

Interesting archives and archival collections I learned about, but I could not visit other archives. The Archives of the Confucian Estate (Chu-fu), in Shantung province (birthplace of Confucius), described as a family archives, includes genealogical records, data on land holding, taxes, and rents. The Second Historical Archives, in Nanking, contains a large amount of documentary material relating to the Republican era, 1911-49. The Kiangsu Provincial Museum in Shanghai has an excellent collection of pre-1911 documents, particularly private material from the Ming dynasty. The Shanghai Museum reportedly has an archives collection focusing on the history of that city. There are also district archives in Szechwan, Kwangtung, and Hopei provinces.

To visit archives in China is not to follow a well-trodden path. At present, Americans know only in the most fragmentary way of the archival resources of this vast and ancient country.

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NEWS

AUSTRALIA

National Music and Sound Library Opened. The National Library of Australia, Canberra, opened, on 1 February 1980, a music library and sound recording unit, after ten years of planning.

The first steps toward this goal were taken in 1970 when the National Library acquired a large miscellaneous music collection from a Melbourne music critic and about 30,000 Australian recordings in 1973 from a private collector who is now the library's sound archivist. In addition, the music library includes 350,000 discs; 4,500 rare, nineteenth-century, wax cylinder records; 65,000 opera scores; and 100 original music manuscripts by such native composers as John Antill, George Dreyfus, and Larry Sitsky. The Australian Broadcasting Commission (the national radio and television network), commercial radio stations, and two jails in Victoria have donated 5,000 tapes and numerous discs. Facilities are available for listening to some of the great singers of the past on authentic equipment of the period.

Archives Kits Published. The Archives Authority of New South Wales has published two kits: *The Changing Face of the Rocks* and *From Cato Street to Botany Bay*, containing facsimiles of original records in the state archives. The kits are designed to assist teachers and students in Australian history. Persons interested in colonial New South Wales will also find the kits valuable.

Records Management Pamphlets Available. The Records Management Office (RMO) of New South Wales is issuing a series of publications entitled *Publications on Records Management*. Five pamphlets in the series, available free of charge, pertain to file format, file creation, principles of keyword classification, manual of key word classification, and general records disposal schedules. Mail requests to Records Administration Officer, Level 3, The State Archives, 66 Harrington Street, The Rocks, N.S.W., Australia 2000.

RMO is also assisting the Staff Development Division of the Department of Technical and Further Education in producing a 16mm. film on how to establish and operate a small record system. Release date is some time in November/December 1980.

First National Oral History Conference. The Oral History Association of Australia held its first national conference and general meeting, in Perth, 18–19 August 1979. Formed at Perth in July 1978, the association has branches in New South Wales, Western Australia, and South Australia. Papers delivered at the conference will be published in the next issue of the association's *Journal*. For more information about the association write to Secretary, Oral History Association of Australia, 97 Ullapool Road, Mt. Pleasant, WA 6153.

Sound Archivists Form IASA Branch. The Australian Branch of the International Association of Sound Archivists (IASA) held an inaugural meeting in Canberra on 29 August 1979.

Rate Increase for ASA Journal. The Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) have announced subscription rate increases from \$A5 to \$A10, effective in May 1980, for individual, non-member subscribers to its journal, *Archives and Manuscripts*. Also, the ASA journal will appear in May and November of each year, instead of in February and August.

Historic Australian Epic Film Found in America. In Washington, D.C., the American Film Institute has found and given to the National Library of Australia a print of the only silent motion picture epic made in Australia. The film, *For the Term of His Natural Life*, was made in 1927 by Australian Films, Limited, at a cost of \$A120,000. It was the longest, most expensive, and one of the most successful films made in Australia. The newly found film is a shortened version intended for the American market, but it will enable the Library to reconstruct an almost complete copy of the original film, using another incomplete print the Library has in its custody. Norman Dawn, who directed the movie, introduced new techniques into the Australian film industry, including the "glass shot," in which action was photographed through glass on which part of the scenery was painted to save the cost of constructing elaborate sets.

CANADA

ACA Joins Protest Against National Library Report. The Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) has joined those groups already critical of the National Librarian's published report, *The Future of the National Library of Canada*. ACA has expressed its concern to the Secretary of State, although ACA does not believe the report represents a serious threat to the Public Archives of Canada (PAC). The National Librarian has made similar proposals in the past, and each time archivists and other professional groups have been successful in pointing out the disastrous effects such proposals might have. ACA now feels compelled to lend its full weight against the current series of proposals because they have become enshrined in a published report to a minister of state.

In addition to its opposition to the report, ACA indicated the serious consequences that acceptance of it would have on all archives in Canada. ACA faulted the report first for its lack of understanding of the fundamental archival principles of provenance and *respect des fonds*. Secondly, the proposals ignore conservation principles and the special physical requirements of archival material. The collections the National Librarian proposes to remove from PAC custody require conservation treatment unique to archives and alien to book conservation. Thirdly, ACA holds that the report gives a false impression of Canadian archival practice. The National Librarian seems to suggest incorrectly that Canadian practice has not gained universal acceptance among the international archival community. ACA urges its membership to register opposition directly with the Secretary of State.

Imperial Oil Limited Establishes Corporate Archives. In February 1980, Imperial Oil, Ltd., formally established a corporate archives as part of an integrated records management program. The archives is located in the firm's corporate headquarters in Toronto. The Records Administration/Archives Division of the Corporate Affairs Department became the unit responsible for maintaining the company's archives and overseeing a program to acquire, preserve, and make available permanently valuable records. Archives jurisdiction extends to all Head Office departments, five refineries, six regional offices, and Esso Resources and other subsidiaries. The archives will actively solicit the private papers of annuitants and chief executives of Imperial Oil. In addition to its archival and records management programs, the division will identify and list in a comprehensive guide all archival material relating to Imperial Oil, Ltd., that is available in other repositories.

Two PAC Sound Archives Publications Available. The Sound Archives Section at the Public Archives has available two publications: *Inventory of Main Holdings* and *Sound Archives: Guide to Procedures*. Both publications are bilingual and free, from Information Service, PAC, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3.

Quebec Records Survey Project: Inventaire Nationale. The Archives Nationales du Québec (ANQ) is undertaking a province-wide survey of holdings of all repositories. Under an agreement between ANQ and PAC, survey returns will eventually be forwarded to PAC for inclusion in the Union List of Manuscripts (ULM).

"Inventaire" organizers have designed their own survey form, which is different from the ULM form. They have also written and distributed a 42-page guide to assist repositories in compiling the survey form that must be filled out in French regardless of the language of the document reported. The form also requires survey respondents to state the place of origin of each collection. This requirement seems to conform with Quebec Bill 4, "An Act to amend the cultural Property Act," requiring that "every person who becomes the owner of recognized cultural property by legal or testamentary succession must, within 60 days of his being put in possession, give notice of it to the Minister." This is the Quebec version of the 1978 Canadian Cultural Properties Import and Export Act. The Quebec Bill also stipulates that no person shall alienate recognized cultural property without providing the Minister at least sixty days previous written notice. ANQ will use the "Inventaire" to locate "recognized" archival collections and so insure their permanent location in Quebec.

Canadian and American Archivists Hold Joint Meeting. On 9 and 10 May 1980, the Association of British Columbia Archivists and the Northwest Archivists held a joint conference at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. This was the first joint meeting by regional archival associations from the two countries. The program included joint sessions on data/machine-readable records management, archival education, preservation and care of photographs, and preparation of finding aids.

Proposed Changes for *The Archivist*. On 20 March 1980, the PAC Senior Management Committee met to review *The Archivist*, the bi-monthly and bilingual newsletter of the Public Archives. Since its appearance in 1974, the newsletter has evolved from a 4-page internal staff publication to a public information vehicle of an average of twelve pages. The committee has decided that future issues of the newsletter should: (1) be a public information tool, geared to a general audience; (2) inform both the public and PAC staff of current national and international archival events and offer differing perspectives of archives activities; and (3) be neither an employee newsletter nor a scholarly journal. Another agreement was to increase the print run to enable PAC to make the newsletter more generally available within the government and to distribute it to all PAC employees.

The committee has also suggested that PAC conduct a readership survey to help the editors improve content and gain better awareness of readers' interests.

Exhibit on History of Canadian Medicine. PAC, in conjunction with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine, mounted an exhibit entitled *Canadian Medicinal Archives*. The exhibition was open to the public from 3 June to 8 July 1980 and coincided with this year's annual meeting of the Royal College. The exhibit of photographs and materials on the history of medicine in Canada will be made available to government agencies and institutions willing to sponsor a showing.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Bundesarchiv to Publish Transcripts of Cabinet Meetings. The government has directed the Bundesarchiv to publish the transcripts of cabinet meetings, after thirty years have passed since the meetings. The cabinet, as defined in the constitution of the Federal Republic, consists of the federal chancellor and the federal ministers, and deals with all governmental issues. As confidential records, the transcripts are generally not subject to the thirty-year rule.

The decision has been welcomed by the public as well as by historians and archivists; but there is some apprehension that the federal government's reserved right to examine the manuscript version of the transcripts prior to publication may lead to censorship. Stiftung Volkswagenwerk is providing half a million deutsche marks to finance the initial phase of the project. [Translated by JOHN MENDELSON, *National Archives and Records Service*]

GREAT BRITAIN

Association of County Archivists Formed. At a meeting in County Hall, London, on 27 March 1980, local archivists formed the Association of County Archivists. Membership in the new association will be drawn from the archives services in the shire and metropolitan counties of England and Wales. The primary aims of the association are to facilitate the interchange of views between county archivists and to formulate joint responses to significant issues affecting archives services throughout the counties. The new association will work alongside the Society of Archivists to help maintain and improve services in the English and Welsh counties at a time of increasing financial pressures. Further information may be obtained from Vic Gray, Essex Record Office, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX Essex.

New Service for Newsletter Readers. The editors of *The Newsletter* of the Society of Archivists have added a new "Technical Advice" section, beginning with the May 1980 issue. Advice on vapor phase deacidification by compounds of cyclohexylamine and on the use of Thymol as a fumigant are the first subjects of the new section.

West Midlands Archives Newsletter Published. The first issue of the *West Midlands Archives Newsletter* appeared in December 1979. The aim of the newsletter is to provide a regular exchange of information between the seven metropolitan districts in the county, all of which operate archives or local studies services. These include the metropolitan districts of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, and Wolverhampton. The newsletter is intended to encourage cooperation and coordination of services within the county.

New Pamphlet Series by Modern Records Centre. The first of a projected series of "sources booklets" was published in April 1980 by the Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry. Title of the first booklet is *Women at Work and in Society*, compiled by Susan Edwards. The new series is intended to be used in conjunction with the centre's *Guide*, its projected *Supplement*, and available typescript catalogs. The centre has also inaugurated a new series of information leaflets with a revised version of *Notes for Researchers*.

INDIA

International Archives Week Activities. The National Archives of India celebrated International Archives Week, 23–29 October 1979, with a special 30-rupee stamp commemorating International Archives Week, together with a first-day cover and a special postal cancellation. The sepia and buff stamp contains a photograph of the canonical text of the Mula Sarvastivada School of Buddhism, the earliest extant Indian manuscript written in Prakrit on birchbark. Centerpiece of the celebration was an exhibit of historical documents and contemporary photographs, on the theme "Archives and the Child," chosen to coincide with the worldwide Year of the Child celebration. In addition, there was a display entitled "World of Archives," consisting of photographs of several international and Indian state archives. Other activities included a joint symposium with the India International Centre, New Delhi, on the issue of access to archives; special radio and television programs; and publication of three pamphlets (*Archives in India*, *Archives and the Child*, and *Guide to Microfilms from Abroad*).

New Director of National Archives. S. A. I. Tirmizi, formerly deputy director, has become the new director of the National Archives of India. The appointment follows upon the retirement of Sri N. Prasad at the end of August 1979.

ISRAEL

Chaim Weizmann Letters Project Completed. On 12 May 1980, the Archives of the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, officially marked the completion of the \$3 million, 30-year project to collect and publish the papers of scientist-statesman Chaim Weizmann, first President of the State of Israel. The first volume of the 23-volume English edition was published in 1968. The material, collected from Weizmann's personal files and from public and private archives all over the world, is in six languages (English, French, German, Hebrew, Russian, and Yiddish). All items in the English edition appear in English translation. Any unprinted letters are documented so that interested scholars may examine them at the Weizmann Archives. The letters, published in full, will cover the first years of political Zionism at the turn of the century to the early years of the State of Israel. A scheduled Hebrew edition still lags behind the English version, with only eleven volumes so far published.

Central Archives Publishes First Inventory. The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Jerusalem, has published *Inventory No. 1: Judah Leib Magnes Papers, 1890–1948*. This is the first of a series of inventories to be published by the Central Archives.

Additional Storage Space Acquired by Central Archives. As a result of the bequest of Judah Solomon Idzelman Rabin, of England, the Central Archives has been able to purchase new storage facilities in Talpiot, Jerusalem. The premises are undergoing alterations to comply with acceptable archival storage standards. The Central Archives has been

conducting a major, ongoing solicitation program to acquire for deposit relevant archival materials from non-Israeli Jewish communities, synagogues, societies, and organizations. The Talpiot building will accommodate these deposits.

ITALY

Unusual Medici Exhibition in Florence. The Council of Europe and the Italian government jointly sponsored an exhibition entitled *The Medici and Florence in the Sixteenth Century*. The unusual exhibit ran in Florence between March and June 1980. It consisted of seven major exhibits located in different historic sites of the city, and dealt with such subjects as, science, alchemy, and magic; diplomacy; the art of government; development of the stage and political spectacles; medicine; role of the Church in society; and artistic patronage. In addition to a wide assortment of rare books, works of art, artifacts, audio-visual displays, and scale models, the exhibit organizers utilized a wide variety of archival materials to illustrate the character of the era. From regional and local archives and private collections they secured cartographic materials, patents, diaries, diplomatic correspondence, administrative issuances, and other priceless documents to recreate the texture of Florentine life in the golden age of Medicean power. [JAMES E. MILLER, *National Archives and Records Service*]

Rome Conference on Medieval Notarial Deeds. The Canadian Academic Center in Italy and the Istituto di Studi Romani co-sponsored a conference in Rome, 16–18 June 1980, on the private deeds of the late Middle Ages as sources for social history. This meeting drew several prominent international scholars. For the occasion, the Archivio di Stato di Roma mounted an exhibit of fourteenth and fifteenth-century notarial deeds illustrating Roman daily life. Canadian participation in the conference was made possible through a grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Archeologists and Archivists Meet to Discuss Ancient Syrian Find. Discovery of the ancient Syrian city of Elba (Tell Mardikh, near Aleppo) by an Italian archeological expedition headed by Paolo Matthiae has proved to be important to archeologists and to archivists. In 1973 the team located the site of the first royal palace and its archives. The state archives consists of clay tablets with cuneiform inscriptions and dates from the third millennium B.C. The University of Rome, Faculty of Letters, held an international meeting, 27–29 May 1980, on the theme “Elba Civilization: Archeology and Philology,” to discuss the importance of the discoveries.

Lombardy Center Dedicates Current Issue of its Review to Archives. The Center for the Cultural Property of Lombardy has dedicated its current issue (no. 4, April–June 1980) of *Beni Culturali* to archives in Italy, especially since the establishment of the Ministry for Cultural Property, in 1975. Articles in the issue make special reference to the role of the regions in the local archival organization; the use and protection of local (both public and private) historic archives, business archives, and photographic documentation centers; and the didactic function of archival institutions.

MALAYSIA

National Archives Publishes a Records Management Manual. A major function of the National Archives of Malaysia is to introduce a nationwide program for the management

of noncurrent records. Therefore, the National Archives has published a *Records Management Manual* (1979), in Malay and English, to assist departmental records officers and other government employees involved in the storage, administration, and preservation of noncurrent public records.

New Publication Series Started by National Archives. The National Archives of Malaysia launched its *Bulletin* in 1979. Published periodically and distributed to anyone interested in archives, the *Bulletin* contains articles of archival and historical interest to encourage professional archivists to devote more time and effort to writing. Prior to the appearance of the *Bulletin*, finding aids were the only publications of the National Archives.

NEW ZEALAND

ARANZ Reaffirms Its Position on Census Preservation. In May 1979 the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ) submitted, to the Secretary for Internal Affairs, its views on the preservation of individual census schedules. Current New Zealand practice is at variance with that of many other countries, but ARANZ strongly believes that every census schedule should be preserved as irreplaceable. The first national census to be preserved in its entirety was that of 1966. Preservation by microfilming the original paper records under the highest technical standards is acceptable to ARANZ. Also, ARANZ recommends reducing to 70 years the current 100-year closure of census information under the Statistics Act.

In addition, some members have expressed concern over the reported destruction of newspapers after microfilming, by the National Library.

Third ARANZ Conference at Dunedin. The third annual ARANZ conference and Annual General Meeting was held, 24–25 August 1979, in Dunedin at the University of Otago. Twenty-eight members heard ARANZ President Brad Patterson report on a disappointing response to the ARANZ submission to the Secretary of Internal Affairs for stricter legislation for the preservation of local authority archives. In reply, the membership reaffirmed the 1978 resolution, calling upon the government to allocate sufficient resources to the National Archives to carry out its responsibilities under the 1977 Local Government Amendment (No. 3) Act. Other items voted on included a compromise resolution increasing the annual dues to \$NZ8 for individuals and \$NZ12 for institutions, and acceptance of a constitutional amendment permitting the appointment of a second vice president.

Proposal to Alter Format of ARANZ Bulletin. To reflect the growth of ARANZ, and its diverse membership, Stuart Strachan, editor of *Archifacts*, has proposed basic changes in the quarterly bulletin, to make it a journal. As a journal with substantive articles, *Archifacts* could help in developing readers' knowledge of archival sources, developments, and problems. The Editorial Board has submitted a plan to Council for a bi-annual journal doubling the size of the current bulletin.

International Archives Week Marked with Open House. New Zealand archivists celebrated International Archives Week, 19–24 November 1979. To increase public awareness, the National Archives temporarily suspended its policy of providing only weekday service. On Saturday, 24 November, the National Archives opened its doors for six hours to permit visitors to tour the archives, even the stack areas. Exhibits illustrating arrangement and description, nineteenth-century correspondence systems, cartographic archives, and the use of archives, complemented archivists who demonstrated reference and conservation facilities.

PERU

Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the National Academy of History. On 29 July 1980, the Academia Nacional de la Historia, established as the Instituto Histórico de Peru, celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary. During the coming year the Academia Nacional plans to resume publication, after more than ten years, of its prestigious journal, *Revista Histórica*. To mark the occasion, the Banco Continental mounted an exhibition entitled "Historical Documents of Peru." This marked the first time that principal documents of Peruvian history have been publicly displayed. [Translated by ROBERT W. STORM, *National Archives and Records Service*]

VATICAN CITY

Proceedings of the Grottaferrata Assembly Published. The papers delivered at the meeting in Grottaferrata, outside Rome, 22–25 June 1978, have been published. The theme of this meeting, organized by the Primaria Associazione Cattolica Artistico Operaia, was "Archives, Libraries, and the Publishing Trade in the Cultural Formation of Italian Society." Many Italian and Vatican representatives participated in the meeting, to stimulate collaboration among organizations interested in the development of Italian culture. Participants eagerly sought ways to find common lines of action between Italian institutions and the Vatican, for the formal education of youths.

Guilio Battelli, vice president of the Ecclesiastical Archives Association, held that ecclesiastical archives means the archives created in the varied activities of every institute of an ecclesiastical nature, applying the term not only to traditional church institutions but also to convents, monasteries, and other parts of religious orders and congregations. Battelli also mentioned the continuing interest of the Papacy in archives (civil or religious) and their preservation, and the establishment by the Holy See of the Permanent Commission for Ecclesiastical Archives, in Italy, which led to the founding of the Ecclesiastical Archives Association in 1956. [Translated by JAMES E. MILLER, *National Archives and Records Service*]

INTERNATIONAL

Sixth General ECARBICA Conference. The East and Central Africa Regional Branch of ICA (ECARBICA) held its sixth general conference, 14–18 April 1980, in Nairobi, Kenya, coinciding with the eleventh anniversary of the founding of the branch. Nearly seventy delegates, including for the first time representation from the state of Zimbabwe, attended the weeklong meeting. Points arising at the conference included the shortcomings and future of the Regional Training Center in Ghana, implementation of conference resolutions, preservation of business archives in East and Central Africa, lethargy regarding branch membership, the need for conservationists, endorsement of RAMP (the UNESCO-sponsored records and archives management program), and archives as a discipline.

A highlight of the conference was the paper on archives and the common man, presented by Ali Mazuri of the University of Michigan. Mazuri holds that a national archives should form the basis of a nation's autobiography, and yet the best documented lives are those of the "uncommon" man. Mazuri points to a need for a major shift in archival management to reduce both eliticism and male dominance.

Kings Phiri of the University of Malawi presented a personal view of archives and African studies, stressing the partnership between archivist and scholar. Retrieval of oral tradition is a weakness in archival administration and yet must be an essential part of archival programs, particularly in Africa, where documentary sources are scarce.

WARBICA 1979–82 Program. Ever since the West African Regional Branch of ICA (WARBICA) was established, its Executive Committee has met regularly to prepare working papers and to carry out the programs of the general assembly. In December 1978, in Dakar, Senegal, the committee adopted for the branch a medium-range plan for 1979–82, including cooperation between member states, access to archives, and professional and technical training. WARBICA will sponsor several seminars and will publish a journal, tentatively entitled *West African Archivist*, under the editorship of Guy Cangah, director of the Archives of the Ivory Coast. The journal will include archives information, scientific articles, and news for archivists of the region.

Rather than hold a regular meeting during 1980, the Executive Committee will hold an informal meeting sometime during the Ninth ICA Congress, in London,

Preliminary Guide to the Archives of International Organizations: UN System. The 301-page preliminary version of the first part of a total guide to the archives of international organizations has been completed. The concept of such a guide is the outgrowth of a recommendation adopted by the XIII International Archival Round Table Conference (Bonn, 1971). This first part, the result of a joint UNESCO and ICA project, relates to organizations of the UN system. The guide is intended to provide the research community with an overview of the archival resources of the international organizations that are part of the UN Organization. By providing basic information about the various archives and their policies of access and use, the guide will help in research and information transfer, one of the basic objectives of UNESCO's General Information Programme.

Preparation of a preliminary guide to the archives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations is proceeding. The UNESCO-ICA guide project will include also a third part dealing with archives and collections of personal papers of an international nature maintained in other public and private repositories.

International Pilot Survey Results Published. UNESCO has published (ST-79/WS-16) the results of its 1978–79 international pilot survey on archival institutions and records center statistics. Lack of compatible data in this area has been a barrier to professional contacts between archivists of different countries and to attempts to determine professional needs and general trends. In 1977, UNESCO requested that ICA propose a statistical model; the ICA response was incorporated in a report (UNESCO, PGI-78/WS-16, 17 August 1978) by Erik Ketelaar of the Algemeen Rijksarchief of UNESCO. The XVIII International Round Table Conference (Nairobi, 1978) also reaffirmed the essential role of statistics in planning, programming, management, control, and evaluation at all levels of archives. In November 1978 a questionnaire under a cover letter from ICA Executive Secretary Charles Kecskeméti went to sixty-one countries for completion.

Experts Meeting on Harmonization of Archival Training Programs. UNESCO has issued its final report (PGI/E.T./HARM/7) of the meeting at UNESCO headquarters, 26–30 November 1979, on the harmonization of archival training programs. Participants included twelve international experts, two consultants, seven observers, and four representatives of the UNESCO secretariat. Two papers were presented: "The Education and Training of Archivists: Status Report of Archival Training Programmes and Assessment of Manpower Needs" (PGI/E.T./HARM/5), by Michael Cook of the University of Liverpool Archives; and "The Training of Archivists: Analysis of the Study Programmes of Different Countries and Thoughts on the Possibilities of Harmonization" (PGI/E.T./HARM/6), by Bruno Delmas of the Ecole Nationale des Chartes. From the meeting, a series of recommendations emerged relating to the standardization of education, the adoption of appropriate principles and methods from related information disciplines, national and regional training infrastructures, materials, continuing education and refresher courses for staff, and the status and professional standards of archival personnel.

International Records Retention Survey Report Issued. The International Records Management Federation (IRMF) has published its report on a survey of international records retention practices. This is the first of a series of reports planned by IRMF. The copyrighted report, prepared by the IRMF Retention Standards Committee, is based on questionnaire responses from eighteen organizations in thirteen countries, seventeen American organizations, and seven law firms in seven different countries. Respondents indicated how long they retain sixty-two different classes of records, and stated whether retention periods were based on company practice or legal requirements. The report is available for \$25 (non-IRMF members) from IRMF, P.O. Box 1932, Racine, WI 53401.

ABSTRACTS

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. *Der Archivar*, vol. 32, no. 1 (February 1979). The major portion of this issue is devoted to reports and papers of the fifty-second meeting of German archivists, in Hamburg in October 1978. The general theme of the meeting was "New Research Problems—New Demands on the Archives." Otfried Dascher provides (col. 5–14) a summary report. Karl Heinrich Kaufhold deals (col. 13–24) with the social and economic aspects of the general theme, specifically with institutional history, quantification, new trends in economic and social history, sources related to these areas, and the problem of records retention. Peter Hüttenberger writes (col. 23–24) on current research in contemporary history, and discusses the enormous volume of sources, their structure and exploitation. Subjects of other articles pertain to restoration and reconstruction of destroyed or missing material, by O. Dascher (col. 35–40); and reconstruction of historical provenance in the Bavarian State Archives, by Walter Jaroschka (col. 41–50).

Emigration is the subject of several articles in this issue, and a topic of discussion at the meeting. O. Dascher and Gerhard Mantwill report (col. 49–56) a roundtable discussion on overseas emigration in the nineteenth century, focusing on research and archival sources. Their article includes reports on emigration sources in the Hanseatic archives, by Klaus Richter; documentation on communal emigration projects in southwest Germany in the nineteenth century, by Winfried Hecht; sources on emigration in ecclesiastical archives, by Bruno Neundorfer; sources in business archives, by Charlotte Böttjer; newspapers as a source for research, by G. Mantwill; and American sources on immigration, by Hans-Georg Ruppel. The report by Günter Moltmann on the current status and problems of research on German emigration overseas (col. 57–66) is an extension of the informal discussion at the meeting. It places the problem of transatlantic migration into the context of general international migrations in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Moltmann also notes the various study centers in Great Britain, Italy, Scandinavia, and the United States, where migration research is being conducted. He discusses the current state of research in Germany and the United States and points to those areas where more intensive research would be beneficial. Rounding out the emigration topic is a paper (col. 67–74) by Paul Sauer on sources for research in the state archives of southwestern Germany. The most important sources, according to Sauer, include the protocols of town councils, parish registers, and emigration files of county and district administrators. Most archives have compiled emigration lists in response to the flood of genealogical inquiries from America and elsewhere.

Der Archivar, vol. 32, no. 2 (May 1979). The feature article in this issue deals (col. 157–70) with the legal basis of archives. Reinhard Heydenreuter believes that current laws governing federal and state archives are unclear. To change this situation and achieve more uniform regulations, there is a need for a general discussion of this topic.

Other articles in the issue include a description of the functions and organization of the Degussa Company, by Mechthild Wolf (col. 169–74). The archives of this company, established in 1959, serves as a depository for the permanently valuable corporate, technical,

and legal records of the Frankfurt company. It also acts as an information center about other business firms, business connections, and research institutions. A collection of four reports on the meeting of German archivists, held in Bonn in July 1978, pertain to the structure and functions of party archives (col. 175–86). Friedrich Henning reports on the archives of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Bonn; Willibald Fink on the Hans Seidel Foundation in Munich; Peter Dohms on the relationship between the state archives at Duesseldorf and the local party archives; and Friedrich Peter Kahlenberg on the relationship between the federal archives and the various party archives.

Der Archivar, vol. 32, no. 3 (July 1979). Within the framework of the fifty-third meeting of German archivists in Bonn in 1979, Irmtraut Eder-Stein and Gerhard Johann discuss (col. 291–300) the records center of the Bundesarchiv, its functions, tasks, and accommodations. Hans Jochen Pretsch describes (col. 299–302) the workings of the political archives of the Foreign Ministry. Dietrich Höroldt writes on the Stadtarchiv and Wissenschaftliche Stadtbibliothek of Bonn. Thomas Trumpp presents (col. 309–14) an informative article on the practical experiences with the arrangement and cataloging of war propaganda leaflets. This type of material has presented archivists with many problems with regard to point of origin, period involved, frequency of publication, and distribution. There is relatively little guidance in this area, even for experienced archivists. Trumpp incorporates in his article some useful bibliographical notes.

In a continuation of his earlier investigation into the problem of records retirement (see *Der Archivar*, 1975 and 1976), Carl Haase examines (col. 315–18) the situation in the state archives of Lower Saxony. Under a new plan, officials must now justify in writing the retention or destruction of archival material every five years. Haase sees this as a considerable improvement over previous practices.

On the basis of personal experiences in the Rhineland-Palatinate, Peter Lautzas writes (col. 319–26) on the possibilities of cooperation between schools and archives. Such cooperation has existed in France since the 1950s, but it was not attempted in the Federal Republic until the late 1960s and early 1970s. This development coincided with a renewal of interest in regional history and the revision of instructional plans in the schools. Meetings on this subject in Trier, Speyer, and Koblenz in 1978 and 1979 showed that a promising beginning had been made.

On a completely different subject, Johann Hofmann describes (col. 325–30) the method of restoration of water-damaged files. He provides three examples and shows how some of the damage can be rectified. [GEORGE O. KENT, *University of Maryland*]

ROMANIA.

Revista Arhivelor, vol. 40, nos. 1–4 (1978). This volume of the Romanian national archival journal is dedicated to the 2,050th anniversary of the founding of the first centralized and independent Dacian state. As usual, most of the substantive articles deal with topics important to the history of the Romanian state, and are based on archival documents. Examples are: "The role of the intelligence service in the victory won by the Romanian Army in the summer of 1917," by H. Brestoiu and V. Bobocescu (pp. 57–66); "Actions of Romanian diplomacy in the Balkans, 1878–1900," by N. Ciachir (pp. 145–150); "The recognition of Romania as an ally by the the Great Powers on the eve of the Paris Peace Conference," by I. Calafeteanu (pp. 277–86); "The condition of the popular masses in Transylvania during the Horthy occupation," by I. Ranca (pp. 287–90); "Aspects of Romanian Ottoman relations, 1821–1828," by V. Veliman (pp. 309–24); "The battle at Dealul Spirii and its echo in the first years of existence of the United Principalities," by Gh. Iscriu (pp. 335–47); and "1918—The Great Union," by A. Edac (pp. 386–400).

Three of the four issues of *Revista Arhivelor* for 1978 include news of recent accessions of records, not only for the national archives but also for branch repositories in Galati, Harghita, Iasi, Hunedoara, and Vilcea. One article (pp. 174–80) describes a 16,442-frame microfilm collection of Bulgarian documents donated by Bulgaria to the Romanian National Archives.

Each of the 1978 issues contains an article on pertinent archival legislation. Two of the articles continue to deal with decree 472/1971, discussed in 1977 issues (abstract in the *American Archivist*, October 1979). Other articles concern the legal requirement for microfilm “security copies” of certain types of documents (p. 301) and with the application of the normative acts (Romanian code of law) to archival work (pp. 447–48).

Archival theory and practice are dealt with in six articles in this volume. Three of them are actually chapters for a forthcoming archives manual. The topics of the chapters/articles are: “Old inventories—auxiliary archives registries and those of the registry of Transylvania,” by Andrei Kiss (pp. 67–79); “Archives deposited at the State Archives and those held by other repositories,” by Marcel Cincă (pp. 429–43); and “Formation of files according to their term of retention,” by Cristina Dinu and Vasile Nicula (pp. 444–46). Another article (pp. 160–65) by Tudor Mateescu details the basic problems in compiling this future archives manual. The two other technical articles deal with use of gamma rays in disinfection of archival records (pp. 79–82) and with the automatic processing of judicial archives (pp. 82–85).

The 1978 volume also contains a number of short articles describing the year’s professional congresses, conferences, and symposia, as well as a book reviews section. [JOSEPH D. DWYER, *Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace*]

INTERNATIONAL. *International Journal of Oral History*, vol. 1, no. 1 (February 1980). This first issue of the new journal extends the promise of a unique contribution to the periodical literature of oral history. It is being edited by Ronald J. Grele, research director, New Jersey Historical Commission, assisted by an advisory board of fifteen scholars representing twelve countries. This journal will publish methodological and theoretical articles relating to oral history and utilizing cross-disciplinary or interdisciplinary approaches. The editors are particularly interested in articles dealing with changing social relationships as they appear in political, academic, artistic, military, economic, or ideological institutions. The journal will also publish notices of local oral history activities and conferences, reviews of significant international publications, and news of available grants. A unique department will feature evaluations of equipment used in oral history.

Two articles in this issue are intended as examples of newer work being done in the field. Luisa Passerini, “Italian Working Class Culture between the Wars: Consensus to Fascism and Work Ideology,” utilizes Marxist theory to ask new questions about oral data. She argues that oral sources should not be taken as mere factual statements but should be analyzed from psychological aspects as well. E. Culpepper Clark, et al., “Communication in the Oral History Interview: Investigating Problems of Interpreting Oral Data,” urge historians to look to communications theorists to improve their “understanding of how meaning is constructed in an oral history interview.” To these authors, oral history derives its creative potential from the interaction of the interviewer and interviewee who approach their tasks with conflicting perspectives. By combining the principles of communication theory, philosophical hermeneutics, and historical analysis, the historian can develop a method for the analysis of oral data.

This issue includes also (pp. 62–66) an evaluation of transcribing machines. Models tested were a Tandberg 1521F (reel-to-reel), Dictaphone 2550 (cassette), and Sony (cassette). [THOMAS F. SOAPES, *National Archives and Records Service*]

Other Publications Received

Canada. *Archivaria*, no. 9 (Winter 1979–80); no. 10 (Summer 1980).

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