

The International Scene: News and Abstracts

RONALD J. PLAVCHAN, *Editor*

THE EDITOR is indebted to the following correspondents: **Australia:** R. G. Neale; **Bahamas/Caribbean:** D. Gail Saunders; **Brazil:** José Pedro Esposel; **Canada:** D. Lee McDonald; **Colombia:** Alberto Lee López; **Federal Republic of Germany:** Wolfram Werner; **Great Britain:** Michael Cook; **India/SWARBICA:** N. H. Kulkarnee; **Malawi/East and Central Africa:** Steve M. Mwiyeriwa; **New Zealand:** Judith S. Hornabrook; **Nigera/West Africa:** J. C. Enwere; **Organization of American States:** Celso Rodríguez; **Peru:** César Gutiérrez Muñoz; **Rhodesia/Zimbabwe:** R. G. S. Douglas; **Scotland:** Andrew M. Jackson; **Senegal/West Africa:** M. Saliou Mbaye; and **South Africa:** Maryna Fraser.

NEWS

ARGENTINA.

Bicentennial Exhibit of San Martín Documents. In 1978 Argentina celebrated the bicentennial of the birth of its liberator, General José de San Martín. As the Argentine province of Mendoza was the center from which San Martín organized the 1816–17 military expedition to cross the Andes into Chile, the provincial Administrative and Historical Archives honored the occasion with a special exhibit at the Public Library. The well-arranged display presented a selection of valuable original documents from the archives, covering various aspects of the campaign in Mendoza as well as in Chile and Peru. Among the documents exhibited was the victory report of the battle of Maipú, which practically brought an end to Spain's domination in Chile.

BRAZIL

Professional Archivists Given Legal Status. On 4 July 1978, President Ernesto Geisel approved Law No. 6,546, pertaining to the regulation of the archival profession. According to the first article, the professional status applies to those archivists and archives technicians who are graduates of an advanced course in archives science from an approved Brazilian institution or from a recognized foreign institution whose diploma has been reevaluated in Brazil, to archives technicians holding certificates of completion of second-level instruction, to those uncertified individuals who have had five uninterrupted or ten intermittent years of archives work, and to holders of certificates of completion of a secondary level course with special training in archival techniques from institutions accredited by the Conselho Federal de Mão-de-Obra of the Ministry of Labor. The second and third articles of the new law state the entire rights and privileges of the professional archivist and archives technician. This law will have a far-reaching impact on the profession in Brazil.

National Archives System Established. With the promulgation of Decree No. 82,308 (25 September 1978), President Geisel has instituted for the first time a national archives system (SINAR) for the preservation of the documents of the Poder Público (the government). The nucleus of SINAR is to be the National Archives, as the central organ; and integrated as divisional organs will be intermediate and permanent archives controlled directly or indirectly by the federal administration. The director-general of the Arquivo Nacional will preside over an eight-member National Commission on Archives, consisting of representatives of various ministries, the Association of Brazilian Archivists, and perhaps the public sector. The commission's function will be primarily advisory.

First Modern Archives Built in Brazil. The state of Paraná ceremonially opened on 18 October 1978 the first archives built in Brazil utilizing the latest technical advances in archives construction. Its director, Mbá De Ferrante, with support from the state government, installed the State Department of Archives and Microfilm in adequate accommodations.

Meetings. The Institute for Information in Science and Technology, organized by the National Council for Science and Technological Development, met at the convention center of the Hotel Glória, Rio de Janeiro, 4–9 March 1979. The fourth Brazilian Congress on Archives Science, in Rio de Janeiro, 14–19 October 1979, will begin a series of events commemorating International Archives Week in Brazil. [Translated by LESLIE A. WILLIAMS, *The Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation*, and ROBERT W. STORM, Jr., *National Archives and Records Service*.]

BULGARIA

Bulgaria Assists Developing Countries. Implementing ICA's policy of archival assistance to developing countries, the General Department of Archives of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is accepting Third World students to study archival theory and practice in Bulgaria, and is sending Bulgarian archives specialists and archival literature to developing countries. This year the Bulgarian government allocated scholarships to two students from Benin and one from Angola.

CANADA

Multicultural History Society of Ontario. To preserve the province's ethnic history from loss and to insure the survival of a record as complete as possible of immigration to Ontario, ethnicity, and the historical experience of all groups in Ontario, the Multicultural History Society of Ontario was formed in 1976. The society has been cooperating with the Archives of Ontario and the Multicultural Development Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

Among the society's projects are oral history interviews and the retrieval of material from countries of emigration and from non-Ontario research centers. By using volunteers from each ethnic group, and community-based researchers, the society is attempting to create an extensive sound archives of taped interviews. Whenever it is impossible to conduct interviews in English, written abstracts in English will accompany the tapes in the collection. The society is also developing a photograph collection reflecting the multi-ethnic background of the province. It has acquired microfilmed items from the University of Minnesota Immigrant History Research Center; Harvard University; and the Center for Migration Studies, in New York; and has arranged exchange agreements with the Finnish emigration research center in Turku and those at Poznan, Poland, and Zagreb and Belgrade, Yugoslavia. (See also *Polyphony*, abstracted, p. 384, for more about the society.)

Franco-Ontarian Archives. The Multicultural History Society has given financial assistance to the Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne française, at the University of Ottawa, to organize and catalog the collection of manuscripts and printed sources on the history of Franco-Ontarians. The centre is continuing its project of providing guides to the Franco-Ontarian collection. Publication in 1976 of *Inventaire des documents de l'Association Canadienne-Française d'Ontario* (volume 1) is the first of these projected finding aids.

MHSO Microfilming Project. During the summer months of 1978, the Multicultural History Society also provided financial assistance to the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario (MHSO) for the microfilming of heritage materials in Mennonite congregations of the province.

Closing of Regional Offices of the Canadian Conservation Institute. As part of its budgetary restraints, the federal government closed the regional offices of the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI), effective 1 April 1979. The conservators in the regional laboratories were transferred to CCI headquarters in Ottawa. To compensate for the closings, the government will establish a directorate of regional services to coordinate seminars and training programs to take place in strategic centers across Canada. Also, qualified conservators will travel to provincial museums and galleries to consult and advise on technical matters. In addition, the federal government is asking other federal departments and agencies in the conservation field to increase overall service through a sharing of facilities. The Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) has, however, protested the closings by urging the prime minister and the secretary of state to maintain the regional services of CCI.

Canadian Broadcast Archives Report. In March 1978, John Twomey, director

of the Canadian Broadcasting History Research Project at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto, issued a report entitled *Canadian Broadcasting History Resources in English, Critical Mass or Mess?*, making six recommendations: (1) creation of a Broadcast History Committee by the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, (2) development of a comprehensive corporation-wide plan by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to insure the preservation of its historical materials, (3) formation of a task force to review current private and public broadcast archives policies and practices, (4) creation of a National Film Archives, (5) support by the Canada Council and provincial arts council in "reclaiming the hidden heritage of Canadian broadcasting," and (6) urging interested people to join the Association for the Study of Canadian Radio and Television (ASCRT).

Although the Twomey report aroused interest among members of the Canadian Historical Association (CHA), some members of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) have expressed concern about improving the means of preserving broadcast archives but believe a National Broadcast Archives is unnecessary. It is possible that the nascent CHA-ACA-AAQ joint committee may take up the matter of broadcast archives. (AAQ is the Association des archivistes du Québec).

History of Cartography Meeting. The third meeting of the Canadian Cartographic Association, History of Cartography Interest Group was held at the University of Toronto, 10–11 November 1978. A group of fifty map curators, teachers and students of geography, and map collectors met to discuss the uses of maps as historical documents and to exchange views on methods of collecting and recording data for cartobibliographies.

James Esson Stereography Exhibit. The National Photography Collection, Public Archives of Canada, mounted an exhibit of fifty-seven photographs printed from the James Esson Collection of 247 original stereo negatives. It was held at the Public Archives from 5 February to 30 April 1979. Esson's stereographs date from the late 1870s and early 1880s when he traveled widely throughout Canada to produce hundreds of titles in a dozen different stereograph series, each defined by theme or geography.

Preparations for International Archives Week. Canada will formally celebrate International Archives Week (IAW), 1–8 November 1979. It is hoped that Archives Day, the annual event sponsored by the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) and the Association des archivistes du Québec (AAQ) will be absorbed into IAW. The two-face Roman god Janus, looking forward and backward, has been designated as the IAW logo.

During the past several months the IAW Committee of the Bureau of Canadian Archivists (BCA) has tried to encourage participation, provide a vehicle for IAW communication, and hopes that local initiative and personal commitment will make the celebration a success. Inadequate funding, however, has hampered the efforts of the BCA committee in its planning. In late January 1979, the BCA approached the secretary of state for special funding to be distributed among the principal local and regional groups to assist them in financing suitable IAW activities. The committee has also called for suggestions as to where this money can be most effectively applied.

Expansion of Drug-Use Data Collection. The Machine Readable Archives Di-

vision of the Public Archives of Canada, which provides archival services to historically valuable computerized data, was identified in 1975 by Health and Welfare Canada as a repository for drug-use data (files) and is involved in acquisition activities to increase the scope and, therefore, the historical and research value of this collection. A brochure which catalogs and summarizes each drug-use file has been prepared and is available to the public upon request from PAC.

PAC Repatriates Major Historical Collection. On 8 March 1979, Secretary of State John Roberts announced the purchase by the Public Archives of the Lande collection of early Canadian historical records, for the sum of \$500,000. The funds for the purchase came from a grant under the 1978 Cultural Property Export and Import Act which is designed to provide funds to libraries, museums, and other heritage-guarding organizations to repatriate valuable Canadian heritage items and collections located in other countries. Lawrence Lande, a former resident of Montreal and authority and writer on early Canadiana, who now lives in Florida, acquired the material over a thirty-year period.

Completion of New Northwest Territories Archives. The government of the Northwest Territories has completed construction of its new Northern Heritage Centre, at Yellowknife. This means that every section of Canada now has a provincial or territorial archives. Included in the center is 11,000 sq. ft. of space to house all documents of historical value emanating from the territorial government. It is hoped that public documents legislation will soon be enacted and disposal schedules drawn up.

The Provincial Archives of British Columbia. As a result of the reorganization and expansion of the Provincial Archives, the Central Microfilm Bureau of the provincial government has been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Archives. The new Microfilm Services Division will be responsible for advisory services to ministries, microfilming projects, analysis of proposals for micrographics systems, and staff training programs.

Cartographic Experiment in British Columbia. In the Map Division of the Provincial Archives, a noteworthy accession includes fire insurance plans of British Columbia's smaller urban centers, for the period 1953 to 1968. The division has made color slides of selected cartographic material to see whether this approach can be expanded. Two pilot projects resulted in the production of 35mm. color slides of *Atlas Schturmana Lowtzowa, 1782*, a colorful, hand-drawn atlas of Russian origin showing Alaskan coastal waters and the Bering Strait; and slides of Goad's 1909 fire insurance plans of Victoria.

Records Management Legislation in Vancouver. As a result of a records management bylaw passed in September 1978 by the Vancouver City Council, most municipal departments are inventorying and scheduling their extensive records. Also, all publications from each civic board, department, or division are to be retained in a separate part of the public records section to insure their retention. Appropriate catalog cards and lists will be retained with the departmental record finding aids in the research room of the City of Vancouver Archives.

Mobile Shelving at Provincial Archives of Alberta. Approximately two-thirds of the ground floor stack area at the Provincial Archives of Alberta has been

converted to Compactus mobile shelving to maximize existing storage space. Storage capacity in the area has been doubled.

New Address for Bureau of Canadian Archivists. The new mailing address for the Bureau of Canadian Archivists is PO Box 3002, Station C, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 1H3.

CHINA

Manuscript Exhibit Relating to the Celestial Empire. During January and February 1979, the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress presented a display of manuscripts relating to American interest in the Celestial Empire (the common term used in the 1880s to refer to the China ruled by the Manchus). The occasion for the exhibit was commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the death of Caleb Cushing (1800–79) who, on 3 July 1844, successfully negotiated the Treaty of Wang Hiya (Wanghsia), the first treaty between China and the United States.

FEDERAL GERMAN REPUBLIC.

Dedication of the New Library Building in Berlin. The new building of the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin was formally dedicated on 15 December 1978. The Staatsbibliothek building has been eleven years in the making and is of a radical design. It features large open expanses. The reading room complex can easily accommodate 100,000 volumes, is three stories high, more than 400 feet in length, and constitutes a single entity without doors and dividing walls. The balconies house special format collections, such as maps and manuscripts. Permanent exhibit areas, designed in the form of glass-enclosed rooms, open onto the reading room hall and provide wall space for exhibiting paintings and similar materials as well as floor space for exhibit cases.

1978 German Archives Conference. The Organization of German Archivists held its fifty-second German Archives Conference in Hamburg, 2–4 October 1978. The theme of the meeting was "New Questions of Research—New Requirements for the Archives." Participants heard two historians question whether the archives profession is adequately evaluating and making available materials to resolve contemporary problems posed by historical writing. No patent solutions were forthcoming, but further dialogue between the two professions is expected to deal with this important issue.

Other subjects of interest to German archivists centered on the restoration of record groups and special projects. A particular archival problem in postwar Germany has been the destroyed accessions. The Bavarian and North Rhenish-Westphalian Archives reported on their joint efforts to reconstitute Nazi Party records through the accession of receivers' copies. Walter Jaroschka of the Bavarian State Archives described efforts to "restore" the historical provenances in the Munich Archives. Accordingly, archivists will extend to the earlier files of the Bavarian Central Administration the subject classification established at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Klaus Oldenhage of the Federal Archives presented a report on the German-American project to make the records (1944–52) of the

Office of Military Government of Germany (U.S.), also known simply as OMGUS, available at the Federal Archives on microfilm.

Formation of a New Film Archives Association. On 8 December 1978, representatives of the Federal Ministry of Interior and the Berlin state government signed an administrative agreement in Berlin creating a film archives association. The principal members of the new organization include the Bundesarchiv, the German Film Archives Foundation, and German Institute for Film Science, Inc. As supra-regional organizations they will work together to fulfill the role of a central film archives in the Federal Republic.

Under the agreement, the Bundesarchiv will serve as the central film archives by collecting, storing, and preserving German film at the storage and technical facility at Ehrenbreitstein Fortress near Koblenz. The German Film Archives Foundation, established by Berlin State, and the German Institute for Film Science, founded by the German film industry, will use the film holdings through non-commercial film lending, publications, and other methods to promote the cinematic arts and sciences.

The major preservation work facing the Bundesarchiv at Ehrenbreitstein will be the transfer to safety film of all of the old, highly inflammable, nitrate film deposited. As part of the preservation project, the federal archivists will produce so-called security packages of every film in their custody; each security package will consist of a film negative, a "dup" positive, and a composite print. Federal archivists will provide demonstration copies to the foundation and to the institute of the films they turn over to the Bundesarchiv. [Translated by HARRY E. RILLEY, *National Archives and Records Service.*]

FIJI

Closing of the Archives of the Western Pacific High Commission. According to a letter from C. Guy Fowles to the *Canberra Times* (13 August 1978), the Western Pacific Archives in Suva, the capital of Fiji, was scheduled to close at the end of 1978, its material to be transferred to Great Britain. The Western Pacific Archives, however, contains the only substantial record available in the Pacific area of the history of the Solomon Islands, the Gilbert Islands, Tuvalu, the New Hebrides, and Pitcairn Island, because the Western Pacific High Commission was the administrative center for all island groups in the region, except Fiji. Some records of the Kingdom of Tonga were retained in Tonga's capital city of Nukualofa, but there are many gaps in these. There is concern that none of the island nations will possess a complete record of its history once the material is removed. As a compromise measure, it is hoped that the more general documents in the Western Pacific Archives will be microfilmed.

GREAT BRITAIN

New Appointment Policy at Cornwall Record Office. Effective 1 April 1979, the Cornwall Record Office requires all researchers to make appointments prior to their visits, at least a week in advance by mail, or two days by telephone. Ac-

cording to the county archivist, the new policy is in response to security and overcrowding problems caused by increasing numbers of researchers seeking documents.

Bristol Record Office Storage Move. Holdings of the Bristol Record Office, stored since 1939 in a series of bombproof record rooms in a converted railroad tunnel, were moved in 1978 to an intermediate storage area pending the completion of alterations to a new records center in the city. The holdings are now being moved to the new location.

Public Records Amendment Bill Submitted. A short Public Records Amendment Bill, introduced in Parliament in November 1978, would make public records of all the birth, marriage, and death registers held by the registrar general from a date (within 100 years) to be determined by the lord chancellor. The registers would be transferred to the Public Record Office, where the general public could inspect them on microfilm, without fee. It is expected that the microfilming operations, currently being carried out by the Office of Population Census and Surveys, will be completed sometime in 1980.

Record Offices Prepare for International Archives Week. The Essex Record Office is producing a *Bulletin* to advertise and coordinate International Archives Week activities. Several record offices (RO) report their planned activities: Bedfordshire RO plans a peripatetic exhibition in local library branches, Essex RO will sponsor lectures and concerts of early music, Gloucestershire RO will open its new office and have lunch-hour lectures, Portsmouth RO plans exhibitions with twinned towns, and Northumberland RO will present a touring exhibition. Other suggestions include persuading local bookshops to put on displays of RO publications, and urging local amateur dramatic societies to produce evenings of prose and poetry drawn from materials deposited in the record offices.

1978 Meeting of the British Records Association. The British Records Association (BRA) held its annual meeting at the Royal Society's rooms in Carlton House Terrace, London, 28–29 November 1978. Topics for discussion included the preservation of records relating to the natural environment, defined as those needed for weather and ecological research. The discussions also involved representatives from the Royal Institute of British Architects, Cambridge and Lancaster Universities, and the Nature Conservancy Council.

Annual Meeting of the Society of Archivists. The Society of Archivists held its annual meeting, as is traditional, the day after that of the British Records Association, at the Museum of London. The main topic of discussion centered on the subject of the sale of manuscripts and archives, an increasingly pressing matter in Great Britain where several large and important historical accumulations of documents have been offered for sale by their owners. In this connection, the Warwickshire Record Office successfully raised £120,000 and bought in the archives of Warwick Castle.

New Interest in Medical Service Records. An informal panel of consultants, historians, health service administrators, archivists, and representatives of the Public Record Office met at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, in December 1978, to recommend future treatment of medical and

health service records. The panel agreed to publicize a notice in various medical and nursing journals, suggesting that the records held by the different branches of the medical services should be managed on lines advised by local record offices. The panel further suggested the publication of a booklet containing the addresses of these record offices as well as a listing of some of the record series most worthy of permanent retention. There was even a recommendation that the largest units of the health service appoint qualified archivists.

ITALY

Cultural Contacts with Other Institutions Sought. Since 1972 the Historical Institute of Lucca, located in Tuscany approximately sixty miles from Florence, has been publishing a periodical entitled *Actum Luce*. It deals with various phases of the history of Lucca and its surrounding area as well as with the achievements of Luccan immigrants. The institute is interested in an exchange of publications with other cultural institutions. For more information write: Antonio Romiti, Istituto Storico Lucchese, Cortile Francesco Corvara, 12—Casella Postale 314, 55100 Lucca, Italy.

KENYA

Subject Guide to Official Kenya Publications. As a part of its program to provide bibliographic control of African official documents, the Library of Congress has published a 423-page guide, compiled by John B. Howell. *Kenya: A Subject Guide to Official Publications* covers official publications and those prepared by organizations and individuals on behalf of the Kenya government, for the period 1886 to 1975. Included are publications issued by the Republic of Kenya and its predecessors, Kenya Colony and Protectorate, the East Africa Protectorate, Great Britain, and the East Africa community. The guide includes also a detailed index of personal names, corporate bodies, and specific subjects, followed by an index to British command papers and series on microfilm.

The guide is available by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, for \$10 (\$12.50 for foreign orders), postage included, and at the Information Counter in the Library of Congress.

NEW ZEALAND.

Gazetting Local Government Archives Schedule. On 1 April 1978, the 1977 amendment to the Local Government Act of 1974 went into effect, part of which pertains to the preservation of and access to local authority documents and archives. Under the provisions of section 256 of the Local Government Amendment (No. 3) Act, a schedule of classes of local archives which may not be destroyed without the prior notification to and approval of the chief archivist has been published in the *New Zealand Gazette* (24 August 1978). The schedule applies to the archives of territorial local authorities.

Progress Reported on a National Register of Archives. The National Archives and the Alexander Turnbull Library are cooperating in the preparation of a Na-

tional Register of Archives and Manuscripts. In November 1977, forms and instruction booklets for the register were distributed to institutions known to hold archives as well as to a wide range of museums, historical societies, and libraries. The first 250 entries have been selected for publication and the National Register Committee (National Archives/Alexander Turnbull Library) hopes to issue a first fascicule sometime during 1979. A second fascicule of 250 entries is being assembled by the joint committee.

Wanganui Regional Museum Recognized Under the 1957 Archives Act. By a notice published in the *New Zealand Gazette* (12 January 1978), the minister of internal affairs approved the Wanganui Regional Museum as a repository for government archives surplus, as provided in section 19 of the Archives Act of 1957. This action follows an original decision to defer approval until the revision of the Archives Act and consideration of the report submitted by Wilfred I. Smith.

Upgrading of Records Centers. Conditions at the two National Archives records centers, Auckland and Lower Hutt near Wellington, have been upgraded. Some 6,000 linear feet of records stored at the Lower Hutt record center have been transferred to the National Archives in Wellington. Prior to the move of the National Archives in 1977 to larger accommodations in the Air New Zealand Building on Vivian Street, space limitations necessitated the use of storage space at the Lower Hutt records center for National Archives records. Most of the records in temporary storage have now been transferred to the National Archives.

New ARANZ Branches Formed. The formation in late 1977 of two new branches of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand increased the number of branches to four. On 19 November at a public meeting attended by twenty interested persons, the Auckland ARANZ branch was formed. On 22 November, twenty-eight persons formally inaugurated the Waikato branch of ARANZ, at Hamilton.

Formation of a Committee on Official Information. According to a press release, dated 5 May 1978, from the Office of the Prime Minister, the government has decided to establish a committee to examine the classification of information held by the government, departments, and agencies in order to consider the extent to which official information can be made readily available to the public. Keeping in mind the need to protect national security, the public interest, and individual privacy, the committee plans to review the criteria for applying current classifications and, if necessary, recommend the redefinition of the categories of information requiring protection. In addition, the committee will examine the purpose and application of the Official Secrets Act of 1951, in particular section 6, as well as any other relevant legislation, and recommend amending legislation.

RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE

The National Archives of Rhodesia. The National Archives, located on Borrowdale Road in Salisbury, was established by legislation in 1935 as the Government Archives of Southern Rhodesia. This followed interest engendered by a historical exhibition commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the British oc-

cupation of Matabeleland (1893). For its activities the embryonic department was allocated two small rooms in a converted Salisbury house, but four months later (in early 1936) moved to government-rented offices on the third floor of Bechuana House.

The initial concern of the first archival staff was to determine the extent and condition of four decades' accumulation of records scattered as far afield as outstations and London. These records included not only those of the Southern Rhodesia government, but also the administrative records of its predecessor, the British South Africa Company. As the result of a vigorous acquisition campaign which swelled the ancillary collections of library and manuscript material, the Archives in 1938 moved into larger premises (9,000 sq. ft.) in the basement of the Milton Buildings, a block of government offices in Salisbury.

Following World War II the department was renamed the Central African Archives and its operations were extended to Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and Nyasaland (Malawi), and depots were opened in Livingstone and Zomba. By 1954 a Records Management Section was created to cope with the increasing volume of official records. To carry out its function, the section secured additional, separate storage space at Cranborne (Salisbury), Zomba, and Lusaka, and initiated a dynamic records management program modeled on American practices. In the following year an archival service was instituted to assist municipal bodies.

Five years after Southern Rhodesia and the protectorates of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland were united into the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the



National Archives
Rhodesia
Salisbury

Federal Parliament passed the Archives Act of 1958 transforming the Central African Archives into the National Archives of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. In 1959 plans for a permanent repository for the federation's archives were prepared and it opened on the outskirts of Salisbury in 1961. Modern in concept, the three-story reinforced-concrete building, situated on a ten-acre site amidst aloe-strewn grounds, serves as the present headquarters of the National Archives of Rhodesia. Upon dissolution of the federation in 1963, control of the archives passed to the respective territories. Federal government records, however, remained in the custody of the Archives in Southern Rhodesia but are available to the territories under terms of an inter-governmental agreement.

Further archival development occurred with the establishment of a high-density satellite repository in Salisbury, and, in 1966, a branch records center opened at Bulawayo to serve the needs of Matabeleland.

In Rhodesia the controlling legislation relating to records is the National Archives Act of 1963. The public archives, currently totaling 2,640 meters, consists of central and local government records and those of some statutory bodies that are over thirty years old. For the most part, these records are open for public inspection in the reading room at the Archives. Finding aids for Rhodesian records include *Guide to the Public Archives of Rhodesia, vol. 1, 1890-1923*, edited by T. W. Baxter (Salisbury, 1969), and inventories supplemented by indexes.

Complementing the official records is the Historical Manuscripts Collection, which is divided into three groups: private archives, primary manuscripts (organized records created by corporate bodies, clubs, societies, associations, businesses, and churches), and secondary manuscripts (reminiscences, unpublished typescripts, letters). The collection reflects the country's historical development and includes the papers of individuals who have played a prominent role in Rhodesian history. *Guide to the Historical Manuscripts in the National Archives of Rhodesia*, edited by T. W. Baxter and E. E. Burke (Salisbury, 1970), and various descriptive inventories and indexes, provide useful finding aids.

The primary role of the Archives, the selection and preservation of public archives, has been expanded over the years and now includes a wide variety of operations in the areas of information, research, and publication. In 1977 the Archives began an oral history program, African and English, and works closely with the National Historical Association in this hitherto largely untapped source of historical information.

The Library, principal collector and preserver of the nation's literature, functions as the national library of Rhodesia, although it was originally designed to meet the needs of the archival staff. It is essentially concerned with material printed in or outside of Rhodesia relating to the country within the general context of southern Africa. Consequently, there is no limitation on form, subject matter, or language to the collections. As the principal depository library, its bibliographic activities include the publication of an annual national bibliography. Also, it maintains an expanding collection of 30,000 photographs covering all aspects of Rhodesian life, and it maintains supporting map and audiovisual collections. Resources of the Library, therefore, complement and supplement the archives, records, and manuscripts.

The National Archives also serves as the administrative center of the Government Library Service (GLS) which oversees thirty-six departmental libraries. In

an attempt to upgrade the libraries staff, GLS has concentrated heavily on training and guidance by means of in-service training courses, workshops, conferences, instructional circulars, and direct contacts.

THAILAND

Establishment of a New Religious Archives. Payap College, Chiangmai, has established a Manuscript Division to collect records relating to the history of Protestant churches and missions in Thailand and to serve as the archives for the Church of Christ and its affiliated institutions in the region. [HERBERT R. SWANSON, *Payap College, Chiangmai, Thailand*]

WESTERN SAMOA

Archival Assistance from Australia. The Australian Development Assistance Bureau advised in April 1978 that the government of Western Samoa needed the assistance of a qualified archivist for at least several months. The Western Samoan government is setting up a national archives in a newly extended building in Apia, the capital of Western Samoa.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

Oral History in Southeast Asia. A colloquium on oral history, sponsored by the Southeast Asian Regional Branch of ICA, was held in Penang, Malaysia, 8–11 May 1978. Delegates from five Southeast Asian countries presented reports on the state of oral history in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

CARBICA III Conference Planned. The third meeting of the Caribbean Archives Association (CARBICA) will be held in Nassau, Bahamas, 22–26 October 1979, with "The Role of the Archivist in Nation Building" as its theme. Papers will be presented on education and training of archivists, involvement of the government and status of the archivist, oral history and non-documentary sources, and modern records and records management. A round table on archival development in the Caribbean area and a panel discussion on the use of archival materials are also planned.

The proceedings of CARBICA II, held in Kingston, Jamaica, in June 1978, and a directory of Caribbean archives will be ready for distribution at CARBICA III.

INTERNATIONAL

Thirty-ninth FID Conference and Congress. Representatives of thirty-seven member states, and observers including representatives from six international organizations attended the conference of the International Federation for Documentation (FID) in Edinburgh, 18–23 September 1978. The FID General Assembly ratified six new national members: Algeria, Bangladesh, Ghana, Kuwait,

Mozambique, and the Philippines. It also elected Richard Gietz of Argentina as vice president and Herbert White of the United States as treasurer.

The theme of the FID Congress that followed the conference, in Edinburgh, 25-28 September, was "New Trends in Documentation and Information." Some 400 persons from fifty countries, and representatives of twelve international organizations, participated.

The report of the General Assembly was published as FID A78-41. The Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux (Aslib) will publish the proceedings of the Congress.

The fortieth FID Conference and Congress will meet in Lyngby, Denmark, in August 1980. The 1982 meetings will be held in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Photo-Archives of Nineteenth-Century Near East. The Harvard Semitic Museum is leading an international drive to save endangered early photo-documentation of the cultural heritage of the Near East, the time period spanning the invention of photography in 1839 to the advent of the snapshot camera around the time of World War I. With a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the museum is assembling a comprehensive photo-archives of the nineteenth-century Near East and is preparing a guide to collections in the United States and abroad of historical photographs made in the area from North Africa to Asia Minor, east as far as Afghanistan, as well as the traditional Holy Land and the Arabian peninsula.

ABSTRACTS

CANADA. *Polyphony*, vol. 1, no. 1 (Fall and Winter 1977). The purpose of this first issue of *Polyphony* is to introduce the reader to the work of the Multicultural History Society of Ontario, organized to "preserve and record the province's ethnic history." (See above, p. 373.) The society chose *Polyphony* as the title for the journal because they believed that "the musical concept of many melodies harmonizing" offered a descriptive metaphor for the role of ethnicity in the life of Ontario.

Articles in this issue highlight the archival holdings of the society. In "Some Published Sources of Ethnocultural History" (pp. 4-12). Bernhard Dandyk describes phrasebooks used by early immigrants to learn English and yearbooks from parishes, societies, immigrant aid societies, unions, and ethnic political organizations. Through newspaper clippings, announcements, and programs these printed sources document the building of an ethnic church and the bitter political conflicts of the decade. Mark Bockelman in "The Ethnic Press in Ontario" (pp. 21-25) describes two newspapers, one East Indian and one Dutch, of the more than 500 newspapers and periodicals written in forty languages that have been published in Ontario. The papers focus on social and cultural problems of the immigrant as well as on problems in the homeland. The author contends that these papers drew a geographically dispersed group together.

Among unsigned articles in this issue, "Some Unpublished Sources of Ethnocultural History" (pp. 13-20) contains excerpts from the diaries of an Armenian and a Jewish immigrant describing community life in Canada. It also describes a scrapbook collection on Hungarian-Canadians, kept in the 1930s. "Oral

History Sources Collection" (pp. 26–29) describes a collection based on structured questionnaires and rambling reminiscences. The interviews deal with phases of the immigration process, ethnic life in Ontario, and problems of adjustment and prejudice. The emphasis is on grassroots sources. "Portraits of Ontario's People" (pp. 30–36) is a photographic essay depicting Ontarians in their religious practices, work, celebrations, and recreation. [THOMAS F. SOAPES, *National Archives and Records Service*]

ITALY. *Rassegna degli Archivi di Stato*, vol. 36, no. 2 (May/August 1976). This issue devotes a majority of its space to articles pertaining to foreign archival practice and discussions of specialized sources for the study of Italian history. In the most detailed article on archival administration, Elio Lodolini of the Archivio di Stato di Roma updates (pp. 474–94) a 1971 report on the development of Brazil's archives. (See above, p. 372.) An appendix contains the texts of recent Brazilian legislation relating to archives.

In a second article (pp. 502–26), Lodolini deals with archival administration and education in Bavaria. He notes the anomalies which separate the Bavarian State Archives from other Länder archives in the German Federal Republic, outlines the administrative organization of the Bavarian system, and makes some cursory remarks about the archives school (Bayerische Archivschule) in Munich. An appendix provides the text of the regulations governing the archives school.

In the third article on foreign archival affairs, Isabella Zanni Rosiello, of the Archivio di Stato di Bologna, discusses (pp. 495–501) an ongoing debate among French archivists over the relative importance of the functions they perform and over the greater or lesser emphasis that the functions should receive. Rosiello is critical of French archivists for ignoring constructive criticisms from non-archivists, especially historians, in trying to deal with this problem. She is critical also of the French archival education system, in particular with the course at the Ecole des Chartes, as inadequate in meeting the needs of contemporary archival administration.

Among the articles devoted to sources for Italian history, American archivists will find the most interesting to be Antonio Ivan Pini and Roberto Greci's discussion (pp. 337–417) of the *venticinquine* of Bologna (lists of males between the ages of 18 and 70 fit for military service). The authors outline the value of this source for medieval demographic studies, discuss methods of preservation, and elaborate on the system they used in the arrangement and description of the records.

There are two articles of particular interest to specialists in cartographic and legal archives. Diego Maestri, of the Istituto di fondamenti dell'architettura, University of Rome, writes (pp. 527–38) about the geography of the former Italian port of Volano and includes ten plates derived primarily from cartographic records of the period. Isidoro Soffietti, of the Archivio di Stato di Torino, discusses (pp. 418–49) the forms of wills used in the *Piemonte* region of northern Italy (Savoy) between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, and contrasts Piedmontese practice with that in other parts of pre-unification Italy. [JAMES EDWARD MILLER, *National Archives and Records Service*]

SPAIN. *Revista de Archivos, Bibliotecas y Museos*, vol. 81, no. 1 (January/March 1978). In this issue is an annotated accession list of manuscripts (pp. 175–90) acquired by the National Library during 1977. This list was prepared by Manuel Sanchez Mariana. [CELSO RODRIGUEZ, *Organization of American States*]

VENEZUELA. *Boletín Histórico*, no. 43 (January 1977). This issue contains (pp. 102–56) the final installment of an index to the materials in the Venezuelan section of the Archives of Gran Colombia. The time span of the materials in this portion of the index is the 1817–35 period, and the materials pertain to Series P, Q, R, S, T, U, W, X, Y, Z, and Za. The index is the logical extension of the microfilm project undertaken by the John Boulton Foundation, of Caracas, to copy all documents at the National Archives of Colombia, relating to Venezuela. [CELRO RODRÍGUEZ, *Organization of American States*]

Other Publications Received

Canada. Public Archives of Canada. *Annual Report, 1976/1977* (1978).

France. *La Gazette des Archives*, n.s., no. 100 (1978).

Great Britain. Hertfordshire County Council, County Record Office, Report for 1978 (1979).

International Council on Archives. *CAD Information CDA*, no. 2 (January 1979).

Israel. Central Zionist Archives, *Zionist Literature*, n.s., vol. 13, no. 3–4 (March–April 1978); n.s., vol. 13, no. 5–6 (May–June 1978); n.s., vol. 13, no. 7–8 (July–August 1978); n.s., vol. 13, no. 11–12 (November–December 1978).

New Zealand. National Archives of New Zealand. *A Summary of Work, 1976/1977* (1978).

Romania. Biblioteca Centrală de Stat a Republicii Socialiste România, Central National de Schimb, *Catalogue* (1978).

Scandinavia. *Nordisk Arkivnyt*, vol. 23, no. 2 (June 1978); vol. 23, no. 3 (September 1978); vol. 23, no. 4 (December 1978).

Spain. *IREBI Indeces de Revistas de Bibliotecologia*, no. 15 (January 1978).

Venezuela. *Boletín Histórico*, no. 44 (May 1977); no. 45 (September 1977).

Yugoslavia. *Arhiv Bosne i Hercegovine, 1947–1977* (1977).