

## Reviews

ANNE R. KENNEY, editor

*An Action Agenda for the Archival Profession: Institutionalizing the Planning Process. A Report to SAA Council by the Committee on Goals and Priorities.* Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1988. 74 pp.

During the past decade it has become increasingly apparent that the Society of American Archivists, with its multiple constituencies and limited resources, needs a plan to guide its program. Efforts to develop a planning document in the 1970s paved the way for the SAA Task Force on Goals and Priorities, which published *Planning for the Archival Profession* in 1986. Publication of the final report of the task force sparked a lively debate among archivists about the goals and priorities of the profession. What emerged from these discussions was the recognition that what was now needed were procedures for both the ongoing assessment of objectives, that is, the institutionalization of the assessment and planning process itself, and specific plans for implementing the profession's agenda. Supported by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the assistance of SAA office staff, the Committee on Goals and Priorities (CGAP) was given "the task of analyzing the needs of the entire profession and fostering actions that will advance the profession's basic goals and objectives." The result of CGAP's analysis is embodied in its report of 31 August 1988 to the SAA Council.

CGAP, chaired by Charles Palm, represented a cross-section of the membership of the profession, including college and university archives (Eva Moseley and Wil-

liam Wallach), state archives (John Burns), corporate archives (Anne Van Camp), academic teaching (James O'Toole), and a federal institution (Maygene Daniels). It is clear that the committee not only took seriously its responsibility to broadly assess the needs of the profession, but also, as the title of the report suggests, to institutionalize the planning process. To this end, *An Action Agenda for the Archival Profession* goes beyond previous planning efforts in identifying the actors or agents to carry out specific objectives, setting timetables for implementation, and, to the extent possible, spelling out the financial cost to achieve each objective. Equally important, the report urges Council to adopt three-year action plans as a more systematic way of moving from discussion to implementation of its—or, for that matter, anyone else's—objectives. Finally, recognizing the dynamic nature of planning in an organization that relies so much on volunteers, CGAP made use of planning groups as a way to bring together archivists with related expertise to develop projects for consideration by council and the profession as a whole. Surprisingly, CGAP did not propose a mechanism for including the regional associations in the planning process, an untapped source of enormous potential value to the profession. In the long run, however, it is likely to be these proposals to institutionalize the planning process that will be remembered as CGAP's most important and lasting contribution to the profession.

Less successful, I think, is CGAP's attempt to outline an agenda for action by the profession. Building on the recommendations of the earlier report of the Task Force

on Goals and Priorities, five planning groups were established by CGAP in order to identify specific projects and activities for eight of the twelve priority objectives in the first GAP report. The five planning groups focused on appraisal, automated records, institutional evaluation and standards, management training, and the educational potential of archives. The quality of the five reports is uneven, but there are a number of specific recommendations (forty-four in all) by the five planning groups that deserve careful consideration by the profession. Moreover, twenty-eight of the forty-four recommendations could be implemented without the commitment of significant funds. Despite earnest efforts by CGAP to link actors to recommendations, too often the report poses problems and proposes actions, but provides only a wish list of possible actors, one of whom it is hoped will ride to the rescue and carry out a specific recommendation. For example, the report proposes that a documentation study be conducted on presidential papers. Despite my own initial reaction that there must surely be other areas of life more in need of a documentation study than the presidency, the report does make a compelling case for such a study. The problem is that the report's argument is undermined by its failure to charge a specific group or agency with carrying out this responsibility. This is not so much a criticism of CGAP, as a recognition of the difficulty in planning for a professional society with few resources beyond the good will of its members. Successful implementation of an "action agenda" is a matter of money as well as planning, and as long as resources for projects are limited to one or two sympathetic agencies, the portion of our agenda that is acted upon will depend more on the priorities of the funding agencies than it does on the priorities suggested by CGAP or council. One may not, as the saying goes, wish to look a gift horse in the mouth, but one ought to recognize that the horse may

not choose to run the race one hopes to win.

In addition, there are bound to be differences of opinion within the profession about which issues should receive the attention of a planning group—there is, for example, no planning group devoted specifically to archival standards, a matter of sufficient concern to Council that it established a Task Force on Standards (which has since become the SAA Archival Standards Board)—but it was CGAP's intention to build on the work of the previous GAP report in order to move the profession beyond ongoing debate toward the adoption of what it calls an action agenda. Moreover, the committee was aware of the dynamic way in which issues and priorities evolve in the profession and clearly tried to walk the fine line between its role in elevating the level of discourse within the profession and that of setting the agenda for the profession. In the words of the report, should CGAP "be both the composer of the music and the conductor of the orchestra? If it becomes too involved in conducting, will it lose sight of the music? On the other hand, if it is constantly refining the score, will it ever get around to giving a performance?" But it is precisely this tension between discourse and action that is an underlying problem with the report and a fundamental problem for the archival profession as well. The question remains: with limited resources, both human and financial, and no clear way to orchestrate the archival agenda, how can the profession address the many important needs and issues it currently faces? The CGAP report makes an important contribution toward an answer to these problems by outlining a process and procedures for addressing them, but the profession is still faced with the perplexing problem of how it can implement those programs it declares to be priorities.

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***Developing a Premier National Institution: A Report From the User Community to the National Archives.*** By Page Putnam Miller. Washington, DC: National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History, 1989. 39 pp. Paper.

***Information Needs in the Humanities: An Assessment.*** By Constance C. Gould, principal author. Stanford, CA.: Research Libraries Group, Inc., 1988. Appendixes. 62 pp. Paper.

So often the first step in the process of change is the preparation of a document by an individual or group that sets out in clear language a vision or a set of needs. One then hopes such documents will help form a consensus or at least a significant block of interested parties that will work to accomplish change and/or achieve the articulated vision. Though quite different in design, approach, and purpose, the document prepared by Page Miller and the other prepared primarily by Constance C. Gould fit this particular genre.

Readers of the *American Archivist* will be particularly interested in the document prepared by Page Miller. Though based on wide consultation, the Miller piece sets out a specific set of goals for the National Archives from the perspective of a particular set of constituents. Alarmed by the budget reductions at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) earlier in this decade, challenged by the prospect of NARA restored to fiscal health as an independent agency, and concerned for the need for specific goals for the future, the Miller report argues on behalf of "those who are analysts, reappraisers, and describers of the American experience to the American public." Miller argues that these constituents require the National Archives to think of itself not simply as a public agency serving a broad sector of the public interested in its past. Miller urges NARA to see itself as a premier institution for research, an active force in stimulating intel-

lectual exchange and in furthering the reexamination and reinterpretation of the American experience.

Her recommendation centers on two areas: staff and users. The report argues that NARA needs to take a systematic look at the needs of its users, particularly those whose work at the archives involves complex questions of interpretation or presentation. As a result of this analysis, she urges reexamination of reference tools, user instruction and orientation, the role of reference letters, and ultimately a reexamination of the mission of the archives.

On the staff side, she urges a separate career path that would recognize and promote staff who achieve a high level of knowledge about specific broad subject areas even though their responsibilities for supervision may be minimal. This represents a basic thrust in the report: archivists need to be encouraged to learn as much about the records they work with as possible. Through this knowledge, they should be able to participate fully in and contribute significantly to the process of research and intellectual exchange.

Miller's document is obviously based on an academic model and it recalls, though not explicitly, that unlike the archives of most other countries, the National Archives of the United States was born out of the needs of the research community, not administrative requirements. The Miller report issues a broad and strong challenge to the National Archives. If the goals of the report are not ultimately achieved, the problems may lie in three areas: (1) bureaucratic resistance is strong to any sort of change; (2) the constituencies most receptive to this vision are small relative to the total constituency seen by NARA as its base; and (3) the academic model proposed is distinctly outside the tradition of the federal bureaucracy. Though the vision may not materialize in all its facets, Dr. Miller has prepared a bold, well-articulated, and

imaginative challenge to the premier archival institution in the United States. All archivists who have aspirations for their institutions beyond what is currently possible should read this document, engage its ideas, and rejoice in its spirit.

The document prepared by Constance Gould is broader in its conception. Its purpose is to obtain a general sense of the shape of eight disciplines in the humanities and the arts so as to guide the activities of the Research Libraries Group's Program for Research Information Management (PRIMA). Based on interviews with 103 individuals, the report examines the information needs of the disciplines within the context of research patterns and trends.

The conclusion of the report obviously supports the concept of a sophisticated interactive database. The report emphasizes an increased interest in interdisciplinary research, the need for younger scholars to have access to a broad range of bibliographic citations, and the need for more sophisticated databases that will encompass information on sources for "low" or "pop" culture. Archivists will be pleased to see that the report emphasizes the preference on the part of scholars interviewed for information on primary materials over secondary. This finding underscores the importance of the RLIN AMC database and the more general point that access to obscure, unique materials remains a continuing need of the scholarly community.

The Gould report provides a very concise and useful general introduction to current research patterns in the humanities. From that perspective alone it is worth reading. Moreover, it defines in a subtle way the evolving role of the research library in humanities research. The author suggests that if the full potential of this role were realized the results would be better libraries and better research. The report lists a dazzling array of present and potential source material for scholarly use. The challenge, it seems, is to get scholars better

acquainted with the extraordinary research tools available to them.

In both reports, the authors paint the possibilities in broad strokes. They challenge existing institutions to become more than they are. The ultimate success of these two impressive efforts can only be measured by the degree, seriousness, and imagination of specific institutional responses.

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***Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the USSR: Ukraine and Moldavia. Book 1. General Bibliography and Institutional Directory.*** By Patricia Kennedy Grimsted. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1988. Appendixes, indexes. liii, 1,107 pp. ISBN 0-691-05391-X (v. 1). \$125.00. ©

***A Handbook for Archival Research in the USSR.*** By Patricia Kennedy Grimsted. Princeton, NJ: The International Research and Exchanges Board; Washington, DC: The Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, 1989. Appendixes, index. xxxiv, 430 pp. Available from IREX, 126 Alexander St., Princeton, NJ 08540-7102. \$14.95 + \$5.00 shipping and handling.

Dr. Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, who is a research associate at the Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard University, and a fellow of Harvard's Russian Research Center, has added the above two titles to her indispensable *Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the USSR: Moscow and Leningrad* (1972); *Supplement 1. Bibliographical Addenda* (1976); and *Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the USSR: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Belorussia* (1981). Quite simply, nothing has been published in the USSR or elsewhere that compares with Grimsted's work in scope. *Spravochnik nauchnogo rabotnika: Arhivy, dokumenty, issledovatel'*, by IU. M. Grossman and V. N. Kutik, 2nd ed. (Lviv:

Vyshcha shkola, 1983), is the closest competitor but is, at 499 pages, obviously much less comprehensive in its coverage.

*A Handbook for Archival Research in the USSR* is designed to serve as an introduction to the Soviet archival system for those planning research trips to the USSR, especially to aid them in writing research proposals that will survive the scrutiny of the Soviet officials who are empowered to grant or deny archival access. Access to Soviet archives for Western scholars has improved somewhat over the last few decades. Grimsted's experience, however, demonstrates clearly that *glasnost*, while stimulating much discussion in the Soviet Union of the need to open up archives to set the historical record straight, has not yet made significant inroads. Careful attention to the information Grimsted provides, and quite a bit of luck, are necessary if prospective researchers are to gain access to at least some of the documents needed for their research.

The *Handbook* describes facilities, rules, and working conditions in Soviet archives that Western researchers would most likely visit; therefore, the *Handbook's* bibliography and directory sections are much more selective than those in the *Archives and Manuscripts Repositories* volume. The entries for Moscow and Leningrad in the *Handbook* also serve to update, but do not replace, Grimsted's 1972 volume.

In the *Handbook*, Grimsted compares Soviet with European and American archival practice, discussing, for instance, how Soviet archival terminology relates to that in use in the United States. She provides an excellent brief introduction to the Soviet archival system for American archivists, with bibliographic citations to Soviet works on archival functions such as arrangement and description for those wishing to study the system in depth. The comparative approach also enables Grimsted to point out which difficulties in using Soviet archives can be attributed to the Soviet political sys-

tem and which to the difficulties inherent in doing archival research anywhere. For instance, in the Soviet Union a repository may be open to Western researchers, yet the vital finding aids needed to do effective research in that repository may be unpublished and open only to the archival staff.

*Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the USSR: Ukraine and Moldavia, Book 1* has basically the same format as the earlier volumes: a general bibliography and reference aids section and a directory section. All entries in both sections are annotated and include English translations of the titles of the bibliographies and names of the repositories. The bibliographic citations, many to pre-revolutionary publications, include not only monographs but bibliographies that appeared as journal articles and chapters in monographs as well. These bibliographies, many of which were originally printed in very small runs, are available on microfiche from Inter Documentation Company of Zug, Switzerland. Some are available in American libraries as noted. The directory section has subsections on the Ukrainian repositories in Kiev, Lviv, Kharkiv and other regional centers, and on those in the Moldavian SSR. Grimsted narrates the history of each archives, including name changes; describes major collections; notes examples of important documents transferred, lost, or destroyed in World War II and earlier upheavals; and provides a bibliography of guides and finding aids specific to each archives. Included are not only those archives and manuscript repositories under the control of the Main Archival Administration, but also those administered by the Communist Party and the Academies of Science and those in museums and libraries administered by the Ministries of Culture. An appendix includes procedural information of the type covered in the *Handbook*; another appendix contains a table of the geographic names needed for using this volume, with their variants in relevant languages. The volume concludes with sepa-

rate author, title, and subject indexes. There is also a helpful map.

The price of this guide, while understandable given its size, regrettably places it out of reach of many individuals. Every library supporting at least a master's program in Russian, Soviet, and East European studies; all manuscript repositories with any East European holdings; and library schools offering courses in archival administration cannot afford to be without it and the earlier volumes, all of which are still in print.

*Book 2* is due to be published soon. It will include a history of recordkeeping and archival practice in pre-revolutionary and Soviet Ukraine and Moldavia, a supplement to the bibliography to take it past the first volume's cut-off date of 1984, a comparative glossary of Soviet and Western archival terms, and a description of the numerous territorial and administrative changes in this region that have caused so many transfers of archival materials.

Dr. Grimsted spent sixteen years in preparing her guide to archives in Ukraine and Moldavia. During that time she also served on a number of committees attempting to improve access to Soviet archives. She certainly deserves the gratitude of all those in the Soviet and East European field for her untiring efforts on both these fronts.

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***Records of the Presidency: Presidential Papers and Libraries from Washington to Reagan.*** By Frank L. Schick with Renee Schick and Mark Carroll. Phoenix: The Oryx Press, 1989. Bibliography, index. xv, 309 pp. \$49.95. Cloth. ISBN 0-89774-277-X.

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"History will vindicate my memory," said former President James Buchanan the day before he died in 1868. Unfortunately, this methodical recordkeeper and lawyer botched his will as well as his presidency,

and his carefully accumulated papers suffered severely during nearly thirty years of litigation.

Frank Schick offers many such tales as part of "the story of presidential papers from their origin to their places of deposit, and a comprehensive guide to their contents and to bibliographic references to them." The heart and bulk of the book are thirty-nine set pieces, each consisting of a school-text biographical sketch, a chronicle of the collection's provenance and the founding of any facility for them, and a very vague description of the papers themselves.

The provenance accounts are readable and satisfy one's initial curiosity about the fates of presidential papers. While admittedly relying heavily on Library of Congress published finding aids as his sources for many presidents, Schick used interviews and archival sources to add new information on the founding of presidential libraries. In this sense, Schick's is a better and more detailed book than Fritz Veit's *Presidential Libraries and Collections* (1987). In other respects, however, Veit's very basic survey is preferable because it tries to address larger issues.

Unfortunately, Schick's tales are more chronicle than history. Events and presidents follow one another without larger context, causality, or consequence. The author barely acknowledges changes in record-keeping technology, the development of a White House bureaucracy, altered norms of confidentiality and privacy, or the emergence of the president's spouse as a public figure and records creator.

Most other sections of the book are poorly executed or strangely extraneous, although the chapter on presidential libraries legislation is a handy summary. A chapter on presidential book collections becomes a survey of historic sites that may or may not have books. The appendix on the modern White House filing system is valid only to the early 1960s, not beyond as suggested. The chapter entitled "Guides to Presiden-

tial Records" is a very incomplete review of guides, documentary publications, and bibliographic tools. Both the general and the individual president bibliographies are random rather than selective. Collection descriptions are so general and quantity-oriented as to be useless. The omission of even depository telephone numbers and hours suggests how poorly served is the scholar seeking research help. Any presidential researcher should turn instead to Robert Goehlert and Fenton Martin's excellent *The Presidency: A Research Guide* (1985).

What went wrong with this book? It appears from the introduction that Mr. Schick endeavoured to satisfy a longstanding and essentially antiquarian curiosity about the history of presidential papers. Neither he nor his co-authors has expertise in archives or presidential research. The Oryx Press, however, is marketing the book as a reference tool for archival and presidential research professionals. "New Single-Volume Reference Provides Access to Presidential Records," headlines the Oryx news release. It is a tall order for a short book, and the author has succeeded in his own agenda much better than the publisher in his.

DAVID HORROCKS  
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***From Warehouse to Powerhouse: Toward an Archival System in Ontario.*** Edited by Anne MacDermaid. Ontario: Ontario Council of Archives, 1989. Bibliography, appendix. 57 pp. ISBN 0-9693786-0-2.

The North American archival community has given considerable attention in recent years to program analysis, needs assessment, agenda setting, and production of long-term planning reports advocating stronger programs. *From Warehouse to Powerhouse* is an ambitious publication that fits this pattern. In the words of the foreword, it "analyzes the archival infrastructure of Ontario and presents recom-

mendations which could lead to a more secure future for existing archives, and to the further development of archival facilities and services."

The report is systematic and includes: a discussion of what makes up an archival program; executive summary; discussion of the importance of archives; a profile of Ontario's archival programs, based on an extensive needs survey; an archival development strategy statement that addresses key province-wide issues of resources, cooperation, conservation, the place of professional organizations, and the role of government; a section on "the challenge" that discusses the role of sponsoring institutions and society in general for support of archival programs; and a bibliography.

The report's thirty-nine recommendations, which are presented succinctly in the executive summary, are addressed to a broad audience in Ontario and beyond. Accordingly, the recommendations are grouped under headings that include individual archivists, archival programs (covering financial support, professional standards, and institutional standards), users, archival associations, records creators and sponsors of archives, the Ontario government, and federal agencies. The only significant issue that is not directly addressed is the emerging challenge of archival management of electronic records and other products of technological change.

Indeed, if *From Warehouse to Powerhouse* has a fault, it is that it tries to address too diverse a set of issues, calls for too many actions, and does not set clear priorities. Archivists will probably agree with most of its recommendations, but they and other people in the diverse audience to which it is addressed will ask: "What is most important? What should be done first? How shall we separate immediate from long-term considerations?" The Ontario Council on Archives, having produced a comprehensive, encompassing report, now has the challenge of convincing a broad array of

individuals, programs, and government agencies to take action on its ambitious recommendations.

*From Warehouse to Powerhouse* is a commendable report. It is worth reading by anyone concerned with archival planning on a state, provincial, or national level. In the coming years, it is to be hoped that the OCA will keep its archival colleagues informed of their progress in pursuing the report's recommendations.

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***Managing Archives and Archival Institutions.*** Edited by James Gregory Bradsher, with a forward by Frank B. Evans. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989. Bibliography, index. xvi, 304 pp. ISBN 0-226-07054-9.

Utilizing the talents and expertise of seventeen well-known archival colleagues, James Gregory Bradsher has drawn together an integrated collection of essays addressing the needs of modern records. The work is directed primarily to archivists and archival administrators but is written in a style and manner that will be easily understood by information professionals in allied professions, other administrators, scholars, and others wishing to gain a better understanding of the current state of archives. The work focuses on modern records and excludes topics primarily of interest to those dealing with pre-twentieth-century materials.

Commencing with a brief history of archives, the book discusses the more traditional archival functions, such as records management, appraisal, and description, as well as the management of more particular kinds of records, including archives, personal papers, and cartographic, architectural and audio-visual archives. Sections on machine-readable records and new automation techniques address issues of mod-

ern technology and advanced information techniques, particularly as they relate to information storage and computerized access to information and collections. William W. Moss gives a particularly perceptive treatment of the values and problems inherent in the preservation of both oral history and oral tradition. The latter part of the book deals with overall concerns such as security, preservation, and public programs, and contains a consistent internal theme of integrating each of these processes into the day-to-day operations and concerns of archival staff.

The physical arrangement of the book is clean and attractive. Bold-faced headings and clear, jargon-free narratives make each section easy to read and facilitate the location of pertinent information by readers who choose not to read the book from cover to cover. Each essayist has developed the assigned topic well and as completely as is possible in a work that seeks to give an overall view rather than focus on any one topic. The topics, especially in the earlier chapters, are developed consistently, making it easy to compare how different formats are appraised, arranged, and described. The consistency is a tribute to the talents of each writer and the skill of the editor. Each author contributed additional sources that combine to form an extensive 26-page bibliography covering the best of modern archival thought and practice.

All but two of the essayists were drawn from public sector archives, yet the collective work pertains as well to proper practice for private records or personal papers. As Megan Desnoyers notes, the distinctions between archives and manuscript collections become increasingly blurred as archives gather some personal papers and oral histories to buttress the official record and institutions that started as manuscript collections take on the character and practice of the better archival programs.

The book does an excellent job of capturing the best in modern archival practice

and theory. It should provide the archival student and apprentice archivist with an excellent survey of the current state of archival affairs. While the book can serve as a text on the introduction of archives, it would be a mistake to conclude that its audience consists solely of those relatively new to the profession. The consistent emphasis from almost every author is upon the concerns that most practicing archivists face each day. As one long interested in the concept of information/records triage, I particularly noted Desnoyers' use of the concept of "adaptive processing" that seeks to weigh use, importance, effort required, and staff resources in deciding the depth of processing for any series of records. The sections on security, preservation, public programs, and exhibits stress the need to plan, set priorities, and focus effort and resources—all critical to good management, but often overlooked in the hustle and bustle of everyday management.

The last two chapters shift away from specific archival functions to address concerns of archival management and effectiveness on the program level. Michael J. Kurtz focuses on organizational concerns such as planning, budgeting, measurement, and personnel. The final essay by Bradsher is less descriptive of current practice and more an exhortation to embrace modern management practices, using specific examples of traditional management responsibilities such as planning and organizing. Bradsher's comment about the need for more leadership and less bureaucratic management struck a responsive chord. Both essayists supplied a list of additional readings, balancing archival literature with current management literature.

In sum, the book provides an excellent overview of good archival practice for students, journeymen archivists, and those seeking a more global view of the profession as it stands today. It is also good reading for those seasoned archivists seeking to remind themselves of the best practice in

the profession with which they can compare their own programs.

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***The Library: A Guide to the LDS Family History Library.*** Edited by Johni Cerny and Wendy Elliott. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1988. Appendix, index. xi, 763 pp. Cloth. \$32.95. ISBN 0-916489-21-3.

This compendium, modestly priced for its size, should be useful for both historians and genealogists. One tenet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is the belief that baptism and other ordinances may be performed by proxy for deceased ancestors. As a result, the Mormons have amassed the largest genealogical library in the world. The facilities of this library in Salt Lake City and those of its more than 750 family history centers elsewhere in the United States and Canada (and 250 more abroad) are made freely available to researchers outside the Mormon faith. This guide, the work of thirteen Utah genealogists, is not an official publication of the library. It is, however, authored by experienced and knowledgeable users, and the chapters containing an overview of the facility and a description of its ordering, photoduplication, and other services are written by the manager of the Family History Centers Support at the library. The rapid growth of the social history field in the last two decades and increased realization of the importance of biographical and local history sources have reinforced the need for historians to use the same materials long mined by genealogists. This guide will greatly facilitate the use of Mormon resources by researchers of all stripes.

Explicit about liabilities as well as strengths, *The Library* provides entre to both the Mormon holdings and their various databases. Descriptions and valuable tips on use are offered for the International Genealogical Index (IGI), the Family History

Library Catalog (FHLC), and a variety of other finding aids as well as for holdings from centers all over the world, ranging from Albania to Zimbabwe. Because primary access is through the automated Family History Library Catalog, which is available on microfiche at the branch family history centers, the guide is arranged under its classification scheme.

More than 300 pages of the guide are devoted to the United States. Almost 450,000 of the nearly 1,400,000 reels of records and publications microfilmed by the Mormons have their origin in the U.S. Thirty-five percent of that total is from the six states of New York, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Ohio. With the exception of New England, where coverage is first by category and then by state, there is state-by-state treatment. A brief "Historical Background" in the form of a chronology and a few paragraphs on "Settlement and Migration" are followed by discussion of sources under the major subject headings from the Family History Library Catalog. County-level charts indicating the presence of holdings under these headings follow. Although the introduction to the "Old South" section indicates that "the dates each county was created are included on the charts," they are not. Glitches like this were perhaps inevitable in a production of this ambition and size.

The guide offers poor and outdated cov-

erage of access tools to archival repositories, and this would seem in part to reflect the holdings of the library. The "Archives and Libraries" section of the "Introduction to the United States Collection" urges researchers to contact local historical or genealogical societies and libraries; it lists directories for those agencies but makes no further mention, other than in the section title, of archives. The "Genealogical Collections" section of the same introduction calls the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections* an "extremely important catalog which lists numerous family papers and unpublished manuscript collections," but the National Historical Publications and Records Commission's *Directory of Archives and Manuscripts Repositories in the United States* appears only in the unindexed appendix that lists the core collection of genealogical reference works available on microfiche at the branch libraries. Though many quite recent genealogical publications are included, listings of repository guides are frequently lacking or out-of-date. If the mother lode for one of our principal bodies of users still relies on superseded, more than forty-year-old guides to collections such as those at Duke and Chapel Hill, what does that say about the state of our national finding aid system?

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## Briefly Noted

As European nations prepare in 1992 to open their borders to free economic exchange, the opportunities for cooperation in other areas have also increased. The Commission of the European Communities has published a *Guide to the Archives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member States, of the European Communities and of the European Political Cooperation* (Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1989). It is seen as the "first tangible result of broad-ranging cooperation giving priority to the European context." Cooperation in other areas—training, information exchanges, standardization—are anticipated in the coming years. The 78-page guide presents the results of a survey of archives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of twelve European nations and of nine European institutions (e.g., the European Parliament, Council of the European Communities). Standardized information is provided on the location of services, access conditions, duplication, major record groups, and finding aids.

The second edition of the British equivalent to the NHPRC *Directory* has recently been published. *British Archives: A Guide to Archive Resources in the United Kingdom* by Janet Foster and Julia Sheppard provides basic information on 1,048 archives in Britain, which represents a 50 percent increase over the listings in the first edition (reviewed in the Fall 1985 *AA*). The 834-page volume is available from Stockton Press, 15 East 26 St., New York, NY 10010 for \$130.00.

*The American Field Service Archives of World War I, 1914-1917*, compiled by L. D. Geller (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1989. ☉) is a guide to the holdings of the AFS archives which document the role of volunteer American ambulance drivers

serving with the French armies in World War I. It contains series descriptions, a history of the AFS, an essay on sources, and box and folder lists. The volume is enhanced by the addition of more than fifty previously unpublished photographs, drawings, and an index to correspondents. The three-column layout throughout the text and the lack of boldface headings in the series descriptions make this attractive volume difficult to use. At \$49.95, the 144-page guide is fairly pricey.

*The Papers of Martin Van Buren: Guide and Index to General Correspondence and Miscellaneous Documents* is the guide to the microfilm edition of Van Buren's papers. Funded in part by NHPRC, supported by Pennsylvania State University, and published by Chadwyck-Healey, the microfilm edition brings together approximately 13,000 documents from more than 260 different locations, with the Library of Congress supplying the lion's share. Editor Lucy Fisher West has provided a biographical sketch, a description of the project and editorial procedures, and detailed reel notes on the two series: Correspondence and General Papers (50 reels) and Martin Van Buren's Autobiography and Miscellaneous Documents (5 reels). A 43-page index to correspondents and subjects directs the researcher to citations by reel number and date. Individual entries are divided into letters to and from Van Buren.

*Genealogical Resources of the Minnesota Historical Society: A Guide* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1989. ☉) is a 63-page listing of the Society's resources in more than fifty subject areas useful in genealogical research. The majority of the entries are for record types—veterans' records, passenger ship lists, directories—but there are some references and cross references for subjects such as Jewish-Americans, artists, and American Indians. Each entry includes information on

the contents of available resources, their location, and means of access. The lack of running headers for those subjects with multi-page descriptions makes this volume somewhat difficult to use. The paperback book sells for \$5.95 and is available from the MHS Order Department, 1500 Mississippi St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

The Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-Rolla has produced a *Guide to the Historical Records of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company, and Its Predecessor, Subsidiary and Constituent Companies*. This guide describes material from 183 railroad corporations, construction firms, and development companies that were part of the Frisco system. Each entry appears under the corporate name of the individual firm, which is fine for those with one or two entries but less than helpful for the 155 entries under St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Company. Information on type of record, size, date spans, and a brief contents

description is also included. The volume ends with a helpful index to individuals, firms, places, and select subjects. A limited number of copies are available for \$10.00 postpaid from WHMC, Curtis Laws Wilson Library, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, Mo. 65401-0249.

*Sci-Tech Libraries Serving Zoological Gardens*, edited by Ellis Mount (New York: The Haworth Press, 1988), was also published as vol. 8, no. 4 of *Science & Technology Libraries*. The volume is "the only book available that attempts to address the general lack of information about zoo libraries." In addition to describing in detail libraries serving six American zoos, it reports the results of a survey made of seventy-eight zoo libraries. Of that number, thirty-two report that they contain archival collections; four of the archives are cared for by an archivist, fourteen by a librarian; eleven archival collections are cataloged; five are being "restored"; and two are being "studied."

**SELECTED RECENT  
PUBLICATIONS**

*The Alienated Librarian.* By Marcia J. Nauratil. New Directions in Information Management, No. 20. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, Inc., 1989. Bibliography, index. 139 pp. \$35.00. ☺

*An American Prophet's Record. The Diaries and Journals of Joseph Smith.* Edited by Scott H. Faulring. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1989. Chronology, bibliography, index. 534 pp. Paper. \$9.95.

*The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia: Entry Books of Commissions, Powers, Instructions, Leases, Grants of Land, Etc. by the Trustees, 1732-1738, Volume 32.* Edited by Kenneth Coleman. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1989. Index. 298 pp. \$35.00. ☺

*Creative Planning of Special Library Facilities.* Edited by Ellis Mount. Volume 1 in the Haworth Series in Special Librarianship. New York: The Haworth Press, 1988. Index. 197 pp. \$29.95.

*The Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace: Seventy-five Years of Its History.* By Peter Duignan. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution, 1989. 95 pp. Paper. \$5.00.

*Introduction to Automation for Librarians.* By William Saffady. Second Edition. Chicago: American Library Association, 1989. Index. 363 pp. ☺

*The Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower: NATO and the Campaign of 1952. Volumes XII and XIII.* Edited by Louis Galambos. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989. Index. 1,707 pp. ☺