer. On 13–14 June 1977, 80 lower-level recordkeepers received refresher courses. **Orissa:** accessions include records relating to Jagannath Temple, Puri, and several defunct political agencies. **Punjab:** the state archives is currently making a special effort to survey and collect records and other material relating to the freedom movement in Punjab. **Rajasthan:** the state archives is undertaking a microfilm program of its records for security and reference purposes. More than 45,000 documents belonging to Jadhpur State Dasturi Records series have been microfilmed under the program. **Tamil Nadu:** the state archives has purchased a vacuum fumigation chamber of 500 cubic feet capacity and a Barrow laminating press. **West Bengal:** the state archives has recently purchased a microfilm camera, and accessions include 617 files of the Home (Political) Department.

Almost every archival repository in India, led by the National Archives, is observing **Archives Week** in August 1978 in the hope of arousing archival consciousness in the common man. Activities include special exhibits, radio talk programs, television discussions, seminars, newspaper articles, souvenirs, open house programs, brochures, posters, and other printed material. The Films Division also plans to release a specially prepared documentary. [N. H. KULKARNEE, SWARBICA and National Archives of India]

**IRAN.** The new **Records Conservation Workshop** of the National Archives was formally inaugurated on 11 January 1977. At present the workshop is equipped with a large fumigation chamber and a lamination press. Under the financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Parveen Zaidi of the India Office Library and Records, London, assisted in setting up the workshop. [N. H. KULKARNEE, SWARBICA and National Archives of India]

**SOVIET ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPT RESOURCES.** The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign sponsored a seminar on archives and manuscript resources in the Soviet Union, 10–14 July 1978. Patricia Kennedy Grimsted of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, Russian Research Center, conducted the week-long seminar. Topics for daily discussion included archival organization and research; recordkeeping practices, administrative-territorial divisions, and the evolution of the State Historical Archives; library manuscript collections, literary archives, and the riches of Soviet libraries and museums; regional archival organization with emphasis on the Baltic and Ukrainian republics; and special archives (Foreign Ministry Archives and Communist Party Archives).

**SRI LANKA.** A separate division within the Department of National Archives has been established for conservation and utilization of presidential papers. Plans are ready for the establishment of an intermediate regional records center at Kandy. The three radial wings of the new National Archives building have been completed and the second phase of construction is under way. Also, retention schedules for all court records on the island have been completed.

Many valuable Malay manuscripts in private custody have been located, listed, and microfilmed. In addition to this, material relating to the General Election of 1977 has been collected, listed, and preserved. Restoration services were provided to some owners of private manuscripts who in some cases received a microfilm copy in return. Other activities included the taping at Batticoloa of Portuguese sources of social history and the microfilming of several nineteenth-century newspapers for security and reference purposes.

With regard to publications, the four-volume *Documents of Ceylon National Congress and Nationalist Politics, 1929–1950*, edited by Michael Roberts, was published in 1977. An introduction to the National Archives of Sri Lanka and a glossary of archival terms in Sinhala-English, both prepared by K. D. G. Wimaratne, are ready for publication. Typed copies of guides and summary lists for several archives groups are available for use.

In collaboration with CISIR, technicians at the Archives are working on a method of distillation of resin oil for use on palm-leaf manuscripts. [N. H. KULKARNEE, SWARBICA and National Archives of India]

### ABSTRACTS

**AUSTRALIA** [RUTH ALLEN, National Archives and Records Service] *Archives and Manuscripts*, vol. 7, no. 2 (February 1978). The lead article in this issue, entitled "The Conservation of Archives in Australia" (pp. 63–71), is a report that was prepared by the three-member Conservation Committee of the Australian Society of Archivists. Jim Bruce, conservator at the Queensland State Archives; Jill Caldwell, archivist with the Australian Archives; and Lee McGregor, assistant archivist at the Queensland State Archives, constituted the committee to undertake an assessment of the situation of archival conservation in order to provide reliable information for effective future planning. Two conclusions the committee arrived at were: (1) physical preservation of records receives a low priority in Australia indicating that many documents are inadequately stored, and (2) there are insufficient facilities and numbers of personnel to handle the repair and restoration of old or damaged documents.

In the other two articles, T. F. Nielsen, conservator at the New South Wales State Library, emphasizes (pp. 72–77) the effects of air pollution on stored papers; and Guna Kinne of the Australian Archives reflects (pp. 78–79) on the reports presented at the Eighth International Congress on Archives (Washington 1976) in relation to Australia. The issue also includes reviews of two Australian Government Publishing Service publications dealing with women in Australia's archives (pp. 80–83), technical notes, news notes, and a special report (pp. 89–93) on the UNESCO conference held in Nairobi in November 1976 concerning the international exchange of cultural property.

**BRAZIL.** [ROBERT W. STORM, JR., National Archives and Records Service] *Arquivo & Administração*, vol. 5, no. 3 (December 1977). In her prize-winning essay, "Archives: Mainstay of Information," Maria Aparecida dos Santos discusses (pp. 5–20) the current state of archives in Brazil. She suggests in the article some desirable developments in the organization of the national archives system, in records management, in professional training, and in public services.

This issue also contains (p. 28) an informative interview with the director of the Archives of the Ministry of the Army, established in 1808.

*Mensário do Arquivo Nacional*, vol. 9, no. 1 (January 1978). Maura Esândola Quinhões writes (pp. 33–35) about ecclesiastical archives in Brazil which form an important but ill-organized documentation of the country's history. Recent graduates from the archival science course, conducted by the National Archives, have proposed a system of arrangement based upon a French model of the late nineteenth century.

A conference on archives and history, held on 21–25 November 1977, brought together numerous archivists, historians, and other interested Brazilians (pp. 36–39). The papers presented at the conference reflected the purpose of the conference, which was the development of closer communication between archivists and historians. Topics of the papers included the problems of research in the National Archives, historical research and the national memory, and archives of periodicals.

*Mensário do Arquivo Nacional*, vol. 9, no. 2 (February 1978). The 1977 annual report of the National Archives occupies the entire issue. Following the introduction by Raul do Rêgo Lima, director-general of the Archives, there are detailed reports by the directors of the six divisions of the National Archives and by the section chiefs within each division. The final report is a summary by the coordinator concerning archival science courses for the year.

*Mensário do Arquivo Nacional*, vol. 9, no. 3 (March 1978). The most interesting part of this issue is the "Who is Researching What" column, which frequently appears in the various issues. It is a useful listing of Brazilian and foreign scholars presently doing research at the National Archives (pp. 13–23). Under the name of each individual is such data as the person's professional affiliations, address, subject and status of research, intended purpose of the research, and the names of other archival repositories and libraries used.

*Mensário do Arquivo Nacional*, vol. 9, no. 4 (April 1978). This issue commemorates (pp. 3–25) the one hundredth edition of *MAN* (a familiar Brazilian acronym for the *Mensário do Arquivo Nacional*.) A large percentage of this issue is devoted to congratulatory letters from archivists, scholars, and both public and private Brazilians.

*Mensário do Arquivo Nacional*, vol. 9, no. 5 (May 1978). Vicenta Cortés Alonso, inspector-general of the Archives of Spain, salutes (pp. 3–5) the *MAN* staff on the completion of a hundred issues. In her article she emphasizes that the journal enables the National Archives to fulfill an ancient but often-neglected archival duty, that is, the communication with colleagues and the public at home and abroad. Aside from the Alonso article, this issue is devoted to providing its readers with an index for the first eight volumes (1970–77) of the journal. Although the index is detailed, it has been printed with each year indexed separately rather than combined into a comprehensive, integrated index.

**FRANCE.** [JUDITH KOUCKY, National Archives and Records Service] *La Gazette des Archives*, n.s., no. 97 (1977). This issue features an article by Michel Duchein, chief conservator of the Direction des Archives de France, on some problems which the archivist encounters in applying the principle of the *respect des fonds* to contemporary records (pp. 71–96). Duchein notes that because of the organizational complexity of units creating records in modern society, the archivist

often has difficulty identifying a particular group of records as a *fonds*. In the author's opinion, a body of records should be designated a *fonds* only if the unit which produced them possessed a legal identity, held a fixed place in an administrative hierarchy, had a well-defined internal structure, and had a chief with the authority to make decisions independent of superiors. Another problem faced by the archivist of contemporary records, Duchein observes, is deciding whether or not to close the *fonds* of a defunct unit whose functions were subsequently acquired by one or more other units. The author recommends that the *fonds* of a defunct unit be closed unless all tasks formerly done by that unit were reassigned to a single successor unit. Two other problems discussed by Duchein involve the identification of the *fonds* and the determination of provenance when records created by one unit were given to another unit as the result of a transfer of functions. Duchein proposes various solutions to those problems based upon the extent to which the records created by the first unit maintained a separate identity from the records of the unit to which they were transferred. Finally, in regard to the issue of whether the principle of the *respect des fonds* requires respect for the arrangement of records within the *fonds*, the author advises the archivist to keep the internal arrangement whenever it was consistently followed over an adequate length of time. If the arrangement is defective to the point of making research in the records difficult, however, Duchein suggests that the archivist impose a more convenient arrangement, derived nonetheless from the structure and tasks of the unit concerned.

*La Gazette des Archives*, n.s., no. 99 (1977). This issue is entirely devoted to the Twenty-first Congress of the Archives de France, held in Bordeaux in June 1977. Of interest to American archivists is the report (pp. 200–25) on the management of non-current records. The report is the joint effort of Marie-Thérèse Chabord, conservator in the contemporary records section of the Archives Nationales; Xavier Du Boisrouvray, chief conservator of the regional archives of the Pays de la Loire; and Jean-Ives Ribault, director of the Cité des Archives in Fontainebleau. After pointing out that the responsibility for managing non-current records in France falls to archivists rather than to records managers as is the custom in the United States and other countries, the authors prescribe certain measures that archivists ought to take with non-current records in order to ensure the preservation of records of permanent value among them. For example, the authors want archivists to insist that agencies place in order their non-current records prior to transferring them to a records center. The authors call also for the establishment of a standard transmittal form for non-current records, a form containing information of use in determining the ultimate disposition of the records. Explaining that some agencies already have retention and destruction schedules for their records, the authors urge archivists to begin the compilation of a general records schedule with provision for periodic review and revision. One annex to the report gives information on the newly constructed records center in Fontainebleau, and another provides statistics on the volume and storage costs of non-current records.

**GREAT BRITAIN.** [LAWRENCE H. McDONALD, National Archives and Records Service] *India Office Library & Records: Report for the year 1975* (1977). The India Office Library and Records, which maintains the administrative records of the British government relating to India and the sub-continent as well as

collects a wide variety of area-related materials, has issued its 1975 annual report. In it, Joan C. Lancaster, director of the India Office Library and Records, describes (pp. 5–36) with ample photographs the activities of the newly coordinated Conservation Department which serves the repair needs of both the Library and the Records Office. The author surveys some of the preservation and restoration methods and techniques developed by the staff and their application to the special needs of the Library and Records Office which holds a large collection of palm-leaf manuscripts, delicate miniatures, seals, photographs, and illustrated manuscripts. According to the director, the staff has expressed a willingness to share its experience and expertise with not only India but also other nations of Southeast Asia. Also included in this report are lists of accessions and accruals; cataloging, listing, and indexing projects; publication information; photocopying projects/policies; staff news; and several appendixes.

*Journal of the Society of Archivists*, vol. 6, no. 1 (April 1978). This issue includes three major articles. Felix Hull of the Kent Archives Office, the president of the society, discusses (pp. 1–9) Sir Hilary Jenkinson and the “acquisitive” record office. J. B. Post of the Public Record Office elaborates (pp. 10–17) on a draft of the common petition (1398–99) by John Catesby, a wealthy provincial lawyer from Northamptonshire, found among the exchequer ancient deeds in the PRO. Common petitions, the specific origins of which are usually unknown, were general political demands presented in the name of the commons as a whole. The document’s importance is two-fold: (1) its provenance is reasonably certain, and (2) it is of great political significance for the period immediately preceding the deposition of Richard II. Malcolm Underwood of St. John’s College, Cambridge, describes (pp. 18–27) the structure and operation of the Oxford Chancellor’s Court from the sixteenth to the early eighteenth century. The article is based on the court papers in the Oxford University Archives. This issue contains the usual selection of reviews, news notes, obituaries, and reports. The reports include: the society’s annual general meeting in London on 8 December 1977; the first regional conference of the Records Management Group at the University of Liverpool on 21 October 1977; and the second in-service training course on conservation-and-the-archivist at London University on 6–8 September 1977. The index to volume 5 (1974–77) has been included as a separate insert.