

# The International Scene: News and Abstracts

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## NEWS

**Long Lost B. Franklin Nautical Chart Found.** Philip L. Richardson, associate scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, in Massachusetts, has located two original prints of the first accurate chart of the Gulf Stream, prepared by Benjamin Franklin in 1769–70 to speed the delivery of trans-Atlantic mail. The chart, incorporating information provided by Franklin's cousin, Timothy Folger, a Nantucket ship-captain, is considered important historically because it summarizes Nantucket whalers' knowledge of the Gulf Stream. Richardson found the prints in good condition in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. A third print has been subsequently located in the Royal Naval Library, London.

## AUSTRALIA

**Australian Archivists Meet.** The Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) held its second biennial general meeting, 18–22 May 1979, at the University of Sydney. Forty-four mem-

bers of the Society attended the meeting to hear reports from the Executive Council and various committees, on work accomplished during the 1977/79 period.

The second ASA conference, held concurrently with the biennial general meeting, was attended by some 200 persons. The majority of those attending were from New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, and Victoria; but an impressive number of participants came from South and Western Australia, Tasmania, Queensland, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea. Conference sessions dealt with a wide range of topics. The papers presented at the conference have been published in a two-volume set, *Archives Conference 1979* and *Archives Conference 1979: Supplementary Volume*, available for \$A16.00, plus postage, from the ASA Secretary, P.O. Box 8, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601.

**International Archives Week Activities.** Australians celebrated International Archives Week, 21–27 October 1979. For the occasion, the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) issued two pamphlets, one on the Society and another on archives and the archival profession in Australia. The Melbourne ASA Branch issued auto bumper stickers reading “Archivists make it last longer,” for distribution to all regional branches. The Adelaide Branch organized a discussion on the topic of agency versus public orientation. Special exhibits were mounted by the Archives Branch of the South Australian State Library and the Archives Office of Tasmania, in Hobart. In Sydney, a workshop taught custodians of historical records proper management techniques. Other activities in Sydney included a film evening, tours of the State Archives, and an exhibition at the Fisher Library, University of Sydney. [BAIBA IRVING, *Australian Society of Archivists*]

**Archives and Records Service Established in New South Wales.** The Riverina College of Advanced Education, Wagga Wagga, formally established in May 1979 the Riverina College Archives and Records Service. This is the only permanent, public archives repository in the Riverina. In addition to providing records management and archival services to the college, the archives will collect and preserve records of administrative and historical importance relating to the Riverina and will serve as a research center for the history of the region. It is also an approved repository for the deposit of state archives, and substantial transfers of government records originating in the Riverina have already been made. Riverina College is the first and, at present, only college of advanced education in Australia to develop a service of this nature. The region it serves comprises the southern and south-western part of New South Wales. Direct inquiries to Archivist, Riverina College of Advanced Education, P.O. Box 588, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. 2650, Australia.

## CANADA

**PAC Responds to National Library Report.** The Public Archives of Canada (PAC) has come out in opposition to many of the recommendations in the recently published report by Guy Sylvestre, National Librarian, concerning the future of the National Library of Canada. The report called for a clarification of the mandates of PAC and the National Library. Perhaps the most startling issue raised in the report is the argument for the transfer of archival documents from PAC to the library. PAC archivists believe the report confuses the valid distinctions between archival and library sources, ignores the sanctity of the basic archival principle of provenance, and severely undermines the principle of total archives. The implications contained in the report for the relations between all archives and other institutions in Canada are considerable. PAC urges all Canadian archivists to read the report and voice their opinions. Free copies of the report are available from the Public Relations Office, National Library of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4.

**International Archives Week Celebrated.** The celebration of International Archives Week varied among institutions and included open houses, special seminars and work-

shops, and exhibits. *British Columbia*: The Provincial Archives (PABC) assembled an exhibit entitled "For the Record," which ran from 1 November 1979 to 18 January 1980. On the walls of the gallery also was a series of panels in honor of the International Year of the Child. The City of Vancouver Archives hosted the first training seminar and workshops of the Association of British Columbia Archivists. A special display, "Preserving Our Past," was erected, tracing archival development in the West. Local newspapers and radio stations carried special announcements. *Manitoba*: The Provincial Archives held an open house as an expression of its appreciation to the many donors of material for research. On 7 November 1979, the Archives and Library at Brandon University co-sponsored with the Community Research Centre Archives a seminar on the role of archives in preserving community history. The University of Manitoba Archives and the Coordinator of Canadian Studies co-sponsored, on 23 November 1979, the first annual archives symposium. In an attempt to help the public understand the role of archives, the University of Winnipeg erected in the university library, 5–8 November 1979, a display of documents and artifacts from various archival sources. *Newfoundland*: The Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador held a number of activities to celebrate International Archives Week. In addition to a week-long open house designed for school groups, the Provincial Archives showed historic Newfoundland films during the afternoons of 1, 2, and 5 November 1979. Also, two displays were set up at the archives, one depicting the function and services provided by the archives and the other illustrating the manner of researching a family tree. *Nova Scotia*: Although the Provincial Archives (PANS) had not yet moved into its new building and the old building was full of packing cases, PANS did manage a low-keyed program. An "Archives from your attic" was held in the Nova Scotia Museum, and PANS published an alphabetized Nova Scotia census for 1817 and Picton County for 1827. *Saskatchewan*: Celebrations centered around the Local Archives and History Conference held on 2–3 November 1979, on the campus of the University of Regina. *Alberta*: Seven archives in the province participated. Each archives staged displays, held open houses, and participated in media interviews and educational programs. Collectively, they cooperated in the publication of *Alberta's Archives 1979: Preserving Our Documentary Heritage*, a guide to provincial institutions.

**Poster Exhibition at PAC.** Between 13 February and 9 March 1980, PAC featured a traveling exhibit by the Art Gallery of Ontario entitled "100 Years of the Poster in Canada." The sixty-plus Canadian-produced posters were grouped into seven themes: agricultural, industrial, and commercial exhibits and fairs; politics and elections; world wars; travel and tourism; advertising; art exhibits; and recreational and cultural posters.

**Reorganization of the Personnel Records Services Division of the PAC.** In an effort to improve the ability of PAC to meet its responsibilities under Part VI of the Canadian Human Rights Act of 1978, which deals with the protection of personal information, the Personnel Records Services Division has been reorganized as the National Personnel Records Centre (NPRC). Located at Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, NPRC is a component of the PAC Records Management Branch and is divided into two divisions: Operations and Information Management.

**Pilot Archives Internship Program Started.** During this past summer, the Ethnic Archives of PAC undertook, in cooperation with the history department of Laurentian University of Sudbury, Ontario, an experimental archives internship program. Designed to provide a history graduate student an opportunity to acquire an intensive introduction to archives with a three-month, on-the-job archival experience as part of the student's professional development, this is a new approach to historical training and interdisciplinary cooperation.

**Manitoba Archivists Organize.** On 28 November 1979, some twenty representatives of various institutions and historical societies met in Winnipeg at the Provincial Archives of Manitoba and unanimously agreed to form an association of Manitoba archivists. Membership in the association is open to all persons interested in the development of archives in the province.

**New Home for the Simcoe County Archives.** On 1 December 1979, local government leaders dedicated the new Simcoe County Archives (SCA) building, a 4,000 square foot facility in Midhurst, Ontario. SCA had been housed in the County Museum Building since its establishment in 1965.

**Glenbow-Alberta Institute Archives Mounts Special Exhibit.** In commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the formation of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the Glenbow-Alberta Institute Archives sponsored at the Calgary archives from 24 November 1979 to March 1980 a special exhibition entitled "The Prairie West: A Visual Perspective." Sixty-one photographs and descriptive panels depicted events before the formation of the two provinces in 1905, as well as their subsequent development. The exhibit will travel throughout Alberta and other western provinces.

**Aural and Visual Records Program at Provincial Archives of British Columbia.** The PABC Aural and Visual Records Program has started two major long-term projects. It has taken preliminary steps toward establishing a Moving Images Archives Division by surveying government departmental holdings of pictures, film, and video tape to determine the quantity and location of such audiovisual materials. The second long-term project is the conservation and systematic cataloging of photographs for which no security or duplicate negatives exist in the PABC Historical Photograph Division. The division intends to experiment with AACR 2 for the description of photographic records.

**Anglican Diocese Breaks Ground for New Archives.** On 30 November 1979, groundbreaking ceremonies took place for a new building for the archives of the Diocese of British Columbia. Construction of the archives record center and renovations to the Bishop's Chapel are expected to be completed in March 1981. The provincial government has contributed \$10,000 toward the project, and the balance of the cost will come from private donations.

## CHILE

**Initial Deposit of Records in New National Archives Building.** Early in August 1979, in a simple private ceremony, the Archivo Nacional opened the first of fourteen repository rooms in the new national archives building, scheduled to be completed in January 1981. The transfer of records from the old building on Avenida Bernardo O'Higgins to the new archives building at 60 calle Miraflores, Santiago de Chile, is expected to extend well into 1980.

**Planning for a National Archival System.** The Archivo Nacional is developing a three-year plan to solve problems resulting from a reorganization of the Department of Education, of which the archives is a part. With the current political direction tending toward decentralization and regionalization it is imperative that regional archives be established. Such a course gives rise to the creation of a national system of archives and a reorganization of the Archivo Nacional. A commission is studying the legislative framework for such a national system.

**Inaugural Meeting of Archivists Association.** The Association of Archivists of Chile, formed on 19 January 1979, held its first meeting at the Archivo Nacional on 29 August 1979 for archivists of the Santiago region. Eighty-seven persons, including representatives



of the national commission for administrative reform, bureau of national planification, various ministries and agencies, municipalities, and nationalized corporations attended the meeting, the purpose of which was to exchange information on a variety of subjects to acquaint Archivo Nacional personnel with specific problems so as to develop a program of technical assistance for user organizations.

**New Professional Training Program Devised.** In an effort to provide professional training that will improve archival services, the Archivo Nacional has designed a curriculum consisting of 515 hours spread over three semesters. It will be adapted for Archivo Nacional personnel and those of the various sectors of the administration. The government has already approved the program and will submit it to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for financial and technical assistance.

CHINA

**People's Republic of China Issues Special Postage Stamps for International Archives Week.** The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications issued on 26 November 1979 a special three-stamp set to commemorate International Archives Week. Issuance of the special



stamps was the main activity of the Chinese government in Beijing (Peking) to mark the worldwide celebration. On the day of issuance, the China Central Television carried a special feature in its news program providing close-up views of the stamps and showing State Archives Bureau personnel examining the draft stamps and the printing process.

The three postage stamps reflect the long archival tradition in China and the Chinese saying "a distant source and a long stream." Historical accounts indicate that about 2,000 years ago the Chinese began to preserve imperial records in gold cabinets in a stone room. A picture of the administration building of the Central Archives in Beijing is on the first stamp of the set. This was the first archives constructed in New China and was commissioned in 1959. Over the front door of the building hangs a horizontal sign with an inscription in six large characters standing for the Central Archives. This inscription was written by the late Premier Zhou Enlai (Chou En-Lai) in his own hand.

On the second stamp is a photograph of a gold cabinet, a container used for keeping the imperial records in the Ming and Qing (Ch'ing) dynasties. Each gold cabinet measures 135 cm. long, 72 cm. wide, and 131 cm. high, its outer casing made of gold-plated copper sheeting. On the front of the cabinet is a relief sculpture of two dragons playing and scrambling for a ball. Inside the cabinet is a camphorwood case.

A picture of Huang Shi Cheng, the sixteenth-century Imperial Archives Repository, is on the third stamp. Huang Shi Cheng, built of brick and stone in 1534, rests on a stone foundation 142 cm. deep. The building is commonly called "Stone Room."

## COLOMBIA

**Change in the Secretary Generalship of ALA.** Since his resignation in July 1978 as director of the Archivo Nacional, Alberto Lee López has been rector of the Seminario de San Buenaventura in Bogota but has continued to serve as secretary general of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Archivos (ALA). In an open letter to his colleagues, dated 14 February 1980, Lee López announced his immediate resignation as ALA secretary general. Jorge Palacios Preciado, who succeeded Lee López as director of the Archivo Nacional, has been appointed to serve as acting secretary general until the next ALA General Assembly.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**New Director of the Archivo General de la Nación.** President Antonio Guzmán Fernández has appointed Maria Soledad Florén as the new director of the Archivo General de la Nación. She succeeds Julio Jaime Juliá.

## FRANCE

**New Archives Legislation: First Since 1796.** In 1978 and 1979, French archival legislation dating from 1790 and 1796 has been completely updated. Basis of the new legislation is the *Loi sur les Archives*, No. 79-18, dated 3 January 1979 (see *La Gazette des Archives*, no. 104, pp. 34-41). The newly defined right of information Law No. 78-753, dated 17 July 1978, opens to public inspection a large quantity of administrative files regardless of their date, origin, or place of keeping. Five decrees (Nos. 79-1035 and 1037 to 1040), dated 3 December 1979, complete the *Loi sur les Archives*.

The main features of the legislation are:

(a) *Legal definition of archives.* "Archives are all documents, whatever their date, form, and materials, that have been either received or issued by any person or legal entity, or by any agency or organism, public or private, in the course of their activity."

This definition in the first article of Law No. 79-18 clearly includes as *documents* all microforms, magnetic tapes, and sound recordings. Previously these materials were not normally considered as archives. It is also clear from the definition that documents of private origin are archives just as are those of public origin. Furthermore, French law makes no distinction between *archives* and *records*. The same French word, *archives*, is used for both meanings.

(b) *Legal obligation for the preservation of archives.* "The preservation of archives is organized in the public interest, as well as for the needs of administration and proof of the rights of individuals and legal entities, and for historical documentation of research."

This is a very important innovation in the law, clearly stating that the academic research is equal in importance to legal or administrative research.

(c) *Restricted access on all documents that are not legally open for public inspection.*

(d) *Definition of public archives versus private archives.* "Public archives are those which proceed from the activity of the State, local communities, public administrations and establishments, private organisms entrusted with the task of public interest, and public notaries" (Art. 3 of Law No. 79-18). "All archives which are not public under this definition are private" (Art. 9 of Law No. 79-18).

(e) *Centralization of the administration of public archives.* All public archives are under the authority of the Direction des Archives de France (Art. 1 of Decree No. 79-1037). The only exceptions to this provision are the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of Defense. The archives of these ministries are independent.

The archives under the authority of the Direction des Archives de France are divided into three categories, each of which has its own organization and regulations. They are: (1) Archives Nationales (proceeding from the activity of the central government and national administrations and establishments), (2) Archives Départementales (proceeding from the activity of the "départements" and their own administrations and establishments), and (3) Archives Communales (proceeding from the activity of the "communes," that is the municipalities, and their own administrations and establishments). All of these archives are under the supervision of the Inspection Générale des Archives de France.

(f) *Legal procedure of the selection and disposal of public archives.* "When they (records) have ceased to be of current use in the agencies or establishments from whose activity they proceed, all public archives are submitted for selection in order to separate documents of permanent interest, to be kept permanently, from those deprived of administrative or historical interest, to be destroyed. The lists of documents to be destroyed are fixed by the mutual agreement of the originating agency or establishment and the Direction des Archives de France" (Art. 4 of Law No. 79-18).

No document of the public archives, that is to say, no administrative document, can be destroyed without formal approval of the Direction des Archives de France.

(g) *Liberalization of access to public archives.* As a general rule, public documents are open to the general public after thirty years. Most administrative documents that do not concern private individuals are even accessible without any delay (Law No. 78-753). Documents whose public inspection could be detrimental to either the privacy of individuals or to national security or public order are closed for longer periods of time. For example, birth registers, justice files, and notarial files are closed for periods ranging from fifty to one hundred years. Decree No. 79-1038 contains a list of document categories and their defined periods of restricted access.

Authorization of access to restricted documents can be granted only by the Director General of the Archives de France, in agreement with the authority from which they proceed.

(h) *Protection of private archives.* The new legislation includes several provisions for the protection of private archives, especially to prohibit the sale and export of private archives which have historical value.

**Guide to the Holdings of the Archives Nationales.** For the first time since 1891, the Archives Nationales started work in 1978 on a general guide to its holdings. Eventually, *Les Archives nationales: Etat générales de Fonds* will consist of five volumes. At present only the first two volumes, *L'Ancien Régime*, dealing with documents from 528 to 1940, have been published. The third volume, relating to the archives of the former Ministry of Colonies, and archives from former overseas colonies, is at the printer. The last two volumes (vol. 4 dealing with notarial archives and archives of private origin donated, bequeathed, or sold to the Archives Nationales; and vol. 5 consisting of a comprehensive list of inventories and catalogs of the Archives Nationales) are scheduled for publication in 1981. Published volumes are available from La Documentation Française, 29-31 quai Voltaire, 75340 Paris-Cedex 07.

**Archives Nationales Acquires Bonaparte Family Archives.** In 1979 the Archives Nationales acquired a very important group of archives of the Bonaparte family (Archives Napoléon), including correspondence and miscellaneous documents from Napoleon I, his wife Joséphine, his brothers and sisters, his nephew and niece Napoleon III and the Empress Eugénie, and other members of the family. An inventory, *Archives Napoléon: Etat sommaire* (1979), has been published and is available from La Documentation Française.

Two years ago the Archives Nationales acquired the archives of Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon's brother who was king of Naples and Spain. An inventory of this archives is currently in preparation.

## GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

**International Archives Week Activities.** Archivists of the German Democratic Republic (DDR) celebrated, 22-28 October 1979, "Week of Socialist Archives Administration," an event closely associated with the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the state. Organizations and divisions of the DDR archives administration prepared a series of central and local celebrations, including special exhibitions, scholarly conferences, and publications. In Potsdam, Archives Week opened with a documentary exhibit on the functions and organizational units of the state archives administration, and on 1,000 years of German history. At the local level, various archives sponsored public exhibitions tailored to meet the interests of different social groups. On 25 October, 150 archivists and historians participated in a scholarly conference in Potsdam. Papers and discussion centered on the development and functions of the archives administration in the DDR. The staffs of archives and educational institutions also held several special meetings with writers. Colloquia in the State Archives dealt with current theoretical and practical problems of archives administration. The State Archives published a 272-page pictorial volume (. . . *mit Brief und Siegel*, Leipzig, 1979) of documents from many centuries of German history, and a 36-page guide to the state archives (*Staatsarchive der DDR*, Potsdam, 1979). [Translated by JOHN MENDELSON, *National Archives and Records Service*]

## GREAT BRITAIN

**Catholic Archives Society Publishes Newsletter.** The Catholic Archives Society (CAS), formed at a meeting at the Spode Conference Centre, Rugeley, in March 1979, published the first edition of *CAS Newsletter* (vol. 1, no. 1, Spring 1980). This inaugural issue contains a summary of events leading toward the formation of the society.

The CAS held a conference, 18-20 April 1980, at the Spode Conference Centre. The conference was open to anyone interested in Catholic archives.

**Subscription Rate Increase for the *Journal*.** The Society of Archivists has announced an increase in the subscription rates for the *Journal*. Effective with the January 1980 issue (vol. 6, no. 5), the subscription rates are £4 (\$10.50) for a year, or £2.50 (\$7) for a single issue. Increased printing costs necessitated the increase.

**Unfortunate Destruction of Packington Hall Archives.** On 1 November 1979, fire broke out at Packington Hall, Warwickshire, and destroyed a large quantity of the archives. Three days later, personnel from the Warwick Record Office (RO) moved in with shovels to dig for the charred and soaked remains of one of the county's major archival collections. The salvage work was less than successful. Of 325 volumes of estate accounts, rentals, and surveys, the salvage team was able to recover only forty volumes, of which less than half are legible. Of sixteen boxes of deeds dating back to the thirteenth century, only a few fragments survive. Three van loads of documents were transported to the Warwick RO for restoration work. Despite the great overall loss, some valuable items as well as maps, plans, and architectural drawings that were stored in other parts of the building survived the fire intact. It was fortunate also that nineteen volumes from the account book series were on loan to the RO for a researcher. British archivists intend to cite the Packington disaster in trying to persuade private owners to deposit their collections in RO strong rooms for safe-keeping.

**Leverhulme Grant to Modern Records Centre.** The Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick Library, Coventry, reports in the April 1980 issue of its bulletin that the Leverhulme Trust Fund has made a generous grant to the centre, which will use it to hire an archivist for a four-year term to prepare finding aids to the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) predecessor archives.

**Coventry Local Studies Centre Formed.** The Coventry City Record Office has merged with the Coventry and Warwickshire Collection to form the Coventry Local Studies Centre. The address of the centre is Room 220, Broadgate House, Coventry.

**Formation of Berkshire Archives Group.** At a meeting at the Berkshire Record Office in October 1979, a group of some twenty archivists who live or work in Berkshire formed the Berkshire Archives Group. The aim of the group is to provide a forum for the discussion of problems and the exchange of information, and to act as a pressure group in securing the safety of archives in the county. A steering committee has been elected to plan a program of discussion meetings and publication of a possible news bulletin.

**Warner & Sons Archives Opened.** The archives of Warner & Sons, Ltd., furnishing fabric manufacturers, has recently been cataloged and rearranged, and is now open to students, textile historians, and museums, by appointment. A leaflet describing the holdings and use of the archives is available upon request. Send a stamped, addressed envelope to Hester Bury, Warner & Sons, Ltd., 2 Anglia Way, Chapel Hill, Braintree, Essex.

**Business Archives Council Monitoring Service.** For the past three years the Business Archives Council (BAC) has sought, by monitoring the national press, to report to local record offices the liquidation of old established business firms. With the appointment of a full-time survey officer, BAC will now be able to devote more resources to this work. Using the *London Gazette* and various indexes of the Stock Exchange maintained in the City Business Library of the Corporation of London, BAC will identify all old established business organizations which are going into liquidation. BAC will forward this information, together with the name and address of the liquidator, to the appropriate record office for further action. BAC hopes this service is helpful to both the local record offices and the cause of business archives.

**New Address for the Business Archives Council.** The address of the Business Archives Council (BAC) is now 15 Tooley Street, London SE1 2PN.

## ISRAEL

**International Archives Week Celebrations.** The Israel Archives Association sponsored a one-day conference on 3 December 1979, at the National Academy of Sciences and Humanities, in Jerusalem. The highlight of the conference was the appearance of the first volume of *Political and Diplomatic Documents, December 1947–May 1948*, published by the Israel State Archives. Policies and problems of editing political and diplomatic documents were discussed at the conference.

For two weeks in December 1979 the Israeli Postal Service stamped all letters within the State of Israel with a special cancellation mark in celebration of International Archives Week. In addition to the postmark, both the Tel Aviv University and the Weizmann Institute of Science erected exhibitions to mark the occasion.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**Handbook on National Archives for Papua New Guinea Available.** The National Archives and Public Records Services of Papua New Guinea has published its first edition of an information pamphlet, intended for general distribution. It contains sufficient information to assist the general public in knowing more about the two national archival institutions in Papua New Guinea, their responsibilities, functions, and types of services available to the government and to the people. For a copy of the handbook write to Philip Aravure, Chief Archivist, National Archives and Public Records Services of Papua New Guinea, P.O. Box 1089, Boroko, N.C.D.

## PERU

**Special Staff Meetings at the National Archives.** The Archivo General de la Nación organized a series of weekly meetings intended to keep the staff abreast of developments on a variety of archival subjects. They were held every Monday between 27 August and 15 October 1979.

**Andean Pact Nations Sponsor Archival Seminar.** Under the auspices of the Andean Pact, the Archivo General de la Nación hosted a seminar on the exchange of archival technology, 3–7 December 1979. The Asociación Peruana de Archiveros (APA) declared the visiting archivists honorary APA members. [Translated by MARIO F. LOPEZ-GOMEZ, *National Archives and Records Service*]

## REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**First Regional Seminar of the Association for Archivists and Manuscript Librarians.** The Association for Archivists and Manuscript Librarians (AMLIB/AMBIB), in cooperation with the Western Cape Branch of the South African Institute for Librarianship and Information Science, held its first regional seminar on 7 May 1980 in Cape Town. The theme of the seminar was business archives from the viewpoints of the archivist, the historian, and the user.

**Addition to the Historical and Literary Papers Series.** The library of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, has extensive holdings of manuscript and archival material, and is particularly strong in the field of trade union records. Under the curatorship of Anna M. Cunningham, the library began in 1976 the publication of its *Historical and Literary Papers: Inventories of Collections*. The latest publication in this series is *Records of the Trade Union Council of South Africa, Part I: 1915–1954* (No. 8, 1979).



## SPAIN

**New Information and Documentation Service Established.** The Ministry of Culture has created the Centro de Información Documental de Archivos within the framework of the national archival organization. The ten objectives of the new center include: (1) compilation and publication of a general catalog of Spanish documents, (2) promotion of adequate finding aids at the national level, (3) compilation of a census of all public and private archives in Spain, (4) compilation and publication of a specialized bibliography on archives in the Spanish language, (5) coordination of guides to the sources existing in Spanish archives of the history of nations, (6) collection of information in foreign archives, pertaining to Spanish history, (7) dissemination of information on Spanish documentary sources and research centers, (8) cooperation with historical research centers or international organizations in providing information on Spanish documentary sources, (9) seeking agreements on archival information with other national governments or international organizations, and (10) encouragement of incentives toward the promotion of Spanish archives. Since its establishment in July 1979, the center has been actively pursuing several projects, including an automated census of archives, an automated guide to researchers working at Spanish archives, and creation of a specialized library in archival literature.

**International Archives Week Activities.** The Spanish archives administration organized several activities throughout the country to mark International Archives Week. The Centro Iberoamericano de Cooperación (Madrid), the Archivo General de Indias (Seville), the Universidad de Sevilla, and the Dirección General de Patrimonio Artístico, Archivos y Museos organized a symposium on archives and documents for the study of Spanish colonization. The symposium was held at the Universidad de la Rábida in Huelva, 8–11 October 1979.

The Regional Historical Archives in Tarragona organized a conference, 26–28 October 1979, to study mutual problems relating to preservation and access to records. Area archivists from church, private, and notarial archives attended the weekend meeting, but the conference was open to archivists from other parts of Spain.

A second symposium was held, 13–16 November 1979, in Madrid, on archival sources for the study of twentieth-century Spain especially the sensitive historical period of the Civil War and the Franco era and problems of access to sources by the scholarly community. Participants included archives administration officials, university professors, archivists, historians, and university students. Guaranteeing access to and preservation of records produced by the Franco government, and the institution of a regular declassification program are challenges for archives administrators.

Other activities included an exhibition on the international role of Spain through its archives, held at the National Historical Archives from 13 November to 7 December 1979; a brochure on the meaning of an archives, its mission and role in the life of a nation as a depository of its national memory; a set of commemorative postcards depicting several representative documents from Spanish history; and reproduction of bronze seals of two thirteenth-century Spanish monarchs: Alfonso X of Castile (The Learned) and Jaime I of Aragon (The Conqueror).

**New Franciscan Archives Established.** The Franciscan Order has inaugurated a new archives for the study of its activities and influence in the Far East, particularly in the Philippines, China, and Japan. The address of the new archives is Archivo Franciscano Ibero-Oriental, Duque de Sesto 9, Madrid 9 (telephone: 276 3507).

## SUDAN

**Silver Jubilee of the Central Records Office.** In January 1980 the Central Records Office, the national archival organization of the Sudan, celebrated its twenty-fifth anni-

versary. To mark the occasion, the Central Records Office mounted an exhibition of selected documents of national importance and of artifacts representing the different historical periods of Sudan. Other activities to acquaint Sudanese with the national and cultural role of the Central Records Office included a seminar and discussion programs carried by the local television station.

## INTERNATIONAL

**New CLR Grant to ICA.** The Council on Library Resources (CLR) has awarded a \$30,000 grant to the International Council on Archives for use during 1980 on three specific projects related to worldwide preservation and use of archival sources. The projects planned are: (1) the preparation of a records management manual designed for use in newly independent countries; (2) a symposium relating to the responsibilities, professional environment, and status of archivists in Latin America; and (3) the preparation of three separate curricula (in English, French, and Spanish) to assist in the education and training of sub-professional, archival personnel in the Third World. The current CLR grant to ICA is the third since 1967. Previous CLR funds helped to open access to scholarly archives and archival documentary publications on microfilm and to support the ICA Secretariat. The total amount of CLR support to ICA to date is \$119,200.

**FID/ET Clearinghouse for Teaching and Training Materials.** The Education and Training Committee of the International Federation for Documentation (FID/ET) has established, under contract with UNESCO, an experimental clearinghouse at the University of Maryland, to collect, organize, and distribute material related to education and training programs for information specialists, including librarians, documentalists, and archivists. The clearinghouse will develop a regular system of soliciting relevant materials from a variety of on-going programs in UNESCO member states, and make them available to institutions and individuals in UNESCO. Inquiries about the project should be addressed to Paul Wasserman, FID/ET chairman, College of Library and Information Services, Room 1101, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

## ABSTRACTS

**BELGIUM.** *ADPA Automation-Archives-Informatique*, vol. 3, no. 1 (1979). This is the first issue of the bulletin of the ICA Committee on Automation since the decision was made to transfer publication of the bulletin to Liège from London. The new format reflects the editorship of Jean Pieyns.

In addition to two brief reports of the Automation Committee and a few bibliographic references, this issue contains five articles. The lead article (pp. 9-15) is an exposition by Vicenta Cortés Alonso, Inspector General de Archivos, on the system for automating data about researchers who use Spanish archives (their nationality and profession) and the subjects under investigation. She also describes the codes in

the *Guide* and their use. Michael Cook, archivist at the University of Liverpool, explains (pp. 16-23) the experiment in automatic controls of the movement of records into a small records center. The aim of using an ICL 1906S computer at the university is to replace paper lists and indexes as a means of managing administrative records. Ivan Cloulas of the Service de l'Informatique des Archives de France expounds (pp. 24-45) on the input and output for the French data base on records relating to the history of art. Stefka Slavova-Petkova describes (pp. 46-50) the installation of an ADP system for information retrieval in the Bulgarian National Archives. Claes Gränstrom of the Riksarkivet provides (pp. 51-53) a short account

on the transfer of tapes and microfilms to the Swedish National Archives. [MEYER H. FISHBEIN, *National Archives and Records Service*]

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA.** *Archivní Casopis*, vol. 27, no. 3 (1977). In an article dealing with the restoration of parchment documents, František Křivánek and Bohuslav Skorkovský outline (pp. 150–56) two basic considerations. Restorers must take into account: (1) the mode of storage, and (2) the type of materials used for the protection of parchment as well as the attached seal. The authors also include a description of various mechanical and chemical treatments used to preserve parchment.

*Archivní Casopis*, vol. 28, no. 2 (1978). This issue contains two articles of interest. The first article, by Jiří Pešek and David Šaman, concerns (pp. 66–84) computer analysis of older source materials. The two authors deal for the most part with the problems of data input, processing, and programming in historical research. One of the authors applied this new methodology in his research concerning the role of Charles University in Prague during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. An interesting feature of this study was the migration pattern of students from Bohemia to other national universities. A large quantity of pertinent data was obtained from registers and other documentation created and preserved in foreign universities. Manipulating this information through a suitable program provided responses that were highly useful to the historian's understanding of this field of investigation.

The second article, by Marie and Václav Mareš, deals (pp. 84–98) with the latest developments in paper conservation. In the light of recent experiences in this area, the husband-wife team evaluate deacidification, vapor phase deacidification, treatment by fungicides, lamination, and other mechanical means of paper conservation.

*Archivní Casopis*, vol. 28, no. 4 (1978). Ivan Stoviček describes (pp. 193–214) in detail some of the more significant and

typical records created between the two world wars by Czechoslovak agencies for international relations. Stoviček discusses such agencies as diplomatic missions in foreign countries, the ministry of foreign affairs, and the types of documentation likely to be found among the records of such agencies. He also elaborates on the evolution of documentary materials relating to Czechoslovakia and international affairs. These records pertain to the areas of economics, foreign trade, educational exchanges, culture, science and technology, and citizenship.

Another article in this issue deals (pp. 214–30) with a report by Vladimír Bystrický on the utilization of archives for scholarly and educational purposes. Bystrický touches upon multiple channels available to archivists to increase use of archival materials. Despite numerous obstacles, such as the lack of understanding of archivists' aims by superiors, the author blames archivists themselves for under-utilization of archives. They lack imagination. Bystrický offers various strategies to remedy the situation, but admits the task is not easy. Archivists need to reach traditional users (scholars and students) by seeking the cooperation of universities and other scientific institutions in informing doctoral candidates about untapped archival materials for possible dissertations. Archivists should also use the news media to show the cultural aspects of archives, interact with local authorities and organizations by participating in local or regional celebrations, collaborate with schools in establishing groups of junior historians, and cooperate with libraries in compiling regional bibliographies which include both library and archival materials.

*Sborník Archivních Prací*, vol. 28, No. 1 (1978). In this issue the article by Vojtěch Sýkora, Josef Görner, and Jaroslav Orel provides (pp. 167–231) a thorough interpretation of recent laws and regulations governing archives in Bohemia and Moravia. Some of the topics discussed include: (1) the definition of archival materials in terms of format and documentary values, (2) the care of records in the pre-archival

stage, (3) the role and responsibility of archival repositories, (4) the control of archives by the Department of Interior, (5) special treatment of military and police records and those of political parties and cultural and educational organizations, (6) evaluation of records retention and disposal schedules, (7) protection and categorization of records according to importance, and (8) utilization of archives. With regard to the last topic, the authors describe the restrictions placed by totalitarian states on the uses of archival materials. If the interests of the state or society, or the legally protected rights of living persons, are put in jeopardy by access to archival material, officials responsible for the custody of archives may refuse access. Since the interest of the state and society is either identified with or subordinated to the interest of the ruling Communist Party and its prevailing doctrine, it is easy to understand why access to records documenting the existing society in Czechoslovakia is so extremely difficult. Foreign scholars are closely scrutinized in their use of archival material, if they are permitted access. A researcher has to specify in advance his reasons for seeking the material, in a "researcher's request," which may be denied. If there is any suspicion that the researcher may use the materials on behalf of foreigners, personal profit, or against the interests of the state or social order, the researcher is liable for prosecution. Persons of Czech descent who are engaged in tracing their roots should be aware that the Department of the Interior has exclusive rights in expediting requests from overseas for the reproduction of archival materials. [JOSEPH G. SVOBODA, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*]

**GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC.** *Der Archivar*, vol. 31, no. 3 (July 1978). As a prelude to the fifty-second annual meeting of German archivists, in Hamburg in October 1978, this issue contains (col. 327-34) several articles about archives in the area. Hans-Dieter Loose and Karl-Heinz Stahnke describe the state and parliamentary archives in Hamburg, which evolved

from a municipal archives established in 1293. The Staatsarchiv Hamburg is an independent organization responsible to the city senate, and it also functions as a Landesarchiv. Its major holdings consist of the files of the Hamburg Senate dating from the fourteenth century. Since 1859 the archives has been the depository for the records of the Hamburg legislature. Helmut Otto briefly describes the Hamburg Church Archives, established in 1938 as an independent section of the administration of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of the Hamburg Senate. In 1977 the independent ecclesiastical districts of Eutin, Hamburg, Luebeck, Schleswig-Holstein, and Harburg were consolidated into the North-Elbian Evangelical-Lutheran Church District. The archives of these districts were administratively combined with the Hamburg Church Archives. These archives, together with their libraries, function as an information center for general and scholarly research on church-related matters. The other archives covered is a description of the HWWA (Hamburg Welt-Wirtschafts Archiv)-Institute for Economic Research, by Gerhard Mantwill.

Other articles in this issue include a very detailed report (col. 335-48) by Hans Hofmann, based on his experience, on the ministerial archives, established in 1946, of North Rhine-Westphalia. Wolfgang Loehr analyzes (col. 349-52) the problem of the German population's rising urbanization and the pending impact on municipal archives in the years to come. Hans Joachim Mey describes (col. 361-66) the organization and functions of the central repository of manuscripts at the state library of the Preussischer Kulturbesitz. Established with the help of the Deutscher Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Society) in the early 1960's, the task of the central registry goes beyond simply a listing of private papers. It seeks to catalog small collections and individual manuscripts and to include not only state and university libraries, but cultural and literary archives and museums as well. At present, the registry contains information on some one million items from fifty cooperating institutions. It is hoped that eventually all

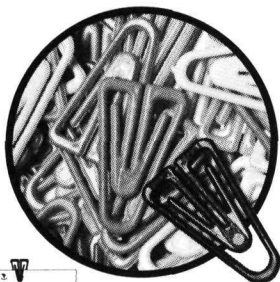
institutions in the Federal Republic will be included in the registry.

*Der Archivar*, vol. 31, no. 4 (November 1978). The lead article in this issue (col. 453-56) is a speech given by Walter Scheel, President of the Federal Republic, on his visit to the Bundesarchiv on 6 September 1978. The President stressed the importance of archives in the preservation and understanding of German history, thanked archivists for their devotion, and reminded them that their service is to all citizens, both young and old.

Other articles in this issue include a description of the documentation and information system for parliamentary material, by W. Mansberg, H. Schepers, and D. W.

Weber (col. 459-64). The system was established in 1968 to facilitate, for daily use by legislators, the electronic data processing and information retrieval of the great mass of parliamentary documentation. In addition, it is the only source for parliamentary procedures, antecedents, and contributions by various committees and individuals. H. D. Loose writes (col. 455-58) about the cooperation between the Staatsarchiv Hamburg and local institutes of continuing education. As a part of its community work, the archives endeavors to acquaint ordinary citizens with the meaning and significance of its work and holdings. To this end, it has organized many successful exhibits and lectures. [GEORGE O. KENT, *University of Maryland*]

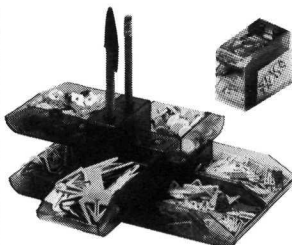
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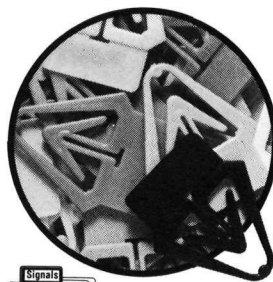
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