

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

EMMETT J. LEAHY, Editor  
Box 6154, Washington, D.C.

*Manual of Information About the National Archives for Government Officials*, Preliminary Edition. (Washington. The National Archives, December, 1941. Pp. v and 100. Processed.)

This manual describes the many services which the National Archives renders to other government agencies and the controls which it exercises over their activities. Its hundred or more pages show what a very considerable business the custody of federal records has become, and they serve to clarify that business, insofar as the National Archives is concerned, for the benefit of the thousands of federal officials who use the facilities of our public record office. The manual is definitely not a guide to the unofficial scholar who wants to know what collections the archives establishment has to offer him.

There is a great deal of good sense incorporated in the manual for the enlightenment of the busy bureaucrat. He finds on p. 1, for instance, that government records do not include working papers and rough notes not intended to be kept for record purposes, or extra copies of printed and processed material, or reference materials retained merely for use as sources of information, or records of a purely personal nature not pertaining to government affairs. It is clear that the archivist is not ready to receive any type of material, no matter how inconsequential, merely to fill the vast recesses of his mausoleum. There is also much common sense in the statements on pp. 3 and 4, obviously aimed at the agencies creating the records, to the effect that the whole program for the preservation or destruction of records "should be determined not later than the time they are filed." Timely consideration of the problem of the disposition of records no longer essential to the functioning of federal agencies will contribute, in some small way at least, to a solution of the space problem in Washington.

The official reader of the manual will learn exactly how to report non-current records of his agency that are without further value, how such records may be disposed of, what disposal may be made of records that have been photographed in the interest of space-saving, how to transfer to the National Archives records of permanent value, and how they may be used officially in the archives, or on loan from that establishment after transfer. The reader will also find answers to the often difficult question: What are the documents "having general applicability and legal effect" which must be filed with the Division of the Federal Register for publication in the *Code of Federal Regulations* and the *Federal Register* itself? If the text on the first twenty-eight pages

of the manual does not sufficiently clarify all of the procedures involved, more light will be found in the thirty-two documents set forth in the appendix.

The manual is ample evidence that the National Archives has formulated a well-rounded program for assisting federal agencies with virtually every phase of their records problems. It is to be hoped that the agencies will take advantage of the facilities thus placed at their disposal.

E. WILDER SPAULDING

U. S. Department of State

*Second Annual Report of the Archivist of the United States as to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, N.Y., For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1941.* (Washington. 1942. Pp. 19. National Archives Publication No. 19.)

The first report of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library contains the text and an analysis of the joint resolution of Congress establishing the library as well as the architect's description of the building, but the second annual report covers the organization period for the fiscal year 1940-1941.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library was formally dedicated on June 30, 1941, and on the following fourth of July turned over to the government of the United States which was to "provide such funds as may be necessary for the upkeep of the said Library and the administrative expenses and costs of operation thereof, including the preservation and care of historical material acquired under this title, so that the said Library shall be at all times properly maintained."

The joint resolution establishing the library provides that "the Archivist shall accept for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, as a gift from the donor, such collection of historical material as shall be donated by the donor" and the library is limited in the material it may acquire from other sources by gift, purchase, or loan to "historical books related to and other historical material contemporary with and related to the historical material acquired from the donor."

Manuscript material received from the President during the year amounted to approximately 1,563 linear feet and includes campaign correspondence and papers, 1924-1936 (198 feet); personal correspondence while governor of New York (46 feet); addresses as governor and president (10 volumes, typed); letters, reports and memoranda from Democratic Party leaders submitting analyses of the political situation throughout the country, 1933-1939 (6 feet); White House press releases, 1933-1939 (4 feet); press conferences, 1933-1940 (16 volumes, typed); correspondence on the Bonus Bill, 1935 (11 feet); relief authorizations, 1935 (4 feet); correspondence on the Judiciary Reorganization Bill, 1937 (35 feet); third term correspondence, 1937-1940 (37 feet); and the correspondence and papers of Louis McHenry Howe, 1913-1920, 1930-1936 (31 feet). Other manuscript material received in-

cludes the papers of Harry L. Hopkins as Works Progress Administrator, 1933-1938 (125 feet); and National Recovery Administration documents, 1933-1936 (230 feet).

Of printed material the library received 2,469 books of which 302 titles have been catalogued and 673 pamphlets from the President, and from other sources 1,319 books and 10,242 pamphlets, chiefly government publications.

The papers are preserved in fiber boxes which hold approximately three linear inches of material. The printed material, with certain exceptions, "is being arranged in a single subject classification based on that used by the Library of Congress," whose cards are used for cataloguing whenever possible.

Museum pieces to the number of 1,850 were received during the year from the donor and 500 chosen for display in the Main Exhibition Room, the Naval Exhibition Room, the Oddities Room (a title reminiscent of the remarkable collection in St. Louis which was presented to Colonel Lindbergh after his epic flight) and another exhibition room containing carriages, sleighs, and ice boats belonging to the donor and his family. For the exhibition rooms an admission fee of twenty-five cents is charged to the general public except for minors under twelve years of age, but there is no charge for research facilities.

The archivist of the United States appointed a staff for the library with Fred W. Shipman from the National Archives staff as director. For administrative details such as equipment, finances and personnel the library depends on the National Archives, of which it is a field agency. The expenditures for the year, including salaries, supplies, communication service, travel expense, equipment, printing and binding, etc., amounted to \$23,405 which was paid from the appropriations for the National Archives.

Appendices supply the text of the joint resolution providing for "the establishment and maintenance of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library" and an account of the dedicatory ceremonies.

SUDA L. BANE

Hoover Library  
Stanford University

*Union List of Microfilms: A Basic List of Holdings in the United States and Canada*, issued by the Philadelphia Bibliographical Center and Union Library Catalogue Committee on Microphotography. (Philadelphia. 1942. Pp. xiii and 379. \$4.00.)

This important mimeographed publication represents the first serious attempt to supply libraries and researchers with a much needed union list of the microfilm holdings in the United States and Canada. The 5,221 items in the main list and in the Addenda constitute the holdings of 102 institutions which submitted their lists to the committee, together with those of a number of other institutions the microfilm holdings of which were reported by the Library of

Congress union catalogue or which were otherwise determined. The list, to quote the preface, "unquestionably represents a very large proportion of the material on film owned by a very large majority of the major institutions in the country."

Except in a few instances, the items are arranged alphabetically by author or title, rather than by subject, and are numbered; published and unpublished works which have been microfilmed and included in this compilation are listed under the author, and anonymous works, together with newspapers and periodicals, are arranged according to title. Most of the microfilmed government publications are grouped under the country or state which issued them, such as the United States, Great Britain, Canada, and Indiana; and a limited number of miscellaneous items are listed under the depository which possessed the original, such as the British Museum.

In addition to the author and title, information essential to the purposes of a union list is included with each entry. Pertaining to the original printed item, the data relative to publisher, place and date of publication is usually given; in some cases the depository holding the original is named. In the case of unpublished manuscripts, the collections of which they form a part and the depository are given. There appears occasionally a brief enumeration of the contents of the text. Pertaining to the microfilm copy, the entry usually indicates the location of the masterfilm, the number of reels or frames, the size of the film if other than 35 mm., and whether the microcopy is negative or positive.

The list suffers from a few shortcomings, some of which arose from circumstances beyond the control of the editor. For various reasons, the list is incomplete: a few institutions failed to report their holdings; others had uncatalogued film, such as the mass which is being received by the Library of Congress from England under the emergency wartime program; extracts of items or items on short length strip film have arbitrarily been excluded from the list; and a considerable number of private holders of microfilms have not volunteered to list their resources. The books published in England before 1600 which are being filmed by University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan, have been omitted on the ground that the company has issued a catalogue of these books. It has not been made clear in the preface just what other collections, if any, have been omitted for the same reason. This is hardly a legitimate justification for omitting so important a body of materials, for by so doing the usefulness of a union list is impaired. One looks for the greatest possible completeness in a union list.

In a number of instances the entries appear to be incorrectly filed. Take for example the items on music: Would it not be more consistent to list the items by individual title, as was done in most cases, or to classify them under "Music" rather than list them under British Museum? The presence of titles on music under the entry of the depository breaks the consistency of the arrangement.

The list has important though limited uses. Because of the strict alphabetical arrangement of the items in the list, the searcher will necessarily first obtain the authors and titles on their want list from other bibliographical sources in order to use the *Union List of Microfilms* effectively. For instance, in the absence of a subject classification a user of this list could not easily locate *An Account of Louisiana . . .*, an anonymous work filed under "A," unless the correct title is known in advance. The list will serve valuably, "1) As an aid to libraries and possibly individuals in building up collections of specialized material; 2) As a tool to locate films and as a guide for interlibrary loan; 3) As a preventive of duplicate reproductions activities . . . ; 4) As an aid in the shaping of a planned policy for further filming."

Naturally, this union list should be kept up-to-date by supplementary issues. Since it is desirable that information concerning texts which have been micro-copied should be included in the Library of Congress union catalogue, the committee may be able to get even better co-operation from microfilm holding institutions if the cards submitted to the Library of Congress union catalogue could also be made to serve the purposes of this union list.

EDGAR L. ERICKSON

The University of Illinois

*American Book-Prices Current; A Record of the Books, Manuscripts, etc., Sold in the Principal Auction Rooms of the United States During the Season 1940-1941*, compiled and edited by Edward Lazare. (New York. R. R. Bowker Co., 1941. Pp. xxxii, 499. \$10.00.)

The archivist who works with historical manuscripts, public archives, or business records should be familiar with this yearbook, even though its list price may be beyond the means of most of the workers in the profession. It is a useful index, for the period from September, 1940, to May, 1941, of the prices paid for manuscripts, rare books, and maps that were sold at a selected group of auction sales, or "public vendues," as the first book auction in America in 1713 was called. Edward Lazare is the capable editor of this Volume 47, the latest in the series that began in 1894, and his predecessors include Luther S. Livingston, who edited the volumes for the years 1894-1914, and Victor Hugo Paltsits, who did those for 1914-1916. The price of each of the items listed is the actual price realized, rather than a mere quoted figure, of course, and the entire quantity of material analyzed for the season brought a total of something over a million dollars. A selection of auctions was made for the purposes of this survey. Only five galleries are covered, three in New York City and two in Philadelphia, and only the fifty-odd sales handled by them are analyzed. Presumably other galleries have been omitted. For example, in a recent comparable year, 1934 (the latest year for which a complete list of auction catalogues is available), there were as many as twelve galleries, including some at Boston and Chicago, and a total of about seventy-

five sales were held, according to George L. McKay's *American Book Auction Catalogues, 1713-1934*; *A Union List* (New York Public Library, 1937).

The volume is organized into a 400-page section on "Books," an 80-page section on "Autographs and Manuscripts," a 2-page section on "Broad­sides," and a single page on "Maps." Each of these sections is an alphabetical list of the items sold, and the entries are usually made by author and occasionally by publisher, title, or subject. The archivist will be most interested in the manuscripts section, but he should be reminded that the other sections occasionally list similar items, such as manuscript maps and autographed copies of books. The section on books is devoted chiefly to the usual assortment of literary classics, first editions, girdle books, and chap books, but also included are titles of important collections of published archives and historical manuscripts, such as the writings of American public men, publications of state and local historical societies, acts of colonial legislatures, and compilations of federal and state documents. Government publications, it would seem, are more and more coming to be regarded as valuable collectors' items.

In the section on manuscripts, most of the Americana listed pertains to the period from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War and includes, for example, a collection of 200 Henry Clay papers, a few war diaries, and numerous items written or signed by presidents and cabinet members. Washington and Lincoln autographs received the best prices: A 44-page diary of Washington in 1797 sold for \$10,500, and a military pass, presumably one of the last documents signed by Lincoln before his assassination, brought \$750. A sign of the archival times is the fact that business records have a real market value. Thus, \$1,100 was paid for 211 pieces from the records of certain iron works in Virginia and Maryland for the years 1720-1754; \$65 for a letter book of an Albany, New York, merchant in 1832; and \$10 for a receipt book of a Boston merchant for the years 1764-1777.

The federal archivist will notice particularly the reappearance of items that long ago strayed from their proper niche in the nation's archives. Pieces of official correspondence of executive departments were sold, for example, and similar items are easy to find not only in auction records but also in most ordinary book dealers' catalogues, reminding us that a public record office—the one effective preventive and cure for this careless if not criminal dispersal of federal records—was not established for this country until 1934. Other items that had their origin in government offices, if they are not archival in character, are at least closely related to federal records. One curious item, for example, which brought \$1,700, is a manuscript copy, on parchment, of the "Thirteenth Amendment" of "1864," signed not only by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House but also—unnecessarily—by President Lincoln and thirty-six members of Congress. The date "1864" might indicate that this document may be a copy of the resolution that passed the Senate but failed in the House in 1864. The Thirteenth Amendment was actually not adopted

until January 31, 1865, and the original enrolled resolution of that date, which is in the National Archives, also carries the superfluous signature of Lincoln, without, however, the autographs of the congressmen. Another fascinating item is one that purports to be the "Map used by General Sherman in his March from Atlanta to Savannah, Nov. and Dec. 1864 . . .," which, according to an autograph attached to the map, had been given as a souvenir by Sherman to John A. Dahlgren, the Union admiral. Finally, there is a copy of a presidential proclamation of November 6, 1930, that carries the signature of President Hoover but not the normal countersignature of the secretary of state, Henry L. Stimson; both names, of course, appear on the original in the National Archives.

This yearbook, in addition to being a valuable price index, is in effect also a finding medium for the auction catalogues themselves, which sometimes carry fuller descriptions of the items and occasionally the names of the owners of the material. Thus the archivist is supplied with a useful aid in tracing the location of some of the manuscripts that have shifted into and out of private hands during the year. In Britain such wanderings, together with other kinds of transfers of manuscripts among private owners, are known as "migrations," and for many years they have been periodically recorded by the Institute of Historical Research in its *Bulletin*. A similar systematic listing of American migrations might be sponsored by the Society of American Archivists as a possible post-war project after the war-related activities of archivists have been brought to a successful conclusion.

MARTIN P. CLAUSSEN

#### The National Archives

*Censorship 1917*, by James R. Mock. (Princeton. Princeton University Press, 1941. Pp. xii, 250. \$2.50.)

In establishing control over men's minds two complementary methods have long been used, the one positive, the other negative in its operation: propaganda and censorship. In *Words That Won the War*, Mock and Larson told the story of the more aggressive aspect of government control of opinion in this country during the first World War. In the present volume Mr. Mock completes the picture with a detailed description of the censoring activities of the various agencies of government, federal and state. It is a competent and illuminating study. Beginning with a brief review of the history of censorship in the United States with particular emphasis on the Civil War period, the author traces the development of censorship activities by state governments and the various agencies of the federal government during the years of the first World War culminating in the creation of the federal Committee on Public Information with its policy of "voluntary censorship" of the press, the passage of the Espionage and Trading-with-the-Enemy Acts of 1917 and the Sedition Act of 1918 and the issue of certain presidential executive orders, one of which set up



the Censorship Board. Chapters follow in which are described the organization and functioning of the Censorship Board and the details of censoring as applied to telegraphs, cable, and radio, to the mail of civilians and members of the armed forces, to the newspaper and periodical press, and to books and motion pictures. One chapter is given over to an account of the operation of the restrictions on free speech under the espionage and sedition acts. The book concludes with the story of the post-war hangover, reflected in such practices as red-baiting, deportation of aliens, criminal syndicalist and red flag laws and other devices intended to free this fair land of the foul taint of radicalism.

All this Mr. Mock relates with a wealth of detail and colorful incident which will make this study a handbook of reference and storehouse of ammunition for all those concerned with the defense of civil liberty.

The list of things which censors believed would give aid and comfort to the enemy or weaken the war effort of the United States contains many strange and wonderful items and adds force to the old cry of who will censor the censors. The substantial contribution of the volume, however, lies not so much in the interesting details of the deprivation of civil liberties in wartime—in this respect Mr. Mock adds to but does not greatly change the picture as we have known it—but in the story of how the machinery of censorship and suppression was set up and of the manner in which it actually functioned day by day. Based as this story is upon the records of the agencies and officials concerned, now preserved in the National Archives, *Censorship 1917* is an important contribution to the slim but growing body of studies in federal administrative history.

The value of this study for the scholar is somewhat limited by the author's evident interest in reaching a popular audience. Short paragraphs, snappy and at times misleading topic sentences, a preoccupation with description at the expense of analysis, at times a lack of precision of statement, omission not only of footnotes (a statement of source materials is appended) but often of identifying dates and a general concern with bringing incidents to a close before the reader's interest wanes—all these are familiar devices for winning and holding a reading public. If the style of presentation is, perhaps, not the most useful for officials faced anew with the problem of censorship in wartime and certainly fails to satisfy the student who desires greater exactness of statement and more careful and penetrating analysis, there is much to be said for the manner of treatment chosen by the author. The pressing need of the moment is to remind the public of the difficulties and dangers which beset censorship in wartime and to build support for the evident effort of the administration to avoid the mistakes made in the first World War and to administer with moderation and decency such restraints upon civil liberties as seem inescapable.

To the clarification of the difficult problem of the relationship of civil liberty and democracy in an age faced with the totalitarian menace this study makes little contribution. The author writes within the framework of the liberal



tradition but does not belong to the purist or 100 per cent school. The suspension of freedom of speech and press in wartime he regards as an evil but a necessary one, his concern focusing chiefly on the danger of the carry-over of a repressive mood and policy into peacetime when it is readily put to the service of suppressing economic and social dissent. Interesting as an illustration of the influence of present feelings upon past events is the statement in the concluding chapter that in the first World War "there was an actual enemy whose defeat was necessary if this government was to continue to be able to guarantee citizens their freedom of speech, of assembly, and of the press."

LOUIS C. HUNTER

The American University