

SHORTER NOTICES

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The Committee on Conservation of Cultural Resources of the National Resources Planning Board has prepared a preliminary handbook on *The Protection of Cultural Resources Against the Hazards of War* (Washington. United States Government Printing Office, 1942. Pp. v, 46. \$.10). This committee was established by the National Resources Planning Board in March, 1941, to collect and disseminate information and promote measures for the protection of books, manuscripts, records, works of art, museum objects, historic buildings, scientific and scholarly apparatus, and to formulate long-range plans for the conservation and broadest and wisest use of cultural resources. To a very considerable extent the handbook is based upon a preliminary discussion of the conservation of cultural resources in time of war prepared by Richard H. Heindel, formerly executive secretary of the Committee on Conservation of Cultural Resources, and distributed for discussion purposes in May, 1941. Much of the present handbook was also taken from *The Care of Records in a National Emergency*, National Archives *Bulletin* No. 3. Two brief chapters are given to the role of libraries, museums, and archival agencies in wartime and to the hazards of war to which cultural resources are exposed. More lengthy treatment is given to problems involved in the protection of buildings or in evacuations. The importance and methods of protecting collections *in situ* are not overlooked. A chapter on the selection of materials for protection and the formulation of general plans illustrates how much thinking along these lines has matured and mellowed since the question first arose a year or more ago. The archivist, curator, or librarian situated in an area that is not secure cannot intelligently approach the problem of protecting the materials in his charge without having used a copy of this handbook to good advantage.—EMMETT J. LEAHY

Edward G. Campbell, *Old Records in a New War* (Washington. The National Archives, April, 1942. Pp. 11. Processed).

The National Archives, *Historical Units of Agencies of the First World War* (Washington. April, 1942. Pp. iv, 19. Processed).

These papers, released under the imprint of the National Archives, have a relationship which justifies their consideration together. The first is a brief and factual narrative of official efforts in the first World War to provide systematically for the recording (in one way or another) of wartime administrative history. For their day, these efforts were distinguished, but it is fairly evident now that enthusiasm outran realism. From the elaborate plans of the Historical Branch, War Department General Staff, to the official

"interest" expressed in many other war agencies, intentions exceeded results. With the end of the war and the first blight of Congressional economy, the professors went home and the glamor of war history was soon forgotten. Meanwhile, the records—the basic data—were pushed out of the way in attics, cellars, and garages.

Dr. Campbell discusses the results. The calls for information brought by the new war had to be answered largely from voluminous files of archives. All the records still had not been centralized in the National Archives, and those which had were badly disarranged. Efforts to take full advantage of the experience contained in records were handicapped from the start, although as Dr. Campbell shows, the early period of the present defense effort saw considerable use made of them nevertheless.

The existence of the National Archives will make a repetition of this state of affairs less probable. There is also an increased interest in utilizing the experience of the present war as a basis for the study of problems in public management. This likely will lead to greater respect for the recording of nominally "historical" data, and to a more systematic view of wartime record problems as well. Meantime, these papers together may be taken as a reminder.—WAYNE C. GROVER

In five short pages of "The Only Two Ways to Publish Manuscripts," *Full-tone Collotype for Scientific Reproduction*, Supplement No. 16 (Meriden, Connecticut. The Meriden Gravure Company, 1942. Pp. 6 and plates.), Dr. Peckham of the William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan, raises the questions that disturb all editors of manuscript papers. His thesis is that, once the value of publication of the manuscript is established, there is no middle ground between facsimile reproduction and a setting in type which is, if necessary for easy reading, remolded "into simple grammatical English." The users of published manuscripts are classified into two groups: those who want the information—the general public, students, litterateurs, and some scholars; and those to whom the handwriting, orthography, style, form, and "flavor" are more important than the informational content—the bibliophiles, collectors, and research experts. The argument is illustrated by examples, and Dr. Peckham concludes with the sentence, "My plea is to renounce efforts at imitating form and obscure style when the audience in view warrants printing from type, and to recognize facsimile reproduction as the only suitable method of publishing manuscripts exactly as they are written."—CHARLES W. PAAPE

NEWS NOTES

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THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

The Society's Committee on Uniform State Legislation is about to undertake a project for the preparation of a model law providing for the initial establishment of a state archival agency. The model public records act, published in the April, 1940, issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, made extensive provisions for relations between existing archival agencies and other state bodies, but presupposed the existence of such archival establishments. Therefore, a supplementary, suggested draft which may be useful in the twenty or more states which now have no central records establishments is being prepared. Suggestions or inquiries should be addressed to the committee's chairman, A. R. Newsome, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

A Federal Records Conference under the auspices of the Society of American Archivists was held in Washington, D.C., on March 26. The subject "Microfilming Government Records" was discussed by Charles G. Weber, National Bureau of Standards, and Daniel F. Noll, the National Archives. Mr. Weber discussed the use of acetate film as a record medium, while Mr. Noll described some procedures useful in microfilming records. George Viault, Bureau of the Budget, presided. A second conference, held on April 28, was concerned with the topic "Wartime Protection of Records." St. George L. Sioussat, Library of Congress, and Collas G. Harris, the National Archives, were the principal speakers. George U. Thompson, National Bureau of Standards, served as chairman.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The *Seventh Annual Report of the Archivist of the United States* (95 pp.), recently published, describes the work of the National Archives during the fiscal year 1940-1941, including its contributions to the national defense program, its assistance in the various fields of scholarly research, and its services to the general public.

Over a hundred accessions of records were made by the National Archives during the quarter ending March 31, 1942, according to *National Archives Accessions* No. 9, the latest quarterly supplement to the *Guide to the Material in the National Archives*. The volume of material covered is the largest ever to be accessioned in a single quarter, and the extreme diversity of research materials included is illustrated in the chronological scope of the material, ranging from original population schedules for the census of 1790,

on the one hand, to the records of the Division of Agriculture of the recent National Defense Advisory Commission (a predecessor of the War Production Board), 1939-1941, on the other hand. Material on the first World War, which continues to be particularly useful for wartime research, includes War Department records of the judge advocate general and of the inspector general pertaining to the American Expeditionary Forces; Commerce Department files on salvage, merchant marine recruitment, and industrial co-operation; records of the Capital Issues Committee; records of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance; and records of various postwar claims boards of the War and Navy Departments.

In response to the research needs of certain war agencies, two analytical lists of material in the National Archives were recently completed, entitled *List of Climatological Records in the National Archives* (lxii, 160 pp.) and *Materials in the National Recovery Administration Files of Interest to the Office of Production Management and Other Defense Agencies* (162 pp.), the latter issued in co-operation with the former OPM. The first five numbers in a new series of *Reference Information Circulars*, which describe materials in the National Archives relating to the Philippine Islands (6 pp.), the southern and western Pacific areas (14 pp.), France, Belgium, and the Netherlands (12 pp.), the Balkan states (4 pp.), the Scandinavian countries (5 pp.), and Alaska (10 pp.) have been issued for the guidance of federal officials engaged in wartime research. Other recent processed documents available include *Historical Units of Agencies of the First World War*, by Elizabeth B. Drewry (19 pp.), an *Alphabetical List of World War Agencies, 1914-1921* (124 pp.), a *Select List of Publications and Processed Documents of the National Archives* (2 pp.), *Selected References on Phases of Archival Administration*, compiled by Solon J. Buck and Ernst Posner (27 pp.), *The Protection of Federal Records Against Hazards of War*, by Collas G. Harris (10 pp.), *Old Records in a New War*, by Edward G. Campbell (11 pp.) and *The Role of the Archivist in Public Administration*, by Helen Chatfield (6 pp.). The last two titles listed are for use only by officials of the federal government for the present.

The archivist of the United States announced the appointment on March 24, 1942, of Ernest R. Bryan as chief of the Division of Information and Publications of the National Archives. Mr. Bryan, since 1938, was in charge of the Radio, Motion Pictures, and Publications Section of the Public Health Service, and previously had been connected with the U. S. Office of Education and the National Education Association. National Archives staff members "drafted" by wartime agencies for the duration of the war include John J. Whelan, serving as chief of the Recording and Historical Section of the War Production Board; Preston W. Edsall, as senior negotiator in the War Transfer Unit of the Civil Service Commission; James R. Mock, as economist in the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Quintin M. Sanger, as assistant organiza-

tions analyst in the Special Defense Unit of the Department of Justice; Carey Shaw, Jr., as administrative assistant in the library of the U. S. Information Service; and Helen E. Hunter, as research analyst in the Office of the Co-ordinator of Government Films. Frederick P. Todd, James E. Gibson, and Gerald B. Snedeker have been called to active military service.

A field office has been established by the National Archives in San Francisco, under the direction of Forrest R. Holdcamper, to render service to federal agencies on the Pacific Coast in connection with their record problems, including among other matters the protection of federal records against hazards of war. Gaston L. Litton is serving as a temporary field representative for the National Archives in the Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, and Theodore R. Schellenberg has just completed a survey of federal records at New Orleans.

"Archives and War" was the theme for the National Radio Forum sponsored by the *Evening Star* over WMAL, the Blue Network, at 9:00 P.M., on April 27. On this program the archivist of the United States was assisted in the discussion by Guy Stanton Ford, executive secretary of the American Historical Association; Mrs. Jessie Fant Evans, feature writer of the *Evening Star*; Emmett J. Leahy, of the Navy Department; and Philip M. Hamer, Office of Reference Service, the National Archives. A transcript of the discussion has been printed in the *Congressional Record* for May 5, 1942, p. A1783.

Two Indians of the Isletta tribe of the Pueblo Nations of New Mexico have been engaged recently in making reproductions of original sound records for the National Archives. Through the interest of Miss Frances Densmore, a \$30,000 fund recently was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Hall Clovis for the study of Indian customs and folklore. The archives at present has more than 3,300 Indian sound records in cylinder form which later will be transferred to discs.

It has been announced in the press that 5,000 reels of film in custody of the archivist of the United States are to be transferred to a safe depository in nearby Virginia. Those to be moved probably will include various Byrd expedition films and factual recordings made by the Signal Corps during the first World War. This transfer is to be made because many of the films are of the highly inflammable nitrate type that would be particularly in danger in the event of an air raid. Since many of the films are in constant use, a conveniently located depository has been selected so that they will be available as needed by government officials. Historic documents also are reported to have been removed to safe places of storage for the duration of the war. Among these are said to be the Bill of Rights, other Constitutional amendments, and early maps showing boundary lines.

Selected original census schedules, 1790-1870, were recently on display in the National Archives exhibition hall. These documents illustrated examples of the kinds of paper stock and printed forms used during those eighty years,

and also furnished a rapid survey of highlights of American history—the westward movement, the rise of manufactures, the gold rush, the Civil War, the rise of the city, and the American “melting pot.” Another exhibit, opened on National Maritime Day, May 22, had for its theme “Ships for Victory” in the first World War. This exhibit furnished a graphic story of merchant vessels in that struggle as illustrated by selected documents from the files of the Shipping Board and other federal agencies. Correspondence, posters, photographs, and other types of records described the construction of steel, wooden, concrete, and prefabricated vessels in those crucial days and showed how these ships were used to win the victory. Since National Maritime Day is the anniversary of the sailing of the steamship *Savannah* in 1819, the exhibit included that historic vessel’s manifest or cargo list, its register, a manuscript map, dated 1815, showing the port of Savannah, Georgia, from which she sailed, and diplomatic despatches concerning her reception in Liverpool and St. Petersburg (present day Leningrad). A third exhibit on the Philippine Islands was presented to the public on the day that President Manuel Quezon arrived in Washington. Of particular interest was the treaty with Spain signed December 10, 1898.

THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

Papers recently transferred to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library by the President include White House files of correspondence relating to the following subjects: modification of the Volstead Act and repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, 1933; administration of the National Industrial Recovery Act, and proposals for its restitution, 1933-1937; veterans’ compensation legislation, 1933-1939; regulation of radio broadcasting, 1933-1940; the “pump-priming” program of 1938; and the President’s proposal of April 14, 1939, for a European peace. Also received was part of one of the President’s personal files consisting of letters received from the general public commenting on the radio addresses made by him from October 23, 1940, to December 9, 1941.

John S. Curtiss, assistant archivist, has been granted leave of absence from the library for the duration of the war to work in the Office of the Coordinator of Information, Washington. He will serve in the Division of Special Information as an expert on Russian affairs.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Friends and patrons of the Manuscripts Division will be pleased to learn that the transfer of the collections to the new annex building brings some compensations for the sacrifice of old associations—air conditioning, larger quarters with reading rooms, offices, stacks, work rooms, and a repair shop all on the same floor level. Separate rooms and vaults are available for the reception of incoming material until it is ready for use.

Several finding mediums of interest to research students either have been completed or are in progress in the division. Among these are a calendar of manuscripts in the Harkness collection concerning Mexico, 1531-1609; a summary descriptive guide to Library of Congress reproductions of British materials; an index of Library of Congress reproductions of British West Indian colonial materials; a descriptive list of the papers of Gen. Tasker H. Bliss; a calendar of a selected group of important materials in the William C. Rives collection; an index to the Continental Congress papers; and lists, cross references, and indexes of use in connections with the Woodrow Wilson papers. Another project in progress is a survey of all materials in the division relating to Spain, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands. The chronological arrangement of the Robert Lansing papers is nearly completed and similar work on the Hamilton Fish papers is progressing rapidly.

Arrangements have been completed with the Massachusetts Historical Society for the microfilming of the Thomas Jefferson papers in its custody. English books and manuscripts also are being filmed and stored in the Library of Congress under a \$170,000 project sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation. The American Council of Learned Societies has arranged for the filming of materials in the British Museum, the Public Record Office, the libraries of Oxford and Cambridge, and other places. Materials covering American and English history, legal history, the history of science and medicine, medieval, classical, Slavic and Oriental studies, the fine arts and music have been selected for microcopying. The project also includes the documentation of English architectural records. Much of the film has already been received by the Library of Congress. The library is also microfilming about 3,000 rare Chinese items of historical interest from materials received for safekeeping from the Peking National Library.

Among the recent accessions to the Division of Manuscripts, the following may be noted as of particular interest to archivists: the Emily Tennessee Donelson Collection of 123 papers of Andrew Jackson, Andrew Jackson Donelson, Emily Donelson, and others, 1779-1837; additional volumes and papers of Caleb E. Cushing, 1800-1843, including 84 drawings of South America, Europe, and Asia by George R. West, draftsman to the United States Legation in China; microfilm of the calendar of archives of Matamoros, Mexico, pertaining to the history of Texas and New Mexico, 1811-1859; letters of Alexander Graydon to Nicholas Biddle, 1812-1817; letters of Rep. Job Durfee (Rhode Island) while a member of Congress, 1821-1824; additional papers of Peter Force, mainly letters received, 1828-1866; log-books of the *Thames*, a whaling vessel, 1828-1832; the "Army Record" of Charles Reynolds, captain, 12th Wisconsin Infantry, containing orders of the 17th Army Corps, 1864-1865; and six papers concerning the capture of Jefferson Davis.

Donald Mugridge and V. L. Eaton have been transferred from the division

to the Reference Department of the library. Paul Amos and F. J. Kearful have resigned.

COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

The committee has recently published *The Protection of Cultural Resources Against the Hazards of War*, a preliminary handbook which has been distributed to all the members of the Society of American Archivists. Requests for additional copies should be addressed to Collas G. Harris, chairman of the executive committee, Room 112, the National Archives.

Public Law 528 of the 77th Congress appropriated \$12,500,000 to the Public Buildings Administration to provide federal buildings and their contents, including records, with protection against air raids and sabotage. Codes prepared by an interdepartmental advisory committee and approved by the administrator of the Federal Works Agency will govern the expenditure of these funds. The code on air raid protection includes a chapter on the protection of records, books, manuscripts, museum materials, and similar holdings of federal agencies.

In some of the coastal states, particularly Washington, active work is being done by the state Committees on Conservation of Cultural Resources to provide more adequate protection for state, county, and municipal public records. Removal to safer areas within buildings, evacuation, microcopying, and the provision of special fire precautions are among the measures generally being employed.

COMMITTEE ON WAR RECORDS

At the request of President Roosevelt, a committee of prominent administrators and scholars has been established to study the current administrative history of war agencies and encourage the collection of war records, according to Harold D. Smith, director of the Bureau of the Budget.

The membership of this Committee on Records of War Administration will include Arthur M. Schlesinger, president of the American Historical Association; Louis Brownlow, president of the American Society for Public Administration; William Anderson, president of the American Political Science Association; and Waldo G. Leland, director of the American Council of Learned Societies. Solon J. Buck, head of the National Archives, will serve on the committee, and the Library of Congress and the Office of Facts and Figures will be represented by Archibald MacLeish.

A small staff of analysts will be directed by Pendleton Herring, secretary of the Graduate School of Public Administration at Harvard University, who has been working on the problem within the Bureau of the Budget since last fall. Lack of information on the administrative problems of the last war and the loss of valuable documents at that time, handicapping the present war

administration, are cited among the reasons for the project. Current activities will be systematically recorded so that present experience may be utilized in postwar administration. The records will also be organized to aid present administrative efforts.

In a recent letter to Director Smith, President Roosevelt stated:

I am very much interested in the steps that you have been taking to keep a current record of war administration. I suggest that you carry this program further by covering the field more intensively, drawing on whatever scholarly talent may be necessary.

Preserving for those who come after us an accurate and objective account of our present experience [was urged by the President, who added] that officials in war agencies will bear in mind the importance of systematic records, and to the extent commensurate with their heavy duties, co-operate in this undertaking.

In a statement outlining the organization, Director Smith reports:

On many occasions we have regretted the inadequacy of the data available concerning administration in World War I. The National Archives has urged that more attention be given to our present records to avoid similar document losses.

Since last fall Dr. Herring has been directing this work and stimulating the keeping of records in the principal war agencies. On the basis of this experience the President has decided that the work should be carried further.

NAVAL RECORDS DEPOSITORIES

A new departure in the field of records administration in the federal government is indicated by the establishment under the Director of Records Co-ordination, Navy Department, of three naval records depositories. These depositories are equipped to take custody of the following categories of records: (1) Those active files which for space reasons cannot be accommodated by the offices of the department; (2) those noncurrent records which for administrative or other reasons must be retained for limited or extended periods but which are not to be retained permanently; (3) those records which are awaiting authorization for disposition; and (4) security microfilm copies of irreplaceable records. The depositories will not assume permanent custody of materials that properly should be transferred to the National Archives; in this respect they will serve as intermediate steps in the process of transfer, offering facilities for the segregation of useless and ephemeral material from record collections. Since October 1, 1941, the Navy Department has transferred to the National Archives and to the naval records depositories over 33,000 cubic feet of records; these transfers have released approximately 27,000 square feet of floor space.

The depositories, it should be noted, emphasize the necessity for responsible

custodianship. Each is in charge of a competent custodian, and the accessioning, servicing, and arranging of records follow accepted archival principles. Care is exercised to protect the records from extremes of humidity, excessive dirt, and insect pests. Twenty-four hour guard service is maintained to prevent unauthorized access.

FOREIGN NEWS

Australia

At a recent conference of historians and government representatives plans were laid for an extensive research program on topics relating to postwar problems. Projects have been allotted to universities, research institutions, and individuals, and the government is providing financial assistance. Through these projects, universities and research institutions are becoming closely related to the government's war and postwar efforts. The result should be a comprehensive examination of Australia's political, social, economic, and international problems. Australian archivists should have much to contribute to such a program.

Canada

Pierre-Georges Roy, archivist for the province of Quebec since 1920, recently retired. Considered to be the founder of the Quebec archives, M. Roy is a member of a family of archivists. His father was a great collector of manuscripts, while his brother, J. Edmund Roy, was assistant dominion archivist. He himself is to be succeeded by his son, Antoine Roy. In 1920, the Quebec archives consisted of a vault 10 by 12 feet piled high with documents. Today, after over twenty years under the leadership of M. Roy, the province possesses one of the finest archives buildings and one of the best archival collections in Canada. M. Roy has published fifty-one volumes of historical writings and fifty-three volumes of calendars and similar publications. He was also editor of the *Bulletin des Recherches Historiques* for nearly fifty years.

Great Britain

A letter from N. Dermott Hunt, a member of the managing committee of the Technical Section of the British Records Association reads in part as follows: "You will be interested in the work of a new Committee recently set up here by the British Records Association with a view to a central repair and training school being established. I am one of the Committee and helped, I believe, to get it formed, largely in consequence of the widespread need for repair service following the heavy air raids and the resultant damage to documents from fire, water, etc." Further information on the work of this committee and of the proposed school will be given in this section when obtained.

A high explosive bomb burst a short distance from the Coventry Museum some time ago. Valuable materials, including the "minute books" of early city trading companies that had been stored in a "strong room," were almost entirely destroyed.

A sidelight of Britain's current paper shortage is the dilemma in which historians, researchers, and social scientists find themselves. The paper shortage, a report to the Department of Commerce says, menaces historical records in two ways. Current paper salvage campaigns have fired some paper collectors with such misplaced enthusiasm that they have fed invaluable documents, particularly of business historical importance, to the pulp machines. Secondly the quality of British paper is said to have declined so dangerously that many of the records being made today will have very little durability. Paper must possess certain fiber qualities and be free of any iron content if deterioration and discoloration are to be prevented. It is alleged that the heavy demands of the aircraft industry had limited the amount of non-ferrous sulphate of alumina available for commercial usage, and that it had become essential to assure that available supplies be used in the durability of papers for technical reasons or for the purpose of permanent records.

India

The Imperial Record Department at New Delhi published in August, 1941, an interesting pamphlet entitled *Notes on Preservation of Records*. This publication was issued, according to S. N. Sen, keeper of the records of the government of India, following the Baroda session of the Indian Historical Records Commission. At this meeting the comparative merits of "the new method of laminating old records with cellulose acetate foil and mending crumbling papers with thin silk gauze, commonly known as chiffon, were discussed in some detail." Sir Jadunath Sarkar, who presided, suggested that, since American and English opinion was so sharply divided on this "highly technical" subject, a pamphlet ought to be prepared by the record department and circulated among the provincial governments for their information. Consequently, *Notes on Preservation of Records* was prepared. It includes relevant extracts from the proceedings of the commission, particularly the criticisms of the lamination process made by D. S. Baliga, a statement in reply to these criticisms by S. N. Sen, and notes on the fumigation of records as a phase of the records preservation problem.

Netherlands

Readers of THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST are indebted to Ernst Posner, American University, for the following interesting news items abstracted from the only issue of the Dutch periodical *Nederlandsch Archiefvenblad* that was published after the invasion of the Netherlands and that has

been received here. Number 1 of Volume 48 of this journal covers events through November 15, 1940, and contains interesting information on the Dutch archives under German rule. Most of this information is to be found in a report on the forty-ninth annual convention of the Society of Dutch Archivists and in the addresses given on that occasion. The convention met at the Hotel des Pays-Bas in Utrecht on October 26, 1940, and consisted as usual of a general meeting and of conferences of the two sections of state archivists and of archivists of the municipalities and water-co-operatives (*waterschappen*).

Since the convention was held after the defeat of France and with the downfall of England apparently only a matter of time, the speeches quite naturally reflect a spirit of acceptance of the new situation. Still, one does not find in them any attempt to conceal grief over the losses that had been suffered, and a certain proud reserve is apparent between the lines. This is noticeable at the beginning in the words with which the president, H. P. Coster, municipal archivist of the city of Groningen, opened the general meeting: "Like a tornado the war has raged through our country, unfortunately striking at what is dear to us because of our work. While Rotterdam saw its archives and those of Schieland spared, those of Middelburg were badly hit. There the municipal archives were completely annihilated and the state archives (*rijkarchief*) underwent serious losses." Although the public archives of Rotterdam escaped harm, those of important institutions such as the Batavian Society (*Bataafsch Genootschap*) and the Academy of Fine Arts and Technical Sciences were completely burned. The terrible destruction wrought by the Germans on Rotterdam itself was more fully commented upon by E. Wiersum, retired archivist of Rotterdam and archivist of the water-co-operative of Schieland. He referred to the demolition of old Rotterdam, the heart of the city, and added: "What this means to officials whose daily work almost always relates to the city that has disappeared I need not explain before this audience." His words give a somber significance to the truth so eloquently stated by Carl L. Lokke in the April issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*: "History is not to be found in manuscripts alone. In a famous old city . . ., it is in the palaces, the churches, the museums, in the public squares and gardens, the cemeteries, the bridges, it is in the very air."

When the Dutch archivists met in Utrecht they were not quite by themselves. There was present among them Bernhard Vollmer, the chief of the German Archival Office in the Netherlands (*Leiter des Deutschen Archivamtes in den Niederlanden*). An *Archivamt* had been established in Poland in 1939 and similar action was taken in the Netherlands early in July, 1940. Vollmer did not come as a stranger to the Netherlands. As state archivist and later as director of the Prussian State Archives in Düsseldorf he had had frequent professional contacts with his Dutch colleagues. He had

been instrumental in concluding and carrying out the Dutch-Prussian convention of 1926 concerning the exchange of archival materials between the two countries (see his article in *Archivalische Zeitschrift*, xxxix, 309-313). Vollmer, a cultivated and humane person and by no means of the true brand of a Nazi official, had made many friends among the Dutch archivists.

To meet the archivist general of the kingdom and all his Dutch friends in the role of the "victor" and to transmit to them the cordial wishes of the *Reichskommissar*, Seyss-Inquart, must have been rather embarrassing for Vollmer. He gave his audience a brief and probably incomplete summary of his commission. It appears from his statement that protection of the Dutch archives against the dangers of war was to be his first task, which must have sounded a little hollow after what had happened to Middelburg and Rotterdam. He also had been charged with the preparation of an inventory of source materials for the history of the German Reich preserved in Dutch archives and was to implement an exchange of archival materials between Belgium, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

This part of Vollmer's commission calls for a short explanation. In the course of frequent changes of sovereignty in the bitterly contested Dutch-Belgian danger zone of Europe and as an effect of hereditary transmission of territories, many bodies of archival materials had come into the possession of and were preserved in archival repositories outside the boundaries of the states in whose present area they had originated and to whose territory they referred. The convention of 1926 between Prussia and the Netherlands, based on the application of the principle of provenance, had clarified between the two countries the respective rights to such fonds and had resulted in their actual exchange, but earlier efforts of the Netherlands to reach an understanding with Belgium had been abortive. Particularly obnoxious to Dutch archivists and historians was the fact that some of the records that had been abducted during the revolutionary and Napoleonic period, as, for instance, the imperial charters of St. Gervase in Maastricht dating back to 1051, were still in French repositories. Thus, Vollmer's communication to the effect that the principles of the convention of 1926 would be applied not only to Germany as a whole but also to Belgium and France was bound to cause some satisfaction among the Dutch archivists, the more so since the Netherlands was likely to obtain more than it would have to cede. The announcement was favorably commented upon in articles of the *Algemeen Handelsblad* and the *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant*, which are reprinted in the *Archievenblad*. That of the *Courant* is written by a contributor (*medewerker*) of the paper and comes apparently from circles close to the *Archivamt*. Its title, "There is reason for great satisfaction," and the allusion to Vollmer's "trustworthy leadership" makes this quite probable. The whole measure was undoubtedly designed as part of a policy aimed at ingratiating the new régime with the

Dutch. One is inclined to believe, however, that the recent executions have left a deeper and more lasting impression.

To what extent the German Archival Office has interfered with normal activities of the Dutch archives is not clear. It may be safe to assume that in general Vollmer has abstained from exercising direct influence on the archives and has preferred to work through the Department of Education, Fine Arts, and Sciences, under whose jurisdiction they are.

During its convention the society devoted most of its attention to the problems of microphotography and the disposition of useless papers. To investigate the latter problem a commission of five archivists was appointed, consisting of D. P. M. Graswinkel, chief of the Division of Modern Archives of the General State Archives, as chairman, two state archivists, one municipal archivist, and one representative of the archives of the water-co-operatives. This committee is also to serve as an advisory committee on problems of disposition to the archivist general. A paper read by Graswinkel on elimination of useless papers and an explanation of the newer German practices, which was contributed by Vollmer, may deserve a special report in *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*. Some of the speakers showed concern about a Department of Social Affairs circular of July 24, 1940, providing for the employment by the communes of "white collar" unemployed and the assignment to them of activities such as the arranging of archives and libraries and the inventorying of noncurrent records. It was felt that such work should be done only under close professional supervision, since inexperienced workers "turned loose" on the archives of the communes might do considerable damage to them, and that therefore the provincial archives inspectors should interest themselves in the problem.

Great satisfaction was expressed over Arthur H. Leavitt's recent translation of the Dutch archives manual into English. "It is surely no small tribute and honor to our predecessors," said the president, "that the translation has been published in the country where modern archives are in the forefront of interest, a clear indication at the same time that what is embodied in the *Handleiding* is useful for those archives too." The society was also informed by the president that A. F. J. Van Laer, retired state archivist of New York, had resigned his membership as a corresponding member but would receive copies of the *Archievenblad* as before on account of his outstanding deserts. "In accordance with his advice," the president went on, "the Chief of the Archives Administration of the United States of America has been nominated (*aangewezen*) as a new corresponding member." Whether this nomination actually established the membership of the archivist of the United States, then R. D. W. Connor, or was to be followed by a formal election, the audience was not told. Was it considered wise to abstain from the latter act in the presence of the *Leiter des Deutschen Archivamtes in den Niederlanden*?

GENERAL NEWS

The Inter-American Bibliographical and Library Association at its fifth annual convention in Washington, February 20-21, resolved to recommend to the Committee on Latin-American Studies that suitable measures be taken to further the preparation of a *Guide to Materials for the History of the United States in Latin American Archives and Libraries*, and a *Guide to Materials for Latin American History in United States Libraries and Archives*, by securing appropriate financial assistance and by seeking to place the subject on the agenda of the next meeting of the appropriate Inter-American Congress or Conference. It also went on record as urging the preparation of a manual on the care and preservation of archival materials for distribution to Latin American archivists and librarians. These recommendations were the result of a round table discussion on "Archival Needs of Latin America" led by Thomas P. Martin, Library of Congress. A summary report of the proceedings is published in the *Hispanic American Historical Review*, xxii (May, 1942), 416-420.

The *Code of Wartime Practices for Newspapers, Magazines and Other Periodicals* established by the Office of Censorship provides that, except when officially released, information disclosing the new location of national archives, art treasures, and so on, which have been moved for safekeeping, must be withheld from publication.

The Philadelphia Bibliographical Center and Union Library Catalogue has announced that although no definite plans have been made to date, it is hoped that annual supplements to the *Union List of Microfilms* can be published, the first to be ready for publication before the end of 1942. Eleven institutions that contributed to the original list have sent information regarding corrections and additions. It is the desire of the compilers that other institutions furnish information on new acquisitions and such corrections in the basic *Union List* as may be necessary. The committee requests information on: (1) items omitted from the published list; (2) new materials acquired since the publication of the basic list; (3) notice of such materials as may be acquired in the future; (4) data on privately owned collections; and (5) large scale projects which may now be under way or under consideration. If such data are available, information should be given on imprint, collation, number of frames or reels, location of original from which the film was made, whether negative or positive, and other pertinent bibliographical data in addition to author and title.

The supplements probably will be issued on a cost basis. Therefore, the compilers are interested in estimating their probable sale. Persons interested in the supplement project should address the Committee on Microphotography,

Philadelphia Bibliographical Center and Union Library Catalogue, Fine Arts Building, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

CALIFORNIA

Under provisions of the will of the late Tom Mooney, all his books, correspondence and other records have been left to the University of California Library at Berkeley.

COLORADO

Herbert O. Brayer, archivist of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company, reports that the archives of that company have outgrown the single office in which they were housed in November, 1941, and now occupy a large three room suite. A new building, purchased by the corporation, will be available for permanent records storage this fall.

The archives of the railroad date from 1869, and now include about 3,000 documents prior to 1900. The original telegrams, letters, and other documents relative to the Royal Gorge dispute between the Santa Fe and the Denver and Rio Grande Western were recently acquired. The archives also contain a collection of more than 4,000 original railroad photographs, many of which were made by the noted pioneer photographer, William Henry Jackson, who was for some years the official photographer of the road. A calendar of the Denver and Rio Grande Western archives, 1871-1940, is in course of preparation. Mr. Brayer is assisted in administering the archives by Mrs. Garnet M. Brayer and Miss Elizabeth Stafford.

DELAWARE

Leon de Valinger, state archivist, announces the appointment of Virginia E. Shaw and Elsie Bloth to positions with the Public Archives Commission. On April 16, Mr. de Valinger delivered an address on archival problems before the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Credit Union Section of the Farm Credit Administration has published in its magazine *Co-operative Saving With Federal Credit Unions* a series of articles of interest to records administrators under the title "Speaking of Files."

Phillips Temple, librarian of the Riggs Memorial Library, Georgetown University, has announced that rare historical documents deposited in the library are being moved for safekeeping within the solid masonry walls of the archives section in the Healy Building. The Georgetown archives contain records concerning the early history of the university, together with one of

the most extensive collections of documents dealing with the Jesuit order to be found in this country. As recently noted in this section, Coleman J. Nevils, S. J., is archivist.

Edward G. Campbell, Division of War Department Archives, the National Archives, discussed the subject of "Old Records in a New War" at the meeting of the Special Libraries Association, District of Columbia Chapter, on April 14.

Old District of Columbia government records, now stored in various corners of the District Building, may be microfilmed to save space under a plan recently announced by the commissioners. A committee, headed by A. R. Pilkerton, has been appointed to study the problem of space conservation through microfilming and disposing of unnecessary records.

FLORIDA

The Florida Historical Society has acquired the Pleasant Woodson White papers, 1829-1883, many of which relate to White's activity as head of the commissary supply department for Florida during the closing days of the Civil War.

ILLINOIS

The *Museum News* for March 15 describes a manuscript display technique that has been developed by the Chicago Historical Society. Each manuscript is individually mounted on a matboard without the use of glue or adhesive, the manuscript occupying a window in one corner of the matboard. At the opposite corner is a printed label pointing out the salient facts about the item on display, stressing the relationship of the writer to the general theme of the full exhibit. At the remaining corners of the matboard and running between the manuscript itself and the label, color is introduced through painted sketches.

Charles Gates Dawes, former vice-president of the United States, has given his Evanston, Illinois, home to Northwestern University for the establishment of a Northwestern Historical Center that will house one of the country's largest collections of documents concerning the Old Northwest Territory.

INDIANA

Leland R. Smith, chief of the Archives Division, Indiana State Library, has resigned to accept a research position with the General Motors Corporation. Margaret Pierson is serving as acting chief.

IOWA

The Iowa State Historical Society has issued for free distribution a pamphlet entitled "Organization, Purposes and Activities of Local Historical Societies in Iowa." Ethyl E. Martin is the compiler.

KENTUCKY

The Kentucky State Historical Society is making a concerted effort to protect state records from the waste paper collector by systematically calling to the attention of heads of state agencies the importance of making a careful selection of what materials are to be turned over to collectors during the current drive for paper salvage.

Bayless Hardin, research assistant, has been granted leave of absence by the society. His position will be filled by Eleanor Southgate Earle.

LOUISIANA

The Louisiana State University Department of Archives reports that William H. Hogan, assistant archivist, has entered military service. Within the next few months the secretary of state and the state auditor will transfer over 650 volumes and 9,000 other items from their offices to the university Department of Archives.

MARYLAND

The following news item from the *Baltimore Sun* of May 25 is of particular interest to archivists:

A thorough housecleaning of cellars and attics of the City Hall and the Courthouse has produced more than fifty tons of wastepaper for the war stock pile, and the work still is unfinished.

The cleanup is incidental to the carrying out of a plan for moving the Bureau of Archives from the top floor at the City Hall to the first floor. In their present quarters the historical and operating records of the municipal government are regarded as in great danger of destruction should an air raid take place.

The suite of rooms occupied by the archives division is protected only by a thin roof, a large area of which consists of a skylight. Some weeks ago an order was given by Dr. Horace E. Flack, head of the Bureau of Legislative Reference, of which the archives division is a unit, to move all the records from the top floor.

It was decided to store the historical documents in vaults in the cellar of the City Hall and to place the operating records which must be retained for a time on shelving in the cellars of both the Courthouse and the City Hall. Other records that must be kept accessible, such as street plans, are to be kept on the ground floor.

According to Frank J. Sebald, municipal archivist, it was found that

space in the two cellars already was crowded with the overflow from the archives unit and it was decided to cull out the dispensable records and sell the material as wastepaper. Selection of matter to be discarded proved to be a complicated operation.

Rejection of records by the city government must be done in accord with the terms of an ordinance enacted some months ago. City records accumulated since the town was first laid out in 1729 were beginning to overflow available storage space and were invading quarters needed by bureaus. The archives unit itself had spread from one large room into a number of smaller chambers along a corridor of the top floor and its accumulations had begun to tax other storage space.

Under the ordinance a committee must determine what records can be dispensed with and discarded. The bill stipulates that this committee is to consist of the head of the bureau of legislative reference, the city solicitor and the head of the department whose records are under consideration. This group met several times and finally listed the categories of documents that could be discarded.

Most of the fifty tons of waste already salvaged for the war paper stock consists of old printed reports, outmoded codes and cash books and records dating back to 1864. Removal of this material made space for the records that are to be retained.

Regarded as most valuable are the records of the city commissioners who acquired sixty acres under an act of the General Assembly and laid out the town in 1729. The records are complete from this first act in establishing the city down to date.

The problems involved in the disposition of public records was the subject of the following amusing editorial published in the *Sun* on May 26:

In the City Hall they are having a bad attack of a disease best described as archives trouble. It is not a new disease. In time it attacks all families, institutions, corporations and governments. Governments, in fact, suffer from it more severely than any other group.

There is no cure for the disease. Governments spend millions to alleviate it. They acquire, in the therapeutic process, vast edifices like the National Archives Building in Washington or like the Hall of Records in Annapolis. But such structures are mere monuments to the incurable nature of the ailment.

Baltimore's present attack grew out of the discovery that our own Bureau of Archives was outgrowing its quarters on the top floor of the City Hall. The discovery might not have been made but for the fact that the top floor, by expert opinion, is dangerous in case of a raid. Archives, as everyone knows, are always being threatened by fire, or neglect, or dampness or destruction in war. They always have to be moved. It is when they have to be moved that people realize how far the disease has progressed. The effort to move those at the City Hall to a safer place disclosed the extent of the trouble.

One of the many ways used to control archives is to "survey" them and dispose of useless material. The man who undertakes this task takes his life in his hands, for it is invariably discovered by somebody that he is on the verge of destroying "historical papers of such value as to be beyond price."

Dr. Horace E. Flack, as the natural custodian of everything of historical value in the City Hall, is using the "survey" method at this moment. Already his efforts have produced fifty tons of "wastepaper." That's what they call it today. Tomorrow somebody will discover that he is robbing posterity of its rightful heritage. Then won't his face be red!

MASSACHUSETTS

The *New York Times* reported on March 22 that "all of the State's historic documents, including the original Massachusetts Bay Colony Charter and the State Constitution, are being moved from the archives division on the fourth floor of the State House to bombproof and fireproof basement vaults. During the moving process a warrant was discovered dated Feb. 16, 1795, authorizing payment of about \$40,000 to start construction of the present State House."

Harvard University Archives now has, as a result of the inventory mentioned in the April issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, a record of the papers of some ninety departments, offices, and committees throughout the university. A second edition of a pamphlet prepared by the archives for the information of officers of instruction and administration has been distributed. Alice E. Cutter has been appointed part time assistant to Francis P. Keough, recently appointed archivist.

The Business Historical Society announces that it has received the records of the First National Bank of Boston. These include eleven volumes of the original records of the Shoe and Leather Dealers' Bank of Boston that became the Shoe and Leather National Bank. These volumes contain the minutes of the stockholders for the years 1836-1865 and 1886-1893, as well as the directors' minutes from the establishment of the bank until 1901. The collection also includes two account books of the Blackstone National Bank, whose liquidation was in the hands of the Shoe and Leather National Bank.

A collection of more than 250 letters written by Abigail Adams during the period 1784-1800 has recently been acquired by the American Antiquarian Society.

MICHIGAN

The University of Michigan's department of library science has instituted a new course in the summer session on the "Care and Use of Historical Manuscripts." The topics to be covered include the principles of arranging, cataloguing, and repairing both personal and public papers, a survey of the country's leading manuscript depositories, and a discussion of the evaluation and editing of manuscripts. The course will meet in the William L. Clements Library and is to be taught by Howard H. Peckham, curator of manuscripts there.

Harry F. Kelly, secretary of state for Michigan, furnishes an interesting account of the application of microphotography to the records of the State Motor Vehicle Division in a recent article in *State Government*, 14 (November, 1941), 270. The most interesting paragraphs of the article read as follows:

The Michigan law requires that transferred titles be kept on file for six years by the Motor Vehicle Division. As a result of this requirement millions of such records had accumulated in the files of the Division when the new plan was put into operation. In 1940 alone, Michigan had more than 1,500,000 automobile registrations. Already tons of these documents have been photographed and destroyed, and new records are being photographed as they are received. Space formerly occupied by cumbersome, space-consuming wooden files is now used to house two other divisions of the Department of State which formerly occupied rented quarters in downtown Lansing. On this item alone approximately \$6,000 a year is being saved.

The development of the new system was an instance of necessity being the mother of invention. The top floor of the State Capitol building, where the offices and filing rooms of the Motor Vehicle Division have been located for many years, had become so over-crowded as to constitute a serious fire hazard. The congestion also increased the danger of misfiling and reduced the efficiency of our services to the public.

The micro-filming process has made the solution of these problems possible. The films of records of the Division are filed in a very small fraction of the space formerly required, and the files are now conveniently located for reference purposes. The fire hazard has been eliminated; service has been improved, despite the fact that there are now fewer employees; and the offices of the Division have taken on the appearance of modern efficiency. A recent visitor to the new registration office aptly described it as being "acres of records, filed in inches of space."

MINNESOTA

Under the provisions of the archives act passed by the state legislature in 1941, the Minnesota Historical Society is required to pass on all requests made

by state agencies to destroy state records. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts, writes that requests for the services of the society in this connection have "poured in thick and fast," necessitating the employment of Eugene Barnes as an assistant to the superintendent and the curator in making the required examinations and keeping the records thereof. The procedure devised to handle disposition work is reported to be working smoothly.

MISSISSIPPI

Through an oversight this section failed to report the issuance some time ago of the *Biennial Report of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, July 1, 1939-June 30, 1941*. Copies of this report may be obtained from William D. McCain, director of the department.

NEW JERSEY

George J. Miller has been appointed assistant registrar of the Board of Proprietors of East New Jersey at Perth Amboy. This organization has custody of the land records of East Jersey, 1685 to date. A survey of the records of the board is now in progress, and its earliest minute books have been repaired and rebound.

NEW YORK

Schools for the instruction of public officers having custody of public records are being held in each county of the state on a schedule which will provide full coverage of the state by August 15, according to word received from Arthur Pound of the state Division of Archives and History. Attendance has been excellent at these one-day meetings. The archives law is being explained to these officials and instructions given to them on the standards of record keeping required by the division under that law.

The New York Historical Society has acquired the Quinn collection of manuscripts, photographs and other source materials relating to New York hotels and the Stonebridge collection of photographs, negatives and slides of the Bronx and New York state. Also recently acquired are letters addressed to Gov. George Clinton, 1777-1779, by Aaron Burr, Horatio Gates, and others, and the papers of William Sulzer, formerly a member of Congress from New York.

Richard B. Morris, director of the College of the City of New York Defense Council is the author of a section on the protection of records, rare books, and art treasures in the *Handbook of Civilian Protection* issued by the council.

OHIO

Governor John W. Bricker has appointed an Ohio War History Commission to serve as a central agency for the preservation of war records in the state. Carl Wittke, Oberlin College, is chairman, and William D. Overman, executive secretary. Headquarters will be at the Ohio State Museum, where Mr. Overman is curator of history and archivist.

The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society recently secured a collection of important letters, documents, manuscripts, copies of letters, pamphlets, broadsides, and other written and printed material pertaining to the bankruptcy of Jay Cooke, "Financier of the Civil War." The material is of the period 1870-1890, and consists of 3,800 items. Four years ago the society obtained a collection of 2,200 items of Jay Cooke material pertaining primarily to his western land transactions and his Ohio interests.

The Hayes Memorial Library has acquired four volumes and twenty-seven other Sandusky County records, several additional Hayes manuscripts, the so-called Johnson's Island papers, and microfilms of the David M. Key papers. The library's project, known as the "Bibliography of American History, 1865-1900" is described in an article by James H. Rodabaugh, assistant director of research, in the April 15 issue of the *Library Journal*.

PENNSYLVANIA

The state librarian, Alfred E. Keator, states that a Pennsylvania archives building is to be one of the first projects to be considered for the state under the Public Works Reserve Program after the war. Representatives of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies attended a conference in Washington last December that resulted in this and other decisions intended to facilitate the future archival program of Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Historical Commission is collecting source materials relating to the state's war effort. A new division of the commission has been formed to deal particularly with this work. Marvin W. Schlegel, formerly of the Archives Division of the state library, is in charge of the project. The State Council of National Defense will assist the commission by furnishing it with copies of source materials relating to council activities and by requesting the various departments of the state to do likewise concerning their defense activities. Numerous state-wide organizations also are being contacted to secure their co-operation in the preservation of historical materials. Centralization of responsibility for the collection and preservation of the materials essential to the future writing of the history of the state's war effort is the basic feature of the program, although local agencies are not to be discouraged from undertaking similar work in the local areas.

The University of Pittsburgh has acquired for its Darlington Memorial Library the so-called "Lost records of the Ohio Company of Virginia," about three-fourths of which have never been published. The papers are described in an article in the winter (1941-1942) issue of *Pitt*, a quarterly of the university.

RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island Historical Society is moving into its new quarters in the John Brown House. Steel shelving has been installed and many improvements made to adapt the building to its new purpose.

TENNESSEE

Governor Prentice Cooper has "revived" the Tennessee Historical Commission, originally created by the state legislature in 1919. The first regular meeting of the new commission was held on December 4, 1941. The commission is now publishing jointly with the Tennessee Historical Society the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*. William C. Binkley is the editor. The code of Tennessee provides \$10,000 per annum for the use of the commission. One of the major points in the projected program of the commission is the erection of a state historical building prior to 1946 in which year the state will celebrate its sesquicentennial.

TEXAS

Summerfield G. Roberts has placed with the Dallas Historical Society the manuscript journal of the Texas Convention of 1836. It was this convention that wrote the Declaration of Texan Independence and adopted the constitution of the independent state. "Lost" for over a hundred years, the journal is regarded as one of the most important historical documents of the state.

UTAH

Andrew Jensen, assistant church historian, Church of the Latter Day Saints, died November 18, 1941. Appointed in 1891, he carried out a program of research and collection of manuscript materials for the entire church with the result that over fifteen hundred record books and hundreds of volumes of miscellaneous manuscripts now are in the custody of the church archives.

VIRGINIA

Washington and Lee University has announced the establishment of the Robert E. Lee Archives as a division of the Cyrus Hall McCormick Library. It is planned to make the archives a national depository for source material on the life of Lee. Over four thousand manuscript items concerning his life and work are already in the collection. Allen W. Moger, a member of the

history faculty of the university, has been appointed archivist. To aid in the program, a national advisory committee of scholars and public men is being formed.

WASHINGTON

The University of Washington has received the papers of Wesley L. Jónes, who for some thirty years represented the state in the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States. His important committee assignments and the length of his service in public life give these papers significance for the study of both state and national history. Arrangement of the manuscripts is now in process.

Glenn H. Lathrop of Seattle reports that a considerable movement is underway to make "insurance copies" of vital public records in the target areas along the Washington Coast. Scarcity of microfilming equipment has handicapped planning. However, the cities of Everett and Tacoma have secured 35 mm. equipment, and WPA 16 mm. cameras are expected to be available by July 1, at which time it is hoped that the filming program will get fully underway at several other coastal points.

WISCONSIN

Annie M. Nunn, assistant superintendent of the State Historical Society, died on January 5, 1942. She had served the society for over fifty years.