

SHORTER NOTICES

EMMETT J. LEAHY, Editor

Box 6154, Washington, D.C.

The Care of Records in a National Emergency. Joint Report of the Special Committees of the Society of American Archivists on the Protection of Archives Against Hazards of War and on the Emergency Transfer and Storage of Archives, October, 1941 (Washington, 1941. Pp. 36. *Bulletins* of the National Archives, No. 3). In response to recommendations made by Waldo G. Leland in his presidential address to the Society of American Archivists, "The Archivist in Times of Emergency," the special committees named above were appointed and with the assistance of the National Archives they were able in a short time to complete this handbook. All of the information contained in it may, of course, be found elsewhere, in so many places to be exact that there has grown up as large a bibliography on the subject of the protection of records as there is on any other subject of archival administration. The importance of this report lies in the fact that it has condensed into very little space almost all that any practicing archivist need know about this subject.

The question of hazards likely to effect archives is discussed under two headings: hazards resulting from effects of emergency activities, and military hazards. A guide is next offered for those who must choose among their archives those materials which can be protected and those which cannot. Building and storage facilities are discussed, and finally there is a good section on the problems of evacuation if evacuation is the method of protection chosen.

Perhaps no fault should be found with a work of such uniform excellence but this reviewer it is hoped will be forgiven two caveats. He is not sure that the kinds of records which this report urges should be preserved before all others are very important. Materials which have been printed or otherwise reproduced have only a sentimental value, and where a choice must be made sentimental value should be sacrificed: the first constitution of Maryland has been lost for a long time without disastrous effect. Likely "safe" depositories described in this report are all above ground. Plans have been made to deposit the Maryland records below ground, and it would seem that where proper atmospheric conditions can be provided, a roof of solid rock of fifty feet or more should be infinitely safer than anything above ground either against enemy military action or the hazards of civil turmoil.—MORRIS L. RADOFF

A 43-page processed *List of Federal World War Agencies, 1914-20* was issued by the National Archives in December, 1941. This list was "compiled from a variety of sources for the information of members of the staff of The National Archives and others interested in knowing of the existence of the

agencies," and "contains not only emergency units created during the period but also certain bureaus and divisions of permanent agencies that appeared to have been considerably or entirely engaged in war work." A brief introductory statement calls attention to the fact that this listing does not reflect the structure of the government at any given moment. There is an indication which agencies listed are also found with their functions in *A Handbook of Economic Agencies of the War of 1917* (Washington, 1919. War Department, Doc. No. 908. Historical Branch, *Monograph* No. 3). It is surprising how much the National Archives has found it feasible to add to the handbook of 1917.

This publication, modest enough in itself but fully indicative of the kind of prime service which can be rendered and probably should have been rendered before this by the National Archives, happened to reach the reviewer's desk coincident with the Bureau of the Budget's classification of federal agencies in accordance with their supposed pertinence to the present war effort. In this matter of priority the National Archives has been included with that large group of agencies rated in the last of five classes. The follow-up normally to be expected for such a rating is ominous to someone in a Class 1 agency, the Navy Department, for example, who is fully aware of how intensive is the dependence of that department on services and facilities of the Division of Navy Department Archives and certain auxiliary units of an administrative, technical or housekeeping character in the National Archives. Classifications of this kind tend to be rough approximations. Fortunately there is no reason for not assuming that the lumping of the National Archives in the group of agencies which as a whole have least direct bearing on the war effort will be followed by a more discriminating classification. It is important, both that the National Archives should justify and that it should receive a more discriminating classification.—EMMETT J. LEAHY

A Library Classification For Public Administration Materials, by Sophia Hall Glidden with the assistance of Dorothy Marchus (Chicago. Public Administration Service and the American Library Association. 1942. Pp. xv, 512). This revision of the Anderson-Glidden scheme of classification for libraries in the field of public administration and political science is an interesting example of pragmatic classification, including some features of the Library of Congress, Dewey, Brussels, and other classification schemes.

While the title is probably a slight misnomer, i.e., it is a classification for public administration libraries rather than public administration materials, it, nevertheless, does form the best available classification scheme for small, special collections in this field.

An attempt has been made to accommodate libraries which employ the original scheme by retaining the main classes with a few exceptions. However, considerable shifts have taken place in the subjects covered by subdivisions of

the main classes, so that extensive reclassification will be necessary in any library using the Anderson-Glidden classification scheme which wishes to shift to this expansion of that classification. Many of these changes are inevitable results of the growth of some of the subjects covered by very minor subheadings in the earlier edition into subjects justifying larger divisions and subdivisions of their own. Furthermore, entirely new concepts have come to the fore since the publication of the earlier edition, and place has been made for these in this classification scheme.

There appears to be a certain amount of unevenness in treatment of subjects related to, though not directly a part of, the field of public administration, but, as a whole, this classification scheme should be a very useful tool for the newer libraries in the field of public administration, which can use it without a major program of recataloguing and reclassification.—RALPH R. SHAW

The *Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in North Carolina* (Raleigh. The North Carolina Historical Commission, *Bulletin* No. 41, 1940. Pp. 18) contains information obtained by the questionnaire method and prepared for publication by the Historical Records Survey, Work Projects Administration. Information concerning such manuscript collections as those in federal and state offices as such and in commercial or family hands is excluded. That included concerns fifteen collections held by a museum; the state historical commission; city and county libraries; and fraternal, religious, and academic institutions. Depository descriptions include official title, address, name of custodian, service hours, historical sketch, housing facilities, holdings, finding mediums, and bibliographical references. Holdings descriptions vary in length from three or four lines to more than one page. For the larger depositories only representative collections are mentioned. The index, despite prefatory assurance to the contrary, is missing. By and large however the *Guide* is a distinct credit to the Work Projects Administration.—W. NEIL FRANKLIN

In a long and carefully documented article, "El Archivo Nacional de Chile," *Revista de Historia de América*, Núm. 11 (México, Abril de 1941), 47-78, Ricardo Donoso, the director of the *Archivo Nacional* of Chile, traces the evolution of the institution from its foundation in 1844, when it was a branch of the Office of Statistics. The discussion is of limited extent, the principal part of the essay consisting of copious quotations from the laws and regulations established at various times to govern the various record conserving agencies, which were established since the middle of the nineteenth century. An important step in the evolution of the *Archivo Nacional* took place in 1875, when the judicial archives of the provinces of Santiago and Valparaíso were organized. Later, in 1887, the *Archivo General de Gobierno* was created to have custody of the noncurrent files of the principal administrative departments,

but its organization was not actually completed until 1904. Meanwhile, the National Library had begun to accumulate a considerable collection of historical documents, many of which had originated in the public archives of the captaincy-general of Chile or during the early years of the republic. In 1925, the manuscript collection of the library became a separate institution, the *Archivo Histórico Nacional*. Finally, in 1927, the *Archivo General de Gobierno*, the judicial archives, and the *Archivo Histórico* were merged to form the present establishment, although organization was not completed until 1929, when elaborate regulations governing the internal administration of the agency became effective.

The *Archivo Nacional* is not an independent establishment, but is a division of the General Administration of Libraries, Archives, and Museums, which in turn is a dependency of the Ministry of Education. This arrangement is similar to that which exists in other Ibero-American countries.

Donoso quotes extensively from the rules established in 1929, discusses briefly the principal documentary groups, presents a short descriptive bibliography relating to the history of the *Archivo Nacional*, and lists the published guides and inventories.

Although presenting a forthright narrative of the historical development of the *Archivo Nacional*, the article fails to offer much information concerning the practical problems of operation. Regulations concerning accessions are discussed at length, but nowhere does one find any intimation as to the effectiveness of enforcement. Furthermore, Donoso does not infer the existence of other problems of archival administration, such as the practices followed in disposing of useless papers. Nevertheless, the essay is a valuable and helpful contribution to our knowledge of an important phase of public administration and archival economy in Hispanic America.—RALPH G. LOUNSBURY

In its *Fourth Annual Report, 1940-41*, the Hayes Memorial Library, Fremont, Ohio, offers the first fruits of a recently initiated policy to publish abstracts or list investigations completed as dissertations in American universities during the preceding year. The program is naturally restricted to items concerning the period on which the library concentrates, 1860-1900, but includes "anything of interest to American life" as its criterion of subject. The service should prove exceedingly valuable once it is established that this list is more complete than the several others now available. The abstracts, averaging about five hundred words in this first summary, and the bringing together of dissertations which are obscured in other lists by mechanical divisions of subject that frequently have no more significance than the department under which the investigation was conducted, mark the Hayes list as a really valuable bibliographic service to any investigator in the province of the humanities in America during the years 1860-1900. Coupled with the library's policy of extensive microfilming of

unpublished researches, a bibliographic service second to none seems to be in the offing.

Interesting accessions are described in narrative and notice of the work of the staff members is taken. There is also comment on the grants of assistance made by the Hayes Foundation and of the assistance the library renders the recipients.—CHARLES W. PAAPE

NEWS NOTES

KARL L. TREVER, Editor
Box 6154, Washington, D.C.

THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

The sixth annual meeting of the Society will be held at Richmond, Virginia, October 26-27, 1942, with the Virginia State Library serving as host. William J. Van Schreeven, head archivist of the Virginia State Library, is in charge of local arrangements. Although the discussion undoubtedly will be concerned with the role of the archivist in wartime, it is hoped that a sufficient variety of papers can be presented to represent the Society's broad field of interest. Suggestions for the program are being sought by Harold S. Burt, Connecticut State Library, Hartford, who is chairman of the program committee. Plans for the program must be initiated promptly, and suggestions, either for specific papers or for the general character of the meeting, should be addressed to Mr. Burt.

Lloyd A. Brown of the William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, has accepted the chairmanship of the Society's committee on maps. His name should be added to the list of committee chairmen published in *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* for January, 1942.

On October 6, 1941, the Society adopted an amendment to its constitution providing that "honorary membership may be extended to any persons chosen by a two thirds vote of the full membership of the council who have achieved eminent distinction in the field of archival economy, or who have rendered eminent and unusual services to that field or to the Society." Under the provisions of this amendment, the council voted, on October 7, "to elect to honorary membership in the Society the Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt." The following letter was addressed to the President of the United States by Dr. R. D. W. Connor, president of the Society:

January 30, 1942.

The PRESIDENT
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

At its annual meeting in Hartford, Connecticut, October 6-7, 1941, the Society of American Archivists amended its constitution so as to provide for a limited number of Honorary Members, and then did itself the honor of electing to honorary membership the Honorable Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

It gives me great pleasure to be the Society's medium for transmitting to you the enclosed certificate of your election and to express its hope

that you will do it the honor to accept this expression of its regards.

The Society was organized at Providence, Rhode Island, on December 30, 1936, and held its first annual meeting in Washington, June 18-19, 1937. In spite of its youth, it has already attained a fair degree of maturity. It carries on its roll almost every person in the United States engaged officially in archival work as well as many others of similar interests; publishes a quarterly journal, *The American Archivist*, which has already earned a creditable place among the professional periodicals of the country; and has been accepted into full fellowship among American learned societies.

Its members are grateful for the interest which you have shown in the creation and work of The National Archives, The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, and many other analogous institutions, and recognize the fact that that interest has been one of the most important factors in the development of archival science in our country. They hope that you will continue to show your interest as the first Honorary Member of their national society.

It is a happy coincidence—the happier because not planned—that this letter is dated and the certificate forwarded to you on your sixtieth birthday. That coincidence enables me not only personally but also as the representative of the members of the Society to send you their greetings and their hopes and prayers that you may, in strength and health, have many happy returns of the day when you may enjoy them in well-deserved quiet and peace with the blessing of your fellow countrymen.

With highest regards, I have the honor to be

Respectfully,

(Signed) R. D. W. CONNOR
President

Members of the Society and archivists throughout the nation will be interested in the reply received from the President. The Society has been granted permission to publish the text of Mr. Roosevelt's letter to Dr. Connor:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 13, 1942.

My dear Dr. Connor:

May I tell you how very much honored I am by my election as an Honorary Member of the Society of American Archivists?

I need not tell you of my lifetime interest in the building up of archives throughout the nation—especially because of my own personal interest in the naval history phase and the local Dutchess County material.

At this time, and because of the conditions of modern war against which none of us can guess the future, it is my hope that the Society of American Archivists will do all that is possible to build up an American public opinion in favor of what might be called the only form of insurance that will stand the test of time.

I am referring to the duplication of records by modern processes like the microfilm so that if in any part of the country original archives are destroyed, a record of them will exist in some other place.

This involves, of course, a vast amount of work because of the volume of federal, state and local archives of all kinds—but I think that a broad plan would meet with hearty public support if it could be properly publicized.

The Society can count on my continued support in the fine work which it is doing.

Always sincerely,

(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Dr. R. D. W. CONNOR, *President*,
The Society of American Archivists,
Chapel Hill,
North Carolina

A certificate of membership was presented to the President, the wording of which is given herewith:

THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS EMINENT SERVICE
TO THE FIELD OF ARCHIVAL ECONOMY
AND OF HIS INTEREST IN
THE PRESERVATION OF SOURCES FOR RESEARCH
INTO THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
HAS ELECTED

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

(Signed) R. D. W. Connor
President

(Signed) Philip C. Brooks
Secretary

Washington, D.C.
October 7, 1941

A resolution of the Society expressing its deep appreciation of the work of Dr. R. D. W. Connor as first archivist of the United States and wishing him success in his new work at the University of North Carolina was voted October 6, 1941. In response to a letter from the proper officers of the Society trans-

mitting the resolution to him, Dr. Connor addressed the following letter to Dr. Waldo G. Leland and Dr. Philip C. Brooks:

January 27, 1942.

Dr. WALDO G. LELAND, *President*
Dr. PHILIP C. BROOKS, *Secretary*
The Society of American Archivists
Box 6154
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

I wish to express to you both my very sincere appreciation of your letter of October 22, 1941, transmitting to me the resolution adopted by the members of the Society of American Archivists at the annual business meeting held at Hartford, Connecticut, on October 6, 1941, with reference to my work as Archivist of the United States. This expression of approval from the members of our craft is deeply gratifying to me and I trust that you will be able to find some means of letting them know how deeply I appreciate it.

With best wishes

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) R. D. W. CONNOR

A Federal Records Conference under the auspices of the Society of American Archivists was held Tuesday evening, January 27, in the American University Club Room of the All States Hotel in Washington, D.C. The subject "Transferring Records to the National Archives" was discussed by Forrest Holdcamper, Office of Records Accessioning and Preservation, the National Archives, and L. E. Donaldson, assistant chief, Communications Division, Department of Agriculture. Emmett J. Leahy, director of Records Coordination, Navy Department, presided. Consideration was given, not so much to the routine of physical transfer, as to what records to transfer and when, records systems that facilitate transfer, the feasibility of periodic transfers, and related problems. A second conference was held Wednesday evening, February 25, in the auditorium of the National Archives. The subject "Disposal of Government Records" was discussed by O. E. Carlton, chief, Field Records Subdivision, Chief Clerk's Division, Veteran's Administration, and Herman Kahn, chief, Division of Interior Department Archives, the National Archives. The Honorable Alfred J. Elliott, chairman, Committee on Disposition of Executive Papers, United States House of Representatives, presided. The problem of eliminating nonpermanent records, including the planning for disposal by evaluation and segregation in advance, was discussed.

War conditions may make the maintenance and increase of membership in the Society more difficult than usual, but the urgent need for the protection of cultural treasures, promotion of the war effort by efficient records admin-

istration in all kinds of organizations, and preservation of adequate records of current activities intensifies the value of intelligent attention to archival problems. The Society, therefore, can be of great service. Suggestions as to new members and maintenance of the present membership are of unusual value at present. Suggestions should be addressed to the chairman of the membership committee, Martin P. Claussen, Box 6154, Washington, D.C.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The National Archives has recently been reorganized so that the professional archival work is planned, co-ordinated, and reviewed by three new officers: a director of records accessioning and preservation (Marcus W. Price, formerly assistant director of archival service); a director of research and records description (Oliver W. Holmes, formerly chief of the Division of Interior Department Archives); and a director of reference service (Philip M. Hamer, formerly chief of the Division of Reference). The positions of director and assistant director of archival service and of director of research and publications and the Division of Reference have been discontinued. Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., formerly director of archival service, has been appointed special assistant to the archivist; Herbert E. Angel, assistant to the archivist and acting chief of a new Division of Information and Publications; Philip C. Brooks, assistant director of records accessioning and preservation; Herman Kahn, chief of the Division of Interior Department Archives; and Daniel F. Noll, formerly microfilm consultant on War Department records for the Work Projects Administration, associate microfilm technologist. Roscoe R. Hill and Arthur E. Young have been loaned to the Department of State and Robert H. Bahmer to the Navy Department to assist in dealing with records problems in those agencies. Almon R. Wright is serving as acting chief of the Division of State Department Archives in the absence of Dr. Hill.

A file of some 250,000 photographic reproductions of views, sketches, portraits, maps, broadsides, posters, and other documents relating to military affairs and other phases of American history has recently been transferred to the National Archives by the Historical Section of the Army War College. Material relating to the first World War, including photographs taken by the Signal Corps and prints obtained from other government agencies, from private sources, and from the British, French, Belgian, German, and other governments, constitutes over a third of the file.

A handbook of federal World War agencies, 1914-1920, which will contain information concerning the organization, activities, and records of about 3,500 units of the government that participated in defense, wartime, or post-war activities, is being compiled by the National Archives. A *List of Federal World War Agencies, 1914-20* (43 p.) has been compiled as a preliminary step in this undertaking, and copies of it may be obtained from the Division of Information and Publications of the National Archives.

The records of the defunct National Recovery Administration, now in the National Archives, have been of particular usefulness to the War Production Board (formerly the Office of Production Management) and to other emergency agencies in providing comprehensive data of relatively recent date on the problems of American business and industry. A special finding medium analyzing these records, particularly the economic studies made by the National Recovery Administration itself, was recently issued in co-operation with the Office of Production Management under the title *Materials in the National Recovery Administration Files of Interest to the Office of Production Management and Other Defense Agencies* (162 pp.). In order better to familiarize government officials, chiefly those in the newer emergency agencies, about the services of the National Archives available to them, there was recently issued a *Manual of Information About The National Archives for Government Officials* (v, 100 pp.).

Reproductions of a letter book of the Creek Trading House, 1795-1816 (1 volume), confidential and unofficial letters sent by the Office of the Secretary of War, 1814-1847 (2 volumes), letters concerning military affairs sent by the same office, 1830-1836 (4 volumes), and letters sent by the Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1867-1872 (2 volumes), are recent additions to the file microcopies of the National Archives. Positive prints of these reproductions are available at cost to interested institutions and individuals.

President Roosevelt's historic letter requesting the President of the United States in 1956 to appoint as a cadet in the United States Military Academy at West Point Colin P. Kelley III, the son of Captain Colin P. Kelley, Jr., of the United States Army Air Corps, who sank an enemy battleship in the waters off the Philippine Islands, has recently been on exhibition to the public in the exhibition hall of the National Archives. In entrusting the document to the National Archives the President directed that it be preserved and presented to whoever is president fourteen years hence. This document will be exhibited from time to time, according to Solon J. Buck, archivist of the United States, but as a rule will be kept in the special files of the National Archives in a vault in the office of the archivist. Arrangements have been made for a reminder to be carried forward from year to year in the office of the archivist so that the letter will not be lost sight of in the decade and a half until it is to be delivered.

Other historical documents of current interest which have been exhibited by the National Archives include photographs illustrating the military careers of General Douglas MacArthur and his father, General Arthur MacArthur, taken from the files of the War Department; letters and photographs of the inventor, Thomas A. Edison, pertaining chiefly to his experiments for the army and navy during the first World War; and documents selected from the nation's archives bearing the signatures of George Washington, William Henry Harrison, and Abraham Lincoln, American presidents who were born in the month of February.

THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

Papers recently transferred to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library by the President include letters, memoirs, and diaries of various officers of the United States Navy, 1775-1898; Mr. Roosevelt's diplomas and certificates of membership in various organizations, 1905-1941; copies of letters, reports, and memoranda received by the Office of the Secretary of the Navy from naval units and bureaus, 1913-1920; and copies of the official stenographic reports of the President's press conferences, January-June, 1941. Material recently acquired relating to the history of Dutchess County, New York, includes correspondence and other papers of the DePeyster family, 1697-1865, and diaries, notebooks, and bird-banding records kept by Maunsell S. Crosby of Rhinebeck, New York, 1909-1931.

The *Second Annual Report of the Archivist of the United States as to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library* (19 pp.), just published, describes the activities of the library during the fiscal year 1940-1941 and includes a descriptive list of material deposited in the library by the President or acquired by it from other sources to June 30, 1941. Copies of the *Report* may be obtained from the Division of Information and Publications of the National Archives, Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Conservation of Cultural Resources was established in March, 1941, by the National Resources Planning Board with the immediate purpose of collecting and disseminating information and promoting measures for the protection of cultural resources. At the request of the President, it has also undertaken to "prepare plans for the protection of material of cultural, scientific or historic importance in the possession of agencies of the Federal government." Permanent responsibilities include the planning of long-range programs for the broadest and wisest use of the nation's cultural facilities. The committee is composed of the librarian and chief assistant librarian of Congress, the archivist of the United States, the executive officer of the National Archives, the director of the National Gallery of Art, the associate director of the United States National Museum, the commissioner of public buildings, the supervisor of historic sites of the National Park Service, the director of the American Association of Museums, the executive secretary of the American Library Association, the director of the American Council of Learned Societies, and representatives of the Committee on Passive Protection against Bombing, the American Institute of Architects, the War Department, and the Office of Civilian Defense.

Since the outbreak of war, the committee has materially expanded its activities. A small executive committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Collas G. Harris, executive officer of the National Archives, and Dan Lacy,

formerly assistant national director of the Historical Records Survey, has been made full-time secretary of the committee. State committees on conservation of cultural resources have been established in almost every state to co-operate with the national committee in the execution of its program. The chairmen of these committees are as follows:

Chairmen of State Committees,
Committee on Conservation of Cultural Resources

Alabama: Mrs. Marie B. Owen, director, Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

Arizona: Mr. Mulford Winsor, director, Department of Library and Archives, Phoenix, Arizona

Arkansas: Mr. Fred H. Harrington, Department of History, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Connecticut: Mr. James Brewster, state librarian, Hartford, Connecticut

Northern California: Mr. Robert Rea, librarian, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, California

Southern California: Mr. Edgar L. McRae, chief, Research and Records Section, Work Projects Administration, Los Angeles, California

Colorado: Mr. Malcolm G. Wyer, Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado

Delaware: Mr. Leon de Valinger, Jr., state archivist, Dover, Delaware

Florida: Mr. John J. Tigart, president, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Georgia: Mr. E. Merton Coulter, Department of History, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Idaho: Mr. Allen B. Eaton, director, Historical Records Survey, Work Projects Administration, Boise, Idaho

Illinois: Mr. L. Hubbard Shattuck, Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois

Indiana: Mr. Christopher B. Coleman, director, Historical Bureau, State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana

Iowa: Mr. Forrest Spaulding, librarian, Des Moines Public Library, Des Moines, Iowa

Kansas: Mr. Kirke Mechem, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas

Kentucky: Mr. T. D. Clark, Box 183, Nashville, Georgia

Louisiana: Mr. E. A. Davis, state archivist, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Maine: Mr. Alexander Bower, Portland Society of Art, 111 High Street, Portland, Maine

Maryland: Mr. Morris L. Radoff, archivist, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

Massachusetts: Mr. Robert G. Rosegrant, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass.

Michigan: Mrs. Lewis G. Vander Velde, curator, Michigan Historical Society, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Minnesota: Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Mississippi: Mr. William D. McCain, director, Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi

Missouri: Mr. Oscar C. Orman, librarian, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri

Montana:

Nebraska: Mr. S. A. McCarthy, acting director of University Libraries, Lincoln, Nebraska

Nevada:

New Hampshire: Miss Thelma Brackett, librarian, State Library, Manchester, New Hampshire

New Jersey: Mr. Julian Boyd, librarian, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

New Mexico: Mr. Frank C. Hibben, Museum of Anthropology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico

New York City: Mr. Francis H. Taylor, director, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

New York State: Mr. R. W. G. Vail, librarian, State Library, Albany, New York

North Carolina: Mr. C. C. Crittenden, director, North Carolina Historical Commission, Raleigh, North Carolina

North Dakota:

Ohio: Mr. Henry C. Shetrone, director, Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio

Oklahoma: Mr. James W. Moffitt, secretary, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Oregon: Mr. L. S. Cressman, director, Oregon State Museum, Eugene, Oregon

Pennsylvania: Mr. William E. Lingelbach, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Rhode Island: Hon. Armand H. Cote, secretary of state, State House, Providence, Rhode Island

South Carolina: Mr. Robert N. S. Whitelaw, director, Gibbes Art Gallery, Charleston, South Carolina

South Dakota: Mr. Herbert S. Schell, Department of History, University of South Dakota, Vermilion, South Dakota

Tennessee:

Texas: Mr. Donald Coney, librarian, University of Texas, Austin, Texas
Utah:

Vermont: Mr. John Clement, National Advisory Council, Historical Records Survey, Rutland, Vermont

Virginia: Mr. Wilmer L. Hall, state librarian, Richmond, Virginia

Washington: Mr. Charles W. Smith, librarian, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

West Virginia:

Wisconsin: Mr. Ira Edwards, director, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Wyoming:

Puerto Rico: Mr. Adolfo DeHostos, Ponce de Leon Avenue, Stop 1, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The Committee on Conservation of Cultural Resources has issued a leaflet on *The Protection of America's Cultural Heritage* and a general handbook on *The Protection of Cultural Resources against the Hazards of War*. Copies of these can be obtained from Collas G. Harris, chairman of the executive committee, Room 112, the National Archives Building, or from the state chairmen listed above. The committee has also initiated a survey, being undertaken by the Historical Records Survey, to determine what libraries, museums, galleries, archival agencies, and similar institutions in safe areas will be able and willing to accept the temporary deposit of books, manuscripts, records, museum objects, works of art, and similar materials now located in areas exposed to enemy air attack. Information concerning such depositories may be obtained from Mr. Harris or the state chairmen.

In the field of long-range planning for the better conservation, wider availability and more effective use of cultural resources, the committee now has under consideration such a postwar program for state and local archives.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Among recent accessions to the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress, the following may be noted from the many of particular interest to American archivists: 4,844 photoprints, 229 pages of transcripts, and 6,810 photofilm pages of manuscripts in Spanish and Mexican archives, fifteenth to seventeenth century, an additional gift from the Carnegie Institution of Washington; two box-portfolios of papers, collected by Mary L. Webb, pertaining to land grants and land companies in North America, seventeenth to nineteenth century; five box-portfolios of notes and entries for a proposed guide to materials for United States history in the archives of the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries, thirty-nine packages of plates and negative prints pertaining to American history from manuscripts in Scottish, Portuguese, and

Spanish archives, mainly seventeenth and eighteenth century, an additional gift from the Carnegie Institution of Washington; papers of the Preston family of Virginia, microfilm of 10,590 pages of manuscript and 526 pages of two indexes; a manuscript notebook kept by Capt. Christian Myers from 1778 to 1780, consisting mainly of army orders issued to troops under Generals Lafayette and John Sullivan and from Washington's headquarters; two box-portfolios of papers pertaining to the Continental Congress, collected by W. C. Ford; three box-portfolios of transcripts of county records of Tennessee, 1791 to 1896; nineteen volumes of records of the Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., May 11, 1824, to June 8, 1936; Herndon-Weik collection of papers of Abraham Lincoln and material relating to him, comprising over 2,000 pieces (restricted); 231 notebooks of Waldo G. Leland containing material relating to American history in libraries and the Archives des Affaires Étrangères, Paris, 1907 to 1927; eight box-portfolios of papers relating to the Paris Peace Conference, 1918-1919, and six scrapbooks containing materials relating to social functions at the White House, 1933-1940 (restricted). Many interesting additions also have been made to various manuscript collections already known to be in the Library of Congress. Persons interested in a more detailed listing of the recent accessions will find such a record printed in the January, 1942, issue of the *American Historical Review*, pp. 443-446.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt recently presented to the Library of Congress twenty-one manuscripts and recordings of her Sunday evening broadcasts. The recordings were requested by the library as a substantial contribution to its recording library and laboratory which was set up two years ago under a grant from the Carnegie Institution.

Of interest to those responsible for the protection of cultural materials against the hazards of war is an article by the librarian of Congress, Archibald MacLeish, entitled "The Library of Congress Protects its Collections," published in the American Library Association *Bulletin* for February, 1942, pp. 74-75, 144. Mr. MacLeish reports that the library's "principal treasures are already in places of security. The originals of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Articles of Confederation, the Lincoln Cathedral copy of Magna Carta . . . and the St. Blasius-St. Paul copy of the Gutenberg Bible—these and other materials beyond value, are in the safety of an inland depository many miles from Washington, under maximum security against any dangers now anticipated. Still other treasures—maps, manuscripts, rare books, prints, music, and even certain of our irreplaceable catalogs have already left us under guard for places much less likely than Washington to be attacked from the air. Additional materials are now in course of shipment."

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The tentative program of the sixty-fourth annual conference of the association, which will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-27, 1942, includes two meetings devoted to archival matters, one of which will be concerned with "defense aspects of archives." Among the speakers will be Marcus W. Price of the National Archives, who will speak on the effect of the rules of evidence on methods of caring for archives, and Collas G. Harris, chairman, executive committee of the Committee on Conservation of Cultural Resources, whose address will be concerned with the protection of archives against the hazards of war.

FOREIGN NEWS

It has been reported in the book section of the *New York Times* for February 1, 1942, that "the first step has just been taken toward the preparation of the official [British] history of the war." The government has appointed a committee, headed by E. A. Benians of St. John's College, Cambridge, to advise on the plan of the work. Other English scholars appointed to serve are C. T. Flower, deputy keeper of public records, and Messrs. G. M. Trevelyan, F. M. Powicke, G. N. Clark, R. H. Tawney, J. D. Mackie, E. H. Carr, and H. B. Butler.

The British Records Association continues its drive to prevent "indiscriminate destruction of documents" as waste paper. The association has compiled and issued jointly with the Historical Manuscripts Commission a *List of Places Where Accumulation of Records May Normally be Expected*. Issued primarily for the information of the Regional Commissioners for Civil Defense, who are in a position to make known as widely as possible the association's anxiety to help owners of records in the task of evacuation from dangerous areas and in the salvage and repair of damaged documents, the list will also serve as a foundation for better protection, preservation, and use of all kinds of archives throughout the country after the war. The list runs to over eighty closely typed foolscap pages.

The death of Sir Henry Maxwell-Lyte, deputy keeper of public records from 1886 to 1926, is reported in the ninth annual report of the British Records Association.

Bulletin No. 13 of the Technical Section of the British Records Association contains material of interest on decipherment of charred documents, examination of burned documents, and the application of microphotography to archives.

The following note of interest is quoted from the January, 1942, issue of the *American Historical Review*, p. 449: "It is now definitely established that most of the documents of the Belgian ministry of foreign affairs are in Great Britain. Those who had occasion to use the archives in Brussels will remember that they were not stored in shelves but in boxes, so that they could be quickly removed if the necessity arose. The precaution was well taken and the foresight rewarded. 'All our archives and documents are in safety,' writes the Belgian *chef de bureau*, 'except a few which are without historical importance.' Presumably the successful removal of the documents to Britain was due to the efforts of Mr. Henri Lambotte, who is still at his post with the government now in London."

The report of the Public Archives of Canada for the year 1941 is now available.

The Public Archives of Nova Scotia has published as Volume 2, Number 4, of its *Bulletin* "A Documentary Study of Provincial Finance and Currency, 1812-36," prepared by J. S. Martell.

The destruction of the records of the British South Africa Company pertaining to Southern Rhodesia were the subject of debate in the legislative assembly of that colony on July 2, 1941. The chartered company had taken a large body of its archives to its London headquarters when it relinquished its authority to the crown in 1922. Efforts were begun almost immediately to effect their return to the colony, but few documents were returned. In May, 1941, the records were destroyed by fire resulting from bombing near the office of the company in London. A motion of censure specifying negligence on the part of the company for having failed to move its records to a zone of greater safety led to a discussion of the merits of evacuation and decentralization of archives, during the course of which reference was made to Richard B. Morris's article "The Challenge of Historical Materials," *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, IV (April, 1941), 91-116, at p. 92-93. It was noted by the prime minister in his response that the company housed the records in a steel strong room, specially built and approved by London authorities as providing reasonable protection for human life against incendiary and high explosive bombs. The space had been regularly used as a shelter for about forty-five persons as well as for the records. Several members of the assembly contributed comments on the importance of archives in the conduct of administration and in the preparation of history.

The Archives Department of Southern Rhodesia was organized on September 1, 1935. The archivist was active in making arrangements for the return of the company's archives; one of his first duties involved travel to London

to negotiate the transfer of the material to his depository. He was not entirely successful in completing his mission, but through subsequent negotiation was able to arrange for a semi-annual listing of materials ready for transfer to his custody. Such listing was begun, but the outbreak of the war postponed their delivery, and the bombing of London brought on the destruction of the papers.

An article by Harry M. Lydenberg in the February issue of the American Library Association *Bulletin*, pp. 91-94, describes the new American library, the Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin, which has been established in Mexico City under the direction of the American Library Association. Mr. Lydenberg is the director of the new library.

Persisting in its plan of enriching its collections, the National Archives of the Dominican Republic has acquired microfilm of Volume I of Santo Domingo Consular Letters, June, 1837-September, 1859, from the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Publishers' Weekly for January 17, 1942, p. 212, reports that "irreplaceable manuscripts and literary treasures were destroyed in the Japanese bombing of Manila on December 27th, when the 354-year-old church of Santo Domingo and its library were reduced to a mass of rubble. The great library of 20,000 volumes was completely wiped out. It contained manuscripts, archives and histories written by the Dominican fathers since Spaniards first came to the Philippines. . . . Among the documents destroyed . . . were manuscripts from Dominican missions in China and Indo-China, which only a few months ago had been brought to Manila for safety." According to the same report, the library of the College of San Juan Lateran, also filled with irreplaceable manuscripts, was a victim of the raids, but a statement of the damage done has not yet been received.

ALABAMA

Mrs. Marie B. Owen, director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, writes that the department has recently received from Mr. Wallace Parham of Mobile, several thousand items including manuscripts, scrap books, church minutes, records of civic, fraternal and patriotic organizations, and business establishments relating to Mobile and the South.

COLORADO

Mr. Herbert O. Brayer has been appointed archivist of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company. The archives is being established as a regular department of the company.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

A new Office of Records Co-ordination has been established in the Office of the Secretary of the Navy. The functions of this office will be the "planning, co-ordinating and administration of systems, methods and procedures pertaining to the organization, service, preservation, reduction, transfer and distribution of files and records of the Navy Department and its field offices. Among the immediate objectives is the provision of expert advice and assistance in clearing of needed space by the transfer of valuable records to the National Archives and the prompt elimination of valueless records as provided by law, the segregation and elimination of records of transitory value as they accumulate and the withholding of non-record or surplus material from the files. The utilization of microphotography and other methods of document handling and control, in an expanded program, will be one of the prime objectives of the plan." Mr. Emmett J. Leahy, formerly of the National Archives, has been appointed director of the new unit. Mr. Robert Bahmer has been detailed by the National Archives to the new office as chief of the Transfer, Appraisal and Storage Section; Mr. William Muller, formerly of the Division of Communications and Records, Agriculture Department, has been appointed chief of the Procedure Analysis and Organization Section; and Joseph P. Brennan, formerly of the Recordak Corporation, is to be chief of the Microfilming Section.

According to a report printed in the January 11 issue of the *New York Times*, some of the most valuable art treasures of the nation, including

irreplaceable objects from the Smithsonian Institution and the National Art Gallery, have been stored in bombproof shelters or otherwise safeguarded against damage from air raids. Books, documents, and paintings are being removed from the National Museum, Phillips Memorial, Freer and Corcoran Art Galleries. Some will be stored in safe shelters in the Capital, others moved to Midwestern cities where they will be displayed, and still others may be stored in postoffices and depositories in other parts of the country. . . . Primary objects, those considered priceless and irreplaceable will be stored; secondary objects will be protected from bomb fragments and shrapnel but will be kept on display as long as possible; other articles will remain on exhibition and galleries and museums will continue and even expand their regular programs and lecture series.

The Columbia Historical Society at its annual election on January 20, 1942, elected Allen C. Clark, president; Fred A. Emery and Wade H. Ellis, vice-presidents; Newman F. McGirr, secretary; and John Claggett, chronicler. Charles B. Bates, Robert E. Mattingly, Theodore W. Noyes, Mrs. Walter G. Peter, and Laurence F. Schmeckebier were elected to the Board of Managers.

GEORGIA

Mrs. Louise F. Hays, director of the Department of Archives and History, reports that she has compiled from various sources and had bound a volume concerning the Indian councils and treaties involved in the cession of Indian lands to the state between 1705 and 1837.

INDIANA

Pliny H. Wolfard has been appointed assistant archivist in the Archives Division of the Indiana State Library. He will succeed John D. Williams, resigned.

IOWA

The Iowa State Historical Department has taken over for use in handling the archives of the state a well built brick building known as the Kasson Memorial building, one block from the present seat of the department in Des Moines. The building has been taken on a lease with option of purchase and is a temporary arrangement until a building for the state can be constructed. Its use by the state will make possible a better care of many valuable state records.

In response to a movement for more interest in local history and proper preparation for the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the state of Iowa in 1946, a number of counties have recently organized historical societies. Among these are Buchanan, Cerro Gordo, Guthrie, O'Brien, Osceola, and Union.

Representatives of local historical societies and others interested in Iowa history met in Des Moines on October 11, 1941, and completed the organization of the Iowa Association of Local Historical Societies. Henry K. Peterson of Council Bluffs was elected president, and Mrs. Gertrude Henderson of Sioux City was elected secretary. In addition to directors at large and directors chosen from congressional districts, the State Historical Society of Iowa and the State Department of Archives and History are to be represented by two directors each. Serving for the society are Miss Ethyl E. Martin and Mr. John E. Briggs; for the department, Messrs. Ora Williams and Kenneth E. Colton.

KENTUCKY

The Kentucky State Library Association has urged in its report on library planning in Kentucky that the appropriations for the State Department of Library and Archives be increased.

LOUISIANA

Arthur E. Gropp, librarian of the Middle American Research Institute, is the compiler of a *Guide to Libraries and Archives in Central American and the West Indies, Panama, Bermuda and British Guiana*. It is published by the Tulane University press and sells for \$5.00.

William R. Hogan, assistant archivist of the Department of Archives of Louisiana State University, reports that Miss Beatrice Carlton has been appointed registrar of manuscripts in place of Lewis E. Newman, resigned. Mrs. Mary Alice Leet has been appointed secretary of the department in place of Mrs. L. C. Thibodeaux, also resigned.

MARYLAND

Morris L. Radoff, archivist of Maryland, described the methods of preservation of old records employed at the Hall of Records in an address before the October 13 meeting of the Maryland Historical Society. Mrs. Ruth Krebs exhibited materials used in the process of repair.

The *Washington Star* of February 13, 1942, reports that Maryland official papers and documents dating back to 1653 are being permanently recorded on microfilm. From 600 to 800 pages per day are being reproduced. Two or three years will be required to finish the work.

MASSACHUSETTS

Francis P. Keough has been promoted to fill the position of assistant, Harvard University Archives, to succeed Robert W. Lovett, who has entered the military service. The archives has conducted an inventory of the records in the various university offices as a war measure, and the most valuable early records have been placed in a vault in the new Rare Book Library. The Rare Book Library is housed in a new building recently opened for the first time. The building is regarded by many as a "new point in the scientific care, study and display" of rare books and manuscripts. According to a note in the December 1 issue of *Library Journal*, p. 1029, the new building does not contain a bombproof vault because it was believed that "no vault constructed now could be counted on to be safe five years hence, and partly because of the expense. Harvard plans to follow the general plan adopted abroad of scattering its treasures in selected places further removed from military objectives Keyes D. Metcalf, director of the library, is on the official committee to plan such evacuation when and if it should become advisable."

MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Historical Society reports that during the quarter ending September 30, a total of 470 requests for information based upon manuscript census records in the society's collections was handled in the manuscripts division. Birth certificates based upon data in the census records were supplied to 261 individuals. Miss Henrietta Berge has been transferred to the museum to act as an assistant in that division. Miss Phyllis Sweely has been named assistant in the manuscripts division. Miss Beatrice Edgar of the same division now devotes all her time to working on census records and other archival material. Recent accessions of the society include papers of William B. Dean, pioneer wholesale hardware merchant at St. Paul and state senator, 1891-1894, who was active in the movement to build the present state capitol, which shed light on the Great Northern Railroad strike of 1894 and the work of the National Monetary Commission; letters and reports of Charles E. Flandrau, who was Indian agent at Traverse des Sioux, 1856-1863, which have been copied on microfilm from the originals in the National Archives; letters of Charles H. Steffins of Racine which depict life at a state normal school and in the teaching profession in the Middle West during the years 1878-1899; manuscripts and printed material assembled by Lynn Haines while editing the *Searchlight on Congress* during the years 1916-1927; papers of the Business Women's Holding Company of Minneapolis, 1925 and 1926.

NEW YORK

Miss Dorothy C. Barck, for many years editor and head of the Research Department was appointed librarian of the New York Historical Society on January 1.

The New York Historical Society has recently acquired the Model D of the Microfile Recordak machine together with the Model C Recordak library film reader, so that its photographing department is now equipped to furnish photostats, photographs, and microfilms. With its enlarging machine, it can furnish prints up to five feet in size.

A news release to the New York *Times* on February 16, 1942, reports that Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, is making a conscious effort to preserve in the college library a complete record of Hamilton's year by year development. Complete phonographic recordings are made of significant college events, and the records are kept on file. Supplementing the recordings, Hamilton College has obtained complete equipment necessary for taking and projecting motion pictures. Eventually the college plans to prepare yearly a newsreel to "serve as an historical document." Written and printed records also have a major place in the program. Minutes of important committee meetings,

previously unrecorded, are now being kept and filed with the expectation that they will be photographed after the war and thus receive permanency.

Teachers College of Columbia University has appointed a Committee on Protection of Valuable Possessions to be headed by Mr. Max Brunstetter. The work of the committee, according to a report to the *New York Times*, February 8, 1942, has thus far been largely a census-taking matter, but plans are being made to safeguard all valuables in special vaults at the university.

Columbia University has recently acquired one of the world's most famous collections of books, manuscripts, and museum pieces dealing with printing and the allied graphic arts. Known as the American Type Founders Library, the collection is said to be the largest and most complete in this country. It contains more than 80,000 items, including manuscripts of Benjamin Franklin.

The historical papers of the Daughters of the American Revolution were described at a forum of the society's filing and lending committee, held Wednesday, January 4, in New York. Mrs. William H. Pouch, president general, reported that the society's ancestry records have been microfilmed as a safety measure.

Frederic R. Stevens, supervisor of public records, New York State Department of Education, has addressed the following circular to "All Custodians of Public Records":

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
The State Education Department
Albany

March 4, 1942.

To All Custodians of Public Records in New York State, including
State, County, City, Village and Town Officers:

The chairman of the Committee on Conservation of Cultural Resources and the Archivist of the United States have jointly issued a circular advising that all useless records be disposed of at this time in order to supplement the supply of paper stock. They also call attention to the fact that at this time paper stock may be sold so as to reduce the cost of the inventory required before the records may be destroyed.

This Department approves the suggestion but calls your attention to section 1197 of article 46 of the Education Law:

Destruction of public records. No officer of the state or of any county, city, town or village or other political division of the State, or of any institution or society created under any law of the State, shall destroy, sell or otherwise dispose of any public record, original or copies, or of any archives, in his care or custody or under his

control, and which are no longer in current use, without first have advised the Commissioner of Education of their nature and obtained his consent.

In making the necessary inventory care must be taken that no record having legal or historical value be destroyed. In case there is any question as to the value of a record, it should be set aside pending a decision by this Department and if found useless included in a later request for permission to destroy.

In making application to this Department for permission to destroy useless records, sort them into groups, that is, "Audited and Paid Bills," "Cancelled Checks," etc., then give (a) the first and last date of records involved; (b) approximate number of records involved; (c) the opinion of your attorney that these records have no further legal value.

This application will receive immediate attention.

Respectfully yours
(Signed) FREDERICK R. STEVENS
Supervisor of Public Records

NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Historical Commission has recently published a *Chart Showing Origin of North Carolina Counties*, which was prepared by D. L. Corbitt and L. Polk Denmark. A *Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the Archives of the North Carolina Historical Commission*, prepared by the North Carolina Historical Records Survey Project, has also been published by the commission. All publications of the commission are free except for a mailing fee of twenty-five cents. There is no mailing fee for the chart mentioned above.

OHIO

Curtis W. Garrison reports that the Hayes Memorial Library has received the John B. Rice Collection containing letters, business and family papers relating to activities of Dr. Rice, a prominent physician who served during the Civil War as surgeon-in-chief of the 15th Army Corps and of the District of Memphis, and as a member of Congress, 1881-1883.

The recently issued fourth annual report of the Hayes Memorial Library includes a list, with abstracts, of unpublished doctoral dissertations relating to American history, 1865-1900.

OKLAHOMA

Recent accessions to the collections of the Oklahoma Historical Society include films showing the inauguration of Governor E. W. Marland in 1935; a collection of Choctaw Indian documents; a collection of portraits and photographs of notable Oklahomans, including Indian chieftains; the minutes

and proceedings of the General Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star, 1876-1898 and 1901-1916; a collection of local historical records presented by officers of certain country historical societies; and a collection of artifacts from prehistoric mounds in Oklahoma. The society is reported as planning to purchase a microfilm reader in the near future.

PENNSYLVANIA

"The Pennsylvania Bibliography" referred to in the last issue is making such progress that the project will probably be completed by the end of 1942. The historical commission has allocated funds for its publication in its current budget.

The 1942 annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies will be held in Harrisburg on April 16. Mr. Leon de Valinger, archivist of Delaware, will be the principal speaker. He will discuss methods utilized in his state to develop a suitable archival program, including a modern archives building.

The following paragraphs, published in *Pennsylvania History* for January, 1942, pp. 71-72, are worth quoting in their entirety:

A meeting of the archives committee [of the Federation] was held in Bethlehem on October 11 in connection with that of the Pennsylvania Library Association. Mr. Stevens, acting as secretary to the committee, reported on his personal examination of the Connecticut archival establishment at the time of the meeting at Hartford of the American Association for State and Local History. Studies of the archival legislation of Delaware and of New York also were discussed. The committee agreed that the ultimate objective should be to secure an adequate building for archives and history as a unit in the state capitol group at Harrisburg. Inseparably associated with this aim is the matter of obtaining necessary legislation to establish proper control over both state and local government records of historical value by the state archival authority. It is clear that little can be done to put Pennsylvania abreast of Delaware, Alabama, and similar states in this respect until there is suitable space for housing records.

Members of the committee agreed to continue the study of archival practice in other states and to examine the possibility of necessary legislation for the improvement of Pennsylvania's archives as a matter to be brought to the attention of the federation's legislative committee. Miss Dorrance was authorized to take up with Governor James and Superintendent Haas the matter of additional space for the archives division of the state library in the education building. The advisability of making a careful study of existing legislation with a view to increasing the effectiveness of its application was considered, and the state librarian was requested to ascertain especially what powers of direction over state

and local archives are already authorized by law. Fruits of the committee's work are already apparent in the fact that at its November meeting in Pittsburgh the Pennsylvania convention of the D.A.R. . . . adopted resolutions indorsing the movement for a state archives building.

The Philadelphia Bibliographical Center and Union Library Catalogue has published, as part of the co-operative library program now under way in Philadelphia, a list of materials available on microfilm. A Committee on Microphotography was appointed and requested copies of shelf lists of titles on microfilm from various libraries. The objective of the program was to encourage co-operative purchasing, to secure more materials for use within a given area, and to compile a list of titles representing microfilm holdings. The committee was interested in complete volumes, sets, or series, not in individual pages or small filming jobs. Master negative files from which positives could be procured were of particular interest. A review of this list appears on one of the preceding pages of this issue.

TEXAS

Virginia Leddy, of the Dallas Historical Society, reports that Karl L. Gowin, formerly of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, has joined the staff of the society. Recent accessions of the society include a collection of 111 posters of the first World War period, a gift of Mrs. Florence M. Rodgers of Dallas.

VIRGINIA

Lester J. Cappon, consultant in history and archives at the University of Virginia, has been appointed by the Social Science Research Council's Committee on the Control of Social Data to make a study of state and local activity and materials pertaining to the first World War, and to draw up a comprehensive plan for the collection of present war materials in the several states.

Harris H. Williams has been placed in charge of manuscripts in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Division of the Alderman Library, University of Virginia. Mr. John W. McCutcheon will be in charge of rare books. Mr. Williams succeeds George H. Reese who is on leave of absence due to military service. As indicated in the last issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, John Cook Wyllie, director of rare books and manuscripts at the Alderman Library, and curator of the Tracy W. McGregor Library at the University of Virginia, has been granted leave of absence. He is at present serving with the American Field Service in the Middle East. Mr. Wyllie's "List of the Texts of Poe's Tales" was published recently in *Humanistic Studies in Honor*

of *John Calvin Metcalf*, issued by the University of Virginia. The first two publications of the Tracy W. McGregor Library have been published during the past year under Mr. Wyllie's editorial supervision: *Dunmore's Proclamation of Emancipation, With an Invitation to the McGregor Library . . .* (1941) and *Thomas Jefferson and his Unknown Brother Randolph, Twenty-Eight Letters Exchanged Between Thomas and Randolph Jefferson . . .*, with an Introduction by Bernard Mayo (1942). Mr. Wyllie's duties at the university are being performed temporarily by Francis L. Berkeley, Jr.

WYOMING

Miss Lola M. Homsher has been appointed to succeed Mrs. Inez Babb Taylor, resigned, as assistant historian of the State Historical Department.