

REVIEWS

BARBARA L. CRAIG, editor

The First Generation of Electronic Records Archivists in the United States: A Study in Professionalization. Richard J. Cox. New York: Haworth Press, 1994. xix, 220 pp. Index. ISBN: 1-56024-664-8. Available from the Society of American Archivists. \$35.00, Members; \$40.00, Non-Members. ☺

Preserving the Present: Toward Viable Electronic Records. T.K. Bikson and E.J. Frinking. The Hague: Sdu Publishers, 1993. 169 pp. ISBN: 90-399-0498-7.

Few issues alternately exhilarate and depress late-twentieth-century archivists more than electronic records and technological change. As a profession, we have an unsettling sense of being at the crossroads: can we harness and control the new technologies to satisfy a seemingly insatiable social demand for better, faster, and more accurate information, or will we be reduced to bit players in the information society, pursuing a pleasantly antiquarian, if marginalized, existence? Baby-boomer archivists, who came of age banging out term papers on manual typewriters and marvelling at the sophistication of such video games as "Pong," now face mid-career crises in the age of digitization. Richard Cox's jeremiad may stimulate some to contemplate early retirement. Bikson and Frinking provide more hope for the future, but their international perspective largely confirms Cox's pessimism. Considered together, these works offer a sobering state-of-the-art survey that may constitute a call to action or may simply chronicle inaction.

Cox cheerfully characterizes his study as "largely an analysis of false starts, wrong approaches, experimentation, poor professional priorities, inadequate leadership, and other problems" (p. 4). Casting his net widely, Cox systematically analyzes three decades of professional literature, fifteen years of job advertisements in the SAA Newsletter, current state government archives position descriptions, graduate archival education program curricula, and the results of several two-week government archives institutes held at the University of Pittsburgh. Depressing conclusions ensue. Archival literature "seems to lack consensus on the nature of the impact of electronic records on archival theory and practice" (p. 25). State government archives appear "not thoroughly equipped to function in the modern information era," and their employees "look more like passive curators in information museums, rather than information professionals playing crucial roles" (p. 93). Archival employers require more "computer literacy" and familiarity with automated descriptive techniques, but "very little (if any) information technology-oriented training experience" (p. 124). Graduate archival educators have largely failed to incorporate electronic records issues into their programs, and "there is little commitment to introducing archival automation or the management of electronic records to graduate archival students" (p. 142).

Perhaps Cox's most troubling conclusion is that these problems are merely symptomatic of larger professional and structural ills. A paucity of theoretically sophisticated

research, a reluctance to question such basic archival concepts as “original record” and “centralized repository,” and an ingrained conservatism concerning the impact of information technology have restricted archivists’ ability to grapple with the changing information environment. The “lone arranger” syndrome has produced archival generalists who lack the specialized training and expertise to address automation within their own institutions. Educational programs present an isolated lecture or a workshop on electronic records, but fail to incorporate the more intensive training necessary for information specialists. Institutions too often view archives as relatively marginal entities, outside the organizational mainstream, and fail to require adequate technological expertise from archival employees. Ultimately and implicitly, Cox questions whether humanities-based training can produce individuals sufficiently knowledgeable about information systems to function in the information society.

Clearly, Richard Cox has produced a stimulating study. It will challenge, provoke, infuriate, and unsettle the profession. All of this is basically good, and I agree with much of his argument. As history, however, I found the whole a bit less than the sum of its parts and a few caveats are in order. The *First Generation of Electronic Records Archivists in the United States* pays remarkably little attention to the concept of “generation.” The phrase apparently derives from an essay review by Terry Cook in the pages of *Archivaria*, and Cox appears to equate the “first generation” with pre-1991 archivists. Considering the developmental peculiarities of the profession, the proliferation of institutional programs and educational offerings in the late 1970s, broader demographic trends in American society, and the history of information science itself, I wonder whether this periodization makes sense. A more nuanced profile of modern archivists, which accounts for age, training, experience, career patterns, and institutional affiliation, might reveal some important demographic distinctions between sophisticated hackers and technological slackers. As Cox would undoubtedly agree, it is remarkable how little we know about ourselves as a profession.

A further limitation involves the evidence. Civil service position descriptions, job advertisements, and syllabi may not reflect the reality of actual work within institutions. Cox acknowledges the problem (pp. 81–83), but the notion that archival responsibilities remain fixed in pre-computer time may owe simply to bureaucratic inertia, administrative sloth, and a failure to revise dated material. Finally, the book focuses primarily on governmental and academic institutions, but touches only lightly on corporations and records managers. This private archival sector, which operates largely outside the parameters of the Society of American Archivists, may well be quietly leading the way on the technological frontier. Business archives accounted for less than 4 percent of the archival position advertisements in the study, and most corporate archivists appear more oriented toward the Association of Records Managers and Administrators. Cox notes that “information technology has a high profile” among records managers. Although the author suggests that records management responsibilities “are still largely traditional and oriented to paper-based information systems,” his only supportive evidence involves two brief *Records Management Quarterly* articles from the early 1980s. Perhaps the unfortunate historical split between records managers and archivists will prove most damaging in the effort to develop a coherent strategy for electronic records. Certainly, practices within corporate archives remain mysteriously understudied and virtually absent from the archival literature.

T.K. Bikson and E.J. Frinking’s slender study (fifty-nine pages excluding appendices and acknowledgments) perfectly complements Cox’s findings. Commissioned by the National Archives and the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Netherlands and conducted by

the European branch of the RAND Corporation, *Preserving the Present* addresses the problems faced by governments in managing machine-readable records. The authors conducted literature searches, interviewed representatives of various Dutch governmental entities, and visited national archives in Canada, the United States, Germany, and Sweden in order to craft their report.

Perhaps the authors' most intriguing conclusion involves the notion that organizational culture, rather than technology, remains the principal obstacle in managing electronic records. Technology specialists appear consensually committed to open systems principles, agree that optical storage is likely to become an archival medium, and optimistically believe that archival concerns can be addressed. Organizational problems prove much more complex. Automation both complemented and accelerated changes in the workplace during the 1980s. Dutch agencies, similar to many public and private institutions in North America, now operate in a much more decentralized and autonomous environment. Power is shared and delegated, and records management is intended to support primary business activities. Yet, legislation and policies have lagged behind structural change. Questions still exist concerning whether electronic information constitutes an "official" record. Archivists have not successfully built the necessary alliances with information systems staff to implement systematic machine-readable records management plans. Dual information systems are maintained, as paper coexists with electronic data. Many agencies have marginalized records management operations, viewing them as paper-based backwaters, and have ignored the somewhat dated rules and regulations emanating from their offices. The proliferation of electronic records requires that archivists carefully master and manipulate their own institutional cultures, and intelligently use their organizational knowledge to place their interests front and center. The stakes are higher than ever.

Bikson and Frinking also provide some interesting fodder for archival theorists. Arguing that "most key constructs from archival theory need revisiting" (p. 67), they question traditional definitions of such sacrosanct archival concepts as "record," "centralized repository," "permanence," and "provenance." Further, the authors hint that traditional appraisal and records management scheduling practices may be irrelevant for electronic records. They tentatively endorse a mission-based appraisal strategy, whereby agencies and archivists collaborate to determine "the processes critical to [the agencies'] missions and the tasks required to carry them out," and focus primarily on preserving "information needed to reconstruct the critical functions of government" (p. 34). This strikes me as a somewhat narrow definition of archival mission, but it illustrates once again the way in which electronic records are irrevocably altering archivists' terminology, theory, and thought.

Both of these books signal the fact that the electronic records revolution has arrived. They also raise the unsettling prospect that the battles may have been fought and the victor declared, while archivists and records managers have been keeping score silently on the sidelines. Each study suggests some ways that archivists might successfully seize the professional moment and inject their perspective into the electronic records arena. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion, however, that it will be a long and uphill struggle.

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The Archival Enterprise: Modern Archival Principles, Practices, and Management Techniques. Bruce W. Dearstyne. Chicago: American Library Association, 1992. xii, 298 pp. Index. ISBN: 0-8389-0602-8. \$55.00. ©

A comprehensive overview of theory and practice is the Holy Grail of the archival profession. As far back as 1912, outgoing Conference of Archivists chairman Herman V. Ames proposed a "Manual of Archival Economy." Although that project was never completed, during the past ten years a number of similar efforts, such as the *Modern Archives Reader*, *Keeping Archives*, and *Managing Archives and Archival Institutions* have been published and widely read. Bruce Dearstyne's *The Archival Enterprise* is the most recent to take up the unending quest to sandwich the gist of theory and practice between the covers of a single volume.

Dearstyne's stated audience is "history, library and information science, and archival studies students, people working in historical records programs, their supervisors, and other people." In other words, non-archivists, or soon-to-be archivists. To this end, in an effort to lead his audience through the complexities of archival practice, Dearstyne has organized the work in a "sequential manner, from an orientation to the field on through emerging challenges." The scheme is not much different from previous efforts, and it works well enough for the intended audience.

The book itself consists of eleven chapters. The first three include an introduction to the archival profession, a chapter on the different types of archival repositories, and one on "Historical Records Conditions and Needs." The next seven deal with "The Professional Nature of Archival Work," "Administering Historical Records Programs," "Identification and Selection," "Arrangement and Description," "Preservation," "Researcher Services," and "Promotional Marketing." The final chapter is entitled "Electronic Records: A Challenge for Archivists." Also included are a bibliography and three appendixes: the 1989 "Role Delineation" document describing the work of archivists, "A Sample Long-Range Plan and A Sample Annual Plan," and "Examples of Records Descriptions and Finding Aids."

Certain aspects of the book are quite good. The section dealing with program management will be useful to a variety of audiences and the chapter on "Promotional Marketing" will help to fill a longstanding gap in the current corpus of archival literature. Throughout the work, the author uses hypothetical settings such as the "Madison University Library" and the "City of Westlake Archives" as sidebars to illustrate particular points, such as how a sample acquisition policy might look. These serve as a good point of reference, and archival educators or workshop instructors may find them useful in constructing case study scenarios.

But, in the end, much has changed since 1912 and the task Dearstyne has taken on may no longer be either possible or desirable to complete. The particular audience he has chosen is a challenging one. Non-archivists, or those with little training or background, require a good deal of editorial care and understanding, including precision in the use of terminology in order to avoid confusion. They need a straightforward presentation that makes its points clearly without introducing unnecessary clutter. Students and supervisors are similar only in the sense that neither knows much about the archival enterprise. Beyond this, each needs different information and a different level of specificity, and *The Archival Enterprise* does not always meet these needs very well.

For example, the use of terminology is frequently inconsistent and haphazard. In the introduction, "historical records" are defined in terms of "both archives and manuscripts"

before either of the latter two terms have, themselves, been defined or distinguished from one another. The chapter on "Historical Records Programs" begins by defining two types: institutional and collecting programs. Then, in the next paragraph, the author introduces, without definition, a "manuscripts program." Similar inconsistencies are common throughout the book.

Notwithstanding the author's kind words for the ALA editorial staff, the problem is further exacerbated by very poor editing. The author would have been better served had the final draft been subjected to a far more critical eye. Some of the most egregious examples of editorial lapses are in the chapter dealing with arrangement and description. Three lines into an essay on description we find a one-page sidebar on containers and shelving that ought to have been located in the chapter on preservation. On page 128, an explanation of the difference between library and archival practice tells the reader that archival records "often cover a single topic." But a sidebar on the same page contends that records "generally...do not have one single topic of focus." So which is it? In a similar way, a sidebar on page 133 illustrates the "Five Levels of Control" by listing six levels. To further confuse the issue, the previous page suggests yet another possible level called "information system" that is not listed in the sidebar. Experienced archivists will be able to sort through the underbrush and recognize the conceptual origin of the "five levels" framework, and they will be able to pick out the one level in the sidebar that is not traditionally included. Unfortunately, the intended audience will likely be left wondering whether there are, in fact, really seven groups, or five, or six.

Furthermore, some readers will quarrel with information that has been presented. Many in the preservation community will argue that the author is "soft on lamination." The sample qualifications for both an "archivist" and a "senior archivist" (p. 92) show a bachelor's degree as the normal minimum requirement, despite widespread and long-standing acceptance that a master's degree is the appropriate level of education. Is NUCMC really the "only central source of information about manuscript collections in the United States"? Why does the section "Certifying Archivists" need to be longer than "Chemistry, Environment, Humans," the section on the sources of preservation problems?

The index is likewise problematic and seems almost to have been an afterthought. It will be difficult for students and supervisors to find much of anything on such core topics as archival literature, legal aspects of archival work, encapsulation, holdings maintenance, or regional archival associations.

Perhaps most unfortunate, Dearstyne seemingly attempts to explain every nuance of archival work and leaves the reader with too strong a sense of the distinctions that separate one archivist from another, and too little understanding of what unites all of us as a profession. For example, after first presenting a simple, straightforward definition of an archivist (p. 3), we find a sidebar (p. 68) with three longer definitions of the same term. To what end? A brief section on archival "theory" (p. 14-17) might have laid the foundation on which the remainder of the text could have been grounded. But the disclaimer is longer than the explanation of theory itself. In the end the reader sees only a short summary of "five types of bedrock theory" which are, in fact, not so much theory as method.

The painstaking effort to describe differences also results in a good deal of repetition in the text that does not emphasize as much as it does reiterate points that have been previously made, and made well. Likewise, much of the information—such as that dealing with professional associations and archival literature—might have been better left to an

appendix, both for easier reference and for easier reading. Leaving such material in the text simply clutters the narrative and adds to the possibility of confusion.

Ultimately, any book that sets out to cover the waterfront of archival theory and practice probably needs to either be much longer or much shorter than this one. As it stands, the book has too much detail for someone looking for a quick overview, and it is not detailed enough for someone who intends to make a career of archives. Supervisors and administrators will likely find something like *Understanding Archives and Manuscripts* more to their liking. Students are better advised to work their way through the entire series of the SAA's *Archival Fundamentals* series.

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Archival Science on the Threshold of the Year 2000: Proceedings of the International Conference, Macerata, 3-8 September 1990. Edited by Oddo Bucci with the collaboration of Rosa Marisa Borraccini Verducci. Ancona, Italy: University of Macerata Press, 1992. Informatics and Documentation Series #2. 361 pp. ISBN: 88-7663122-4.

In recent years, European archival thinkers have been reaching out to the rest of the world. Through conferences, colloquia, and resultant books of essays (the latter often translated in whole or in part into English), archivists in the birthplace of Western archival thought are considering their profession anew. It is important that North American archivists read the results of these efforts. We too often hear assertions about some monolithic "European archival theory," usually with the premise that we should mend our heretical ways according to the monolith of theory being urged upon us. The not-surprising reality revealed by these recent works is that the European archival body of knowledge containing theory, strategy, methodology, and practice is anything but an assured monolith. It is a very rich, but also a very diverse body of knowledge. From the homelands of such classic archival theorists as Muller, Feith, Fruin, Jenkinson, Casanova, Duchein, and Brenneke, are now coming intellectual struggles with many of the same issues that also interest North American archivists—electronic records, appraisal, education, description, the relevance of theory to practice, and the relationship of archives to society and the societal shaping of archives. In Europe, moreover, there does not appear to be the defensive assertion of theoretical correctness sometimes heard in North America, but rather an openness to healthy questioning and constructive reformulation of our fundamental principles.

It could hardly be otherwise. Governments and corporations everywhere around the world are altering the way they do their business by the introduction of new organizational structures, new workplace relationships, new computer technologies, and new means of using and sharing information. Europeans recognize, as do North Americans, that these changes, in turn, have an enormous impact on how records are created and controlled in organizations. This fact forces our profession and our daily work as archivists to be re-conceptualized into post-custodial and post-modernist frameworks, as in the past it was conceptualized to reflect then-contemporary intellectual and social realities. Oddo Bucci eloquently states in his introduction to the present volume that these new societal changes "undermine habits and norms of conduct, involving a break with principles that have long governed the processes whereby archival records are created, transmitted, conserved and exploited. It is clear," he continues, "that radical innovations in archival practice are becoming increasingly incompatible with the continuance of a doctrine seeking to remain enclosed within the bulwarks of its traditional principles" (p. 11).

In surveying the history of the evolution of archival theory and those “traditional principles” (and no few of these authors see an important role for history in the education and work of the archivist), Bucci notes that our concepts must not be viewed as rigid, immutable, fixed for all time, but rather as a function of the time and place in which they are formulated. The great Italian archival theorist, Eugenio Casanova, for example, reflected the leading intellectual currents of his age when, in the 1920s, he “gave the discipline its empirical slant, constructed it as a descriptive science, and applied to it the imperative of positivist historiography, which aimed at the accumulation of facts rather than at the elaboration of concepts....” (p. 34). As positivist historiography and all the modernist trappings it represents have long been discredited, so, too, related archival principles (and practice) urgently need to be reconceptualized for a new era. Indeed, in Italy alone (other countries have their own unique historical evolution), the empiricism of Casanova has been modified by the conceptual idealism and societal theories of culture reflected in the work of Cencetti and Lodolini. Moreover, archival “science” has traditionally been based on analyses of problems of arrangement and description—as that is how Casanova, Jenkinson, and the Dutch trio of Muller, Feith, and Fruin viewed the archival world, as does the auxiliary science of diplomatics. That “science” dealt with records and the empirical “facts” contained in them as these records emerged from identifiable creators in stable structures performing clearly delineated functions. These records were also maintained in centralized registries where their arrangement and classification generally mirrored the organization’s mono-hierarchical internal structure. This no longer holds true in major governments, businesses, or other institutions. Accordingly, description-based archival science has been found wanting by archivists in an age of appraisal and electronic records challenges.

In this volume, coming from an international conference that was part of the celebrations of the 700th anniversary of the University of Macerata, where archives studies have been taught for over 100 years, participants from several countries gathered to discuss the fundamental issue begged by all the above assertions: What is—or should be—the nature, character, and purpose of “archival science on the threshold of the year 2000”? What concepts do we need to manage the records produced by this new society and its institutions? From the presentations, interventions, and discussions, seventeen papers were selected for publication; nine in English (including translation of the five Italian authors’ contributions), five in French, two in German, and one in Spanish. Three North American archivists (Richard Cox, Charles Dollar, and Kent Haworth) joined their largely European colleagues. The essays are grouped into four sections, following interesting introductory material on the history of archival ideas and archival education in Italy that is designed to set the framework, from one nation’s experience, for the issues that follow. The first section (the longest, with seven essays) explores archival principles in light of contemporary society; investigations of the legacy of the Dutch manual by Cornelius Dekker and of French archival developments by Bruno Dalmas are particularly informative. The three essays in the second section look at how national cultural policies affect archival activity; Richard Cox’s historical analysis of the archival interests of the United States federal government is very useful for its look at the “politics” behind archives in relation to the needs of the state, the demands and definitions of culture, and the impositions of other information policy (copyright, paperwork reduction, etc.). The three articles in the third section look at the use of computer technology within archives, and the subsequent changes in thinking; Angelika Menne-Haritz observes that computers can aid in establishing strong provenance-based linkages, but they also have tempted archivists into using subject key-

words and thesauri that can obscure, even destroy, essential contextual connections. The final section deals explicitly with the issue which is implicit in many of the others authors' pieces: theoretical developments and juridical problems raised by electronic records. Here Charles Dollar's pithy essay presents a very accessible summary of his book, *Archival Theory and Information Technology: The Impact of Information Technologies on Archives Principles and Methods*, also published by the University of Macerata Press. He explores how the traditional archival concepts of the record, original order, provenance, and the archival repository, and related archival activities of appraisal, arrangement and description, reference, and preservation, are all both radically altered and fundamentally preserved in the electronic era. The principles are neither entirely rejected nor complacently confirmed; rather, they are transformed from their literal and physical interpretation to a conceptual or virtual one.

Is there a conclusion to be reached concerning European ideas on archives? If Canadians have, in recent years, rediscovered the power of provenance, and Americans have joined them in the adventure, thereby acquiring a more conscious appreciation of relevance of theory to address modern archival problems, European archivists have made the same affirmation. Questioning the continued relevance of provenance to the challenges facing archives today, archivists from the birthplace of archival theory have felt the need to undertake this re-examination and reconceptualization repeatedly in recent years. North Americans might well take some comfort in this shared concern, and not be embarrassed by the enthusiasm of their own rediscoveries! More than a rediscovery, there is a transformation, reinterpretation, reconceptualization of archival principles going on around the world. This is not a mere tinkering or updating. As Bruno Delmas correctly observes, "l'archivistique est en train de vivre une métamorphose, la plus importante de son histoire" (p. 109). In this context, it is encouraging as well as useful for all members of the world-wide republic of archives to listen to each other rather than reinvent the wheel in their own national and institutional domains. To that end, this collection of essays is recommended reading.

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Electronic Information Resources and Historians: European Perspectives. Proceedings of a Workshop Held at the British Academy on 25 & 26 June 1993 and sponsored by the British Library Research and Development Department, The British Academy, and the International Association for History and Computing. Simultaneously published as British Library Report 6122. Edited by Seamus Ross and Edward Higgs. St. Katharinen, Germany: Max-Planck Institute, 1993. ISBN: 3-928134-95-7.

Electronic Recordkeeping: Issues and Perspectives. *Archives and Manuscripts: The Journal of the Australian Society of Archivists* 22/1 (May 1994) Edited by Glenda I. Acland. ISSN: 0157-6895

Electronic Evidence: Strategies for Managing Records in Contemporary Organizations. David Bearman. Pittsburgh: Archives & Museum Informatics, 1994. 314 pp. ISBN: 1-885626-08-8 Available from the Society of American Archivists. \$40.00, Members; \$45.00, Non-members.

Taken together, these three volumes contain a thought-provoking summary of recent developments in archival theory and practice for the management of electronic records.

Appropriately, in an era of global communication, the reader finds here a distillation of work from several continents. The only author who appears in more than one volume is the prolific David Bearman, reflecting his Schellenberg-like progress from the United States of America across the Pacific to Australia. Bearman's Australian seminars have clearly influenced archivists there, although many divergencies from (Bearman might call them perversions of) the Bearman methodology are evident in the articles in the themed volume of *Archives and Manuscripts*. By contrast, contributors to the European volume edited by Ross and Higgs seem isolated from their Australasian and North American colleagues. From the perspective of a British archivist, it is notable that few of the British contributors to this collection of papers are archivists. Although this may just be British reticence or a preference among British archivists to get on with the job rather than talk, it raises concerns that not many British archivists are even aware of the debate.

Electronic Information Resources and Historians: European Perspectives rightly emphasizes the crucial nature of the issues, but considers them mainly from the point of view of the user of archives—the historian, rather than the custodian—the archivist. The volume originated in a Conference of the International Association for History and Computing in 1992, and contains the collected papers of a workshop funded by the British Library Research and Development Department and held at the British Academy in 1993. The work has been edited by Seamus Ross and Edward Higgs, who are well-qualified for the task, since Ross combines archaeology, history, and computing in his academic work, while Higgs's career has taken him from the Public Record Office in London, where he was closely involved in plans to establish a central government data archive, to the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine in Oxford. Ross, in his introductory essay, suggests that, although the literature on electronic records is fairly extensive, it is written mainly by professional archivists working in central government in North America. This book therefore attempts to redress the balance by considering electronic records from the historian's perspective. It is divided into five main sections which address the Vantage of the Creators; Technology, Standards and Legal Issues; Archives and Libraries; The Outlook of the User Community; and The Future.

Because archivists tend to let the primacy of the record obscure their view of the user community's needs, it is instructive in the electronic context to listen to the expressed views of a selection of those users. However, for North American archivists seeking evidence of how their British colleagues approach the effective management of electronic records, Part 1 - the Vantage of the Creators, is the most relevant. There is a notable absence of British professional writing in this arena. There is no themed issue of the Society of Archivists' *Journal* concerning electronic records, there is no archival conference devoted to the subject (although there are plenty of technology-driven ones), and, unlike the Society of American Archivists, we have not adopted electronic records as a key objective for the 1990s. Nevertheless, there are some active and aware professionals concerned with electronic recordkeeping. Helen Simpson and Jean Samuel are two key thinkers: they are both traditionally trained archivists who have taken advantage of the opportunities offered by the technically developed environments in which they work to integrate information technology skills with their record-based skills. Helen Simpson's paper considers the impact of constant organizational change on electronic recordkeeping. Part of her solution is to involve records managers in systems design: as she points out, it is difficult to 'retrofit' records management controls. Jean Samuel focuses on electronic mail in the forms of business communication networks, bulletin boards and voice mail. She considers the issue of its status as a record and concludes that the value and manage-

ment of e-mail depends largely on the organizational context. Her paper includes an interesting case study of the role of electronic communication and laboratory notebooks in the scientific research environment.

Relatively few archivists have had either the technical skills or interest in computer-generated data; consequently, the initiative in electronic records has been taken by data archivists, such as those at the ESRC Data Archive at the University of Essex, England. For example, Denise Lievesley, its director, argues that flexible and speedy dissemination of datasets is essential to maximize their use by historians, and she considers the variety of access options available to achieve this result. A paper by Peter Doorn of the Netherlands Historical Data Archives illustrates how the techniques developed by social science data archives can be adapted for use in true administrative archives.

These contributors represent only the tip of the iceberg, and many other archivists, especially those in the business sector, are waking up to the fact that they must manage electronic records now, before there are no records left to manage. They are beginning to ask the right questions and develop strategies. Many of the seventy delegates at the June 1994 week-long summer school on electronic records held at University College, London, came because they knew they needed to find answers to crucial questions. Although many British archivists may still be at the stage of trying to formulate the questions, they can take advantage of accumulated international expertise in building practical responses that will work in a British archival context.

This review has focused on papers written by British archivists, but the volume contains many other articles of interest, including Doron Swade's exposition of a museum curator's approach to the preservation and study of computer software as a physical artifact, Claes Granstrom's discussion of Swedish freedom of information and privacy legislation and its implications for transborder data flow, and two papers that illustrate recent work being done in Moscow. The Society of American Archivists is acting as the distributor for this book in the United States.

David Bearman needs no introduction to an American audience. His *Electronic Evidence: Strategies for Managing Records in Contemporary Organizations* is a compilation of articles originally published between 1990 and 1994 in various journals and reports. For any archivist who has somehow managed to avoid reading Bearman's work before, this volume is an ideal place to start. The chapters are arranged thematically not chronologically, since the book is designed to mirror the theoretical methodology for electronic records management which Bearman has developed, rather than as a study in the development of Bearman's thoughts on the subject. It is remarkable how little the model has altered over the period represented here. Only details have been refined.

The book begins and ends with an exposition of the functional requirements for recordkeeping. The Appendix sets out the spring 1994 version of the functional requirements, which have been developed at the University of Pittsburgh in a project funded by the NHPRC. These should be studied by all archivists and, as Bearman says, are applicable to electronic and to manual systems. The early chapters of the book reiterate Bearman's definition of records as business transactions, his redefinition of provenance, and his insistence that archivists should focus on recordkeeping systems not on information systems. The next three sections of the book look at the four tactics which Bearman says must be used to satisfy the functional requirements: policy, design and implementation, and standards. Any archivist seeking to manage office utilities (such as wordprocessing or electronic mail) will find both theoretical frameworks and practical advice in these chapters. Chapter Five is a helpful summary of the key issues which need to be understood by those

managing the electronic office. Chapter 4 draws out the archival issues raised by 'the Profs case' concerning White House e-mail. In later chapters, archival practices, such as descriptive standards and diplomatics, are discussed critically in the electronic context. Throughout the book, Bearman challenges archivists to reassess themselves, to test their fundamental principles to see if they are robust in the changed landscape of the electronic environment and, if necessary, to reinvent themselves to meet the new challenges. Not all archivists will agree with Bearman's conclusions, but all should be aware of his arguments.

Chapter 6 'Managing Electronic Mail' was originally published in the themed volume of *Archives and Manuscripts: The Journal of the Australian Society of Archivists*. Glenda Acland, archivist at the University of Queensland, Australia, was the guest editor for the special issue, *Electronic Recordkeeping: Issues and Perspectives*. Bearman was very influential in the appearance of this volume, since it originated in a two-week workshop on electronic information systems led by Bearman at Monash University in June 1993. The majority of the articles are case studies of developmental work in a variety of Australian archives. The national archives, the Australian Archives, is well represented. Dagmar Parer and Keith Parrott suggest that existing approaches are inadequate in the electronic records environment. The extended intellectual controls used by the librarian/records manager to manage paper records, the computer science approach devised to manage transactional databases, and the un-managed PC environment are all considered to be lacking. The writers set out their strategy, which defines records as part of an overall information management methodology. Greg O'Shea reviews the Australian Archives' appraisal process from the War Archives Committee of 1942, through Schellenberg, to the present. He concludes that fundamental changes brought about by the characteristics of electronic records have improved appraisal processes for all government records, regardless of their form. Adrian Cunningham's article addresses the less-commonly considered area of personal papers, including authors' works in progress. The management of private as opposed to organizational records raises some different issues. It is difficult, for example, for an archivist to intervene at the creation stage of private papers. At the archival stage, non-custodial options cannot be considered because there is no surviving agency to maintain the system.

The volume was compiled primarily for Australian consumption and its *Notes and News* section is of only parochial interest. However, the articles and reviews are worthy of wider readership and show that Australian archivists are prepared to tackle in practical ways the management of electronic records. They may not yet have reached the perfect solutions, but taking the first step is often the most difficult thing to do.

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American Heritage Center Introductory Video. American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, 1994. 10:30.

Over the past several years, numerous archives and archival organizations have used videos in the hopes of more effectively communicating with identified target audiences. Video productions tend to fall into two basic categories: those that are produced as an integral part of an institution's public programming activities or as public relations tools, and those used to promote archival activities in general—in other words, to advocate archives. Advocacy videos, such as "The Archival Trail," focus on the function of ar-

chives in society. The most effective of these have tended to rely on demonstrating the usefulness of archives, drawing on examples of how archives can be exploited by a variety of users for a multitude of purposes, and how sponsor organizations might benefit from an archival program. As such, these advocacy tools are not institution-specific, but seek to sell the importance of archives to a broad audience, an important segment of which are resource allocators.

What we might call awareness and educational videos, on the other hand, are directed at a different public; actual and potential users, both direct and indirect, of archives. They focus more clearly on the mandated activities of particular archival institutions, either by assisting in the orientation of new researchers, or with public relations efforts. *The American Heritage Center Introductory Video*, although primarily an awareness vehicle for the Center, combines aspects of both of the above-mentioned types of videos in an extremely well-produced and professional promotional tool. The American Heritage Center uses the video in its exhibition area, where visitors can view it at any time, as an orientation tool for large groups in a classroom setting, on a loan basis to potential donors, and to complement public talks delivered to groups across the state of Wyoming.

Narrated by Hugh Downs and approximately ten minutes in length, the video can be broken down into several readily-identifiable sections or themes. It begins with an anecdote about the deposit of Mr. Downs's personal papers at the Center, which flows into an introduction to the Center, its purpose, and its holdings. This is followed by a brief history of the American Heritage Center, from its beginnings over 100 years ago to its development into a major national collection of archival and published sources, particularly in the area of the history of the American west. Promotion of the Center's new buildings and the celebration of their opening is clearly one of the video's two main messages; the planning and construction of the new Center serve as the focus for the next section of the video. Information concerning the facilities is also given in this section, including several shots of what seems to be the standard and somewhat overused fare of archival videos—stack space and shelving units.

Following this brief "guided tour" of the Center is a general discussion of its collections and how they are made available to the public. The commitment of the American Heritage Center to public service and to facilitating research use of its holdings provides the second major theme of the video; this message is communicated very effectively. Extensive use is made of clips from an interview with Ric Burns, co-producer of the well-known documentary series "The Civil War" and producer of "The Donner Party." Mr. Burns relates that he used archival documents held by the Center and praises staff for their knowledge of the collections and of how to guide researchers through them. Underlining the service aspect of the message, the interview concludes with Burns' statement that "all too often, archivists have a proprietorial attitude towards their collection—that's not at all the case about the American Heritage Center."

After highlighting available researcher services, the video moves to a discussion of some of the important collections housed at the Center, before mentioning other public facilities and programs (such as exhibitions). Mr. Downs concludes the presentation by offering viewers an invitation to visit or contact the Center "to find out more about the history of the real and mythic west."

In general, the *American Heritage Center Introductory Video* makes effective use of a mix of visuals, including a variety of documents held in the collections, views of the facility, exhibitions, construction photographs and clips from the grand opening, views of researchers using the facilities, and interviews with patrons and other individuals, most

notably the Ric Burns interview mentioned above. The video moves at a reasonable pace, and at just over ten minutes in length (ideal for such a promotional tool), succeeds in holding viewer interest throughout. Original music enhances the overall production and its professional feel. The producers (The Illustrator Inc. of Laramie, Wyoming) shrewdly use well-known individuals, like Mr. Downs and Mr. Burns, to make their subject more accessible to its intended audience, the general public and potential users of the Center.

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Partners in Research: Improving Access to the Nation's Archive: User Studies at the National Archives and Records Administration. Paul Conway. Pittsburgh: Archives and Museum Informatics, 1994. v, 156 pp. ISBN: 1-885626-09-6. Available from the Society of American Archivists. \$40.00, Members; \$45.00 Non-members.

Archivists and Researchers: Mutual Perceptions and Requirements. A series of seminars supported by the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and the University of Liverpool in the spring term, 1993. Edited by Helen Forde and Rosemary Seton. London: Society of Archivists and the British Records Association, 1994. 65 pp. ISBN: 0-902886-46-0.

Paul Conway's book could have been titled, *The Uses of User Studies: A Cautionary Tale*. Although Conway apologetically calls this a "failed user study," because the National Archives did not release or use his findings, clearly it is not a failed project. Rather, it is an ambitious attempt to answer the call by archival theorists, Conway amongst them, to begin studying the users and uses of archives. The author rises to his own challenge in designing and conducting this survey. Thanks are also due to Archives and Museum Informatics for publishing this work. Owners of unofficial copies had already begun citing it; now the rest of us can follow their references.

Though originally conceived as an internal study for the National Archives (prior to its move into Archives II), the resultant document is a rich reference tool for those considering use and user studies. Conway notes that his aim was to publish a user study with a useful analysis, including field-tested questionnaires and other methodological evaluations. He also hoped to "widen the discussion of reference and access procedures at the National Archives." These goals are ably met. He further claims that his results may apply to other repositories, as "no special 'breed' of researcher" uses the National Archives. However, his findings that nearly half of his population was familiar with computers, and that most had focused research questions, indicate that he encountered a subset of users, those most highly motivated and best-prepared, who attempt research at the National Archives. His conclusions about NARA's users are interesting in themselves, but not as universally applicable as Conway assumes.

In addition to a thorough review of the use and user study literature, the reader can benefit most from conclusions about National Archives reference policy which Conway draws from his data. He sets the scene by charting the evolution of NARA's public services. Readers can also draw their own conclusions from referral policies allowing entrance guards at Pennsylvania Avenue to direct a large proportion of (usually genealogical) researchers to the Microfilm Research Room, where no consultation or formal registration need take place. Conway proposes a complete redirection from decentralized to centralized reference, a shift in focus from subject specialists to generalists and, as the title suggests,

a focus on creating partnerships with researchers to insure their self-sufficiency as they learn the NARA systems. He contrasts this with NARA's current "gatekeeper" approach where the reference archivist is the ultimate finding aid, available only to those who visit the building or are correctly directed by a shrinking referral staff. Such dramatic, large scale adjustments may not have suited NARA, but they are a perfect illustration of creative thinking based on careful study.

Conway assures archivists that we all do not have to do a user study. He further cautions us not to begin one unless we have a specific purpose in mind and the support of administration and staff is assured. His results should have been valuable input for policy development: for example, he found that NARA users are more computer literate than was assumed, and could take advantage of more automated reference systems if developed.

It is unfortunate that the structure of this book obscures some of its most valuable insights. The book falls into four somewhat repetitive sections, left as they were, perhaps, in the interests of timely publication. As a result, his "partnership" concept doesn't appear until page 46 (and isn't really discussed until page 82!). This should have been highlighted at the outset to give the reader some incentive to pursue the detailed analysis of his survey. The analysis appears twice, once in his methodologies chapter and again in the draft report, reprinted in its entirety. Additionally, an opening, "how I would have done it differently" chapter is overly long, though instructive in the political realities of in-house consulting. The book ends up having many agendas and no clear progression.

Nonetheless, I wholeheartedly recommend this book. It is well worth reading to page 46—and beyond—to learn about Conway's survey techniques and the imaginative use to which he put his results. It is a must-read for those considering design strategies (both methodological and political), for use and user studies, for those studying NARA organization and its public service mandate, and for reference managers interested in user patterns and referral flow. This work also has great educational potential, both for graduate education as the basis for a case study, and for future seminars of the type conducted several years ago by a team, including the author. The profession's continuing education could benefit from collegial discussion of efforts such as this.

A good book makes its reader question assumptions, learn something new, want to know more. Paul Conway's *Partners in Research* accomplishes all this while challenging us to improve on his efforts and build a body of user survey documentation to answer the question, "What's the Use?"

Such a wholehearted recommendation cannot be given for the second work, *Archivists and Researchers: Mutual Perceptions and Requirements*. Described as a "series of seminars" on themes relevant to both groups, it consists of seven weekly panel discussions with audience comment. Held under the auspices of the University of London in 1993, it had smallish audiences, including few researchers (and those mostly historians). Though little new ground is covered in this book, lots of old ground is revisited. Many of the discussions, such as "access and confidentiality," or "archivists and librarians," are framed in terms of the constraints posed. Problems are painstakingly outlined, but few solutions offered.

American readers may be interested in some of the differences in archival concerns: for example, National Health records are considered public records and effected by those laws. These same public records engender copyright concerns, as they do not have our concept of public domain. Aside from these novelties, however, most readers will be surprised at the near-absence of proposals for automated access systems. Combined with

a lack of attention to advocacy and outreach or a wider user population, and little mention of customer service orientation or researcher needs assessment, the book has an outdated feel.

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Starting An Archives. Elizabeth Yakel. Metchen, New Jersey: Society of American Archivists and Scarecrow Press, 1994. vi, 99 pp. Index. ISBN: 0-8108-2864-2. Available from the Society of American Archivists. \$25.00, Members: \$30.00, Non-members.

Barbers, physicists, mechanics, and conductors, as well as most other trades and occupations, get questions from interested youngsters and others about how to enter their particular career. Archivists, however, are unusual, if not unique, in that it is common for them to get requests from people who are already archivists (in name) about how they should be doing whatever it is that they should be doing. All too common is the letter or phone call or visit that boils down to: "I have just been named/volunteered/coerced into being the archivist for my company/school/church/fraternity, and we've never had an archives before and I don't have any idea about how to get started." For every experienced archivist who has ever sighed over such questions, and especially for organizations trying to decide if they need an archives, Yakel's book will be an invaluable volume. It fills a need that has long existed in archival literature for a brief, readable introduction for the non-archivist to the basic questions to consider when planning, arranging, conserving, and making available an organizational repository. Although not specifically intended for them, this volume also contains much that is helpful for people planning manuscript repositories and special subject archives.

The first three chapters are perhaps the most valuable of all, because it is here that Yakel, through hypothetical examples as well as direct discussion, establishes that the first step in starting an archives is not buying boxes or renting a warehouse or dragooning someone into being an archivist. The first step is the painful one of sitting down and thinking about goals, resources, and potential public. Yakel firmly states, "Without this vision and commitment, an organization cannot afford an archival program at all and should not consider initiating one" (p. 11). Much of the early chapters can be viewed as an extended commentary on the verse in the Gospels that says, "Only a fool builds a tower without first counting the cost." For those for whom the cost is too high, she briefly describes alternatives, such as placing the organization's records with a local historical society.

The rest of the volume deals with the considerations that administrators and governing boards who do finally decide on founding or continuing an archives need to be aware of, such as start-up and ongoing costs and the archival theory and practice covered by such terms as "appraisal," "arrangement and description," "reference," and "preservation." The emphasis throughout is on explaining archival administration as it is practiced in the real world. Yakel's own extensive experience as an archivist, administrator, and consultant (not to mention a certain understated, dry humor) obviously informs her comments, resulting in a very practical guide for neophytes. Painful experience or perhaps long observation must lie behind the three sample case studies at the very beginning of the book, and such comments as, "An archivist-candidate should have more than a vague interest in history. Having lived a long time and thus experienced more history is also not the most appropriate experiential qualification for an archivist," (p. 10) or the description

of the differences in the archivist's relationship with external and internal users (p. 48). Yakel leads the reader on a quick but thorough tour of the archival enterprise, including administration, collection development, processing, use, access, outreach, physical facilities, and conservation.

Other features of the book supplement the value of Yakel's narrative. There are concise, boxed definitions of important terms such as "reference service," "description," and "provenance." The frequent illustrations include not only photographs of a variety of archival operations but documents such as the Austin History Center's collection development policy or a page of the newsletter of the Oregon State University Archives. A bibliographic essay of eleven pages refers the reader to important, easily available books and articles on the main subdivisions of archival endeavor. It also contains sections listing works on starting specific types of archives (college, government, business, museum, religious, special subject) and dealing with the preservation of particular types of materials (photographs, film, sound recordings, micrographics, electronic records, maps). The essay is followed by information on another type of resource—a list of the addresses and phone numbers of major archival and related professional associations. Finally, there are appendices that contain model or sample forms necessary to new archives: deed of gift, outline of a procedure manual, user registration, photoduplication request, photographic duplication request, loan agreement.

It should be emphasized again that this book is for persons starting an archives. It discusses in detail factors that the reader must consider in making the initial decisions, and introduces basic archival ideas and practices, at least in the American experience. It is not a training manual for the new archivist, nor is it an all-purpose handbook for archival administration. Students and administrators alike will need to go to other sources (such as those Yakel mentions in her bibliography or refers to throughout the book) for complete coverage of topics. This book is more in the nature of a signpost pointing the way to several destinations, rather than a detailed road atlas.

There is one weakness. The discussions of computers in the archives deals mainly (and very briefly, even for an introduction) with description, including sections on digital imaging and preserving electronic records. But there is no discussion at all of computers in the areas of reference and outreach. Many new archives will be in the enviable position of being able to incorporate gophers, e-mail, and the World Wide Web into their archival program from the beginning, rather than having to jerry-rig a transition from older types of finding aids and access methods. A section on the possibilities and problems of these new tools would have been useful.

This, however, is a minor caveat. Yakel has written her book for the people beginning an archives—treating decisions they need to make, knowledge they need to have, resources of which they should be aware. This realistic concentration on the human needs of archival decision makers will ensure that this volume will continue to be an essential element on the archivist's reference list long after the current computer applications have gone the way of cuneiform and beta cassettes.

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Discovery in the Archives of Spain and Portugal: Quincentenary Essays, 1492-1992.

Edited by Lawrence J. McCrank. Co-published simultaneously in *Primary Sources & Original Works* 2:1/2 & 3/4 (1993). New York, London, and Norwood, Australia: Haworth Press, 1993. xxi, 555 pp. Index. ISBN: 1-56024-643-X. ☺

Discovery in the Archives of Spain and Portugal is the contribution of the journal *Primary Sources & Original Works* and its editor, Lawrence J. McCrank, to the Columbus Quincentenary. In his preface, McCrank asserts that the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery (or conquest, or encounter, depending on your point of view) generated more heat than light. In reaction to the popular debate, the compilation endeavors to "refocus on historical inquiry as a less passionate and more intellectual exercise" (p. xvi). The flurry of Quincentenary events drew away many potential contributors, most notably the Archivo General de Indias, and the project was scaled back to a more modest "overview of Iberian and related archives, their history and the types of source material they hold, questions to be solved..., and something of the flavor of such searching, the enthusiasm of past and current researchers, and a sense of genuine discovery in the archives" (p. xx).

As a result, this collection of twenty-one essays is something of a mixed bag. Of most interest to archivists are the essays on the history of archives. The opening group of essays, on "The Medieval Foundations" of Spanish archives, includes two important contributions to European archival history for the Middle Ages and Renaissance. McCrank's thoroughly documented study, "A Medieval 'Information Age': Documentation and Archives in the Crown of Aragon," is a reworking of his article in the *American Archivist* 56 (Spring 1993). He describes the professionalization of recordkeeping, an exponential growth of records, and a revolution in information technologies such as the codex, indexing, registries, and the forerunners of today's records centers. By drawing parallels between the experiences of today's archivists and their counterparts in twelfth-century Aragon, McCrank emphasizes the continuities in archival history and rejects the view of Ernst Posner and others that Western archival history begins in post-revolutionary France. Nathaniel L. Taylor's "Medieval Catalan Wills: Family Charter Evidence in the Archives" is an excellent companion piece to McCrank's, providing a study of private recordkeeping for roughly the same time and place as McCrank does for public records. In contrast, Joseph F. O'Callaghan's "Origin and Development of Archival Recordkeeping in the Crown of Castile-Leon" covers a much broader time and geographical area in many fewer pages. It provides an adequate historical overview (with a good bibliography), but I wish it could have situated Castilian archives within the broader context of archival history.

Elsewhere in the book, Ivana Elbl's "Archival Evidence of the Portuguese Expansion in Africa, 1440-1521" deserves special attention from archivists for its outstanding statistical survey of Portuguese archival records. Elbl's "tentative 'map' of the surviving evidence" (p. 320) serves both as a history of early modern recordkeeping in Portugal and as a model for provenance-based documentation surveys. For twentieth-century archival history, historian Ursula Lamb reminisces about two pioneering American scholars, Alice Gould and Irene Wright, who spent most of their adult lives mining the riches of Spanish archives as freelance historical researchers.

Of current interest to archivists is Lawrence McCrank's review essay of Spain's Videobook project, an ambitious outreach effort consisting of video presentations of the treasures in Spain's outstanding special collections. McCrank's essay addresses several

important issues and challenges in the use of modern technology to bring rare books and manuscripts into the classroom and the home.

The group of articles entitled “The Quincentenary Focus: Columbus Studies” deals mainly with the use (and misuse) of the mostly published primary source material on Columbus and his voyages, and gives a good summary of the available sources. It opens with a set of vignettes by Columbus historians William and Carla Phillips, intended to illustrate the importance of returning to original sources and being wary of received wisdom. The articles by Patrick M. Leehey and James E. Kelley, Jr. cover the problems and pitfalls of documentary editing. Leehey reviews the published sources available for those who want to do their own research, with particular attention to English translations, while Kelley describes the challenges which he and collaborator Oliver Dunn faced in preparing their critical edition of Columbus’ famous diary (*The Diario of Christopher Columbus’s First Voyage to America 1492-1493*, 1989). Foster Provost critiques existing Columbus bibliographies (including his own), and suggests opportunities for applying computer technology to the now-immense body of Columbus literature. Daniel J. Woods analyzes the impact of Columbus’ apocalyptic Christianity on his explorations.

The closing article in this section, “Columbus in Myth and History” by Lawrence D. Lynch, is noteworthy for two reasons: apart from the pieces by McCrank, it is the only other contribution by an archivist; and it is the only one that directly enters the public fray over the legacy of Columbus. Lynch takes issue with both sides of the Columbus myth and their misuse of primary sources. However, he directs most of his fire against recent proponents of the “Black Legend” version, most notably Howard Zinn (*A People’s History of the United States*, 1980), Kirkpatrick Sale (*The Conquest of Paradise*, 1990), David Stannard (*American Holocaust*, 1992), and a compilation entitled *Rethinking Columbus* (1991) designed for the Wisconsin public schools. Lynch documents numerous examples of how these authors have distorted, misused, or ignored the sources on Columbus. Asserting that Columbus was neither a saint nor a monster, Lynch speaks out against the “replacement of one outmoded myth ... with another” (p. 275), and ends with a plea against misusing history in the search for easy answers. In addition, Lynch provides an annotated bibliography of Columbus sources, a discussion of those sources Lynch considers balanced and reliable, and a selection of reviews from the book trade press on the authors he is most critical of.

The third group of essays, “Access and Research in Iberian Archives,” is something of a catch-all. Several of them are your basic “guide to the sources.” Most of these deal with sources on Portuguese colonial expansion, and they include, besides Ivana Elbl’s piece mentioned above, surveys on Portuguese and Goan archives (Timothy J. Coates), Vatican sources on Portuguese West Africa (Robert Garfield), early records on the Cape Verde Islands (Trevor P. Hall), and sources on Iberian trade with the Muslim world (Martin Malcolm Elbl). The guides are generally well-done and shed some light on the history of archives and recordkeeping, but their greatest value will be to researchers in these fields. Lawrence H. Feldman’s sample of documentation on Central America in Spanish provincial archives may be of more general interest for those U.S. archivists working with Spanish colonial manuscripts.

Of an entirely different nature is Rhona Zaid’s fascinating comparison of the heroes and villains in the 16th-century picaresque Spanish novel *Lazarillo de Tormes* with their real-life counterparts in the archives of the Spanish Inquisition. Zaid proves that “art imitates life in the picaresque genre” (p. 428), and that the anonymous novelist is a reformer more than a comedian, outraged by the moral corruption of his times. Another

unique piece is the report by Jose M. de Bernardo Ares on the “Social History of Early Modern Local Administration” project in Spain. His discussion of the project’s theoretical underpinnings is sometimes hard to follow; it seems to have presented difficulties for the translators as well.

As a whole, *Discovery in the Archives of Spain and Portugal* is a somewhat unwieldy compilation. Like the editor, I, too, would have liked the more complete view of Hispanic archives that McCrank originally intended. The section on Columbus studies would have worked well as a separate monograph. Nevertheless, it remains of considerable value for the history of archives—in particular the generally overlooked contributions of Spain and Portugal—and as a research guide for students and scholars of Columbus.

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