

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

RICHARD G. WOOD, Editor

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*The Classification and Cataloguing of Maps and Atlases*, by Samuel W. Boggs and Dorothy Cornwell Lewis. (New York. Special Libraries Association, 1945. Pp. 175. \$8.75.)

The map and atlas collection of the United States Department of State served as the laboratory in which were tested and developed the principles that are set forth systematically, concisely, and exhaustively, in this compact and useful manual. The volume, to use the words of the authors, is "principally concerned with practices needed for separate map collections, although provision is made as well for adaptation to a consolidated book and map catalog. . . . It is an attempt to extend to the cataloguing and classification of maps and atlases, so far as possible, the techniques which have been developed by librarians for books, and to add the further techniques needed to bring maps and atlases into the realm of systematically arranged research material."

The major headings of the manual are: classification and filing of maps; the catalogue card; organization of the catalogue; technical notes concerning maps; the classification schedule; and subject headings. The knowledge and techniques of the geographer and of the librarian have in varying degree shaped each of these parts. The first four sections of the volume encompass types of information that are obviously useful to all persons who administer and maintain map collections. The last two sections present the results of a prodigious amount of thought and labor that have been devoted to creating a readily useful, yet highly developed scheme of classification and codification. It is to be hoped that users of the volume will give careful attention to these sections before embarking upon the development of completely independent systems.

Of particular value to persons who may be called upon to deal with the problems treated in this publication and who have not had training in either the fields of geography or library science, are the numerous illustrative examples, many of which are presented in graphic form.

While the manual gives only passing mention to the cataloguing of old and rare maps, it does list references pertinent to that subject. The keepers of archival map collections will, nevertheless, find this publication an essential tool in solving many of the problems peculiar to such collections. Such omissions or errors as have been noted are of minor significance and do not detract from its over-all worth. The reviewer is, however, of the opinion that a more substantial binding than has been used is not only justified, but is mandatory for a publication that will receive the extensive use for which this volume is destined.

JAMES A. MINOGUE

U. S. Navy

*The Matabele Journals of Robert Moffat, 1829-1860*, by J. P. R. Wallis. Government Archives of Southern Rhodesia, Oppenheimer Series, No. I. (London. Chatto and Windus, 1945. 2 vols. Pp. xv, 38 and vii, 295. 30/s.)

From an archivist's point of view, one of the most interesting works that has come from the press in recent years is the two volumes of the Robert Moffat journals, published by the Government Archives of Southern Rhodesia as the first of the Oppenheimer Series. As a piece of book-making, alone, the publication is of intense interest, especially in a time of war shortages. Printed by the Glasgow University Press, and published by Chatto and Windus, the volumes, in clear, beautiful type, on good paper, with wide restful margins, and excellently bound, are a joy to the eye. Besides frontispieces in full color, there are other plates and maps.

That the small and comparatively new country of Southern Rhodesia has been able to undertake so ambitious a series of publications from its archives, which were only established in 1935, is due to the generosity of Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, an enthusiast for Africana, who, in the American theatrical sense, has become the "angel" of the project. The series is under the general editorship of J. P. R. Wallis, a former professor at the University of Pretoria, and the artist-explorer Thomas Bains.

The choice of the journals of the missionary Robert Moffat, as the first two volumes of the series, is a happy one. Missing for nearly fifty years, these papers were found in the saddle room of a Cape Province farm, and acquired for the archives in 1941. They cover five visits made by the missionary into Matabeleland from 1829 to 1859, and contain details of his relations with the black chief Moselekatse which represent almost the first penetration of Western civilization into this particular corner of darkest Africa. Missionary journals are to African history what the Jesuit Relations are to America. In many cases they are the only source material for the period they cover.

The editors are to be congratulated on their decision to publish the journals practically complete. All historians who have worked with selected editions of journals, know to their sorrow, that the most well-meaning editor invariably omits those very details for which the scholar is seeking. One may even question, in this case, whether some future social historian may not regret the omission of "a few instructions relating to very trivial domestic concerns," and it seems possible that physicians might have been interested in "the account in unsavory fullness of detail, of his treatment of Moselekatse's constipation." Certainly no reader of modern novels could have taken offense at it.

The publication of a country's archives before any systematic history of that country has been written, seems the historian's dream of ideal perfection. Scholars everywhere may be encouraged to hope that other men of wealth will see in such publications, the possibility of a memorial more lasting than

"marble and gilded monuments." One wonders, with a slight twinge of apprehension, however, whether archivists of the future will be chosen, like college presidents for their ability to attract donations.

The chronology, given in the appendix is helpful, and the notes on the Bechuana tribes indispensable to a novice. The bibliography, while necessarily short, owing to the limitation of the field, seems to be scholarly and adequate, and tempts to further reading, as all good bibliographies should do. Especial praise should be given to the index, which is so clearly printed, and well spaced, as to be a pleasure instead of a stumbling-block. It follows the very commendable recent practice of collecting all references to names of varied spelling under the most acceptable form.

ELIZABETH KIEFFER

Franklin and Marshall College

*Calendar of the Jefferson Davis Postwar Manuscripts in the Louisiana Historical Collection.* (New Orleans, Louisiana Historical Association, 1943. Pp. iv, 325. Mimeograph.)

Perhaps most calendars stir little general interest, but here is one which offers both satisfaction and reward not only in examining but actually in reading these paraphrased condensations of the letters written to and from Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America, especially during the last years of his life. In fact, most of them are answers sent in response to enquiries made by Mr. and Mrs. Davis while compiling the material for their books relating to the period, particularly the military and political phases of the Confederacy's history. The originals are preserved in the Confederate Memorial Hall in New Orleans, where they were deposited by Mrs. Davis after her husband's death.

Personal interests, of course, vary but there should be general interest among historians and writers on Southern history in the considerable data recorded here which was used in the preparation of *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government* published by Jefferson Davis in 1881, as well as much comment on it received during the following ten years.

This orderly list of letters ranges in date from March, 1863, to December, 1891. They number approximately five hundred after 1876 and about one hundred before that year. Some have appeared in print, but here all follow in chronological order and reveal the flow of public opinion and the valuable personal comment of those present during critical moments in our history. Likewise they reveal much of the personality of the central figure as expressed in the correspondence which flowed to and from him.

The editors have provided frequent footnotes verifying persons, as well as cited references. There is also a helpful index, more adequate on the individual than on the subject side.

A portion of the work of calendaring was done by the Historical Records Survey, which later was revised and amended through private editing. Still later, the material was assembled and published under the supervision of General Allison Owen, president of the Louisiana Historical Association, and Mrs. Peytona L. Howell, curator of the Confederate Memorial Hall.

CHARLES E. RUSH

University of North Carolina Library

*Biennial Report of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, July 1, 1943 through June 30, 1945.* (Jackson, Mississippi. 1945. Pp. 30.)

This report, which is patterned after those of previous years, was prepared by Miss Charlotte Capers, acting director in the absence of Dr. William D. McCain. It gives a detailed account of the activities of the various divisions of the department: the Division of Archives, the Library, the Hall of Fame, and the Museum.

The analysis of services rendered to the public should be of considerable interest to archivists. During the biennium, 5,382 written requests for information were answered and 5,512 researchers visited the institution in person. These totals are tabulated by months, by states, and by subjects of written requests. A surprisingly large total of thirty-three written requests originated in Italy. It would seem that Captain McCain did not altogether forget the home front while sojourning abroad.

In listing accessions, it is revealed that Mississippi has made a special effort to collect second World War materials relating to the state, including, among other things, the files of sixteen different service publications. The failure to indicate the source of manuscript accessions detracts considerably from the value and interest of this section of the report. For example, all of the manuscript materials received during the biennium appear to have come from private sources. However, it is quite possible that several items, such as, "Noxubee County Papers, 1830-1881, 75 pieces" may have been transferred from official sources.

By way of contrast, the financial statement is published in great detail. The exact amount disbursed for each budget item, including salaries is listed. In order to carry out its program for the future as outlined in the conclusion of the report, the department is requesting \$27,120 for salaries and \$15,000 for support and maintenance for the biennium 1946-1948. It is interesting to note that \$3,000 is being asked for microphotography equipment, although a photostating machine, a laminating machine, and fumigating vault are also needed.

A two-page index is appended to the report.

GUST SKORDAS

Maryland Hall of Records

*Resources of Pacific Northwest Libraries: A Survey of Facilities for Study and Research*, by John Van Male. (Seattle. Pacific Northwest Library Association, 1943. Pp. xv, 404. \$4.00.)

As director of the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center, located in Seattle, Dr. Van Male is in an excellent position to write on this subject, and the careful study which he made gives added weight to what he says. The survey was made in 108 libraries in British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, and includes all types, such as: public, state college and university, historical society, medical society, law, art museum, and the Provincial Archives of British Columbia. The study is divided into an analysis of the holdings of libraries in five categories: general works, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and technology. In each group Dr. Van Male finds that only a beginning has been made toward establishing collections adequate for study and research.

An exception is in the field of Northwest history, wherein the libraries have managed to acquire practically the entire printed record of the region, while a great number of manuscripts sources of the early period have been gathered and preserved. A few libraries have acquired business, church, association, and governmental archives. In the archival collections, as in the book collections, however, large gaps exist, not only as to periods included but also as to types of archives acquired, since at present only two libraries in the region actively search for archival material.

The study is an attempt at a fair evaluation of the library holdings of the Pacific Northwest, made with an awareness of the handicaps of youth, isolation, limited financial means, and economic and social demands, together with an acknowledgement of the co-operative work already being carried out within the region. While not minimizing the accomplishments, it points out weaknesses in library collections already recognized by many Pacific Northwest librarians, and offers concrete suggestions for regional co-operation to enable the libraries to supply the needs required for study and research.

ELEANOR J. ROSS

U. S. Weather Bureau

*Library Resources of the University of North Carolina: A Summary of Facilities for Study and Research*, edited by Charles E. Rush, Director of Libraries. (Chapel Hill, N.C. The University of North Carolina Press, 1945. Pp. x, 264. \$3.50.)

This book is a product of the collaboration of Mr. Rush, director of libraries at the university, with specialists on the faculty and members of the library staff who know intimately the strength of the library holdings in their special fields. They have combined their information in the production of this volume which is appropriately released on the occasion of the sesquicentennial celebra-

tion of the University of North Carolina. It depicts the achievements of the university library and also reflects the vision and courage of those who have been responsible for its development and growth.

The library resources of the university are summarized in nine major divisions which show the distribution of material as follows: The Library in Scholarship and Research, Collections and Foundations, Bibliography and Reference, Biological and Related Sciences, Fine Arts, and Philosophy, Language and Literature, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, and Library Extension.

The book attracts the interest of archivists and custodians of historical manuscripts in as much as it contains listings of the earliest accessions ranging from prehistoric exhibits to manuscripts, and authoritative book on all phases of knowledge from the beginning of printing down to the present day. In addition to the fundamental collections in the subject fields, the library has built up a number of notable special collections. A few of the most important collections are listed as follows: (1) The Hill Collection of North Caroliniana, containing manuscript bibliographies, state documents, and volumes of state laws. (2) The Southern Historical Collection, containing over two million manuscripts and other material relating to the South. Dr. J. B. de Roulhac Hamilton has contributed much to the growth of this body of material. (3) The Hunter Collection of medieval manuscripts and fifteenth-century books. (4) The Hanes Collection, containing early manuscripts and rare books including the famous Bible printed in Mainz by Gutenberg. The treatment of these library holdings in this volume, particularly these rare books and manuscripts, makes this publication of special interest to archivists as well as an invaluable aid for research.

E. A. GREEN