

# The International Scene: News and Abstracts

RONALD J. PLAVCHAN, *Editor*

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## NEWS

### BARBADOS

**Initial Steps toward a National Information System.** The National Council on Libraries, Archives, and Documentation Centers held its first meeting in April 1980 under the auspices of the newly created Ministry of Information. The 13-member council will examine all existing information services in Barbados and make specific recommendations for the coordination and integration of these services. Another aim of the council is to design a national plan for the development and management of archives and modern records. Implementation of a national information system and establishment of the council have been major aims of the Library Association of Barbados, of which the Department of Archives is a member.

### CANADA

**Consultative Group on Canadian Archives Completes Its Report.** The Consultative Group on Canadian Archives, appointed in January 1978 by the Canada Council (predecessor of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) with a broad mandate to report on the state of the archival systems, has published its findings in a comprehensive report. It examined the diverse field of Canadian archives and summarized

its current condition, and offers whatever leadership the Consultative Group believes is best advised. The series of recommendations the group has made is addressed not only to the Research Council, but also to governments, institutions, associations, and groups of concerned individuals. Although the report has been published, the information compiled by the group has been deposited in the Public Archives and is available for research.

**Pilot Disposal Project for Classified Records.** The Public Records Order (P.C. 1966–1749) outlines the responsibilities of the Dominion Archivist to provide economical records center storage facilities, but does not provide for the removal and destruction of classified records. The result is that these documents are frequently held in storage by government departments and agencies far beyond their authorized disposal date. This problem has prompted numerous requests that PAC General Records Centre provide immediately a facility to destroy classified records in a secure manner and as an ongoing program. The Federal Records Centres Division of the Records Management Branch has prepared a special submission to the Treasury Board outlining the benefits of a central disposal facility, and the resources needed to implement the program. In the meantime, PAC is operating a pilot disposal project for classified records at the Federal Records Centre, Ottawa. This in-house project employs a number of handicapped persons to segregate, shred, and bale the paper on a cost recovery basis.

**PAC Establishes Central Magnetic Tape Storage Facility.** PAC has established a central magnetic tape storage facility to provide an environmentally controlled atmosphere for the storage of backup magnetic tapes for federal departments and agencies in the National Capital Region. The Records Management Services Division will operate the storage rooms, which are located within the General Records Centre Building at Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa.

## CHINA

**American Scholars Visit the People's Republic of China.** A delegation of thirteen American scholars, representing the Joint Committee on Contemporary China of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), the Social Science Research Council, and the ACLS Committee on Studies of Chinese Civilization visited the People's Republic of China from 28 December 1979 to 18 January 1980. Purpose of the three-week visit was to learn about the current state of research and scholarship in the social sciences and humanities; to meet with Chinese scholars; and to explore possibilities for future exchange, cooperation, and collaboration. The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, and local science associations hosted the American delegation on its travel to the cities of Beijing, Chengdu, Nanjing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. A comprehensive 175-page report on the visit has been published and copies of it are available through the Social Science Research Council, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158.

## ENGLAND & WALES

**Proposed Reduction in Services at Public Record Office.** There is widespread anxiety throughout the archival community over the effects of proposed government economies. *The Times* of London, 23 June 1980, contained a report on the possible closure of the public search room at Chancery Lane. Statements in the House of Commons by the Solicitor-General on 25 April, 10 July, and 9 August also hint at a 17 percent reduction in PRO staff. A government spokesman stated on 9 August that no final decision had yet been made, but "the Government had to face the question of whether the Public Records Office was so essential in all its activities that it must be immune from cuts." A decision about reductions may be delayed until submission of the Wilson Committee report. This

committee was established in 1978 to review all aspects of the earlier Public Records Acts. One area of activity already affected is in the training of archivists from Commonwealth countries.

**Local Records Offices Facing Budget Cuts.** Although there has been considerable press publicity concerning the proposed economics at the PRO, virtually no attention has been paid to the crisis facing local record offices. As local authorities become primary targets for central government cutbacks, archives frequently become low-priority items to councils faced with maintaining vital services to local communities. The situation is aggravated by the fact that most local offices already operate pared-down, with small staffs, and any further budget cuts, which will almost certainly occur, risk closures or reduced hours of service. It is ironic that reductions in budget and staff come at a time when the local offices are under the twin pressures of increasing numbers of researchers and of companies forced out of business because of the financial situation, whose records have to be preserved.

**Freedom of Information Legislation?** Proponents of freedom of information legislation for Great Britain are not encouraged by the formation of a new team of senior civil servants responsible for policy on open government and freedom of information. The attitude of the Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has been opposed to the trend begun by the previous Labour administration in favor of freer access. Formation of this team is not regarded as a reversal of this attitude. *The Times* of London recently quoted one member of the Conservative Party as saying that the prime minister does not believe in open government for the cabinet, let alone for the general public. It appears that attempts will be made in the next session of Parliament to secure at least the liberalization of the rules regulating the information which parliamentary committees can demand from civil servants.

**Special Repositories Forum in the Making.** The recent trend toward groups with common problems coming together within the Society of Archivists to make up a specialist forum to discuss these problems has been carried a step further by the proposed formation of a Special Repositories Group. The group will consist mainly of those working in universities and associated institutions. Although the precise function of the Special Repositories Group is unclear, it will not extend to inclusion of company archivists. During the IX International Congress on Archives (London, 15–19 September 1980) members of the group expressed interest in hearing from American colleagues about the progress of the newly formed professional affinity groups within SAA.

**Archivists Code of Conduct.** A working party of the Society of Archivists is preparing a final draft of a code of conduct, for discussion at the annual general meeting in London on 2 December 1980. Although the code is rather general, acceptance of it may signal a move toward a more professional attitude in the society.

**ADEMCO Award for Innovative Conservation.** Archival Aids, Ademco Ltd., has announced it will offer an annual cash award for original ideas/innovations in paper or book conservation, including training methods. The Technical Committee of the Society of Archivists is preparing procedures for selecting nominees and awarding the annual prize. At present the award will be open only to conservators in the United Kingdom.

**New Deacidification Product Available.** In July 1980, Ademco Ltd. began marketing a new deacidification agent called "pHizz." It has been developed in conjunction with ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries), British Library, and the India Office. "pHizz" is a non-aqueous agent in an aerosol form—methyl magnesium carbonate in a chlorofluorocarbon. For more information write to Archival Aids, Ademco Ltd., Coronation Road, Cressex Estate, High Wycombe, Bucks, England.

## MALAYSIA

**Seminar on Records Retirement and Appraisal.** The National Archives of Malaysia sponsored a two-week seminar on records retirement and appraisal, 30 June–12 July 1980. Some thirty professional staff members of the National Archives attended. Morris Rieger, chairman of the ICA Committee on Archival Development, conducted the seminar, emphasizing appraisal criteria.

**Oral History Workshop.** The National Archives of Malaysia and the Malaysian Oral History Committee organized, 2–3 September 1980, a two-day workshop on oral history. Participants included oral historians and other interested individuals from Malaysia and surrounding Southeast Asian countries.

**Training Course in Microfilming.** Under the sponsorship of UNESCO and the Southeast Asian Regional Branch of ICA (SARBICA), the National Archives of Malaysia organized, 29 September–11 October 1980, a course on microfilming. The two-week training course was restricted to those institutions which already have microfilming facilities and programs. A similar training program was carried out in 1979 in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore.

## POLAND

**Joint French-Polish Archival Exhibition Planned.** Jean Favier, Director General of the Archives de France, visited Poland, 18–23 May 1980. As a result of this visit, Polish and French archivists have agreed to mount a joint documentary exhibit illustrating French-Polish relations from 1500 to 1945. The exhibit will open in Paris in January 1982 and then be reassembled in Warsaw for a comparable period of time.

**State Archives Recovers Documents from DDR.** In May 1980 the German Democratic Republic (DDR) returned to the Polish State Archives archival documents of Polish provenance. The 14,000 files returned to Polish custody, including about sixty parchment manuscripts from the thirteenth century, are from territories returned to Poland after World War II in accordance with the Potsdam agreements.

**Director General Attends Archival Conference in Bucharest.** Tadeusz Walichnowski, Director General of the Archiwów Państwowych (Polish State Archives), attended the seventh Conference of State Archives of Socialist Countries, held in Bucharest, Romania, 16–20 June 1980. Topics discussed included archival legislation, development of information science in archives, miniaturization, and editing the results of scientific research. During the discussions, Walichnowski made the interesting suggestion of possible use of laser holography in the miniaturization of documents.

## REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Second Regional Seminar of the Association for Archivists and Manuscript Librarians.** The association (AMLIB/AMBIB) held its second regional seminar on 27 June 1980 in Pretoria. The three papers presented dealt with each aspect of the theme: "Arranging, Displaying, and Preserving Historical Manuscripts." AMLIB/AMBIB officials regard the high attendance at this second seminar as a positive sign for the association.

## INTERNATIONAL

**ALA Establishes New Office of Executive Secretariat.** Through a generous grant from the Tinker Foundation, the Asociacion Latinoamericana de Archivos (ALA) has established an Executive Secretariat to make the institutional life of ALA more dynamic and

to implement its principles and programs. The secretariat, under the supervision of the Executive Committee, will handle the day-to-day operations of the association, and is located in Lima, Peru. César Gutiérrez Muñoz has been named to serve as the first ALA executive secretary.

The ALA General Assembly, meeting in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 29 May 1980, elected members to serve on the executive committee for the 1980–83 term. [Translated by ROBERT W. STORM, *National Archives and Records Service*]

**ALA Undertakes Project to Publish Archival Directory.** The Executive Secretariat has begun work on a project to produce a directory of all ALA members and other archivists in Latin America. Aim of the proposed directory is to enhance the exchange of communication between Latin American archivists. No date has been set for publication of the directory.

**Specialized Bibliographic Project Launched by ALA.** One of the immediate objectives of the newly created office of ALA Executive Secretariat is the compilation of a specialized bibliography in archives and related fields. Latin American archivists have been greatly in need of such necessary information for some time. As a result, the executive secretary has called upon ALA members and other interested individuals to submit lists of possible bibliographic entries for consideration.

**Brussels: Site of Second World Symposium on Documentation.** The Second World Symposium was held in Brussels, from 20–22 June 1980. Convened to consider implementation of the recommendations from the first symposium, held in Geneva in 1972, and to examine current problems concerning activities of international organizations, the Second Symposium was organized by the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Association of International Libraries, under the auspices of the International Council on Archives (ICA); International Federation for Documentation (FID); International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA); Union of International Associations (UIA); and UNESCO. Discussions centered on four areas: sources of international documentation, acquisition and organization of international documents, use of international documents, and archives of international organizations. The papers presented at the symposium will be published by UNITAR. For further information write to Hans Geiser, UNITAR, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

**FID/ET Clearinghouse Open for Service.** The international clearinghouse for teaching and training materials, established in late 1979 by the Education and Training Committee of the International Federation for Documentation (FID/ET), and sponsored by UNESCO, is now open for reference service. It can provide items in the following general subject areas: computer science, information science and documentation, information storage and retrieval, reference work, library management and administration, networks, archives, and systems analysis. When an inquiry is received by the clearinghouse, a photocopy of the material is made and sent to the requester. If it is impossible to copy specific materials, the clearinghouse refers the requester to the organizations producing them. The clearinghouse still seeks syllabi, reading lists, course outlines, test problems, lecture notes, audiovisual aids, and other teaching and training materials. Materials and requests should be addressed to Clearinghouse, College Library and Information Services, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA.

**Second World Conference on Records.** Eleven years following the first successful international conference on records, the Genealogical Society of Utah sponsored a second world conference on records, 12–15 August 1980, at Salt Lake City, Utah. More than 8,000 persons from thirty different countries registered for the conference. With a general theme of "Preserving Our Heritage," some 240 sessions explored various areas of family history and genealogy. Papers presented at the conference have been published in twelve

volumes, and there is a separate volume that is an index to the proceedings. Individuals may purchase the entire 13-volume set (\$800), single volumes (\$7), or individual lecture papers (\$1) from the Genealogical Society of Utah.

**Religious Archives in Latin America Under Duress.** Political turmoil erupting in many Latin American countries, notably Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, is having an impact on religious archives. Faced with harassment or confiscation of files by both government forces and terrorist organizations, Catholic clergymen and religious archivists have become increasingly cautious about the kinds of information they record. A list of villages or individuals on a missionary circuit, rosters of participants in literacy and religious education programs, or letters that could single out individuals, families, or villages for persecution can suddenly become dangerous tools in the wrong hands. This fear has caused a disruption in the normal records creation process by church officials in some parts of Latin America. Although there is no uniform plan or general policy among religious archivists in dealing with the situation, members of several Catholic religious orders are taking a number of measures to ensure that church records are being made and preserved. In some areas of relative calm, for example, religious archivists create records in the usual manner but then entrust them to someone who is returning to the United States, for deposit in the community's archives. In other areas, missionaries make no written records until immediately prior to their departure from the country. Some returning missionaries have found it expedient to make oral history interviews at their community's archives, rather than risk the possibility of baggage inspection or confiscation by border or customs officials.

## ABSTRACTS

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Editorial Board, meeting in Cincinnati during the recent SAA convention, has recommended that the "International Scene" be greatly curtailed in view of the current financial situation of SAA. The editor has reluctantly decided to meet this demand by eliminating the abstracts. We will continue to print those abstracts still outstanding, but will no longer send any further foreign archival journals to our abstractors. The editor wishes to extend his sincere appreciation to all those individuals who have given of their time to provide abstracts for this department. Any comments from our readers should be sent to the editor.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA.** *Slovenská Archivistika*, vol. 13, no. 1 (1978). Most of the issue deals with archival work in Slovak history. Two articles are noteworthy. Peter Kraus describes (pp. 59-72) the development of scientific work and publishing activity in the Slovak Archives, and Juraj Spiritza concentrates (pp. 84-98) on problems in microfilming archival documents.

Peter Kraus deals primarily with archival materials available to researchers in their study of the various aspects of Slovak history. Archival information is a useful tool for cultural, educational, and political purposes. The establishment of the Central State Archives of the Slovak Socialist Republic in 1973 elevated the Slovak archives to the level of a scientific institution. It has taken an active role in the extensive project of the Historical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences to register and index documents and historical sources relevant to Slovakia. According to Kraus, Slovak archivists have contributed much in sphragistics and heraldry; but they have had hardly any impact in the fields of paleography, chronology, genealogy, metrology, numismatics, historical geography, topography, demography, codical science, and statistics.

Juraj Spiritza directs attention to the protection of archival material through microfilm. The VIII International Congress on Archives (Washington, 1976) had an impact on Slovak archival thought with



regard to microfilm methods and related administrative services. The establishment of photolaboratories in Slovakia, coupled with ever-increasing quantity of microfilm and other audiovisual materials, led to the creation of the National Film Archives, affiliated with the Center for State Archives. Current microfilming techniques in Slovakia include the use of 35mm. unperforated film, 16mm. film for A/4 sizes of original material, and 70mm. film for maps and charts. Microfiches, microcards, microprints, and ultrafiches are currently used, but not in all photolaboratories. In the reproduction of films, Slovak archivists have found it cheaper to use diazofilm rather than vesicular film.

*Slovenská Archivistika*, vol. 13, no. 2 (1978). The two major articles in this issue deal primarily with the technical aspects of archives. Michal Bako analyzes (pp. 104–37) the theoretical, technological, and technical problems of automated data processes in archives. In the theoretical part of his study, Bako discusses the need for the creation of primary documents and secondary records, and the question of the most suitable computer language to use. As for technological problems, automation is discussed in detail as a process involving equipment, tools, and materials. The technical side of the study is an evaluation of three different programming systems: ARDIS-EC, AIDOS, and GOLEM II. Their evaluation will be the subject of a separate study in the next issue.

Jozef Hanus discusses (pp. 143–59) different methods for measuring residual chemicals in films, plates, and papers. In comparing Czechoslovak, East German, and American specifications for measuring residual chemicals in film, Hanus states that the American National Standard–Methylene Blue method for measuring thiosulphate and the Silver Densitometric method for measuring residual chemicals provide better results. [JOSEPH STASKO, *New York Public Library*]

**FRANCE.** *Note d'Information*, no. 14 (1980). This issue of the French archival journal on automation describes PRIAM (Préarchivage Informatique des Archives des Ministères), which is used by the records center at Fontainebleau. This system is comparable to the NARS-5 system used by the National Archives and Records Service for controlling deposits in its fifteen federal records centers, as well as to some aspects of the NARS A-1 system. The initial system, PRIAM I, was developed with the aid of the Archives Nationales primarily to control accessions and to regulate the loans and returns of records. PRIAM II, which has the added capability of retrieving data on the eventual disposition of the accessions and on the content of the records, has replaced PRIAM I. French archivists are working on PRIAM III to generate a thesaurus of subject terms and inventories. [MEYER H. FISHBEIN, *National Archives and Records Service*]

# ***The WPA Historical Records Survey***

**A Guide to the Unpublished Inventories, Indexes,  
and Transcripts**

Compiled by Loretta L. Hefner

This guide is the product of a survey of unpublished HRS materials conducted by the Society of American Archivists with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It lists repositories in the United States which hold HRS materials. The guide contains summaries of HRS activity in each state, separate entries for repositories in which HRS materials have been located and lists of specific holdings in each repository.

Detailed lists of counties, municipalities, and denominations that are covered by inventory forms in specific project areas are included on microfiche.

(1980) 42 pp., paper. \$4 SAA members, \$6 others. A postage and handling charge will be added to all non-prepaid orders.

To place an order or to obtain a complete list of SAA publications, write the Society of American Archivists, 330 S. Wells St., Suite 810, Chicago, IL 60606.





## News Notes

F. L. EATON and THOMAS E. WEIR, JR., *Editors*

SEND NOTES FOR PUBLICATION direct to the News Notes Editor, the *American Archivist*, National Archives Building, Washington, DC 20408, or to one of the following reporters: **State and Local Archives** to Richard J. Cox, Records Management Division, Department of Legislative Reference, City of Baltimore, MD 21202; **Religious Archives** to John R. Woodard, P.O. Box 7414, Reynolda Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27109; **Scientific and Technical Archives** to Arthur R. Abel, National Park Service, Edison National Historic Site, Main Street and Lakeside Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052; **Business Archives** to Linda Edgerly, 103 W. 75th Street, New York, NY 10023; **State and Regional Archival Associations** to Alice Vestal, Special Collections Department, Main Library, Room 610, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221; and **Manuscript Repositories** to Peter J. Parker, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Manuscripts Department, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

**Abbeville, Louisiana**, with guidance and advice from the State Archives and Records Service, has developed a model municipal records management program. The archives staff prepared a records retention schedule allowing the city to dispose of, according to applicable law and approved records management principles, numerous records from 1921 to 1974. All permanent records either have been microfilmed or soon will be. Microfiche of the city minutes, 1862–1948, have been copied by the state archives.

The Special Collections Department of the University of California–San Diego announces the establishment of the **National Archives and Oral History Project for the Anti-Nuclear Movement**. The library is collecting pamphlets; personal papers; tapes, transcripts, and oral history interviews with leaders and grass-roots partici-

pants; organizational papers; videotapes; and movie films. While the archives is intended to be a national repository, UCSD does not want to jeopardize the collecting of similar materials at local archives across the country. For more information, write to Peter Carr, P.O. Box 174, South Laguna, CA 92677.

A new edition of the directory of *Business Archives in the United States and Canada*, prepared by the **Business Archives Affinity Group**, has been published and is now available from the SAA Chicago office.

The **Business History Conference** held its annual meeting at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in March. The business historians recently formed a committee on document preservation, chaired by Herman Freudenberger, Department of Economics, Tulane University.

At the ninth annual meeting of the **Society of California Archivists**, in April 1980, one session was devoted to computerized access to photographs. Two speakers, William Myers, historian, Southern California Edison; and Mildred Simpson, librarian, Photography Collection, Atlantic Richfield Company, described how they devised, with the aid of computers, subject indexes to their large photograph collections.

A new publication, *Conservation Administration News*, is being published by the University of Wyoming Libraries, Box 3334, University Station, Laramie, WY 82071.

Finding-aids projects funded through several grants have been completed for the **East Carolina Manuscript Collection**, of the J. Y. Joyner Library at the East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina. By means of an NHPRC grant, complete narrative descriptions have been written for the papers of novelist Inglis Clark Fletcher and journalists Lucy Cherry Crisp and Dorothy Repiton Knox. The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, of Winston-Salem, provided funding for the arrangement and description of the 50,000-item William Blount Rodman Papers documenting five generations of a prominent North Carolina family of lawyers and jurists. Also, copies of *A Guide to Military History Resources in the East Carolina Manuscript Collection*, published in 1979, are still available to repositories on request.

A planning conference sponsored by the Idaho State Library and consisting of representatives of city and county governments and courts, as well as archivists, librarians, and records managers, formed the **Steering Committee to Preserve Idaho's Documentary Heritage**. The committee will develop guidelines for the storage of books and other documents, the use of archival-quality paper and microfilm as a base for information of permanent legal and historical value, the training of custodians of records and books in identifying records that should be permanently preserved, and for ways of sharing such information and training.

The Summer 1980 issue of *For the Record* . . . , a newsletter published by the **Illinois State Archives**, contains an article and an editorial column on welfare case file problems. The article argues that little information, other than statistical information available from less bulky sources, is contained in the records compiled by the Illinois Department of Public Aid. Case files are created not to document the life of the recipient, but to assist a welfare agency to "account for its expenditures in a rational way."

A private company, **Information Handling Services, Inc.**, has produced a comprehensive index to the Code of Federal Regulations. This index is to provide a well-controlled and comprehensive system of subject access to federal regulations, and to provide access to federal regulations applying to the geographic area affected. In October 1980, IHS will publish a three-year, cumulative index for the years 1977-79.

In March 1980, the **Iowa Historical Materials Preservation Society** held a conservation planning meeting at which the members decided to design a disaster plan for Iowa institutions. At a second meeting, in May, the group was presented with an outline for a disaster plan and a list of resource people and facilities. A third meeting was held in late summer. For further information, contact Barry Porter, State Library Commission, Historical Building, Des Moines, IA 50319.

The expansion of the museum of the **Lyndon Baines Johnson Library** is part of a construction program undertaken by the University of Texas, which owns the library building. The renovations include doubling the museum's exhibit space, building an orientation theater, and creating 9,000 square feet of storage space for items now housed in other buildings. The additional exhibit space will enable the library staff to undertake extensive new exhibits of the life, times, and programs of Lyndon Johnson.

The **King Library and Archives** will reopen in its new quarters, Freedom Hall, in Fall 1981. The archives has been closed to permit its staff to devote all its energies to processing and describing the collections. Under a major grant from NEH, the staff has prepared descriptive inventories for six of the major civil rights collections. For further information, contact the archivist of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Social Change, 503 Auburn Ave., Atlanta, GA 30312.

Trudy Huskamp Peterson's article, "After Five Years: An Assessment of the Amended U.S. Freedom of Information Act" (*AA*, Spring 1980, pp. 161-68), has been selected to be reprinted in **Library Lit: The Best of 1980** (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press), "the eleventh anthology of the best articles published in magazines during 1980 which have to do with libraries and library science."

During the past six months, the Oral History Office of the **Minnesota Historical Society** held seven workshops throughout the state. Entitled "An Introduction to Oral History," the workshops are designed for organized oral history committees of county, local, and special-purpose historical organizations. Workshop participants are provided a basic manual describing the steps in organizing oral history projects, and are given narrator contract and interview information forms conforming to those used by the society. Information recorded is thus standardized throughout the state. Assistance in project design and grant development is provided to each group following the workshop. The workshop series began in 1977 and has provided training to forty-two groups of people. Information on the workshops may be obtained from James E. Fogerty, Minnesota Historical Society, 1500 Mississippi Street, St. Paul, MN 55101.

The **National Archives and Records Service** has appointed a security and safety officer. The new post was established because of the rising incidence of thefts and defacement of research materials in cultural institutions nationwide. The safety side of the job was added when President

Carter recently broadened the responsibility of federal agencies for employee health and safety. Lawrence Oberg, the appointee, previously served as director of security at St. Elizabeths Hospital, the Washington, D.C., hospital for the mentally ill and emotionally disturbed.

The **Nevada Historical Society** has obtained authorization from the state legislature for an environmentally controlled storage facility for archival and relic items. The structure, to be located in Reno, will contain 10,000 square feet of storage space. The society has contributed \$50,000 toward construction costs, from its endowment. The legislature approved also a program to protect older and deteriorating photographs by removing the originals from reference use, replacing them with copies. A grant from a private foundation will allow the society to process major collections in backlog, and to add additional research room space.

The **New Jersey Department of Education** will construct a new building to house both a new state records storage center and the Library for the Blind and Handicapped. The records center will consolidate under one roof the three major functions of the state's records management program: records and forms management, a centralized microfilm unit, and the records center. The center will occupy three-quarters of the building and, in addition to office space, will have 250,000 cubic feet of storage space for semicurrent records now maintained in office space and rented warehouses in the Trenton area. The climate-controlled center will provide space for computer tapes, videotapes, and microforms, as well as paper records.

A **National Conference of Regional Archival Networks** will be held, 15-17 July 1981, in Madison, Wisconsin. Cosponsors of the conference are the Midwest Archives Conference, the University of Wisconsin System Archives Council, and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. This will be the first national meeting for directors of regional network centers, network coordinators, historical agency administra-

tors, and others operating or planning network programs. An NEH grant will reimburse the expenses of twenty-five people from eleven states who will participate in the conference as speakers, commentators, and working-group leaders. Formal-session topics will include network definitions and structures, collection development, user services and outreach, new forms of networks, and networks in the 80s. In addition, sixteen small-group sessions will cover topics ranging from intellectual control of holdings to evaluation of a regional network center's program. To assure active participation by all attending, total registration will be limited to 100, based on geographic representation and professional roles. The Midwest Archives Conference will publish materials generated by the conference. For further information, write to John Fleckner, Archives Division, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

"Business in the 'New South': A Historical Perspective," the first annual **Sewanee Economics Symposium**, held in April at The University of the South, included a panel of archivists who discussed the topic, "A Cooperative Approach to Preserving the Record of Southern Business."

With an NEH grant, the **Swedish Pioneer Historical Society** will prepare a guide to Swedish-American archival and manuscript sources in the United States. The survey will include churches, and cultural, fraternal, benefit, and singing societies as well as established archives and libraries.

The **United Negro College Fund** has received an NEH grant to tape-record the reminiscences of several UNCF founders, black college presidents, volunteers, and staff. The project will be conducted by the UNCF Archives, in conjunction with Columbia University's Oral History Research Office. The one-year project will generate over 100 hours of taped interviews. Columbia researchers will conduct the interviews and transcribe and process the more than 3,000 transcript pages. Upon comple-

tion, the UNCF Oral History Collection will be stored in Columbia University's specialized facilities, and copies of open interviews will be maintained at the UNCF Archives for future use.

A master plan for document conservation in the West was the subject of a colloquium held 8-10 June in Snowbird, Utah. Representatives of eighteen western states involved in the **Western States Materials Conservation Project** discussed conservation services, research, standards, and legislation necessary to improve the preservation of materials in libraries, public and private archives, and historical societies. The focus of the master plan is a clearinghouse that will compile directories of information resources, educational opportunities, and regional activities; put together packets of information, bibliographies, and videotape and slide-tape material on critical issues in document conservation; maintain information on regional conservation needs and solutions; and provide consulting services. Participants decided that basic training information could best be compiled on the national level; that specialized training, consultants, and model conservation and disaster plans could most usefully be handled on the regional level; that mass purchases of conservation supplies and arrangement of traveling workshops would best be a state-level function; and that dissemination of public information, microfilming services, and specific disaster plans should be arranged at the local level. The Western Conservation Congress has been established as the continuing group to implement the master plan.

**Women in Business and Economic History (WIBEH)**, a relatively new organization, is actively seeking as members archivists with compatible interests. WIBEH was formed to facilitate communication between scholars (male and female) working on women's topics in business and economic history, and to sustain women working in these fields. The organization meets twice a year, in the Spring with the Business History Conference, and in the Fall

with the Economic History Association. A newsletter, distributed twice a year, informs the membership about pertinent current research and publications, employment and grant opportunities, and upcoming activities of interest to members.

Archivists interested in joining WIBEH should send \$5 for dues, and indicate their institutional affiliation, to Martha M. Trescott, 112 Engineering Hall, College of Engineering, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801.

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