

The International Scene

RONALD J. PLAVCHAN, *Editor*

WE ARE INDEBTED TO the following correspondents: **Australia:** R.G. Neale; **Austria:** Josef Riegler; **Bahamas/Caribbean:** D. Gail Saunders; **Brazil:** Maria Amélia Gomes Leite; **China:** Sun Fangjiu; **Federal Republic of Germany:** Wolfram Werner; **Finland:** Eljas Orrman; **France:** Michel Duchein; **German Democratic Republic:** Horst Schetelich; **England & Wales:** Bruce Jackson; **India/SWARBICA:** N.H. Kulkarnee; **Israel:** Haya Wolovsky; **Italy:** Donato Tamble; **Malawi/East and Central Africa:** Steve M. Mwiyeriwa; **Malaysia/SARBICA:** Zakiah Hanum Nor; **Mexico:** Juan Claudio Mayer Guala; **Netherlands:** T.P. Huijs; **New Zealand:** Judith S. Hornabrook; **Nigeria/West Africa:** J.C. Enwere; **Organization of American States:** Celso Rodriguez; **Peru/ALA:** César Gutiérrez Muñoz; **Poland:** Jerzy Szczepanski; **Scotland:** Andrew M. Jackson; **Senegal/West Africa:** M. Saliou Mbaye; **Solomon Island/Oceania:** R.G.A. Chesterman; **South Africa:** Maryna Fraser; **Spain:** Margarita Vazquez de Parga; **Vatican City:** Claudio De Dominicis; and **Zimbabwe:** R.G.S. Douglas.

AUSTRALIA

Federal Government Approves Site for Australian Archives. The federal government has decided to build the national headquarters building of the Australian Archives on a site in Canberra adjacent to the National Library. The new building will cost more than \$A30 million and will also adjoin the Australian National Gallery and the High Court of Australia.

Battye Library Begins AV Survey Project. The J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History, Perth, has launched

a new project to compile a register of photographic collections in Western Australia. The aim of the survey is to determine the nature and extent of photographic collections, large and small, historical and contemporary, that are held by government agencies, historical societies, museums, businesses, and individuals. Entry forms have been widely distributed to potential and known holders of photographic collections.

First Pamphlet in Occasional Publications Series Published. Riverina College Archives and Records Service, Wagga

Wagga, New South Wales, has recently published the first pamphlet in its Occasional Publication series. The pamphlet, compiled by Don Brech from data furnished in response to a questionnaire, is entitled *A Directory of College and University Archives and Record Offices in Australia*. Information contained in the directory was originally intended for distribution only to members of the Australian College and University Archivists Group, but it was decided that the directory could serve a more useful purpose as part of the Occasional Publications series by publicizing the existence or location of the archives and record offices in Australia's higher education institutions.

BRAZIL

Brazilian Archivists Meet. The fifth Brazilian Congress on Archives, sponsored by the Associação dos Arquivistas Brasileiros (AAB), was held in Rio de Janeiro on 17–22 October 1982. Archivists from across Brazil and representatives of archival institutions attended the nationwide meeting to exchange information and to listen to speeches by distinguished members of the profession in Brazil and visitors from the United States. Topics of the morning plenary sessions pertained to reforms of the Arquivo Nacional, the situation of state and municipal archives, new developments in archives, and a general review of archives in Brazil. During the afternoon participants in general topic sessions heard discourses on archival subjects that ranged from microfilming programs to conservation and deacidification to descriptive catalogs and university archives.

Midway through the week (October 20) Brazilian archivists celebrated National Archives Day. To commemorate the day, a special session of the congress was held in the Câmara dos Vereadores

(City Hall). During the ceremonies Lia Temporal Malcher, president of AAB and member of the Arquivo Geral da Cidade to Rio de Janeiro, was presented with a medal for her work on behalf of the profession and the association. The next congress is scheduled to be held in 1985. [MARY BOCCACCIO, *University of Maryland*]

CANADA

SSHRCC Rejects Funding of Provincial and Territorial Archives. The Fall 1982 issue of the newsletter of the Association of British Columbia Archivists (ABCA) reports that the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRCC) has announced that provincial and territorial archives are ineligible to receive any funding under the Canadian Studies Research Tools program. This program, regarded as a major initiative, was designed to promote the development of Canadian studies by making primary and secondary source materials more accessible for research. Value of the grants can be up to \$75,000 over three years. Guidelines for the program, issued in July 1981, specify that 20 percent of the costs of the project must be borne by two kinds of institutions: government-financed institutions (including university libraries and archives, public libraries, and the like) whose role is to provide information services, or government-financed institutions that have librarians or archivists on their staff. It seems absurd for SSHRCC to support university archives and not provincial archives, especially since both institutions are funded by provincial taxpayers. The Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) has agreed to act as a clearinghouse for 1983 applications, and it hopes a test case may be submitted involving regional associations drawing upon resources from provincial and territorial repositories.

Anniversary at Vancouver Federal Records Centre. The Federal Records Centre in Burnaby, British Columbia, celebrated its tenth anniversary. The records center, called PARC or Public Archives Records Centre at the time of its opening in April 1972, serves federal departments and agencies in British Columbia and the Yukon. During the 10-year period the centre has been expanded three times to accommodate the demand for additional records storage space. Plans are currently underway for another expansion to provide improved facilities and better services for federal users.

New Paper Conservation Lab Opened in Winnipeg. The Provincial Archives of Manitoba opened on 12 August 1982 its new paper conservation laboratory. Joy Cohnstaedt, Deputy Minister of Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources, together with Provincial Archivist Peter Bower and Chief Conservator Charles A. E. Brandt, participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The 2,000-square-foot lab, believed to be one of the most advanced archival facilities in North America, includes two large work tables, a high-quality water system, complete book bindery, Weidner-type drying rack, paper conservation table, various microscopes, camera equipment, a small adjoining room for cleaning documents with pressurized air and vacuum-dust arrester, humidifier for relaxing documents, a large table for flattening documents between felts, fumehood with attachments for nonaqueous deacidification, and adequate storage units for all conservation supplies. Safety provisions include fire blankets, appropriate first-aid items, safety shower, and off-site bunker storage for bulk quantities of chemicals. According to Brandt, a sophisticated fumigation/freezing chamber will be installed at a later date.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Cornerstone Laid for New Bundesarchiv Building. On 22 September 1982 archivists and officials of the Bundestag participated in the cornerstone-laying ceremonies for the new Bundesarchiv building in Koblenz. Bundesarchiv officials are still confident that the building will be completed and ready for touring by archivists attending the Tenth International Congress on Archives, which has been scheduled to be held in Koblenz in 1984.

German Archivists Meet in Münster/Westfalen. The 55th annual conference of German Archivists was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society of German Historians. The joint meeting was convened at Münster/Westfalen on 4–6 October 1982. Two major topics discussed by the participants dealt with the improvement of training for archivists and registrars and with archival sources for the decisionmaking process by authoritative bodies.

Second Expert Consultation on RAMP. Experts from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Yugoslavia, and Zambia met in West Berlin, 9–11 June 1982, to review the progress of the General Information Programme (PGI)'s Records and Archives Management Programme (RAMP). In addition to a review of the origin and scope of RAMP, the agenda included discussions about current trends, problems, and needs in the area of archives administration and records management, as well as the consideration of proposals for future projects and activities within the RAMP program. The participants unanimously agreed that RAMP, as a concept and as a program, had been successful in focusing attention on basic archival and records management problems and in con-

tributing to the solutions.

RAMP II ended by recommending continuation and expansion of RAMP, closer coordination with other PGI and archives-related projects and activities in UNESCO, and increased funding for RAMP to enable it to meet the growing archival and records problems facing member states. The participants also suggested that future regular expert consultations on RAMP should be held at the beginning of every biennium and include specialists in other information fields. The final report of RAMP II has been prepared and is available from UNESCO's Division of the General Information Programme. [*UNISIST Newsletter*, vol. 10, no. 3, 1982]

Two State Archives Celebrate Sesquicentennials. On 14 May 1982 the staffs of the Hauptstaatsarchiv Düsseldorf and the Staatsarchiv Koblenz met at the cultural center—a former railway station—of Rohlandseck, near Bonn, to hold a joint celebration marking the 150th anniversary of their respective institutions. Both state archives were founded in 1832 to serve the archival needs of the Prussian Rhineland areas.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

1982 Meeting of the ICA Section of Archivists of International Organizations. The annual meeting of the ICA Section of Archivists of International Organizations was held, 4–7 May 1982, in New York City at the United Nations. Twenty-four members or observers from 19 UN agencies or other international organizations attended the three-day meeting. Topics discussed included problems involved in the scheduling and transfer of semicurrent and noncurrent records, records and archives in the computer age, the physical protection of archives and the use of office building

space as an archival repository, and the role of oral history in an archives program. From the discussions it was apparent that institutional policies and practices vary widely and that very few meet minimum standards or contribute to administrative efficiency. The participants expressed much interest in the program report on the RAMP (Records and Archives Management Programme) study to develop guidelines for the establishment of records management and archives systems within UN agencies. It was pointed out, especially to those representatives from international agencies headquartered in Europe (most of these agencies still adhere to century-old registry systems and have no records management programs), that the UN has decided to abandon its central registry and has already begun training its staff in the principles and techniques of modern records management. The section also expressed support to a second RAMP study on the development of archival appraisal criteria for project files of international organizations.

The 1983 annual meeting of the section will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, unless budget and travel restrictions compel the members to meet in Luxembourg. [*UNISIST Newsletter*, vol. 10, no. 3, 1982]

INDIA

Fifth Volume in "Mutiny Papers" Series Published. The National Archives announced in July 1982 publication of the fifth volume in its series entitled *Descriptive List of "Mutiny Papers" in the National Archives of India, Bhopal*. Edited by former Director of the Archives, S.N. Prasad, the volume contains the Persian correspondence of Nawwab Sikandar Begam, ruler of Bhopal State, from 11 August 1857 to 6 December 1868. It deals primarily with the mutiny of the sepoys of the Bhopal

Contingent (comprising 600 cavalry and 400 infantry native troops under British officers) against British colonial rule. This important publication in Indian history sheds light on some of the momentous events of the mutiny in Central India and provides insight into the courage and conviction of the insurgents.

ITALY

Archaeological Exhibition at Central State Archives. The Archivio Centrale dello Stato, together with the University of Rome and the Italian Archaeological Mission in Syria, organized a joint exhibition on the themes "The Royal Archives of Ebla" and "The Archaeological Policy of Italy in the Near East." It ran from 20 May to 10 July 1982. Photographs of the Treasury Room and of the archives discovered in 1973 at Ebla (Tell Mardikh, near Aleppo, Syria), as well as documents pertaining to various aspects of Italian archaeological efforts between 1861 and 1940, were used in the exhibition. The resulting display presented an interesting contrast.

New Archival Periodical Appears. *Architettura Archivi* is the title of the new archival publication that appeared in June 1982 at the Accademia Nazionale di San Luca, Rome. It is edited by the Centro di Studi Storico Archivistici per la Storia dell'Arte e dell'Architettura and published by Aldo Ausilio in Padova. This semiannual, interdisciplinary journal is intended to promote the use of archival sources in the study of the history of art and architecture and the development of specific archival programs for architects, urban scientists, and art historians.

Garibaldi Centennial Remembered. Under the patronage of the President of the Republic, the National Committee for

Cultural Manifestations organized a major exhibition to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807–82). The exhibition, "Garibaldi Art and History," consisted of a wide assortment of artifacts and historical items—documents, paintings, sculptures, photographs, and relics—from archives, libraries, and public and private institutions in various parts of the world. It was held in Rome from June through December 1982 at the Museo Centrale del Risorgimento and at the Museo del Palazzo di Venezia.

Second Joint Medieval Conference. The Istituto di Studi Romani and the Canadian Academic Centre in Italy, together with joint sponsorship of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Vancouver, and the University of Calgary, organized a second colloquium on the city and country in the late Middle Ages as sources for social history. The City of Rome was the site of the first colloquium in 1980 (See *American Archivist* 43 [Fall 1980]: 513), but a Canadian location seemed appropriate for the second conference. Therefore, the second conference was held in Banff, Alberta, 26–29 May 1982.

Regional Documentary Exhibitions. The provincial government and the Archivio di Stato di Bergamo organized a documentary exhibition and seminar, 1 April–9 May 1982, on the importance of the Theresian cadastre (1718–33) as a source for historical, agricultural, landscape, urban, and architectural studies. Cartographic and census records were used to illustrate the value of the cadastral records. In Bari, the Archivio di Stato di Bari and the municipal government prepared a documentary display, 30 April–11 May 1982, on the significance of St. Nicholas' Basilica in the life of the city. Region Marche and Urbino University promoted in Ancona, April 1982, an exhibit to show the rela-

tionship between local history and the great contemporary events on national and international levels. The theme of the exhibition was "Ancona and Marche in the Sixteenth Century." Documents, books, furniture, sacred vessels and vestments, and tools were used in the exhibition to reconstruct the image of an important Italian city in the apogee of the Renaissance.

MALAWI

National Archives Sponsors Business Archives Seminar. The National Archives of Malaŵi sponsored a three-day seminar on business archives. It was held in Zomba, 25-27 January 1982, under the direction of James W.H. Moore, company archivist for Roan Consolidated Mines, Ltd., Zambia. The aim of the seminar was to promote interest among business firms and commercial organizations to establish effective records management systems and to provide basic archival care for their inactive files. Fifty-five people, most of whom were drawn from mid-level management at nongovernmental institutions, participated in the seminar.

THE NETHERLANDS

Committee of Dutch Archivists Society Issues Status Report. In an attempt to provide information about the Dutch archives scene that may be of possible interest to foreign archivists, the International Relations Committee of the Vereniging van Archivarissen in Nederland has prepared a special annual report. This first report, somewhat incorrectly entitled "Chronicle of the Dutch Archival World," deals only with the period 1979-80. From the letter that accompanied the initial copies of the "Chronicle," it is clear that the committee intends to issue subsequent annual statements for the preceding 12-month period some time during the July-

September quarter. The initial report has been distributed to editors of foreign archival periodicals for inclusion in their respective publications. For further information concerning this annual report, write to R.M.E. Raaff, International Relations Committee, Vereniging van Archivarissen in Nederland, Ter Pelkewijkpark 21, 8011 SH ZWOLLE, The Netherlands.

NEW ZEALAND

Photographic Conservation is Theme of *Archifacts* Issue. In a departure from past practice, the September 1982 issue of *Archifacts*, the official bulletin of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ), is devoted to a single topic: photographic conservation. The ARANZ Council approved the use of the bulletin for publishing the selected proceedings of the three-day seminar that was held at the National Museum in Wellington, 28-30 August 1981, and coincided with the fifth annual ARANZ General Meeting. This issue therefore is an important statement on the status of the country's photographic archives. One aim of this issue is to improve readers' basic knowledge of current archival practices and provide guidance in the area of photographic archives.

Opposition to Mormon Microfilming Project. Both the Anglican Archbishop of New Zealand and the Roman Catholic Vicar-General in Auckland have registered protests to the Auckland City Council's decision, in August 1982, to permit the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to microfilm 300,000 death records. The opposition stems primarily from the Mormon religious practice of baptism of the dead, which both churchmen believe is the true motive behind the project. Mormon Bishop Tavalii Vaivai responded that the microfilmed records will be used for

historical and genealogical research but added that consideration will be given to those church members who request baptism for their ancestors. According to *Archifacts*, copies of the microfilmed records will be stored in the church's genealogical library in Takapuna as well as the central library vaults in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Custody of Otago Provincial Archives Under Challenge. The ARANZ bulletin for September 1982 reports that the Committee of the Hocken Library, Dunedin, has submitted a formal request to the National Archives in Wellington for the return of the records of the Otago Provincial Government (1853-76). This action follows the discovery about two years ago of two volumes of Otago Provincial Council files among the Otago Harbour Board records that had been transferred to the Hocken Library. Since the discovery, the Harbour Board has passed a resolution favoring the library's retention of the volumes and urging the library to request the return of the remaining archives to the region. Current policy in New Zealand is for the National Archives to be the custodian of all provincial government archives, except for those records of the Canterbury Provincial Government that have been in the custody of the Canterbury Museum since 1957 and a few other items in the Auckland Public Library and the Taranaki Museum. No word has been received as to the response of the National Archives to the request.

SPAIN

Annual Meeting of ICA Publications Commission. The annual meeting of the ICA Publications Commission was held in Toledo, 31 March-1 April 1982. The commission discussed a variety of issues. With regard to *Archivum*, it decided

that the next three issues of the ICA journal will be devoted to studies of archival sources for the migrations of peoples, to the proceedings of the IX International Congress on Archives (London, 1980), and to studies of archival sources on women's history. The commission also considered the problem of published finding aids (by archival agencies) that are not widely available or known and quickly become out of print. In an attempt to resolve this problem of access to information, ICA has underway a series of microfiche publications of finding aids. The series will start with those finding aids that pertain to international relations. Furthermore, the long-term joint ICA-UNESCO project on guides to the history of nations will now concentrate on sources of African history located in Africa. In an attempt to provide valuable assistance to archivists in the developing countries, ICA has arranged for the abstracting of journals in the areas of archives administration and records management by Library and Information Science Abstracts.

The commission also reviewed the status and problems concerning ten RAMP (Records and Archives Management Programme) studies currently in preparation under contract with ICA and discussed the scope and purpose of new studies authorized in the 1982 work plan. This coordination was undertaken to make the most effective use of available resources. [*UNISIST Newsletter*, vol. 10, no. 3, 1982]

VATICAN CITY

International Meeting of Church Archivists. The fourteenth conference of ecclesiastical archivists was held, 3-6 November 1982, in Rome at the Pontifical Gregorian University. The conference also coincided with the 25th an-

niversary of the Associazione Archivistica Ecclesiastica. The theme of this meeting was "The Inventory: A Problem Always Open." In addition to a discourse on inventories by Arnaldo D'Addario of the Università degli Studi di Roma, participants discussed other topics ranging from the sources of historical demography to the use and application of computers in historical European archives. With regard to the latter subject, it became obvious that there are serious problems, especially from an economic standpoint, which must be resolved before the computer becomes a standard feature in historical archives.

ZIMBABWE

Seventh Biennial ECARBICA General

Conference. The University of Zimbabwe in Harare (formerly Salisbury) was the site of the seventh biennial general conference of the East and Central Africa Regional Branch of ICA (ECARBICA). The theme of the conference, which was held on 15-18 September 1982, was "Archives and the New Order." The conference drew archivists from Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Two days prior to the opening of the general conference, a seminar on archival problems in developing countries was held. During the two-day seminar participants discussed two sensitive subjects of concern to archivists from developing countries: migrated or removed archives, and access to archives.

American Autographs

By Charles Hamilton

George Washington *on the Wapping* *John Hancock* *Ronald Reagan*

This comprehensive work, the first of its type ever published, contains more than 2,000 facsimile letters, documents, and signatures. It satisfies the need for a reliable reference work designed to guide the scholar in identifying the script and signatures of prominent men and women. Special features include multiple examples of the writing of all the important personalities: the Presidents, their First Ladies, British and American leaders in the Revolutionary War, presidents of the Continental Congress, signers of the Declaration of Independence, and other related figures.

Two volumes, slipcased, 643 pages, index. **\$150.00**

University of Oklahoma Press

Dept. 663

1005 Asp Avenue

Norman, Oklahoma 73019

