

The International Scene: News and Abstracts

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NEWS

AUSTRALIA

Rare 1906 Motion Picture Found. A routine inspection of the estate of a Melbourne resident has led to the discovery of a long-lost, Australian-produced film. The 1906 film entitled *The Story of the Kelly Gang*, is believed to be one of the world's first motion pictures and has been the subject of an extensive search by film historians and archivists. It recalls the tale of probably the best known Australian bushranger (outlaw).

Doncker's Sea Atlas Provisionally Identified. A Dutch atlas, known as *De Zee-Atlas Ofte Water-Waereld*, or more commonly as *Doncker's Sea Atlas*, in the Petherick Collection at the National Library, Canberra, has been identified as a unique copy. The atlas, containing nineteen maps of the seas of the world, was made by the Amsterdam cartographer Hendrick Doncker in 1659. It has always been regarded as rare, but its significance was not appreciated until map curator Dorothy Prescott did research into the background of maps the National Library intended

to exhibit. She found that the atlas bears not only Doncker's identifying marks, but also a Muller label. Muller was the Amsterdam book dealer who placed the atlas on sale in 1875.

BRAZIL

Fourth Congress on Archival Science Held in Rio. The Association of Brazilian Archivists held its Fourth Brazilian Congress on Archival Science on the campus of the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, 14–19 October 1979. Theme of the Congress was "Archives and Their Utilization." Papers and discussions dealt with various aspects of the general theme: utilization of archives in administration, science, and technology; the use of archives as primary sources in history; the public use of archives; and the integration of archives into information centers.

CANADA

National Survey of Archival Materials Begun. Under grants from the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and the Public Archives of Canada (PAC), the first phase of a national survey of archival resources has been completed. Cooperating in the project were PAC, the provincial archives, the Yukon Archives, and the federal departments of the Secretary of State and of Employment and Immigration. During the past summer, 138 students, divided into twenty-eight groups, canvassed in twenty cities or regions institutions which have archives sections. The goal of the survey is to identify and locate essential materials (except federal and provincial government records) that would be of interest to historians, archivists, and researchers. Results of the summer survey will contribute substantially to the data already collected in compiling the Union List of Manuscripts.

Reassignment of Responsibility for Ottawa General Records Centre. Effective 17 April 1979, responsibility for the Ottawa General Records Centre was transferred to the Regional Records Centres Division. This change effectively brings all general records centers, from Halifax to Vancouver, under one administration.

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society Becomes MVM (Canada) Incorporated. At a special meeting held in Steinbach, Manitoba, on 17 April 1979, the membership of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society passed a resolution to reorganize under the new name of Mennonite Village Museum (Canada) Inc. This new name reflects the major interest which the society has had in the project during the past fifteen years. Consequently, all members of the society automatically become members of MVM (Canada) Inc.

At the same meeting it was also agreed that the Cultural Committee, a subcommittee of the society, be allowed to form a new corporate body under the old name of Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society. This group would serve to initiate programs relating to heritage and historical work among Mennonites in the province.

PAC Exhibition on the Life of Public Records at the Archives. In an attempt to illustrate the life cycle of public records as well as the quantity and variety of federal government records, PAC opened an exhibit on 16 October 1979 in Ottawa. The exhibition, entitled *The Continuous Chain: The Management of Federal Public Records*, is intended to stimulate public awareness of records as an essential part of government management as well as a useful source of information. The PAC display will run through 15 January 1980.

Microfilm Standard Approved. On 5 September 1979, Dominion Archivist W. I. Smith received the first copy of the National Standard of Canada CAN 2-72.11-M79, *Microfilm as Documentary Evidence*, from the Standards Council. This new standard will enable an organization to show that a microfilm copy of a given document is an accurate picture of the information originally recorded, and made in compliance with a National Standard of Canada. Although mere publication of the new National Standard does not guarantee that the courts will readily accept micrographic evidence, it will provide lawyers a basis on which to cross-examine witnesses as to the trustworthiness of the microfilm submitted and the system that created the microfilm record.

New Format for *Bulletin*. The bi-monthly *Bulletin*, published by the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA), is now in a new format. Issue No. 4 (August 1979) reflects the changes.

Reorganization of the Bank of Nova Scotia Archives. As a result of an internal reorganization, the archives is now part of the bank's administrative division and reports through its General Office Operations Department. The archives is now responsible for records administration and preparation of a records management policy for the bank. A major responsibility of the archives continues to be the administration of the bank's Fine Arts Collection which involves the acquisition, installation, inventorying, and care of a major collection of Canadian art displayed in bank buildings across Canada.

New Archives Center Opened for the Northwest Territories. On 3 April 1979 the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife officially opened. The Heritage Centre is intended to function as an archives, museum, art gallery, cultural institute, and research center for all the Northwest Territories.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Transfer of the Berlin Document Center. The Berlin Document Center is depository for the master membership card file of the NSDAP (Nazi) party and personnel files of the Schutzstaffeln (SS) and other party units and affiliated organizations. It is scheduled to be transferred in 1981 from the supervision of the Berlin Mission of the U.S. Department of State to that of the Berlin administrative office of the Federal German Ministry of Interior. Microfilm copies will be available in the United States at the National Archives, subject to the provisions of the Privacy Act. All inquiries and requests should be addressed to: Director, Berlin Document Center, Wasserkäferstein 1, 1000 Berlin-Zehlendorf 37.

GREAT BRITAIN

Two New Groups Established by the Society of Archivists. The National, University and Specialist Forum has been set up by the Society of Archivists to provide a professional meeting point for members of the society who do not work for local authority record offices. The Forum has already established working parties to study the question of retention schedules for university archives, and methods of listing. Details of the Forum's work may be obtained from Joan Smith, British Antarctic Survey Archives, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET. The other new group in the society is the newly established (26 May 1979) Irish Region, covering both the Republic and Northern Ireland. This raises the number of regions in the society to nine. The new region met on 6 October 1979 to discuss the educational uses of archives, a subject on which the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast, has unique experience.

The 1979 Annual Instructional Meeting for Conservationists. The Conservation Group of the society held its annual instructional meeting for repairers, in Dublin, 22–25 August 1979. Guy Petherington, consultant conservator at the Canadian Conservation Institute, addressed the meeting. The society is also campaigning to revive the interest of conservationists, who have at times felt excluded from the society's activities. This is resulting in a greater number and variety of meetings on conservation problems and a livelier liaison with museum conservation services. The Conservation Group's annual general meeting will be held at the Public Record Office instead of in Dublin. No date has been set.

Computer Applications Committee Receives Report on PROSPEC-SA. The initial phase of PROSPEC-SA, the experimental cooperative computer project for archival listing, has been successfully completed. At a special meeting held at the Public Record Office on 26 April 1979, eight out of ten participating record offices indicated their desire to continue with the development of the system. Funds are now being sought to allow this.

Continuing Efforts Toward Preservation of Medical and Health Records. The Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine has published *The Preservation of Medical and Public Health Records* as issue number one in its Research Publications Series. Interested persons may obtain a copy from the Wellcome Unit, 47 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PE. This continues the activity of the working party on medical records, which was originally formed at the King's Fund Centre in 1977. At least one of the regional health authorities has now appointed staff archivists, and there has been a good deal of discussion of the retention values of the administrative archives of the health service as well as of medical case records.

Reorganization of the Greater London Record Office. After many years as two completely separate sections, the Greater London Record Office has now been reorganized into a single unit. The searchrooms of both parts were closed for the second half of 1979, and a new, unified searchroom opened on 2 January 1980 at County Hall, Westminster. Also as a result of the reorganization, many records are now stored in remote buildings, and researchers will have to order records three days in advance; prior appointments are essential. Other developments in the county record offices include the opening of a new records centre at Port

Dinorwic, North Wales, for the Gwynnedd Record Office. The move from Caernarfon Limbo will permit the Gwynnedd Record Office to operate a full records management program for the County Council. Many local record offices report extensive use of job creation schemes introduced by the government to counteract unemployment in the depressed areas. The Dyfed Record Office, for example, now employs thirteen persons under the government's anti-unemployment program.

Annual Activities of the Business Archives Council. The Business Archives Council (BAC), which reported increased membership for 1979, held its annual training course for business archivists at the University of Aston. BAC's annual meeting in July was devoted to questions of shipping and maritime records and was held in the hallowed precincts of Lloyd's Register of Shipping. The BAC is particularly active in survey work, and is in the final stages of a national survey of banking records. It has announced a new survey program of the archives of companies in liquidation. Philip Cottrell of Leicester University is the new editor of the council's journal, *Business Archives*. New branches have also been opened in the north and northwest of the country, and these are planning active local programs.

JAPAN

Major Microfilming Project for National Diet Library Started. After five years of intermittent negotiations with NARS officials and upon completion of a feasibility study which resulted in the copying of some 500,000 American military records relating to the immediate postwar period, the Japanese government has decided to proceed with microfilming key records of the U.S. occupation force in postwar Japan. It is estimated that the \$1.4 million project will take ten years to complete and result in the production of 30 million frames. A joint Japanese-American archival team began in mid-June 1979 with the microfilming of approximately 90 percent of all Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP) records (1945-52), which are currently stored at the Washington National Records Center in Suitland, Maryland. The Japanese project closely parallels the OM-GUS (Office of Military Government of Germany [U.S.]) microfilm project which the German Federal Republic has been pursuing for some years at the records center in Suitland.

MEXICO

Archives Exchange Negotiated with Library of Congress. The Instituto Nacional de Antropología é Historia, in Mexico City, has negotiated with the Hispanic Acquisitions Project of the Library of Congress an exchange of 539 reels of positive microfilm of Mexican archives in return for duplicate copies of various *National Union Catalog* quinquennial cumulations. The first installment of the exchange, comprising twenty-nine reels of the archives of General Adalberto Tejeda, was sent to the Library of Congress in July 1979. Future installments will contain

materials of a wide variety relating to Mexican social and cultural history. The bulk of the microfilm consists of manuscripts and records originating in Mexico from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries.

NEW ZEALAND

ARANZ Sets Up a Labor Archives Committee. The Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ) has formed a labor archives committee. The dual aim of this newly established committee is to locate labor archives and to advise holders of labor archives on the best methods of preserving their materials, or to suggest suitable repositories for storing them.

Archives Topic of Annual Conference of New Zealand Library Association. Included in the program of the annual conference of the New Zealand Library Association, held in Dunedin on 16 February 1979, was a session on archives. The main subject was local authority archives. This category of archives has received increasing attention since passage of the 1977 amendment to the Local Government Act of 1974, which went into effect in April 1978.

Third Annual ARANZ Conference Held. The Archives and Records Association of New Zealand held its third annual conference, in Dunedin, 24–25 August 1979. This marked the first time ARANZ has held its conference outside of Wellington.

International Archives Week Celebrated. New Zealand archivists celebrated International Archives Week, 19–25 November 1979. As a part of the celebrations, ARANZ sponsored in Wellington a seminar on the introduction to archives practice. Representatives of both the National Archives and the Alexander Turnbull Library participated in the seminar.

PERU

National Archives Exhibit Commemorates the War Against Chile. The Archivo General de la Nación and the Association of Peruvian Archivists organized from 20 March to 6 April 1979 an exhibit to commemorate the War of the Pacific (1879–83). Documents used in the display were furnished by the national archives, the Archivo Histórico Riva-Agüero, and the Archivo del Fuego Agrario.

Exhibit by Archives Employees to Promote Archival Awareness. Archivists and other employees from various archival repositories in the Lima area set up an exhibit at the National Library. The purpose of the two-week display (18–31 May 1979) was to promote archival awareness among the general public. Some of the institutions participating included the Archivo del Fuego Agrario, Archivo Histórico Militar del Perú, Archivo Histórico de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Archivo Arzobispal de Lima, and Archivo de la Compañía Peruana de Vapores.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Formation of a New Archives and Manuscript Association. In April 1979, the Association for Archivists and Manuscript Librarians (AMLIB)/Vereniging vir Argivarisse en Manuskriplibliotekaresse (AMBIB) was formed. The objectives of the association are: to publish a regular newsletter, to plan and arrange regional and national seminars, to establish good relations with the South African Society of Archivists, and to invite government archivists to participate in regional and national meetings. AMLIB/AMBIB will also seek to enlist the support and cooperation of branch committees of the South African Library Association in the various centers, for the arranging of regional meetings. Membership of the association includes university, business, church, and government archivists; manuscript librarians; and professional museum officers. The first issue of its *Newsletter* (May/June 1979) appeared shortly after the inaugural meeting.

Expansion of the Powers of the Director of Archives. The Archives Amendment Act (No. 32 of 1979) increases the powers of the Director of Archives. Under the terms of this Act, the Director is now empowered to authorize, without the consent of the Archives Commission, the destruction of archives and accessions which in his opinion do not warrant permanent preservation; to advise on the care, custody, and filing of documents and records in the possession of individuals and institutions not covered by the Act; to determine the conditions subject to which archives may be microfilmed; to determine the system of filing of archives in a government office and an office of local authority; and to lend archives and accessions for the purposes of exhibition. Other provisions of the Act include alteration of the functions of the Archives Commission.

SPAIN

International Meeting Held On Development of Ibero-American Archives. The Spanish Ministry of Culture sponsored a meeting in Toledo, 6–8 June 1979, with various intergovernmental and international organizations interested in the development of archives in Latin America. From this meeting the intergovernmental organizations stated that they will try to keep each other informed of their respective assistance programs, and the Spanish Archives Administration plans to establish a center to collect and circulate information to all concerned organizations and institutions as well as to work closely with the Latin American Association of Archives (ALA). In addition to this, the International Council on Archives will take appropriate measures to provide ALA with financial assistance to establish a permanent secretariat and to implement ALA's professional program. To help toward development of modern national policies for archives and records management, ALA and other participating organizations will send specialists to various countries.

New Archives Journal Launched. The Subdirección General de Archivos in the Ministry of Culture has begun to publish an archives journal for Spanish archivists. *Boletín de Archivos*, scheduled to be published three times a year under the editorship of Federico Udina Martorell, will serve as a successor journal to the *Boletín de la Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas*, which ceased publication in 1974.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

London Meeting of the ICA Bureau. The ICA Bureau held its regular meeting at the Public Record Office and the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, 3–4 April 1979. At this meeting, the bureau endorsed the registration fees (£ 25 for participants and £ 15 for accompanying persons), as proposed by the organizing committee at the forthcoming Ninth International Congress on Archives. The bureau also expressed support of the Records and Archives Management Program (RAMP) being undertaken by UNESCO toward the development of archival and records management norms, standards, and guidelines. The next full meeting of the Bureau is scheduled to be held in early May 1980 in Budapest.

First General Conference Held by SWARBICA. The Department of National Archives of the Sri Lanka government hosted the first general conference of the South and West Asian Regional Branch of ICA (SWARBICA), and a two-day symposium on regional training needs in archival technology and management. The week-long conference (22–28 January 1979) was held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute in Colombo. Delegates at the conference also amended the constitution to permit institutions and individuals outside the region to join SWARBICA.

International Seminar on Strategies for Archival Development in the Third World. The German Commission of UNESCO (FRG) and ICA jointly organized a seminar in West Berlin, 11–16 June 1979, to examine a whole range of current problems relating to archival development. Participants included representatives of the ICA Bureau, six ICA regional branches, the Committee for Archival Development (CAD), the Association of German Archivists, and the German Foundation for International Development. Some of the recommendations adopted, or conclusions reached by the seminar were: endorsement of UNESCO's RAMP project; establishing closer cooperation between UNESCO, other UN agencies, bilateral assistance organizations, and international and regional professional organizations in developing archival and records management services; public relations campaigns to make public officials aware of the contributions of archives to economic and social development; establishment of ICA regional branches for Western Equatorial Africa and the Pacific, as well as a clearinghouse within CAD; development of professional and technical training infrastructures; and urging a joint UNESCO/ICA action for the settlement of archival claims.

JUDAICA

Extensive Microfilm Project Well Underway. Specializing in materials on anti-semitism, national socialism, and German Jewry during the Weimar and Nazi periods, and on totalitarian regimes in other countries, the Weiner Library in London is considered one of the major international centers for research into the history of post-World War I Europe. This library is scheduled to be transferred to the University of Tel Aviv some time in 1981.

Under grants from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Stiftung Volkswagenwerk, Axel Springer Stiftung, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, efforts are well underway to microfilm the holdings of the Wiener Library prior to their transfer to Israel. The total cost of this extensive two-year project is estimated at \$400,000. The project calls for microfilming those holdings either not already available in microform or not easily accessible in the United States. Microfilm copies will be available at the Leo Baeck Institute and the New York Public Library. The first installment, comprising 1–2,000 reels of selected microfilm, has been sent to the institute.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Microforms of Major Latin American Archives Still Available. The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) is the depository for microfilm copies of archives from several Latin American countries. The UNESCO Mobile Microfilm Unit microfilmed this material about twenty years ago. Researchers may obtain microfilm copies from PAIGH at \$20 per reel for the following countries: Barbados (Barbados Public Library); Dominican Republic (Archivo General de la Nación); El Salvador (Biblioteca Nacional, Archivo del Ministerio del Interior, Museo Nacional David J. Guzmán, and Documentación Municipal, Parroquial y del Nuevo Archivo Nacional); Honduras (Archivo Nacional); Peru (Archivos Eclesiásticos, Archivo Histórico Municipal de Lima, and Archivo Nacional), Panama (Biblioteca Nacional, Archivo Nacional, and Biblioteca de la Universidad); Paraguay (Archivo Nacional de Asunción). A detailed index is available upon request; address inquiries to PAIGH, Ex-Arzobispado 29, Mexico 18, D.F., Mexico.

SOUTH ASIA

South Asia Microform Project. Representatives of members of the South Asia Microform Project (SAMP) held an open meeting during the thirty-first annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, in Los Angeles (30 March–1 April 1979). Participants learned that the SAMP collection of land settlement reports is 90 percent complete, and that purchase of some materials from the India Office Library will be needed to fill in the collection of Indian Archaeological Survey Circle reports. A major problem, however, continues to be the locating and acquiring of South Asian language periodicals identified as being of major research interest. A cumulated SAMP catalog of holdings is expected soon for members and will also be available to the public at a yet undetermined price.

INTERNATIONAL

Announcement of a New International Oral History Journal. Meckler Books, a division of Microform Review Inc. (Westport, Connecticut), intends to publish in early 1980 a journal dealing with oral history and directed toward an interna-

tional audience. Published in February, June, and October, the *International Journal of Oral History* will feature articles relating to theory and methods as well as descriptions of specific areas and case histories. It will also include notices of local oral history projects, reviews of selected international publications, information on grants or available travel funds, notes on conferences, equipment evaluations, and a listing by title and subject of new oral histories that have been completed throughout the world.

ABSTRACTS

CANADA. *Archivaria*, no. 8 (Summer 1979). The main emphasis of this issue is records management, and the leading articles reflect this general theme. Barbara Craig, who is responsible for health and social service records with the Government Records Section, Archives of Ontario, discusses (pp. 3–33) the development of records management programs by the Archives of Ontario in handling the paperwork explosion after World War II. Jay Atherton, Director of the Record Services Branch, Public Archives of Canada, describes (pp. 35–59) the advancement of the “public record office” concept in Canada from the appointment of a Departmental Commission in 1897 to examine disposal methods, to the opening (1956) of the Public Archives Records Centre in Ottawa. Marion Beyea, president of the Association of Canadian Archivists, describes (pp. 61–77) the efforts of historians, archivists, the press, and individuals to establish a provincial archives in New Brunswick in the 1960s. She also examines the development of a records management program within the archives from 1967 to 1978. Richard Bishop, a records analyst for the City of Toronto, describes (pp. 78–82) the extensive and diversified micrographics program begun by the city in 1972. This program not only aids records security and retrieval, but also facilitates the day-to-day operations of all city departments. For example, the Toronto Fire Department has mobile vans equipped with microfiche of street maps; subway stations; pre-fire planning charts; and information about water supplies, expressways, and stockpiles of hazardous chemicals.

Other interesting articles in this issue include two articles based on papers presented to the Fourth (1979) Annual Conference of Association of Canadian Archivists. Lionel Bell, of the British Library, offers (pp. 83–90) pragmatic advice to the archivist on the provision of accommodation for his materials, users, and staff. Bell demonstrates the time-consuming aspects relating to a new archives building. He notes essential points archivists need to consider in the initial planning, as well as the brief (a statement of archival requirements), staff input, technical factors, and the final plans. In “Archives: An Economic and Political View,” political scientist Thomas Flanagan shares (pp. 91–101) some interesting views. To curb artificial inflation in the price of documents, he recommends only limited open-market purchases to fill gaps in existing collections or to complement a related collection. Flanagan believes that government should try to promote pluralism in archival institutions. [MAIDA H. LOESCHER, *National Archives and Records Service*]

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. *Archivní Casopis*, vol. 27, no. 2 (1977). The article by Vladimír Smetáček and Josef Zabka entitled “Modern Methodology in Assembling, Processing and Manipulation of Data for Archival and Historical Purposes” (pp. 65–84) is the leading article in this issue. Aim of the authors is to acquaint Czech and Slovak archivists with the possibilities of computer technology as applied to records control and information retrieval. In enumerating the reasons compelling computer application, the authors note the shift

in direction of some disciplines toward a greater need for readily available data. These disciplines included sociometry, psychometry, econometry, and cliometry (quantitative history). They also make repeated reference to a study by French archivist R. H. Bautier in which he concludes that, unless archives adapt to computer technology, the importance and influence of archives will significantly decrease. According to the authors, close cooperation between archivists and documentation/information specialists is a necessary requisite for archivists to remain abreast of technological advances. Smetáček and Zabka caution that archival repositories in Czechoslovakia, with their relatively high percentage of holdings accessible via manually produced finding aids, must look to ADP techniques to narrow the gap between them and repositories in other countries. [JOSEPH G. SVOBODA, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*]

Slovenská Archivistika, vol. 10, no. 1 (1975). Most of this issue is devoted to the history of selected Slovak fonds. Justina Ginterová surveys (pp. 27–57) the archives of the Slovak Statistical Office. Jozef Bolcik analyzes (pp. 58–101) the development of the archives of Slovak schools between 1715 and 1960, whereas Silvia Cordášová describes (pp. 102–21) records of the city of Trnava prior to 1526.

The article by T. N. Dolgorukova (pp. 16–26) dealing with the so-called “differentiated” access to records descriptions in Soviet archives, is of particular interest and importance. This new approach is characterized as a total of methodological processes enabling one to feed the scientific-informational system with optimal data about the composition and contents of record holdings. Her views reflect conclusions reached at the Seventh International Congress on Archives ((Moscow, 1972) at which this method first became a topic of discussion. In order to obtain quick and selective information from records, Soviet archivists make records available to users by detailed subject-oriented information based on specific evaluation criteria for each record group or subgroup. Such arrangement and

records description conforms to a preestablished method that also regulates the type of description itself. [JOSEPH STASKA, *New York Public Library*]

Slovenská Archivistika, vol. 10, no. 2 (1975). In this issue there are two articles worthy of mention. Josef Hanzal discusses (pp. 67–82) the handling of personal papers of individuals or families. He indicates that archival theory for a long time failed to deal effectively with problems germane to the collection of personal papers. According to Hanzal, the most suitable understanding of personal papers is based on the generally accepted principle of provenance which implies the unity and integrity of the entire collection. Since personal papers are an extremely valuable historical resource in evaluating past events and social trends, there is a need to preserve the papers not only of prominent individuals, but also those of ordinary people who comprise the bulk of any society. Hanzal also describes the efforts of Czech and Slovak archivists to achieve bibliographic control of personal papers.

In the other leading articles, Peter Kartons states (pp. 85–103) the rationale for the existence of archives in business and industrial enterprises. These internal archives constitute the history of the organization, with the primary function to serve economic rather than historical aims. In reviewing archival legislation in Czechoslovakia since the 1950s, Kartons notes that archives in a business or industrial organization is defined as a professional unit concerned with all aspects of records maintenance—preservation, disposal, bibliographic control, treatment, and use. Of special importance in the directives of 1976 are the regulations detailing the duties of management toward their archives in regard to control of the recordkeeping operations and responsibility for archives operations. [JOSEPH G. SVOBODA, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*]

GREAT BRITAIN. *Journal of the Society of Archivists*, vol. 6, no. 2 (October 1978). This issue contains three articles of note.

In the lead article, David G. Vaisey, Keeper of Western Manuscripts, The Bodleian Library, Oxford, decries (pp. 67–75) what he perceives to be the increasing estrangement between archivists and conservators. Chiding both for their stubbornness, he offers concrete suggestions for peacemaking and a happy coexistence which would benefit documents and scholars, as well as archivists and conservators.

Patricia M. Pugh describes (pp. 76–86) the work of the Oxford Colonial Records Project (established in 1963) and the Oxford Development Records Project (established in 1977). During the last fifteen years, these projects have tracked down several thousand former British colonial officials. These contacts have in turn led to the acquisition of hundreds of important collections of diaries, correspondence, and administrative records concerning various former British colonies, and an extensive oral history project.

To dramatize the dangers inherent in the dating of documents, Anne F. Sutton and P. W. Hammond discuss (pp. 87–91) the controversy over the date of the execution of Lord Hastings in 1483. The risks of taking documents at face value are illustrated by inconsistencies found in the Act of Court of the Mercers' Company of London, 1453–1527. According to the authors, any dating of an event, based solely on the Act of Court, should be viewed with caution.

Journal of the Society of Archivists, vol. 6, no. 3 (April 1979). This issue includes (pp. 125–30) the presidential address of Felix Hull, which was delivered at the Society's annual general meeting, held in the lecture theater of the Museum of London on 30 November 1978. Hull urges archivists to reexamine their responsibilities to scholars, to their institutions, and to themselves, as well as to reevaluate long-accepted practices which rapid technological changes may have rendered obsolete and even dangerous. Distressed by the insecurity he senses in the profession, Hull calls for a reassertion, perhaps even a redefinition, of purpose by archivists.

Other articles in the April issue include

one by two University of Toronto professors, Michael Gervers and Brian Merrilees, who examine (pp. 131–35) a twelfth-century *hospitales* charter in Anglo-Norman. John H. Fisher, professor of English Language at the University of Tennessee, traces (pp. 136–44) the evolution of modern written English and the development of Chancery Standard. According to Fisher, the standardization of modern English was a by-product of the standardization of administrative procedures by the clerks of Chancery in the fifteenth century. M. Palmer, historian at Loughborough University, weighs (pp. 145–53) the benefits against the liabilities of using original historical documents as teaching aids and offers practical suggestions for their more effective integration into the secondary school history curriculum. [KATHRYN ALLAMONG JACOB, *United States Senate Historical Office*]

INDIA. *The Indian Archives* 25, no. 1 (Jan.–June 1975). Many of the sources documenting the history of India are in the possession of private repositories or have been transferred to repositories outside of India. In four articles, this issue provides descriptions of such records. C. J. Dewey's article entitled "The History of Mithila and the Records of the Darbhanga Raj" (pp. 1–13) calls attention to the archives of the Khandvala maharajas of Darbhanga, which Dewey labels as "the most valuable collection of historical documents in private hands on the subcontinent." V. D. Divekar's article, "Sir Charles Warre Malet's Bequest at Chargot, England" (pp. 14–23) describes the legacy of the first British resident at the Peshwa Court, which covers the 1786–96 period. T. R. de Souza's "Portuguese Records for India at Goa and Lisbon" (pp. 24–36) identifies valuable records dealing with seventeenth-century economic and social history. M. P. Singh's "Some Literary Sources of History in Pingal and Dingal Languages During the Seventeenth Century" (pp. 37–57) is as much an inquiry into the history of poetry in these two Hindi dialects as it is a description of linguistic source materials.

Italy. *Rassegna degli Archivi di Stato*, vol. 26, no. 3 (Sept.-Dec. 1976). The major article in this edition of the *Rassegna* is a study of the archives of the ancient Near East by Elio Lodolini of the Archivio di Stato di Roma. Lodolini sketches (pp. 707-43) the history of the discovery of these ancient repositories, outlines their types and functions, and discusses the differences between archives and libraries in the ancient world as well as the concept of archives in both ancient and modern worlds. He also mentions the prevailing scholarly debate over ancient uses of archives, especially their legal functions. Lodolini concludes his article with a treatise on possible historical uses of these archives by ancient historians.

Two other articles pertain to the holdings of two specialized Italian archival de-

positories, the archives of the Palermo Chamber of Commerce and the contemporary art archives of the Venice *Biennale*. Both articles provide historical backgrounds of their respective institutions together with folder-title lists of their holdings. The article on the *Biennale* archives by Vladimiro Dorigo of the Archivio Storico delle Arti Contemporanee Biennale di Venezia, however, includes (pp. 779-85) a discussion on some of the problems with audiovisual materials. Ugo Tucci of the University of Venice contributes an article (pp. 762-74) dealing with the development of historical studies of weights and measures. The article is devoted primarily to a discussion of the historiographical problems encountered in studying weights and measures. [JAMES E. MILLER, *National Archives and Records Service*]

Unsigned abstracts were prepared by the *American Archivist* staff.

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