

The International Scene

RONALD J. PLAVCHAN, *Editor*

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ARGENTINA

Head of National Archives Becomes New ALA President. César A. García Belsunce, Director General of the Archivo General de la Nación, was elected on 25 November 1982 by the General Assembly of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Archivos (ALA) to succeed Guillermo Durand Flórez, Director of the Archivo General de la Nación (Peru), who has served as president of ALA since 1973. Under ALA bylaws, the presidency is a three-year term with no reelection.

With the ascension of an Argentinean to the presidency, the ALA Executive Secretariat has moved from Lima, Peru

to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Miguel Angel Cannone of the Archivo General de la Nación is the new Executive Secretary, succeeding César Gutiérrez Muñoz, who has returned to an archival position at the Universidad Católica in Lima. Publication of *Nota Informativa*, the information newsletter started by Gutiérrez Muñoz in August 1980 and issued periodically by the Executive Secretariat, has been suspended and no decision has yet been made about continuing the program. The new address of the ALA Executive Secretariat is Archivo General de la Nación, Leandro N. Alem 246, 1003 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

BOLIVIA

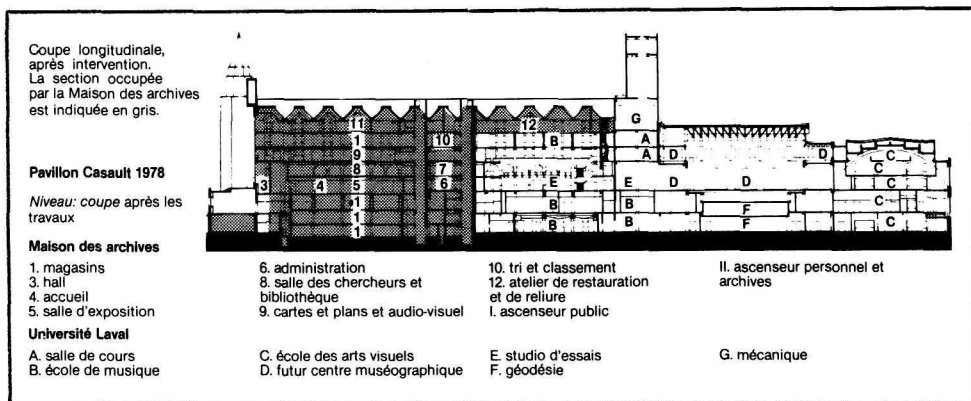
Proceedings of the Second Meeting of Bolivian Archivists Published. The Centro Pedagógico y Cultural de Portales, Cochabamba, has published the proceedings of the second meeting on Bolivian archives that was held on 5-7 July 1982 in Cochabamba. It includes the program; a list of participants; the inaugural address of Gunnar Mendoza, director of the Archivo Nacional de Bolivia; the various proposals presented; and the final resolutions.

CANADA

Third Anniversary of the Maison des Archives. Three years ago, on 4 June 1980, the Maison des Archives officially opened in the Pavillon Casault of Laval University at Sainte-Foy, a suburb of Quebec City. It not only became the new home of the Archives Nationales du Québec (ANQ) but proved the feasibility of converting older existing buildings into modern archival repositories. The story of the conversion process is interesting and filled with valuable lessons for archivists and government officials who seek additional archives space but are hampered by limited financial resources. From both an architectural and archival standpoint, the Maison des Archives is a marvel.

The building, constructed in 1958 and called the Grand Séminaire, was originally designed by Ernest Cormier to serve as a seminary for the Catholic Diocese of Quebec. It served in this capacity for the next twenty years, although by 1970 the building was no longer being used for the training of young men to the priesthood, as enrollment had declined. In 1978 Laval University acquired the property and renamed the building the Pavillon Casault. At about the same time the ANQ moved to the campus, and the decision was made to transform the major portion of the university chapel into an archives. The major challenge was how to transform the existing structure into the specialized needs of a modern archival repository without sacrificing the aesthetic and impressive architectural character (modern Gothic) of the original structure and within reasonable cost estimates. To accomplish this, it was necessary to undertake major interior alterations but yet not destroy the significant interior architectural elements of the former seminary chapel.

Within the former chapel area, an eight-story structure was built to house the various archives services. Four levels serve as storage areas for documents and microfilm, two levels contain research rooms and a library, one level is a reception area for researchers and exhibi-



tions, and one level houses administrative offices and a preservation/restoration laboratory. The unique construction quadrupled the amount of floor space available for archival use. Total cost of the conversion project was \$18 million, or half the estimated cost to construct a new facility of the same dimensions. For the province's taxpayers, it was a bargain. Another resulting benefit has been the preservation of a building with considerable architectural appeal that might otherwise have been destroyed with the demise of its original function. The Maison des Archives is indeed a tribute to the ingenuity and practicality of university officials and members of the provincial government's Ministry of Public Works and Supplies. Other portions of the former Grand Séminaire are used by the university to house its schools of music, visual arts, and journalism; department of geodesy; museographic center; and classrooms and special testing facilities. For further information about the conversion or ANQ, write to Archives Nationales du Québec, CP 10450, Sainte-Foy, Québec G1V 4N1 Canada.

***Mennonitische Rundschau* Microfilmed.**

The oldest Mennonite periodical published continuously under one name, *Mennonitische Rundschau* (1877-), is now available on microfilm through University Microfilms of Ann Arbor, Michigan. The coordination of the project, which required almost two years, has been under Ken Reddig, archivist at the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The principal part of the project, which also proved to be the most difficult, was to locate and collate all existing copies of the *Rundschau*. The collection is incomplete, because Reddig has been unable to locate copies of twenty-seven separate issues, as well as the entire year

of 1897, even though he made every effort to locate the missing copies in both North America and Europe. It was decided to proceed with the microfilming project with the understanding that, if additional copies eventually are located, these will be added to the microfilm collection.

MHSO Genealogy Committee Formed.

The Genealogy Committee of the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario (MHSO) held its first meeting at Conrad Grebel College, Waterloo, on 18 November 1982. The aim of the committee is to record information found on tombstones, set up a filing system, promote the collecting of family photographs, and assist those individuals who are working on their own family histories.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Tenth International Congress on Archives Preparations. Planning for the tenth International Congress on Archives scheduled to be held in Bonn 17-21 September 1984 is well under way. The Beethovenhalle has been chosen as the site of the congress, and other ICA bodies will hold meetings at nearby Bonn University. The theme for the 1984 international meeting of archivists is "The Challenge to Archives: Growing Responsibilities and Limited Resources." A special session is also planned for the exchange of archival materials through reprography. In addition to the regular schedule of meetings and sessions, there will be planned excursions to Aachen, Cologne, and Trier. On 20 September, delegates to the congress will have the opportunity to tour the new construction of the Bundesarchiv in Koblenz.

SAA is planning to sponsor a study tour to Western Europe that will include the congress. Further information about

the study tour will appear in forthcoming issues of the *SAA Newsletter*. For more information about the congress or accommodations, write to Klaus Olden-
hage, ICA Secretariat, Postfach 320,
D-5400 Koblenz 1, Federal Republic of
Germany.

FRANCE

New Look Announced for UNISIST Newsletter. C. Coudert-Schklowski, editor of the *UNISIST Newsletter*, has announced (vol. 3, no. 2, 1982) a major change in the content for subsequent issues of the newsletter. One of the stated aims for the change is to make the newsletter complementary with the *UNESCO Journal of Information, Science, Librarianship and Archives Administration*. Consequently, articles in the newsletter will deal solely with the activities of the General Information Programme (PGI) Division and of other UNESCO sectors in the information field. According to Coudert-Schklowski, the change will also mean that the newsletter will only be published at irregular intervals—whenever material is available. The resulting advantage to its readers will be that they will receive current information.

The April-June 1982 issue of the *UNESCO Journal* is dedicated to archives. It contains articles by Frank B. Evans (UNESCO), G.P.S.H. de Silva (National Archives of Sri Lanka), Bernard Faye (UNESCO), Y.P. Kathpalia (National Archives of India), Oleg A. Mihailov (Soviet Research Center for Technical Documentation), Michael Roper (British Public Record Office), and Michael Cook (University of Liverpool). The journal is also available in Spanish.

ISRAEL

Major Israeli Institution Receives Einstein's Private Papers. The private

papers of Albert Einstein (1879-1955) recently arrived at the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem. The famous German-born physicist had bequeathed these materials to the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Einstein's private papers, comprising about 50,000 pages, include his writings, unpublished drafts, notes, notebooks, lecture notes, personal and scientific correspondence, touring diaries, family papers, photographs, and a variety of items suitable for exhibition.

New Building for Central Zionist Archives Planned. In its report to the 30th Zionist Congress, 1982, the Central Zionist Archives revealed that the Zionist Executive has taken steps to implement its 1965 decision to construct an archives building. Political events and economic problems have been responsible in the past for the project's delay; but space problems have reached a critical point, affecting storage, acquisitions, and reference service. The planned new archives will be erected near Binyenei Ha-Oomah in Jerusalem. Detailed architectural plans have been drawn up and submitted for approval by the town planning committee. In 1977 the 24th Zionist Congress defined the status of the Central Zionist Archives as the historical archives of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency.

MEXICO

Computerized Finding Aids for Notarial Records. In August 1982, the University Computing Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, published the *Guide to the Notarial Records of the Archivo General de Notarias of Mexico City for the Year 1829*. The 301-page finding aid was compiled by Robert A. Potash of the University of Massachusetts in collaboration with Jan Bazant and Josefina Z. Vasquez of El Colegio

APELLIDO	PERSONA NOMBRADA	CLASIFICACION	NACIONALIDAD	FECHA	NOT
ABADIANO	LUIS ABADIANO	PROTESTA DE LIBRANZA	ESPAÑOL	1/12/847	169
	LUIS ABADIANO	FIANZA EMPLEO		5/1/847	426
	LUIS ABADIANO	CONTRATO DE SERVICIOS		20/5/847	426
	LUIS ABADIANO	FIANZA CURADOR		9/6/847	426
	LUIS ABADIANO	TESTAMENTO		13/8/847	721
ABADIE	JUAN ABADIE	PROTESTA DE LETRA		28/1/847	242
ABARCA	GASPAR ABARCA	TESTAMENTO		7/4/847	611
ABOLAFIA	JOSE ABARCA	TESTAMENTO		7/4/847	611
	JOSE MARIA ABOLAFIA	COMPRAVENTA CASA		19/6/847	169
	JOSE MARIA ABOLAFIA	PODER GENERAL		16/5/847	175
ABREN Y MARIN	MANUEL DE ABREN Y MARIN	SUBROGACION ARRENDAM	EEUU	8/5/847	240
ABREU	FRANCISCO ABREU	PROTESTA DE LETRA		28/4/847	361
ABREU Y RODRIGUEZ	LUISA ABREU Y RODRIGUEZ	COMPRAVENTA PARTE HDA		30/3/847	426
	MARIA ABREU Y RODRIGUEZ	COMPRAVENTA PARTE HDA		30/3/847	426
ABURTO	LORENZO ABURTO	PROTESTA DE LETRA		22/5/847	41
ACEVEDO	REFUGIO ACEVEDO	PROTESTA DE LETRA		2/12/847	39
	TERESA DE ACEVEDO	RECIBO DE DOTE		7/12/847	426
ACKLEY	K.G.ACKLEY	ARRENDAMIENTO NEGOCIO		5/5/847	529
ACOSTA	BENITO LEON ACOSTA	PODER GENERAL		9/6/847	175
	FR. JOSE MARIA ACOSTA	DECLARACION TESTAM		27/7/847	159
	JOSE ACOSTA	PODER ESPECIAL PLEITOS		15/12/847	170
	JOSE MARIA ACOSTA	TESTAMENTO		3/2/847	486
	JUAN ACOSTA	PODER ADMINISTRAR		19/4/847	719
	JUAN GERARDO ACOSTA	SUBROGACION HIPOTECA		20/2/847	361
	MATIAS ACOSTA	TESTAMENTO		17/10/847	611

Sample from the *Guide for 1847*, general index to persons.

de México. The significance of this volume was that it demonstrated that computers can be used to prepare comprehensive indexes for notarial records—a first for Latin America. Under the pilot project, begun in 1980, there will be three such computerized indexes for the selected years: 1829, 1847, and 1875. The second guide was published in November 1982, and the third is scheduled for publication in September 1983.

Prior to this project, notarial archives presented a special challenge to scholars who wished to use them in their studies on Latin America. Although these records contain a wealth of useful information, the nature of the records' internal arrangement and the absence of comprehensive name and subject indexes greatly limited their use by scholars. In 1980 a group of scholars met in Mexico City to discuss the problems and possible use of computers to provide a comprehensive index. From this meeting emerged the pilot project. The Tinker Foundation of New York provided the initial funds; and subsequent funding has been supplied by the Organization of American States, Centro de Estudios Históricos of El Colegio de México, and the University of Massachusetts. A team of archival assistants under the supervision of Bazant and Vasquez recorded the necessary

data on specially designed forms at the Archivo General de Notarias and then forwarded the data to Potash at Amherst for processing on the university's computers.

When the project is completed—upon publication of the third volume—the university will undertake to train one of the team's members at the computer center and to transfer to Mexico all of the software and other documentation associated with the pilot project. It is intended that El Colegio de México, Archivo General de Notarias, or some other Mexican institution will assume responsibility for continuing with the project. Furthermore, it is hoped that Mexico will be able thus to provide assistance to other archives in Latin America in the use of computers to prepare finding aids of their archival holdings.

Copies of the guide may be purchased from the University Computing Center Bookstore, A-123 Graduate Research Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.

SPAIN

First ALA General Conference. At the invitation of Spanish archival officials and the government, the Asociación

Latinoamericana de Archivos (ALA) held its first general conference in Madrid on 23–26 November 1982. This event also marked the first time ALA has held such a general meeting outside of Latin America. In addition to the election of a new president and governing board, the General Assembly approved an increase in annual membership dues as well as a very ambitious five-year plan (Plan de Mediano Plazo) for archival development in Latin America. Some of the elements of the plan for the 1983–87 period envision fulfillment of the resolutions passed at the 1980 Rio de Janeiro meeting that related to the training of archivists, establishment of committees to prepare for the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America, solicitation of national archives to conduct nationwide celebrations of Archives Week beginning in 1984, and the identification of nonarchival organizations in setting up archival programs. Other aspects of the plan include drafting guidelines for the profession; compiling current archival legislation in Latin America; establishing guidelines for the organization of municipal archives; expressing support for CID (Centro de Información Documental de Archivos, Madrid, Spain), CIDA (Centro Interamericano de Desarrollo de Archivos, Cordoba, Argentina), and CENTROMIDCA (Centro Taller Regional de Restauración y Microfilmación de Documentos para el Caribe y Centroamerica, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic); and conducting a survey of the technical facilities and budget allocations in the region. In the area of preservation, ALA intends to survey the general conditions of documents in Latin American repositories and to ask CID to prepare preservation/conservation standards for the region. Under the five-year plan some efforts will be made to encourage the use of audiovisual materials by sponsoring a

seminar on audiovisual archives and by providing adequate training for persons who work with such materials.

UNITED KINGDOM

University Establishes Literary Manuscripts Register. After three years of planning and fund-raising, Reading University Library reports that it is setting up a computerized location register to trace manuscripts and letters of British and Irish writers, especially those of the 20th century. David Sutton, formerly of Warwick University Library, has been appointed the Senior Research Officer to supervise the project, which is estimated to cost over £185,000. Funding for the project is being provided by The Leverhulme Trust, the British Library Board, the Strachey Trust, the Arts Council, the British Council, the British Academy, the Longman Group, National Westminster Bank, Lloyds Bank, Barclays Bank, and Hewlett Packard Ltd. As a result of this financial backing, maintenance of the location register in the university library is assured until 1987. In addition to the financial support, International Computers, Ltd. has promised to assist in computerizing the register.

The concept of the register arose in July 1979 during a debate at a two-day SCONUL (Standing Conference of National and University Libraries) seminar in London on the manuscripts and letters of modern writers. Shortly afterward a SCONUL Working Group was formed to examine more closely the idea of a location register. Between May and November 1980 a pilot project, financed by the Strachey Trust, was carried out by James Edwards, Keeper of Archives and Manuscripts at Reading University, to determine potential problems. By March 1981 the decision was made to proceed with the establishment of a full location register at Reading. For further

information about the register, write to H.E. Bell, Senior Assistant Registrar, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AH England.

Golden Jubilee of British Library's Newspaper Library. In the fall of 1982 the British Library's Newspaper Library, located on Colindale Avenue in London, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Over the years this library has become one of the major newspaper archives in the world increasingly committed to microfilm. The present building opened in 1932 and contained thirteen miles of shelving to accommodate 275,000 volumes. Its designers boasted that there was sufficient records storage space to last fifty years before the building needed expansion, but this prognosis was shortsighted. Since the opening the library has been expanded twice and officials have introduced a microfilm program to store the current holdings of 650,000 printed volumes and 140,000 reels of microfilm. Microfilming began in 1950 with the opening of a microfilm annex and has accelerated since its introduction. Preservation and space requirements have not been the only reasons for pursuing a microfilm program. Officials point to the benefits in the area of reference service. By microfilming the collections the library can provide microfilm duplicates or electrostatic copies to both local and foreign researchers. The library reports that it sends about 16,500 reels of microfilm duplicates each year to other libraries, principally those located outside of the United Kingdom.

Draft Data Standard for Archives Listing. The Specialist Repositories Group (SRG) working party on methods of listing has compiled a draft data standard for the manual and computerized listing of archives. Participants at the 1982 Cambridge in-service training

course held 7-9 July practiced listing documents from their repositories according to the data standard. One major problem was the definition of provenance, and the working party intends to discuss this in depth at its next meeting. Although SRG started the working party, it has hoped to attract as many members as possible from various archival institutions to ensure that the data standard is suitable for use with any type of record. The Museums Documentation Association (MDA) has been assisting in the preparation of the draft data standard with the aim that it would be capable of use with any computer system and compatible with international standards. Copies of the draft data standard may be obtained from Ruth F. Vyse, Assistant Archivist, Oxford University Archives, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG England.

Cambridge University Conservation Project. In May 1982 a conservation project was established at Cambridge University Library under the directorship of F.W. Ratcliff. The British Library is funding the project. One of the objectives of the conservation project is to describe existing facilities for the training of people in paper conservation and craft bookbinding and to assess precisely what educational or training opportunities exist at all levels in order to compile a comprehensive list of conservation and related courses available in the United Kingdom. Questionnaires are being sent out to every training course known or brought to the attention of the project's staff.

Guide to Archives Resources Available. Globe Book Services Ltd., a member company of Macmillan Publishers Ltd., has announced publication of *British Archives: A Guide to Archive Resources in the United Kingdom*. This general guide to British archives has been com-

piled by Janet Foster, archivist with the City of London and Hackney Health District, and Julia Sheppard, archivist in the Contemporary Medical Archives Centre at the Wellcome Institute. It is being publicized as more comprehensive than previous guides and is fully indexed by name of institution, country and town, subject, and named collections. Each of the 708 entries provides infor-

mation about major holdings, access conditions, acquisitions policy, publications, historical background, finding aids, facilities, and the name, address, and telephone number of the person to contact for fuller information. For further information about this guide, write to the publisher, Canada Road, Byfleet, Surrey KT14 7JL England.

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