

NEWS NOTES

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THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

Report of the Secretary

November 15, 1943

Article 2 of the constitution of this Society declares that

The objects of The Society of American Archivists shall be to promote sound principles of archival economy and to facilitate co-operation among archivists and archival agencies.

Article 3 makes eligible for membership archivists and "those . . . engaged in the custody or administration of . . . historical manuscripts or who, because of special experience or other qualifications, are recognized as competent in archival economy." You will recall that last year Dr. Connor in his presidential address spoke of his "Adventures as an Amateur Archivist." The modest tone of that title may well be echoed by the other members of our Society, whether we are archivists or custodians of historical manuscripts. While it may give us the comforting feeling that not too much should be expected of us, on the other hand it should make us realize that there is a long road ahead before we arrive. Seven years ago next December 30, we established this professional Society to develop a new profession in America through the efforts chiefly of historians and librarians interested in the problems of manuscript records and their modern prototypes. The founding and growth of the Society are ample evidence that keepers of archives and custodians of historical manuscripts have much in common; and it has been our endeavor to interpret the objects of the Society broadly in this respect. From the standpoint of terminology there is one difficulty. A custodian of archives is an archivist; but a custodian of manuscripts is only a custodian or curator or some such anomaly. I am reminded of the rhyme for X in the illustrated *Thackeray Alphabet*:

He who a picture on this sheet expects
Is disappointed, X is only X

However, in this year of Jefferson celebration we might adapt his political slogan to our purposes and declare: "We are all archivists, we are all manuscript custodians."

The report of the secretary offers an opportunity for annual stock-taking (indeed he is directed to do so by the constitution) and for surveying the activities of the Society in relation to prevailing problems and needs within its

sphere of interest. To what extent is it keeping pace with demands in these swiftly changing times, and equally important, leading the way with sound judgment and foresight? Whatever we may have accomplished during the past year and whatever we may do in the next is conditioned primarily by the progress of the war. It may be worth noting that this seventh annual meeting has been made possible by the grace of God, the good will of the Office of Defense Transportation, and not least the successes of our armed forces.

It is heartening to observe that our Society contributed substantially to preparations for the possible eventuality of war during the period of America's tenuous neutrality in 1940-1941; that specialists in archives and manuscripts have found much of their work closely related to the war effort; and that they have provided personnel for governmental war service directly in their own field. When one of our former presidents, Dr. Waldo G. Leland, addressed the Society on "The Archivist in Times of Emergency," he threw out a challenge that reached the ears of high officials in our government. When war came, the archivist was able to convince the government with little difficulty that he had an essential part to play in the administrative field. Nor should the cultural needs of civilian life be neglected, in spite of total war or, more accurately, because of it. Ideals and realities are closely intermingled during times of stress and the American people have seized avidly upon reinterpretations of the democratic way of life as well as upon war-time narratives, past and present. Thus, however much normal programs of research institutions have been modified or curtailed, the custodians of our cultural resources have labored to meet these demands of government officials and private researchers, professional and amateur. The collection and preservation of materials present special problems beyond the direct hazards of warfare in exposed areas; with the transfer of valuable staff members into the armed forces there are few persons available to train replacements; and, as the mills of research continue to grind out an abundance of fact and opinion, on which we desire to keep informed, shortage of paper is only one of many questions concerned with publication. In these matters our Society is necessarily interested and in most of them it has shown definite accomplishments. Moreover, it has ventured to anticipate some future needs which may be fulfilled, it is hoped, when peace has returned.

There are four ways in which the Society of American Archivists functions in order to carry out the broad objects which I quoted from its constitution at the beginning of this report. These means are (1) its annual meetings and occasional joint sessions with other associations; (2) its publications, chiefly *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*; (3) its committees appointed each year; and (4) its secretary's office, with which I shall include the actions of the council. I should like to review our activities under these four headings in relation to the question previously raised: To what extent are we keeping abreast of the times, to what degree are we setting the pace?

The programs of both the previous and present annual meetings have given

emphasis to several vital problems demanding wise solution not only because of war conditions but also as a safeguard for the future. Our earlier concern with the transfer of records to depositories for the primary purpose of adequate preservation has evolved into the broader, more intelligent conception of records administration, embracing their creation, filing, selection for disposal or transfer to archival custody, and their permanent preservation and use as archives. As the war has hastened the study of this problem in some of the states and especially in the federal government, so our Society has devoted considerable attention to it. One segment is the records of war administration which has served as an entering wedge to the whole field along with the projects preparing to write war histories based largely upon these records. This movement has been paralleled somewhat by the collection and preservation of war materials in the states and localities to insure a sounder basis in most areas (it is hoped) than was attained a generation ago for research and writing on the war period. These undertakings have been among the promotional activities of the Committee on Conservation of Cultural Resources on which this Society has been represented. Another subject of major interest is the administration of federal records outside the District of Columbia. Officials and scholars in the states as well as in the national capital are vitally concerned with the issue of centralization versus decentralization, of state or regional depositories for records representing overlapping jurisdictions as opposed to concentration of all of them in Washington. The solution of this question may be suspended for the duration and it merits further discussion by our members. Although the war has not yet been won and we are cautioned against our American propensity for over-optimism, I believe it is commendable that we are directing a considerable portion of our energy to post-war planning. Further evidence is at hand in the papers at this meeting on archival buildings and the anticipation of a stabilization program in relation to archival needs in the states and localities.

In establishing this archival profession we have been seriously engaged in the discussion of practice and theory, the outcome of daily experience by trial and error. The influence of American pragmatism is in evidence as we endeavor to agree upon principles. In asserting the individuality of his profession, however, with its peculiar problems, the archivist has been inclined sometimes to forget his relation to other guilds with which he might collaborate for mutual advantage. For several years the American Library Association's Committee on Archives and Libraries has held public sessions to discuss current problems. Many archivists concluded from the tenor of these meetings that they must assert their youthful independence to avoid being tied to the apron strings of an older profession. Nevertheless it is encouraging to note that discussion has by no means been abandoned; that, quite the contrary, Mr. Randolph Church's address on "The Relationship between Archival Agencies and Libraries" at the previous meeting of our Society has produced both light and heat on the

subject; and that it has been continued in our program this year. Mr. Church's paper contained some comments on personal manuscript collections offered to archives and the archivist's interest in them. The obverse of this situation, namely that the custodian of historical manuscripts inevitably finds archival materials among his collections, suggests again the advisability of our Society's giving due attention at its annual meetings to the manuscript field and its relations to archives. Another step in this direction is the Town Meeting this year, arranged as a joint session with the American Association for State and Local History.

One other point is suggested by our seventh annual program, in connection with the papers on the archives of Princeton University and of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad. These are excellent illustrations of special fields of records to which our Society may well devote increasing emphasis. They are indicative of institutions in the multiplicity of economic, intellectual, religious, and social pursuits in American life where mere preservation of records might be developed into archival administration. Here is a relatively unexploited field that falls appropriately within the province of our Society. The work of the Historical Records Survey has provided some evidence of its magnitude and opportunities. Is there any concrete approach to it? I should like to offer a suggestion later in connection with my comments on committee activities.

Our Society is best known and reaches its widest audience through the publication of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*. Subscribers to the journal provide an important and stable source of income and we deeply appreciate the subvention from the University of Illinois for the magazine since its inception in 1938. Likewise we have benefited from the high editorial standards and unflagging efforts of Professor Theodore C. Pease and his staff. The book reviews and shorter notices under the editorship of Messrs. Emmett J. Leahy and Edward F. Rowse present helpful comments and criticism. Many members contribute to the section on news notes so ably edited by Mr. Karl L. Trever, who has expanded this service to the point where it has become indispensable to those readers desiring to keep up to date on developments in the field. Many of the articles in *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* are, quite properly, papers read at the annual meetings. That these articles are too exclusively such is a criticism that deserves consideration. That they should cover a wider variety of subjects pertaining to both archives and manuscript collections—historical and bibliographical articles, experiences of leading members of the profession, documents illustrating the evolution of archival and manuscript procedure, etc.—here is another pertinent comment. In his report as secretary last year, it will be recalled, Dr. Brooks pointed out that Professor Pease would like to see some means provided to yield a larger number and greater variety of articles submitted without solicitation. The editor and his advisory editorial board should be in a position to choose the best papers for

publication from a considerable number contributed. I am glad to report that a Committee on Archival Research was appointed during the past year with Mr. Herman Kahn as chairman and that the suggestions above are derived mainly from the correspondence of this committee. It is expected that during the coming year its members can work out a procedure to meet this problem satisfactorily to the advantage of the editor and his board, the members of the Society, and our reading public. We already have the benefit today of Professor Pease's paper on how "An Editor Looks at His Non-Contributors."

The October, 1943, issue of THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST contains a bibliography of "Writings on Archives and Manuscripts, July, 1942-June, 1943," compiled by Karl L. Trever. This innovation in the activities of the Society is the product of a Committee on Writings, under the chairmanship of Mr. Trever, established some months ago. While the list is experimental in its form and content, it will undoubtedly meet the pressing need for a reference tool in this rapidly expanding field. The Committee endeavored to limit the list of publications strictly to those appearing during the twelve-month period indicated and the plan is to issue such a list annually.

The third important channel through which our Society functions is its committees. Their activities have suffered somewhat because war duties and responsibilities hold priority on the twenty-four hours per day allotted to each member, although it is generally true that the busiest persons are most dependable for results. Undoubtedly our Society is not unique in its experience that some chairmen find themselves doing too much of the work without benefit of aid from their colleagues. We may be assured that we are quite a normal group of human beings in this respect. However, the fruits of our committees' labors are substantial in many instances. It should be pointed out, moreover, that the formation of some committees was delayed in the course of correspondence and that the new secretary was groping his way with faltering steps as he endeavored to familiarize himself with past and current projects. Some committees have perennial tasks to perform; others are needed only as circumstances arise; and in view of my predecessor's observation last year that we have tended to have too many committees, some have been abolished or discontinued for the present.

In surveying the various fields of operations they may be classified as follows: (a) research and publication; (b) administration; (c) archival and manuscript techniques; (d) special collections of records; (e) promotional activities; and (f) planning and policy. A discussion of committee work under these general headings may serve to indicate to what extent the specific projects fit into the broader picture and to suggest where we might initiate new ventures. It is recognized that some of the fields overlap and that the outline is over-simplified.

In the category of research and publication the activities of the Committees on Archival Research and on Writings on Archives and Manuscripts have already been discussed. Both demonstrate the importance of bibliography; both

emphasize the interest of our profession in research as well as in administrative problems. The close kinship between archivists and historians, which Captain Jesse Douglas commented upon with precision in his address at our meeting last year, may well be reflected in the results of these committees' deliberations.

The Committee on Publication Policies of Archival Agencies has deemed it advisable to suspend its collection of data from archival institutions and manuscript depositories until after the war. In some instances it is found that publication has been held in abeyance for lack of adequate staff and printing materials. Furthermore, it is anticipated that post-war plans and revisions of policies would render obsolete any summary of present war-time conditions.

The field of administration is represented by the Committee on Records Administration which evolved from an earlier one on Reduction of Archival Material. War conditions, by augmenting the flood of current records, have intensified the problems of their administration but by so doing have played somewhat into the archivists' hands in the federal government. The chairman of the committee, Lieutenant Commander Emmett J. Leahy, and his co-workers Miss Helen L. Chatfield and Captain Wayne C. Grover, in their official connections with important bodies of federal records, are able to provide information and conclusions from first-hand experience. In turn the Society of American Archivists has promoted through the reports of the committee a widespread consideration of intelligent records administration by government agencies and of its relation to archival problems. It is hoped that the study of this urgent question can be continued with respect to federal records and extended into the state and local domains. Closely akin is the subject of administrative history, as yet in the early stages of development by the American political scientist and archivist. It may be noted that the *Handbook of Federal World War Agencies and Their Records, 1917-1921* (1943), published by the National Archives, was one of the projects recommended by this Society through its former Committee on the History and Organization of Government Emergency Activities.

Committees on archival and manuscript techniques have included from time to time those on microphotography, terminology, classification and cataloguing, filing equipment, etc. The last named is the only one in operation at present, composed of Mrs. Virginia Leddy Gambrell and Miss Nona Lucke. At our annual meeting last year Mrs. Gambrell presented a paper on "Housing and Storage of Records," based on her study of current filing equipment. The committee has been preparing a questionnaire to be sent to state archivists to ascertain what filing methods they employ; later this survey will be extended into the field of historical manuscript depositories. A subsequent report based on these findings should prove of great value especially in connection with post-war demands for equipment and improved practices of mutual interest to the manufacturer and the consumer.

Reference has been made earlier in this report to special fields of records

that merit consideration by this Society. Until the past year, when it was suspended because of the war, we had a Committee on Business Archives which surveyed the problems pertaining thereto, gathered information, promoted discussion at the meetings of the Society and elsewhere, and circulated among certain firms a broadside on "Why Business Records Should Be Preserved." What are the prospects of probing other special fields such as educational institutions, religious and fraternal organizations, labor unions, and a variety of social groups? A selected list might be compiled of organizations showing evidence of an interest or potential interest in their records through the library service which they maintain for their own purposes. The librarian or official in charge might become the medium through whom an appreciation of non-current records could be fostered and developed into an archival program that would assure preservation of the records and their accessibility for research. It is quite likely that much of the preliminary data for such an approach could be obtained through the co-operation of the Special Libraries Association. The Society of American Archivists could provide certain professional advice and information, engage in some fact-finding on its own account, and incidentally increase its membership.

The category of promotional committee work embraces the broad expanse of our professional interests and more immediately the efforts to encourage the growth of our Society. The latter is to a large degree the responsibility of the Membership Committee and will be discussed later in connection with a few statistics on members and subscribers. The Committee on Public Relations is concerned with ways and means of promoting public interest in the support for archives. Some correspondence has been carried on with states engaged in plans and programs for new or enlarged archival agencies. The opportunity for developing a clearing house of information on such projects by this committee will be enhanced by the uniform law for the creation of a state archival agency which our Society now has to offer. Obviously the Committee on Public Relations should contribute substantially to the movement for post-war planning. The Committee on Collection and Preservation of Materials for the History of Emergencies has continued its program of the preceding year for the most part, with particular attention to newspaper sources in the Chicago area where the chairman, Mr. Herbert A. Kellar, has generously made available some assistance through the McCormick Historical Association. The possibility of this committee's encouragement of the collection of war history materials by state and local authorities through co-operation with the national Committee on Conservation of Cultural Resources no longer exists since the latter became defunct last summer; but a similar opportunity is afforded by the recent sponsorship of this project by the American Association for State and Local History.

The Committee on International Relations under the chairmanship of Mr. Gaston Litton has surveyed this field, with special emphasis on Latin America,

to determine what might be done to promote archival developments in these countries by personal contacts and dissemination of information and to advance scholarship by making more accessible materials for research there and in the United States for the mutual benefit of all concerned. The recommendations of the committee which will be presented to the Society for consideration, propose an exchange of archivists among the Americas, means of increasing the membership of the Society abroad, exchange of professional journals and scientific articles, and the preparation and exchange of microfilms and archival guides. The last point supplements a resolution on this subject voted by this Society at its business meeting last year. Cf. *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, VI (January, 1943), 51, 52.

A final group of committees I have classified under the heading of planning and policy, although they involve certain promotional aspects also. The Committee on Uniform Legislation (Professor A. R. Newsome, chairman) not only has achieved an enviable reputation for accomplishment in the past but continues to live up to it. The value of the earlier fruits of their labors is attested to by the fact that the supply of the "Proposed Uniform State Public Records Act," published and reprinted in 1940, was already exhausted some time ago. This year the committee has submitted its draft of a proposed uniform state law for the creation of a state archival agency, previously referred to in this report. The council has taken action today on this excellent document and recommended that it be published forthwith in *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*.

Dr. Ernst Posner and his Committee on Training of Archivists have pursued their study of training programs, some results of which have been discussed at former meetings of this Society and published. The object of the committee during the past year can best be revealed by a quotation from its report:

It had been realized . . . that mere theoretical discussion of an ideal training program would be of little avail as long as our basis of practical experience could not be broadened because of the war. It seemed timely therefore to postpone further discussion of the training of professional archivists and to devote the activities of the committee to exploring ways and means of educating the lay custodians of archival material. . . .

In order to implement such a program the committee sought to determine the phases of archival work concerning which information should be disseminated; to compile brief lists of reading on those phases and have them published; and to get competent persons to deal with these subjects in brief and popular articles. All of them together would then constitute a little manual for lay custodians. It is suggested that "it might be preferable for the Society to work through a Committee on Local Archives consisting of persons who are fully familiar with the local sphere."

Another new line of advance in the realm of planning is represented by the Committee on Archival Buildings. Although only recently established, the significance of its potential operations, in view of the needs and opportunities of post-war planning, have already been demonstrated at the opening session of the present meeting. Captain Victor Gondos, Jr., who participated in this session, is chairman of the committee. Its deliberations and conclusions, we hope, will soon be given practical application in days of peace.

A few remarks may be in order regarding the secretary's office, which is the chief clearing house for the Society's business throughout the year. To whatever extent the wheels have run smoothly during 1943 is to be credited to the notable accomplishments of my predecessor, Dr. Philip C. Brooks, and to the momentum carried over from his creative work since the founding of the Society. I have sought his advice repeatedly at the risk of imposing on his good nature. Fortunately for me, the University of Virginia is not far distant from the National Archives. I also take this occasion to report that official records of the Society of American Archivists were expertly classified and well filed up to November, 1942. During the first seven years of existence a part of our records have become archival in character. They are incomplete because some of our former officers and committee chairmen have not transferred their files to the custody of the secretary's office. In making this appeal on behalf of our own records, let charity among archivists begin at home in their professional family.

As we anticipated, the war along with other factors, has affected our membership. The situation is serious enough to warrant careful consideration. The Membership Committee, with Dr. Brooks as chairman, has analyzed the problem and has intensified its campaign, according to plan, during the weeks before the annual meeting. Continued military victories by the United Nations are likely to ease the strain on our membership, but we are not counting on a bull market in archival stock. The number of individual members at present is 260, representing a net gain of 12 as compared with last year's figures. Institutional memberships total 34, the same as of a year ago. The number of subscriptions is 68, representing a net gain of 7. We are indebted to Dr. Brooks for a statistical table in the report of the Membership Committee, analyzing the distribution of members and subscribers by geographical areas and by the kind of agencies with which the members are associated (*viz.*, official archives; manuscript collections, historical societies, and private agencies; federal agencies other than the National Archives; and a miscellaneous group). It is clear from his analysis that opportunities are available in several directions to secure new members and subscribers. In some instances the results will depend upon the Society's efforts in investigating archival problems hitherto unworked.

It is with deep regret that we note the death of two members of the Society during the past year. Elizabeth Towar Platt, who died on May 22, 1943, had been associated with the American Geographical Society since 1920 as librarian

and bibliographer. She contributed to *Social Science Abstracts* and to the *Bibliographie Géographique Internationale* and was the founder (1938) and editor of *Current Geographical Publications*. As geographer as well as bibliographer, Miss Platt has left her impress on the world of scholarship.

Morgan P. Robinson, state archivist of Virginia since 1914, died on October 24, 1943. He did much to arouse public interest in the protection and care of public records in his native state. A founding member of this Society, he was a regular attendant at its annual meetings. For many years he was corresponding secretary of the Virginia Historical Society. He was also a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and of the Royal Society of Arts.

It will interest the members to know that the secretary, in co-operation with Messrs. Brooks, Duniway, and Trever, has compiled a list of state archival authorities with the names of officials in charge. This information will be transcribed into a card file and kept up to date, as a reference service for our members by correspondence. It might conceivably become the nucleus of a handbook on archival organizations.

Operating under a conservative budget during the past year, the Society has kept its expenditures well within its income. While revenue from membership dues and subscriptions has increased slightly, income has been augmented by sale of an unusually large number of back copies of THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST. In several cases complete files of the journal were wanted by new subscribers.

I conclude this protracted report with an expression of appreciation to the officers and members of the Society with whom it has been my privilege to work. I have enjoyed the correspondence with President Connor and other members of the Council who have advised me on current business and matters of policy, with the editor and his staff, committee chairmen, and others whose co-operation has aided in the year's activities. In view of the Society's previous accomplishment and its awareness of vital problems at hand, I believe we are justified in venturing a note of confidence in our ability to move forward. What has been done wrong or left undone during the past year rests mainly on the head of the secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

LESTER J. CAPPON, *Secretary*

Minutes of the Business Meeting, November 15, 1943

The Society convened in its annual business meeting in the Grill Room of the Nassau Tavern, Princeton, New Jersey, at 10 P.M., November 15, 1943, approximately sixty members attending.

The minutes of the previous business meeting were approved. The reports of the secretary, the treasurer, and the auditing committee were read and approved.

By direction of the council the secretary read the report of the Committee

on International Relations containing recommendations concerning exchange of archivists among the Americas, increasing the membership of the Society among the archival fraternity abroad, exchange of professional journals and of scientific articles, and preparation and exchange of microfilms and archival guides.

Voted, to adopt these recommendations in principle and refer them to the committee for action.

On recommendation of the council, voted, that the secretary draft a letter to the President of the United States to urge that an American archivist be appointed to the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in Europe, to represent the interests of archival science.

The secretary announced that the council has voted to instruct him to draft a proposed amendment to the constitution providing for transfer from individual annual to life membership with such credit on dues already paid as the council may determine. Under the constitution, "copies of the proposed amendments shall be mailed by the secretary to all members at least thirty days in advance of the meeting at which they are [it is] to be considered."

On recommendation of the council, voted, that the Society accept the invitation to be represented at the Tenth Scientific Congress to be held at Santiago, Chile, in January, 1944.

Voted, to approve the report of the resolutions committee, read by its chairman, Herbert A. Kellar, as follows:

Resolved, that this Society desires to express its appreciation to the individuals, organizations, and institutions who have made this meeting so worthwhile an occasion, and instructs its secretary to communicate this resolution to Dr. Julian P. Boyd, chairman of the Committee on Local Arrangements and to the other members of that committee, to Princeton University, to Dr. W. Neil Franklin, chairman of the Program Committee, to those who have contributed papers and addresses and to the management of the Nassau Tavern.

Resolved, that this Society extends its greetings to the British Records Association and its congratulations upon the maintenance of archival interest in England during the war, as evidenced by Mr. Jenkinson's excellent paper; and that the secretary be instructed to communicate this resolution to the officials of the British Records Association.

Resolved, that this Society desires to express its appreciation to Dr. Lester J. Cappon for his valuable and faithful services as secretary of the organization during the past year.

The report of the nominating committee was read by William D. Overman who presented the following slate: for president, Margaret C. Norton; for

vice-president, Julian P. Boyd; for secretary, Lester J. Cappon; for treasurer, Helen L. Chatfield; for council member for a term of five years ending in 1948, Solon J. Buck. There being no nominations from the floor, the president called for the vote of the Society on the above nominees and each was elected.

The remaining council members continue to hold office for the following periods: William D. McCain, one year ending in 1944; Morris L. Radoff, two years ending in 1945; Herbert A. Kellar, three years ending in 1946; Philip C. Brooks, four years ending in 1947.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 P.M.

LESTER J. CAPPON, *Secretary*

Minutes of the Council, November 15, 1943

The council met at the Nassau Tavern, Princeton, New Jersey, at 4:45 P.M., November 15, 1943, the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and Philip C. Brooks and Herbert A. Kellar attending.

The following qualified applicants were elected to membership in the Society: Kenneth F. Bartlett, Herbert O. Brayer, Mary Boyd Brown, Harry L. Coles, Jr., Elza R. de Marigny, Linwood E. Donaldson, Mrs. W. O. Harrell, Margareth Jorgensen, Robert H. Lando, Mrs. George MacNeill, Thomas D. Murphy, Florence E. Nichol, Harold T. Pinkett, Emma M. Scheffler, Edward J. Sheehan, Gust Skordas, Lester W. Smith, George J. Stansfield, Robert E. Stone, Sophie A. Udin, Alexander W. Weddell, and Dorothy L. Wood.

Voted, that a standing Committee on Honorary Membership be appointed, consisting of the president, vice-president, and secretary.

Recommended, that the editor be requested to publish the model state archival act, *viz.* "An Act to Create the [name of state] Department of Archives and History," drafted and submitted by the Committee on Uniform Legislation, and that the act be laid before the Society next year.

The council discussed the report of the Committee on International Relations containing recommendations concerning exchange of archivists among the Americas, increasing the membership of the Society among the archival fraternity abroad, exchange of professional journals and of scientific articles, and preparation and exchange of microfilms and archival guides. It was agreed that the recommendations be referred to the Society for action.

Recommended, that the Society adopt the following motion: That the secretary draft a letter to the President of the United States to urge that an American archivist be appointed to the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in Europe, to represent the interests of archival science.

The secretary raised the question whether it is advisable to continue the

suspension of members in foreign countries during the war as authorized by vote of the council in 1941 as follows:

to authorize the secretary to retain as members or subscribers persons or institutions in foreign countries who are unable to continue payment of dues on account of the war and state their intention to make up the deficits caused by such non-payment when peace is restored.

It was pointed out that few members have availed themselves of this opportunity; that it is impossible to keep posted on the whereabouts of such members to inform them of the offer; and that back copies of THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST will be available for purchase by those members who have let their dues lapse for the duration.

Voted, to rescind the above action of the council.

The council discussed the suggestion that individual annual members be permitted to transfer to life membership with some credit for dues already paid.

Voted, to instruct the secretary to draft a proposed amendment to the Constitution providing for transfer from individual annual to life membership with such credit on dues already paid as the council may determine.

Recommended, that the Society accept the invitation to be represented at the Tenth Scientific Congress to be held at Santiago, Chile, in January, 1944. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

LESTER J. CAPPON, *Secretary*

Minutes of the Council, November 16, 1943

The council met at the Nassau Tavern, Princeton, New Jersey, at 8:30 A.M., November 16, 1943, the secretary and treasurer, and Philip C. Brooks, Solon J. Buck, and Herbert A. Kellar attending.

Voted, to appoint Mr. Kellar president *pro tempore* for this session.

Voted, to appoint Grace L. Nute as a member of the Editorial Board for a term of four years ending in 1947.

Voted, that the president be authorized to appoint a Committee on Publicity to circulate news notes and announcements about the Society.

The secretary suggested that the activities of the Society might be expanded in numerous fields of special archives such as educational institutions, religious and fraternal organizations, business firms, labor unions, and a variety of social groups; that an appreciation of noncurrent records by such institutions might be developed into an archival program to assure preservation of their records and accessibility for research; and that preliminary data for such an approach

could be obtained through the co-operation of the Special Libraries Association. Mr. Kellar suggested an approach by means of speeches on records and archives at the regional chapter meetings of Special Libraries Association. He also recommended the printing of a brochure on the subject at a later date.

Voted, that the president be authorized to appoint a Committee on Institutional Archives to investigate this problem.

The secretary announced that one hundred separates of the bibliography of "Writings on Archives and Manuscripts, July, 1942-June, 1943," by Karl L. Trever, published in *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, October, 1943, have been printed.

Voted, that the Trever separate be sold at twenty-five cents per copy and that publicity about it be handled by the new publicity committee.

Messrs. Trever and Herman Kahn, on invitation of the council, joined the meeting to participate in discussion of certain publication matters. Mr. Trever proposed that a select list of readings on archives and manuscripts prior to June 30, 1942, be compiled by himself and Mr. Ernst Posner and published. Mr. Buck suggested that the list include selected items since June, 1942, as well.

Voted, to direct the Committee on Writings, of which Mr. Trever is chairman, to proceed with the proposed compilation.

For purposes of economy, voted, that the council request the Editorial Board to discontinue the present system of contributors' and news notes and book review editors' copies of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* and that authors be provided with excerpts (cut from the journal) or separates of their articles.

In view of the paper shortage the council suggests that the editor examine methods of *Agricultural History* and other journals to consider expansion of material in *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* by printing more text per page.

Voted, that the editor and Editorial Board co-operate with the Committee on Archival Research in stimulating the preparation of articles to be submitted for possible publication in *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*. The council directed the secretary to write a letter to the new Committee on Archival Research to request the preparation of a list of authors and articles for submission to the editor.

Mr. Brooks suggested possible co-operation of the Society with the American Library Association's Committee on Aid to Libraries in War Areas in order to provide copies of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* published during the war period for the benefit of devastated libraries after the war. The

secretary was directed to communicate with this committee of the A.L.A. to secure further information on the subject.

The secretary announced that he has received verbal invitations to the Society to hold its eighth annual meeting at Albany, New York; Columbus, Ohio; Denver, Colorado; and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. It was decided to postpone action until a later date because of war conditions.

The proposed budget for 1944 was presented, discussed, and approved.

Voted, that the treasurer invest in United States Victory Bonds as much of the funds of the Society as can be spared after making the necessary allowance for current operations.

The council, having recessed at 10:00 A.M. and reconvened at 4:30 P.M., adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

LESTER J. CAPPON, *Secretary*

Report of the Committee on Membership

This is to report on the activities of the membership committee so far this year and to add certain information and comments that seem pertinent. So far as the committee's work is concerned it is so far one of too little and too late, although results will be forthcoming that will not be apparent until after the annual meeting.

The chairman can report having kept up a light correspondence with and about prospective members. Of fifteen new members whose names have come to me so far in this calendar year, ten were evidently products of that correspondence and personal interviews.¹

The file of names of prospectives has been entirely revised and names have been added to it from time to time during the year. The other members of the committee, Suda Bane, Mary E. Givens, Kenneth Blood, and John Clement, have made suggestions both of names and of revisions in mailing matter.

The chairman participated with Messrs. Cappon, Trever, and Duniway in preparing a list of state archival authorities, not solely for the use of this committee but which will be most useful to it. It is hoped that this list can be kept up to date from a variety of sources. Several copies of it are available in typed form for those who may be interested.

It has always seemed best to have the membership campaign close to the annual meeting, as that is one of the most concrete activities of the Society that can be used to interest prospectives. Letters were sent to more than three hundred selected individuals and to about a hundred institutions. With the letters went leaflets containing information and application blanks, lists of selected articles in *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, and to many of the prospectives copies of the announcement of the seventh annual meeting. Programs went to about a third of the list.

Judging from past experience a five per cent return on the campaign—one new member out of each twenty prospects—would be above our best hopes.² This year on account of the war, taxes, and what not it will be more difficult than ever to gain new members—but it is more than ever important to do so.

¹ Of twenty-two new members elected at the Princeton meeting, all had been circularized by the committee. They made a net gain of four individual members. Applications had been received from three institutions and three individuals early in December.

² Returns on individual prospectives proved to be more than ten per cent.

While I am not quite up to date on the actual statistics of membership, and only the secretary can be at any moment, my opinion is that we have held our membership as well as could be expected during the war. But we should try to increase it, and especially to make it more widely representative of geographical areas and classes of membership. On the latter points I have some suggestive statistics. They are compiled from information at hand as of September, on the basis of 326 members and subscribers. This is probably not precisely accurate, nor can any of the percentages be, but it is indicative of the distribution of our clientele.

A table is enclosed, indicating among other things that of 231 individual members in this country as of September, about 15% were in New York and New England, 47% in the Middle Atlantic area (District of Columbia to New Jersey), 10% in the South Atlantic, 6% in the South Central (Mississippi to Texas), 15% in the Middle West, and 8% in the Far West (Colorado to the coast). These percentages are not surprising, but it may be hoped that in time other sections will develop larger representations in relation to the Middle Atlantic area.

Subscriptions followed a pattern generally similar to that of the individual members, and totalled fifty-three in this country. The twenty-seven institutional members in this country, however, happened to fall into quite a different distribution, with 22% in New York and New England, 11% in the Middle Atlantic area, 15% South Atlantic, 4% South Central, 40% Middle West, and 7% Far West.

Another breakdown shows that (although there may be possible errors in assignments to categories) 41% of the individual members were in official archival agencies and 29% in historical societies of manuscripts collecting agencies. Of the official archivists, 27% of the total are in the National Archives, and 14% in state archives, none in local. Of the manuscripts custodians, or related officials, 14% of the total are in manuscripts collections of universities, 6% in state historical societies, and 10% in private societies or agencies. Besides these, 16% of the total are in federal agencies other than the National Archives, 1.5% in business firms, and 10% unclassified, such as university professors and private citizens.

Any quotation of them should be qualified by allowance of a small margin for error. At least they will indicate to the committee and possibly to the council some places for emphasis in future membership work.

In another year the committee might well undertake a special campaign for library subscriptions. While our chief need so far as activities is concerned is for enthusiastic individual members, the primary aim from a financial point of view should be to get more institutional members, and a secondary aim to get subscribers, as they are both likely to be more stable than individuals.

Our foreign members and subscribers are heavily weighted in the British Empire for rather obvious reasons and this is more than ever true since the war has cut off communication with former members in the Dutch East Indies, Singapore, China, and Germany. The committee on international relations has some ideas with which the membership committee may co-operate in developing membership in Latin America. I have recently had several conversations here with a prominent Mexican archivist who told me about the Mexican Society of Archivists and said he thought it would be possible for us to get some members in that country. Complications of international finance work against us.

One problem recently mentioned by the secretary of the Society is worth attention, though I am not sure that we can do anything about it without antagonizing valued customers. That is the practice of some archivists to serve only as representatives of their institutions, and not to take individual memberships. This reduces our memberships and the number of active individuals—the provision that only individual members can hold office is probably not a weighty club over these persons. I am somewhat skeptical about

application of a rule one organization enforces, which prevents acceptance of payment by state institutions for the memberships of individuals.

Members at large have co-operated with the committee by sending in the names of many good prospectives, and their assistance is of fundamental importance.

The chairman of the committee shares strongly the view that is now becoming fairly widespread among members of the Society that the quarterly journal should be more widely representative of the various interests of all the members. This is a problem for the editor and the editorial board, but its effect upon membership work is great.

Respectfully submitted,
PHILIP C. BROOKS, *Chairman*

Report of the Committee on Archival Buildings

The following activities are now in progress:

1. The first objective, with the assistance of the photostating plant of the National Archives, is to acquire a collection of plans and specifications of all, or at least a representative group of modern archival plants. To date we have a set of plans of the Maryland Hall of Records and a set on loan from the Delaware Hall of Records.

2. The preparation of papers for the annual meeting at Princeton has occupied the time of the chairman and of Mr. Van Schreeven of the committee. It is thought that perhaps these two papers with that of Mr. Louis Simon, architect and one of the early planners of the National Archives, may be used as a nucleus for committee publications.

The chairman's activities to date have been hampered by an unexpected rush of work in connection with the War Department's recently inaugurated and extensive disposal program. Until this work abates in volume and intensity, the projected program the chairman has in mind will take longer to unfold than originally expected.

This program includes the following items:

1. A study on official and technical procedures for an archival building committee, on the state level.
2. A report on comparative specifications of modern archival structures and equipment.
3. A report on standard design data for archival plants at various levels:
 - a. State archives, costing less than half a million dollars.
 - b. County archives, principally vaults.
 - c. Other local archival depositories.
 - d. Multiple function buildings consisting of state library, state historical society, and state archives.
4. A study on remodeling problems.

It is needless to remark than any one of these proposed items is capable of absorbing an immense amount of time and work, and, in view of the fact that each member of the committee is busy in his regular occupation, to fix any stated time limits is hardly practicable.

VICTOR GONDOS, JR., A.I.A., *Chairman*

Report of the Committee on Training of Archivists

It has been realized during the first year of the committee's existence that the problems of the training of professional archivists had been studied thoroughly and competently by previous committees and that mere theoretical discussion of an ideal training program would be of little avail as long as our basis of practical experience could not be broadened because of the war. It seemed timely therefore to postpone further discussion of the training of professional archivists and to devote the activities of the committee to exploring

ways and means of educating the lay custodians of archival material. A program along these lines was accepted by the members of the committee and approved by the president of the Society on February 23, 1943.

Much correspondence was had with the members of the committee on how to implement the new program, especially with Miss Margaret C. Norton. Since it seemed futile to work out programs for training conferences, which, for obvious reasons, could not be held in war-time, it was proposed to proceed in the following manner:

1. To determine the phases of archives work concerning which information should be spread among lay custodians.
2. To assemble brief lists of readings on the different phases and to have them published in *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* or in *Illinois Libraries*.
3. To get competent people to deal with these phases in brief and popular articles and to have these published. All of them together would then constitute a little manual for lay custodians of archives, something of an American equivalent to Fowler's book on the *Care of Muniments*.

As regards the articles, it was important to know that *Illinois Libraries* would be willing to publish them and to furnish the desirable number of reprints.

In the meantime the present writer had begun working for the American Council of Learned Societies' Committee on Protection of Cultural Treasures in War Areas, and this work, closely connected with the progress of the allied armies in Europe, kept him under constant great pressure. As a result, he found it difficult to devote the necessary time to his committee work. He compiled, however, a tentative list of headings for the bibliography, which, at the same time, indicated the topics to be treated in articles, and sent it to Miss Norton who proved a most competent and kind adviser with respect to the whole program. Her article on "Record Vaults" in the November issue of *Illinois Libraries* indicates at least that our committee is giving attention to the problems to which it has set itself, although of course the article is entirely Miss Norton's own work. It might very well serve as a model for the other articles we are planning.

From the above it appears that the achievements of the committee are far from being impressive, mainly because of default on the part of its chairman. As to the future, he should like to state that, in his opinion, the enlightenment of lay custodians constitutes one of the most important objectives of the Society and should remain on its program. The present Committee on Training is probably not well qualified to serve the Society in this respect since its chairman and most of its members lack the indispensable experience in dealing with local material and with local custodians. It might be preferable for the Society to work through a Committee on Local Archives consisting of persons who are fully familiar with the local sphere. As to the training of professional archivists, the present writer is still inclined to feel that the content of a training program for them has been clearly stated by Dr. Buck in his article on "The Training of American Archivists," *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, IV (April, 1940), 84-90. Whether the problems of professional post-war training warrant the establishing of a special committee he does not want to decide.

ERNST POSNER, *Chairman*

Some Recommendations of the Committee on International Relations of the Society of American Archivists

I. *Exchange of Archivists among the Americas*

Distinguished Latin Americans from all walks of life are being invited currently to come to the United States, at the expense of the State Department and as a part of the

cultural relations program. There also has been a program, now in abeyance but likely to be revived at the close of the war, for the awarding of fellowships to Americans to study, teach, and observe in Latin America.

1. It is recommended that a letter be prepared for the president of the Society calling upon the Division of Cultural Relations of the Department of State to consider archivists among those who are being brought to this country now or who may be selected to go to Latin America later.

II. *Increase the Membership of the Society*

In starting a campaign to build up the membership of the Society among the archival fraternity abroad, which seems a desirable objective, the following proposals are made:

1. Because of the unfavorable rate of exchange, Latin Americans generally cannot afford membership in the Society at the rate of five American dollars annually. It is strongly advised, therefore, that a special rate be approved and announced for foreigners.

2. A suggestion has been advanced that the Society inaugurate a "gift subscription" program along the pattern of that originated by *Reader's Digest*, whereby American archivists could sponsor "get acquainted subscriptions" for Latin-American individuals or institutions. In the event the American Council of Learned Societies or any of the other foundations would agree to underwrite such a project a modest list of the state, private and ecclesiastical archivists could be drawn up by this committee (or one appointed for that purpose) from the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* (archives section) and from a canvass of the Latin-American historians in this country.

3. Because it is felt that an especially intimate understanding should exist among the archivists of the Western Hemisphere, efforts should also be made to bring our Canadian colleagues closer into our orbit.

III. *Exchange of Professional Journals*

Not the least effective method of furthering general good will among the archivists of this hemisphere would be by the exchange of professional journals. Therefore it is recommended that:

1. The Society offer to swap with the national archives of the Latin-American countries sets of THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST for files of their journals. Or, if for one reason or another this cannot be worked out, there is proposed as an alternative recommendation a simple two-way exchange of future issues of these publications. The secretary might become the custodian of such publications received from abroad. These could be advertised in a "Wants and Offers" section of THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST (such as the *A. L. A. Bulletin* runs) and distributed upon request, or at the discretion of the secretary, or as the Society might direct.

IV. *Exchange of Scientific Articles*

The following four-point recommendation has been drawn upon from suggestions offered by our most distinguished Latin-American historians:

1. The bulletins of the national archives of Latin America should be carefully studied by this committee (or by one appointed for that purpose) and a selection made of several of their better and most descriptive articles for the consideration of the editor for possible publication in THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST.

2. Several of the technical and descriptive articles from the back files of THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST should be chosen by the same means, possibly translated into Spanish and Portuguese, and sent to editors for reproduction in the journals of Latin American archives. In a letter to the chairman on August 24, 1943, Dr. John Tate Lanning stated that "In my opinion, the Society of American Archivists can best develop a program of

co-operation with Latin American archives by sending them archival publications, particularly any describing our methods and techniques—systems of cataloging, photography, filing, prevention of insects, etc. It has been my experience that Latin Americans are more interested in these technical aspects than they are in others." Fire prevention and proper housing are other subjects on which scientific information would undoubtedly be very welcome among our southern neighbors.

3. A strong effort should be made to get Latin-American archivists to contribute directly to *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*. There should be no special reluctance to accept articles in Spanish or Portuguese; indeed, the publication of such articles in their original language might enhance our journal among the Good Neighbor readers.

4. Reprints of articles and copies of other archival materials should be provided the secretary for distribution to Latin-American archivists upon demand or his discretion.

V. Preparation and Exchange of Microfilms and Archival Guides

The knowledge that there is abundant material in the archives of the United States of interest to the historians and scholars of the Latin-American nations, on one hand, and that there are valuable sources in the archives of those nations which would be of interest to students and scholars in this country, urge the consideration of a proposal that:

1. The Society get behind a plan, whether financed by the government or private funds, looking to the exchange of microfilm copies of such materials between the nations of the Americas.

2. The Society back, with any other interested organizations, a program for the systematic calendaring and publishing of lists or guides to the archival collections in the other nations of America.

3. Every effort should be made to avoid creating the impression that we are skimming off the cream of their valuable collections and carrying it off to the United States and to erase that impression wherever it may already exist.

GASTON LITTON, *Chairman*

The secretary would like to purchase copies of the January, April, and October, 1938; January, 1939; and April, 1941, issues of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*. The secretary will repurchase these issues at fifty cents a copy.

At a joint session of the Society of American Archivists and the American Historical Association held December 29, 1943, Rebecca Rankin of the Municipal Reference Library, New York City, discussed municipal administrative archives and Oliver W. Holmes discussed federal archives.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Recent accessions have greatly added to the already large collection of photographs in the National Archives. Exclusive of duplicates, there are now more than 800,000 glass-plate and film negatives, tintypes, stereoscopic views, color transparencies, paper prints, radiophotos, microfilm, and other types of photographs in the National Archives. The largest group relates to military affairs. Transfers from the Signal Corps and the Historical Section of the Army War College have concentrated in the National Archives the major pictorial records of all the wars in which the United States has been engaged

from the beginning of the Civil War through the first World War. Among the earliest items are the Civil War pictures made by Mathew B. Brady and T. H. O'Sullivan and the latter's photographs of the Darien expedition of 1872. Also significant historically and photographically are the International Boundary Commission pictures, 1892-1894, of border towns, mines, and missions, the late nineteenth century hand-colored lantern slides of T. H. McAllister, and the Jackson photographs of Yellowstone Park and the Far West.

Another large group of special records in the National Archives—maps and charts—has also been increased by recent transfers. Among the materials received are the maps, many of them of strategic areas, compiled by the Cartographic Study, a New York City WPA project; Army Map Service maps, 1870-1942, of various countries and areas, chiefly European; Naval Intelligence maps, 1875-1935, of countries throughout the world, with some emphasis on Mexico, other parts of Latin America, and the Far East; and the entire body of manuscript maps, 1855-1936, of the Hydrographic Office, Navy Department, that embody the results of sounding and other hydrographic surveys in foreign waters.

Other accessions of note are certain scientifically interesting files of the Hydrographic Office, including records of naval expeditions, 1811-1939; War Department records such as the general court-martial records, 1917-1920, records of various military departments and posts, 1857-1910, and Confederate and Union army records; anti-trust files of the Department of Justice, 1920-1933; and records of the United States Antarctic Service, 1939-1942.

Miss Maria do Carmo Almeida, a Brazilian student who has just finished a year of study at Syracuse University, spent the month of December at the National Archives studying procedures. She has been sent to this country by the Department of Internal Administration, an agency roughly comparable to a combination of our Civil Service Commission and Bureau of the Budget, to study archival methods that might be applied in a projected reorganization of the Brazilian archival system.

The archivist of the United States has announced the appointment of Dan Lacy, formerly assistant to the archivist, as director of operations. Philip C. Brooks, formerly assistant director of records accessioning and preservation, has been made assistant director of operations. Thad Page, administrative secretary, will serve also as chief of the Division of Legislative Archives, and Elizabeth E. Hamer, formerly acting chief of the Division of Information and Publications, has been named assistant administrative secretary. Gerald J. Davis, a member of the National Archives staff for six years, has been appointed chief of the Division of Justice Department Archives. Members of the staff who have recently been transferred to do records administration or re-

search work in other government agencies include Forrest L. Foor, Elbert L. Huber, Gibbs Myers, Marie C. Stark, and Harvey J. Winter. Among members of the staff who have recently entered the armed services are Kenneth W. Munden, Allen M. Ross, and Jerome Thomases. Edward G. Campbell and Robert Claus have returned to the National Archives after receiving honorable discharges from the army.

The National Archives has issued as its *Records Administration Circular* No. 5, a paper by Dr. Ernst Posner, a former archivist at the Privy State Archives in Berlin and now adjunct professor of archival administration at the American University, entitled "The Administration of Current Records in Italian Public Agencies." The paper was prepared at the request of the archivist of the United States for the assistance it might render in the administration of occupied territory. Also recently issued is a document entitled *The National Archives—What It Is and What It Does*.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Hispanic Foundation of the Library of Congress has been granted \$17,650 by the Rockefeller Foundation to be used within a two-year period for the development of its Archive of Hispanic Culture. Established in 1940 to meet the need for materials on Latin American art, the collection now includes 1,500 slides and about 6,000 photographs of art objects from all periods in all Latin-American countries. The archive is under the direction of Robert C. Smith, assistant director of the Hispanic Foundation, and Miss Elizabeth Wilder.

Under an agreement made between motion picture producers and the Library of Congress in April, 1942, the library is permitted to select from films copyrighted during any given year for deposit in its collections those films having documentary significance. During the past year the library has selected 104 films and parts of films under this arrangement.

Grace Gardner Griffin's descriptive guide to the Manuscript Division's collection of reproductions of manuscripts in British archives, libraries, and other depositories, described as in course of preparation in the January, 1943, issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST*, is now completed. Copy has been submitted to the librarian for transmittal to the Government Printing Office.

On June 27, 1943, the trustees of Tuskegee Institute voted unanimously to give the institute's entire collection of Booker T. Washington papers to the Library of Congress. Comprising over 180,000 pieces and covering the period 1885-1915, it is one of the larger collections now in the Division of Manuscripts. Another large collection recently accessioned (restricted for the present) consists of the papers of Senator Albert J. Beveridge for the period 1900-1911.

OFFICE OF RECORDS ADMINISTRATION, NAVY DEPARTMENT

Increased pressure for office space in Washington has led to the establishment of another records depository under the supervision of the Office of Records Administration. This new depository, located in Philadelphia, houses principally the records of military and civilian personnel of the navy who are no longer in service. About 35,000 cubic feet of such records have been transferred at the present time, though the quantity will increase steadily as the war progresses. Some 10,000 cubic feet of these records were withdrawn from the National Archives because of the increased use of them by the department as a result of the war. The Philadelphia depository also is used to sift non-current ship files and records of discontinued naval activities in the eastern part of the country and to separate the valuable records to be transferred to the National Archives from those to be reported to Congress for disposal.

Another records depository, which serves the Navy Department and the naval establishment in the Washington area, has been removed from an old building in Alexandria, Virginia, to a renovated garage building in the center of Washington. It can accommodate about 25,000 cubic feet of records and also provides quarters for the workrooms and laboratories of the microfilming unit of the Office of Records Administration. A third depository under the supervision of the office is located in the Middle West for the storage of security microfilm copies of records vital to the navy.

Three additional studies based on naval records have been prepared under the supervision of R. G. Albion, recorder of naval administration, in co-operation with the office. Two of these were prepared by Henry P. Beers of the National Archives, one entitled *U. S. Naval Port Officers in the Bordeaux Region, 1917-1919* and the other *United States Naval Forces in Northern Russia (Archangel and Murmansk), 1918-1919*. Accompanying the first of these studies is a reproduction of a pamphlet published in 1919 giving United States naval port regulations for the port of Bordeaux. The third recent study was prepared by A. C. Davidonis of Princeton University under the title *The American Naval Mission in the Adriatic, 1918-1921*.

Lt. (j.g.) J. Hamilton Lane, formerly associated with the Systems Division of Remington Rand, Inc., and instructor in business administration at the College of the City of New York, and Lt. (j.g.) Everett O. Alldredge, formerly acting chief of the Document Security Section of the Office of Economic Warfare and prior to that a member of the National Archives staff, have joined the staff, and Edmund D. Dwyer, who came to the office from the War Department several months ago, has been commissioned a lieutenant, junior grade, in the naval reserve. Lt. Alldredge is in charge of the naval records depository at Philadelphia. The correspondence management program of the office has been strengthened by the appointment of Marian O. Barnes, formerly co-ordinator of correspondence of the Civil Service Commission, to

assist Lt. (j.g.) Charles H. Niemann, who is in charge of the program.

Lt. Comdr. Emmett J. Leahy, director of records administration, and Lt. Joseph P. Brennan, officer in charge of the Microphotographic Service, have just returned from a two-month trip to Africa and the United Kingdom to install projects of the office.

FOREIGN NEWS

Canada

The September, 1943, issue of the *Canadian Historical Review* carries an interesting article by D. C. Harvey of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia on the life and work of Douglas Brymner, first dominion archivist, 1872-1902. The same issue includes a list of recent accessions of manuscript material to the collections of the Hudson's Bay Company Museum.

China

A Chinese manual on *The Management of Archives* prepared by Chao-fo Lung, formerly in charge of the Kwangsi provincial government archives, is described in the March-June, 1943, issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin of Chinese Bibliography* (English edition). This manual of 138 pages resulted from seven years of research in archives administration on the part of the author, who felt the need of bringing out a book of "practical value based on his own experience—simple in treatment and scientific in principle." The book deals with the "accession, classification, cataloging, stacking, and personnel problems of archives," and includes a fifty-page classification schedule for provincial archives as well as a number of illustrations and forms for ready reference.

Germany

Arvid Fredborg, in a dispatch from Stockholm published in the November 7, 1943, *Washington Post*, indicates that "the breaking of the dams at Moehne and Eder in May of this year [1943] . . . ruined all state registry and other records in a widespread area. This made it easy for persons and especially spies in other parts of Germany to pretend they were from the damaged area. Police would have a tough job tracing them."

Italy

The fate of archives and historical manuscripts in war torn Italy is evidenced almost daily by dispatches in the American press. Homer Bigart's dispatch in the *Washington Post* of August 22, 1943, reports that as he walked through the ruined streets of Messina, Sicily, past the Palace of Justice, which had sustained several direct hits, he noted that "someone had already rifled the archives and bundles of legal papers written in a fine Italian hand were scattered in the dust."

Sicily possessed inestimable treasures in the form of documents and libraries and these have not come out unscathed in spite of the fact that the Fascists had removed the most important material outside the cities. Herbert Mathews, in an article in the *New York Times* of September 3, 1943, states that the Archives of State in Palermo, "which contained continuous historic records of the Kingdom of Naples from the Norman period onward and much other precious material, were unfortunately housed in two buildings near the waterfront. That section, of course, was thoroughly bombed. Those buildings were seriously damaged and many documents remain buried in the ruins. It is hoped that losses will be less than appear from the outside. The former curator has been empowered to unearth what he can, and he has twenty-five workmen on the job now." Mathews also reports that although Palermo's communal library, containing city documents, was spared, he fears that the collection of Greek manuscripts bequeathed by Constantine Lascaris to the University of Messina in the fifteenth century may have been destroyed in their storage vaults in Bronte.

The damage to priceless documents in the burning of Naples is now well known through the press accounts of the deliberate German destruction of the libraries of the University of Naples and the Royal Society of Naples. Fires were started by gasoline touched off by exploding hand grenades in the administrative offices of the university, destroying the archives of the university. Books, manuscripts, and maps in the libraries were set afire at the same time. Dr. Imparato, administrative director of the university, showed Herbert Mathews the room where the archives had been kept. The "floor was nothing but an uneven mass of ashes six inches deep" and the walls were "scarred and pitted and the ceiling had almost collapsed." Many Neopolitan documents had been stored for safety at the villa of Count Filangeri near Capua. Among these records were the registers of the house of Hohenstaufen for the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. In revenge for the killing of one German soldier, the Germans burned these archives, many of which were basic documents for German as well as Italian history.

When the Germans seized Rome, Edward Kennedy, writing in the *Washington Post* of September 27, 1943, reports that refugees told him that the Nazis were "occupying all the Italian ministries, seizing records," and a dispatch from Wes Gallagher, printed in the same paper on November 6, 1943, quoted refugees as saying that the Germans "proposed to destroy all Italian government records in order to leave a chaotic situation for those who came in to administer the country."

Russia

A United Press dispatch from London on November 6, 1943, reported that during the Nazi occupation of Smolensk "cultural and medical institutions were burned, and their contents either destroyed or sent to Germany."

Mexico

The Sixth Mexican History Convention held at Jalapa, capital of Vera Cruz State, on September 13-20, 1943, recommended to the Ministry of Interior and to the Congress that "the necessary means be taken for the federalization of the archives of the nation or that they be placed in some other form under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government." This recommendation probably refers to the federalization of state and local records. The convention also recommended that "negotiations be opened with the authorities so that Mexican investigators may consult Spanish archives and libraries."

Peru

The National Library of Peru was virtually destroyed by fire on May 10, 1943. Over 100,000 volumes and 40,000 manuscripts were lost together with many maps and geographical works belonging to the Lima Geographical Society housed in the same building. First reports received in the United States indicated that the national archives, housed in an adjoining building, also had been burned, but later information proved this rumor incorrect. The Peruvian government has set aside funds for the construction of a new building, and many American libraries and institutions are co-operating with a national committee, functioning through the Hispanic Foundation of the Library of Congress in the reforming of the National Library's collections.

Spain

The *Christian Science Monitor* in a special article on November 3, 1943, noted that "fleeing from Occupied Europe, most of the men and women who have sought haven in Spain are . . . without identifying papers. . . . The fact that so many stateless persons have no papers to prove their identity or original nationality has been a serious handicap to arrangements for departure [of refugees] even when the individual has the assurance of a destination visa."

GENERAL NEWS

Some months ago the American Council of Learned Societies set up a Committee on Protection of Cultural Treasures in War Areas with headquarters at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. The purpose of the committee is to advise and assist governmental agencies and to help shape public opinion as to the protection of historical monuments, museums, archives, libraries, and cultural institutions in war areas. The committee has solicited the help of volunteer specialists having knowledge of conditions in different war areas, and several agencies, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Frick Art Reference Library, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the Smithsonian Institution have been co-operating actively in its work.

Members of the committee are: William B. Dinsmoor, chairman, Archaeological Institute of America; Sumner McK. Crosby, executive secretary, Yale University; Solon J. Buck, National Archives; George H. Chase, Harvard University; Laurence Vail Coleman, American Association of Museums; David E. Finley, National Gallery of Art; Horace H. F. Jayne, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Harry M. Lydenberg, American Library Association; Archibald MacLeish, Library of Congress; Charles R. Morey, Princeton University; Albert E. Parr, American Museum of Natural History; Paul J. Sachs, Fogg Art Museum; Francis H. Taylor, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Langdon Warner, Harvard University; Alexander Wetmore, Smithsonian Institution; Philip C. Jessup, liaison member, Foreign Economic Administration.

The first year's expenses of the committee are guaranteed by a grant of \$16,500 from the Rockefeller Foundation.

On August 20, 1943, the Department of State announced that the President had approved the establishment of an American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in Europe. "It will function under the auspices of the United States Government and in conjunction with similar groups in other countries for the protection and conservation of works of art and of artistic and historic records of Europe and to aid in the salvaging and restoring to the lawful owners such objects as have been appropriated by the Axis powers or individuals acting under their authority or consent." It will also co-operate with the appropriate branches of the Army and State Department and may be called upon "to furnish museum officials and historians to the General Staff of the Army, so that, so far as is consistent with military necessity, works of cultural value may be protected in countries occupied by the armies of the United Nations."

Members of the American commission are: Owen J. Roberts, chairman, Supreme Court of the United States; David E. Finley, vice-chairman, National Gallery of Art; Huntington Cairns, secretary-treasurer, National Gallery of Art; Herbert Lehman, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitations Administration; Archibald MacLeish, Library of Congress; William B. Dinsmoor, Archaeological Institute of America; Francis H. Taylor, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Paul J. Sachs, Fogg Art Museum.

The headquarters of the American Commission are at the National Gallery of Art, Washington.

A number of subcommittees have been established including a subcommittee of one person, the librarian of Congress, to consider the protection of books, archives, and manuscripts in war areas. Mr. MacLeish has associated with him in an advisory capacity the following specialists who are not members of the American Commission: Solon J. Buck of the National Archives, Waldo G. Leland of the American Council of Learned Societies, Harry M.

Lydenberg of the American Library Association, A. S. Rosenbach of the Rosenbach Company, Philadelphia, and Lewis Hanke of the Library of Congress.

Although the archivist of the United States, as stated above, already is associated with the work of the American Commission in an advisory capacity, the Society of American Archivists, recognizing the great danger to archives and historical manuscripts in war areas and sensing the need for a more direct, official representation of archivists in the work of protecting such materials from the ravages of war, voted at its annual meeting, November 16, to ask President Roosevelt to consider the appointment of a professional archivist to membership on the American Commission.

The American Association of State and Local History has received funds by grant and gift to complete the revision of the *Handbook of Historical Societies in the United States and Canada*, published in 1936 by the Conference of Historical Societies. Christopher Crittenden, a member of the Society of American Archivists and secretary of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History, is the editor. Information concerning historical societies for inclusion in the revised *Handbook* should be sent to Dr. Crittenden, Box 1881, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Among the topics discussed at the annual convention of the American Association of Medical Record Librarians in Buffalo on September 15, 1943, were: medical records administration in the navy; medical records in industry; medical records in modern research; functions of the record department; organization of the work of the record department; and what the United States Public Health Service expects from civilian medical records.

With the publication of the fourth 1942 number of the *Journal of Documentary Reproduction*, the American Library Association's Committee on Photographic Reproduction of Library Materials has decided that for the year 1943, at least, it will "compress the four quarterly publications into one annual volume to be published early in 1944." After the war it is expected that quarterly or more frequent publication will be resumed. Subscribers will be notified from American Library Association headquarters when the 1943 annual is ready.

The November 20, 1943, *Publisher's Weekly* carries the following news item of interest to archivists:

What is probably the most complete consecutive record of an American publishing business are the files of Charles Scribner's Sons, and these letters, contracts and business reports will be used to prepare a memorial volume for the Scribner centenary which falls in 1946. Charles Scribner, head of the house and third of the name, has directed David Randall, head of the rare book department of the Scribner Book Store, to begin

the exploration of the two rooms full of material stored on the third floor of the Fifth Avenue building. . . .

The firm has kept all editorial correspondence and records since 1870 and has extensive files back to the beginning of the house. From both a literary and publishing point of view the material is sure to prove of greatest interest. There are letters in great number from Meredith, Barrie, Riley, Kipling, Stevenson, Mrs. Wharton, Henry James, Thomas Wolfe, Frank Stockton, Sidney Lanier, Eugene Field, to mention but a few, and correspondence showing fine judgment (with occasional errors) of a house directed with publishing genius and guided by such editors as J. G. Holland, Robert Bridges, Edward Burlingame and Maxwell Perkins. From records of such completeness a picture of publishing could be created that would shed light on both the history and practice of publishing.

Both sides of the correspondence are available, author's letters to Scribners and vice versa. All of the house correspondence has been saved, as has that of *Scribner's Magazine*. Lemuel Bangs, who was Scribner's English agent and talent scout for many decades, wrote regularly giving all sorts of information on his contemporaries, while, at one time or another, the firm had extensive correspondence with all the most prominent publishing houses and agents both here and abroad. The letters of the 1880's and 1890's contain a vast amount of information on the vexing copyright problems of those hectic decades. There are probably, including answers, a million letters to be gone over.

The various firm members and editors had their own filing boxes, usually arranged in half yearly periods, and correspondence often overlapped. For example, in 1885 Stevenson might be corresponding with both Charles Scribner and E. L. Burlingame. This correspondence will, therefore, be in two different files and their respective answers will be in two other letter books, while the correspondence with Bangs and Stevenson's English publisher will each be found filed elsewhere again. The task of R. F. Roberts in integrating this material is in itself a vast undertaking.

In an article written for the *American Historical Review* under the title "United States in World War II: Plans for Historiography," Pendleton Herring, executive secretary of the Budget Bureau's Committee on Records of War Administration, states that this war promises to be the "most systematically documented war in history." Indeed, as all know, there threatens to be an "embarrassment of historical riches" unless the significant records are separated from the trivial. Nevertheless, much historical data will be lost unless events are supplemented by the explanatory comments of participants. To prevent an avalanche of records on the one hand and a paucity of certain types of records on the other, a Committee on Records of War Administration was established in the Budget Bureau in March, 1942. This committee

seeks to stimulate major war agencies to maintain adequate records and to provide a special research staff within the Bureau of the Budget to make current administrative analyses. In addition to the executive secretary, the committee has as members: Waldo G. Leland, chairman, American Council of Learned Societies; William Anderson, American Political Science Association; Louis Brownlow, American Society for Public Administration; Donald Young, Social Science Research Council; Solon J. Buck, the National Archives; Archibald MacLeish, Library of Congress; Arthur Schlesinger, American Historical Association; Guy Stanton Ford, American Historical Association.

By special permission, the list of historical officers now heading historical units or projects in various federal agencies is given below:

Historical Officers in Government Agencies

The names of the officials in charge of the historical work in each agency are given. No attempt is made to indicate either their immediate assistants or the officials within the agency who may be in charge of different segments of the work, except in the case of the armed forces.

| | |
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| Department of Agriculture | O. C. Stine |
| Alien Property Custodian | Fritz Machlup |
| Office of Censorship | Lt. Theodore F. Koop |
| Office of Civilian Defense | Elwyn A. Mauck |
| Committee on Congested Production Areas | Louis P. Birk |
| Office of Economic Warfare ¹ | William L. Tayler |
| Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation ¹ | Grace Fox |
| Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs | Benjamin Margolin |
| Office of Lend-Lease Administration ¹ | Louis K. Hyde, Jr. |
| National Housing Agency | Helen Monchow |
| National Research Council | John F. Fulton |
| Navy Department | |
| Naval Records and Library | Capt. D. W. Knox |
| Naval Operations | Lt. Com. Samuel Eliot Morison |
| Naval Administration | R. G. Albion |
| Marine Corps | Col. C. H. Metcalf |
| Coast Guard | Lt. Com. F. R. Eldridge |
| Petroleum Administration for War | Carl Lokke |
| Post Office Department | Forest Hall |
| Office of Price Administration | Robert E. Stone |
| Office of Scientific Research and Development | James Phinney Baxter |
| State Department | Graham Stuart |
| Tennessee Valley Authority | Paul Ager |
| Veterans' Administration | Kathleen D. Smith |
| War Department | |
| Historical Branch | Walter L. Wright and Lt. Col. John Kemper |
| Army Ground Forces | Maj. Kent Roberts Greenfield |

¹ Now part of Foreign Economic Administration.

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Army Service Forces | Lt. Col. John D. Millett |
| Army Air Forces | Col. Clarence T. Lober |
| Office of War Information | Louise Deming |
| War Labor Board | John Gambs |
| War Manpower Commission | Constance Kiehel |
| Office of War Mobilization | Cassie Connor |
| War Production Board | James W. Fesler |
| War Relocation Authority | Ruth Elinor McKee |
| White House | Fred W. Shipman |

In September, 1943, the Social Science Research Council established a Committee on War Studies to supplement the work of historical officers in the federal government by fostering historical activity by state, semipublic, and private organizations. This committee is composed of: Roy F. Nichols, chairman, University of Pennsylvania; Donald Young, University of Pennsylvania; John A. Krout, Columbia University; Shepherd B. Clough, Columbia University; Pendleton Herring, Harvard University; Paul Homan, Cornell University; James P. Baxter, III, Williams College.

This organization and the Committee on Records of War Administration are, since October 28, 1943, co-operating through an Advisory Council on War History. The council seeks to co-ordinate and stimulate historical projects of war administration, both public and private, throughout the nation. The council members are: Guy Stanton Ford, chairman, American Historical Association; Waldo G. Leland, American Council of Learned Societies; Lewis Brownlow, American Society for Public Administration; Solon J. Buck, National Archives; Archibald MacLeish, Library of Congress; Donald Young, Social Science Research Council; Roy F. Nichols, Social Science Research Council; Pendleton Herring, Budget Bureau; James P. Baxter, III, Williams College; John A. Krout, Columbia University; Shepherd B. Clough, Columbia University, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Harvard University.

CALIFORNIA

It is reported in the December, 1943, issue of *Camera* that the Recorder's Office of Los Angeles County has had 33,000 volumes of its records micro-filmed. These records cover nearly a hundred years of the county's history. About 450,000 feet of film were used and the filing space required was reduced to three per cent of that taken up by the original records.

COLORADO

Dr. LeRoy R. Hafen, executive director and historian of the Colorado Historical Society, made a trip through the state in September to interview pioneers and gather historical data and relics. He especially sought records of the early mining districts, organized by prospectors and miners before Colorado Territory was created. These interesting records are of great historical value,

as they describe the districts, designate the officers, and give the laws that governed property rights and criminal procedure. Some of these records have already been spirited away from Colorado and are held by book collectors and libraries in the East. In conformity with the recently enacted archives law, the Historical Society is gathering, repairing, and preserving these early manuscripts. The following mining district records have been acquired by the society: Records of California Mining District, 1860 (four books); Sacramento District, 1860 (six books); Records of the Arazonia Silver Mining District, Utah Territory, 1860; Lost Canon Mining District, 1860; Washoe District, 1860; Union Gulch District; Arkansas Independent District (two books); Red Mountain District, 1864 (two books); Miners' Court Records; Taylor Park Mining District; Laws and Records of Mosquito District (1861); Fairplay District, Books A, B, and C (1860-1866); Independent Mining District, Books A, B, and C (1861-1863); Montgomery Mining District, Books A, B, and C (1861-1866); Buckskin Joe District (1860); and Index to Lodes, Names of Owners.

CONNECTICUT

The Yale University Library has accessioned the William Robertson Coe collection of Western Americana, including some manuscripts of John Jacob Astor and records of the Hudson's Bay Company.

DELAWARE

One of the noteworthy advancements in the work of the Delaware Public Archives Commission is the establishment of a paper and ink testing laboratory. With the lack of proper materials for making some record papers, it is felt that this work is more essential now than in peacetimes, and for this reason the acquisition of testing equipment is being pushed despite the scarcity of testing instruments.

ILLINOIS

William J. Stratton, state treasurer, announced recently that all state checks now are being microcopied before they are released, thereby giving the state an accurate and permanent record of all disbursements. Each roll of film photographs about six thousand checks and reduces filing space to about two per cent of that required for carbons of the original checks.

Miss Margaret C. Norton, archivist at the state library, is conducting a series of lectures on archival economy for internes working in the Archives Department. One of the internes is Miss Elza Robillard de Marigny, an employee of the Brazilian government, who has been in the United States some time studying the records management methods of government offices, archival institutions, and business firms.

The Newberry Library, Chicago, has acquired the inactive general office files of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad. Amounting to ten tons of records, this collection of business archives is one of the most valuable sources for the history of the Middle West and the study of railroad economics. Correspondence between Ralph Budd, president of the Burlington, and Stanley Pargellis, librarian of Newberry, pertaining to the accession is published in the September, 1943, issue of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*.

INDIANA

The Indiana History Division of the Indiana State Library has added to its manuscript collections a group of letters of Eugene V. Debs to the secretary of the Socialist Party and other persons. Also acquired are the business papers of the Indianapolis and Bellefontaine Railroad and the Wabash and Erie Canal. The Archives Division has received the Indiana National Guard service records for the years 1880-1921.

KENTUCKY

The University of Kentucky has acquired a large collection of business papers of the John P. Morton Company of Louisville. These records of an outstanding publishing house of the South covers the years 1850-1935.

LOUISIANA

Edwin A. Davis, head of the Department of Archives of Louisiana State University, is on leave of absence to study Mexican archives administration and bibliography in Mexico.

MAINE

The Maine Historical Society announced in October the appointment of Miss Marian B. Rowe as librarian following the resignation of Miss A. Mae Gilman. Miss Rowe reports the accessioning during the past year of collections of manuscripts pertaining to the early history of the town of Bridgton and Gorham, Maine, and the business papers of Ellis B. Usher, who was engaged in Maine lumbering operations during the period 1854-1863.

MARYLAND

The Maryland Historical Society is preparing a history of the society and a guide to its collections. The society has acquired recently the papers of the Baltimore business firms of Smith and Atkinson, 1839-1891, and George R. Riggs and Company, 1817-1842.

MICHIGAN

The Michigan Historical Collections of the University of Michigan has accessioned the noncurrent records of the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan, and the personal papers of Mortimer E. Cooley, former dean of the university's College of Engineering and active leader in Michigan public life for many years.

MINNESOTA

Because the Minnesota legislature did not appropriate funds for the War History Committee, an agency of the Minnesota Office of Civilian Defense, the Minnesota Historical Society has taken over the direction of war history work. An article by Jacob Hodnefeld about the collecting and preserving of Minnesota war records was published in the May 24, 1943, issue of the *Bulletin* of the Minnesota Defense Council.

Among recent accessions of the Minnesota Historical Society are: business records of the Maine lumbering firm of Judd, Walker, and Company, 1849-1871; diaries and letters of Andrew J. Sterrett, 1849-1865, describing pioneer life in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa; papers of Henry Oldenberg, 1888-1934, relating to forestry and the development of Jay Cooke State Park; the Edmund P. Neill correspondence relating to Minnesota's participation in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection; and the business records of the Minnesota firm of E. W. Backus and Company, 1892-1911.

NEW JERSEY

Governor Edison recently appointed a War Records Commission composed of outstanding leaders of the state's cultural life to guide in the preservation of documents and other source materials pertaining to New Jersey's participation in the war. A leaflet describing the organization, functions, and work of the commission is available from the New Jersey State Library, Trenton 7, New Jersey.

NEW YORK

Whitney R. Cross, curator of the Collection of Regional History at Cornell University has published a report of his year's work to bring together at Cornell "source materials of promising quality and quantity, as well as to create a system for filing, classifying, and preserving acquisitions." He lists fourteen large collections that have been "sorted, catalogued and filed according to their nature on library shelves (bound volumes), in dust-proof boxes within stain-proof folders, or within folders in file drawers." A card index

gives access to significant names and leading subjects covered in these collections.

Clifford Lord, director of the New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, entered the navy in November, 1943. Miss Janet MacFarlane is acting director.

NORTH CAROLINA

At the request of the State Department of Archives and History, Governor Broughton on May 24, 1943, wrote to request the head of each state department, institution, or agency to name a member of his staff to serve as records administrator to co-operate with the Department of Archives and History in the solution of problems involving the handling, disposal, and preservation of official records. In most cases the response was favorable, and on June 15, 1943, a meeting of the records administrators was held in the offices of the Department of Archives and History, when Governor Broughton emphasized the importance of the program. Dr. R. D. W. Connor, chairman of the department, told how such problems are met by the United States government; and Dr. Christopher Crittenden and Mr. D. L. Corbitt of the department's staff explained how the department will co-operate with other state agencies in the preservation of valuable noncurrent records, the disposal of useless noncurrent records, and the solution of problems involving current records. Since the meeting, a number of requests for service in this field have been met.

Collectors of war records have been appointed for ninety-seven of the state's one hundred counties. In addition, one hundred twenty-two assistant collectors have been named. To date an estimated total of 37,550 war record items has been collected, including soldiers' letters, press releases, posters, pictures, newspapers, and museum items. On August 18, 1943, a one-day school for collectors of war records was held in Chapel Hill, sponsored by the Office of Civilian Defense, the State Department of Archives and History, and the Institute of Government. In spite of travel difficulties, no less than seventy persons were present from all parts of the state. Leading the discussion were R. L. McMillan, state director of civilian defense; R. D. W. Connor, chairman of the State Department of Archives and History; Phillips Russell, president of the North Carolina Society of County Historians; Pauline Hill of the State Library; and Christopher Crittenden, D. L. Corbitt, Miss Charlie Huss, and Mrs. Ellen M. Rollins of the State Department of Archives and History.

Loren C. MacKinney of the University of North Carolina, with the assistance of the library staff and the department of Romance languages, is preparing a list of photofacsimiles (photocopies and films) at the University of North Carolina. Of special importance are the copies of European manuscripts, the originals of which may have been destroyed or may be inaccessible

for years to come. Among the outstanding materials already listed are copies purchased for individual research projects by grants from the university's Smith Fund; films of medieval manuscript sources concerning alchemy; and the holdings of university alumni, even though the holdings are not now at Chapel Hill. Any alumni or friends of the university possessing photofacsimiles of rare books or manuscripts are asked to communicate with Dr. MacKinney.

Recent accessions of the State Department of Archives and History include seventeen photocopies of maps of North Carolina and adjacent regions, 1647-1844; the personal letters of William Bailey Clement, Confederate officer, 1858-1868; records of the North Carolina Press Association, 1942-1943; miscellaneous business papers of John R. Huss of Gastonia, 1860-1900; the John Alexander Robeson Collection, 1734-1941, including Revolutionary materials and genealogical data; and nine scrapbooks from the American Legion Auxiliary, Raleigh.

OHIO

The Department of Documents of the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society has acquired the letters of William T. Coggeshall to Orville James Victor, editor of the Beadle dime novels, and a collection of letters, circulars, and instructions from the General Land Office in Washington to branch offices in Steubenville and Zanesville.

Robert E. Webb has been appointed research assistant to William D. Overman, the archivist and historian of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Akron. Mr. Webb was formerly connected with the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society and the Ohio War History Commission.

VIRGINIA

The Tracy W. McGregor Library, University of Virginia, recently acquired the last large group of Jefferson papers known to be still in private hands. Consisting of approximately five thousand items and covering the years 1725-1850, it includes about sixty Jefferson holograph letters and 375 letters to Jefferson. For the most part these are intimate and domestic in nature, for they are the letters Jefferson's daughters and grandchildren wrote the statesman while he was away from Monticello.

To the Jefferson items a large and important group of Governor Wilson Cary Nicholas's letters had been added; Nicholas's daughter married Thomas Jefferson Randolph, grandson of the Sage of Monticello. The Nicholas papers, plus the correspondence of at least two generations of descendants, make up the rest of the collection.

There are twenty-five letters from John Taylor of Caroline to Governor Nicholas, discussing politics of the day, 1806-1808. Taylor disapproved of Madison's compromising attitude toward the Federalists and the correspond-

ence indicates some uneasiness about Jefferson, but Taylor states that nothing altered "my old and well-weighed opinion of Mr. Jefferson." There are also many letters of Thomas Mann Randolph, Edmund Randolph, John Wayles Eppes, Richard Henry Lee, Albert Gallatin, James Madison and others.

The letters of Jane Nicholas and Thomas Jefferson Randolph and those of their children dominate the later period of the collection. They reveal much in the way of the nineteenth century Virginia social life. There is a group of letters from George Wythe Randolph, secretary of war of the Confederacy, which contains in addition to family letters his copies of correspondence with Jefferson Davis and other confederate leaders. Nicholas Trist, Joseph and Ellen Coolidge, and Sarah Nicholas Randolph also figure prominently in the collection.

Morgan P. Robinson, associated with the Archives Division of the Virginia State Library since January, 1915, died on October 24, 1943. Well known as an archivist, Mr. Robinson was a charter member of the Society of American Archivists.

Floyd C. Williams, John Simmons, and Haywood Tyler have left the Archives Division of the Virginia State Library to enter the armed forces, and Virginia Lockett and Dorothy Wood have resigned to accept other employment. The following persons have been added to the Archives Division staff: Mrs. Henry D. Nachman, Ashton Hughes, W. M. Mosely, James Walthall, and Marian Roberts.

WISCONSIN

The Richard T. Ely papers, reflecting economic and sociological thought in America and Western Europe for fifty years, were presented to the Wisconsin State Historical Society as a gift from the great economist, who died last October. The collection includes some 80,000 pieces, and contains many letters from great leaders and literary people who corresponded with Ely during the thirty-three years he served as head of the Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin.

The annual historical convention of the Wisconsin State Historical Society was held in Milwaukee, September 16-17, 1943. The morning session, September 17, was devoted to a discussion of collecting war records in Wisconsin, the main paper being read by John G. Gregory, who described the state's record collecting experiences during the first World War.

