

## SHORTER NOTICES

RICHARD G. WOOD, Editor

The National Archives, Washington 25, D.C.

The *Erreurs et Vérités dans l'Histoire d'Haiti* (Port-au-Prince, Haiti. 1945. 381 pp.), by Mentor Laurent, director of the Librairie d'Histoire d'Haiti, is an attempt to correct the errors in Haiti's written history. Particular emphasis rests on the heroic age of Toussaint Louverture. Laurent's method of correcting the errors is to quote passages from authors with whom he differs and refute their statements by means of documents. Many documents are printed *in extenso*. His own statement of method follows: "Our role as archivist, as librarian, consists in collecting the documents and presenting them to present and future historians. Thus, desiring to hold strictly to the plan of objectivity, we shall not comment and still less try to impose our opinion on others" (p. 28).

It would be well if archivists everywhere could be persuaded to make similar contributions. They are in a peculiarly favorable position to rectify mistakes in published historical works. But there is a better model than Laurent's study, namely, Pierre Caron's *Les Massacres de Septembre*, published in 1935. It was based on documents brought together by the author in the midst of routine archival work in the Archives Nationales in Paris over a period of fifteen years.—C. L. LOKKE, The National Archives.

*Year Book Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies* (Harrisburg, 1945. Pp. 102). After foregoing an annual meeting and an issue of the *Year Book* in 1943, the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies resumed these activities with the 1944 meeting. Of leading interest in the proceedings of the federation were the resolutions presented to state authorities calling for the construction of an archives building to house public records, and the publication of a bulletin that would outline methods of repairing, preserving and storing records. This bulletin would be made available to borough, city and county governments (pp. 41-42).

In listing the constituent societies with their libraries, publications, and activities, the *Year Book* follows the convenient pattern of the *Handbook* of the American Association for State and Local History.—F. G. HALLEY, The National Archives

## NEWS NOTES

KARL L. TREVER, Editor

The National Archives, Washington 25, D.C.

### THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

With the present issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST* the undersigned ends his responsibility for the journal during a period of more than eight years. He offers his successor, Miss Margaret C. Norton of the Illinois State Library, all good wishes for the loyal co-operation of the officers, the council, and the members of the Society of American Archivists.

He wishes to thank the University of Illinois for its subvention of \$500 a year to cover the costs of editorial assistance. He wishes to thank Miss Ernestine Jenison for devising the format of the journal. He wishes especially to thank the assistant editor, Mr. Charles W. Paape, for relieving him of so much of the responsibility for the content of the journal and for seeing it through the press. He wishes more generally to thank the assistant editors, and all those members of the Society who have assisted with contributions, and with the editing—so hard and so thankless a labor—of the sections of reviews, shorter notices, and news notes. He wishes to thank the officers of the Society who have been ready with help and counsel. He asks permission to mention by name one of the most helpful, now no longer with us, Christopher B. Coleman.

THEODORE C. PEASE

The following committee appointments of the Society of American Archivists for 1945-1946 have been completed:

*Archival Bibliography*: Karl L. Trever, chairman; Martin P. Claussen, Ernst Posner, Alice E. Smith, James N. Young.

*Buildings*: Victor Gondos, chairman; Leon de Valinger, Jr., Henry H. Eddy, Morris L. Radoff.

*Filing Equipment*: Virginia Leddy Gambrell, chairman; Bertha E. Josephson, Marcus W. Price, F. M. Root, S. K. Stevens.

*Information*: Mrs. Elizabeth E. Hamer, chairman; Roger Thomas, William D. Hoyt, Jr.

*International Relations*: Fred W. Shipman, chairman; Albert B. Corey, E. Wilder Spaulding, Roscoe R. Hill, Waldo G. Leland.

*Photographic Techniques*: Vernon D. Tate, chairman; William D. McCain, Grace L. Nute, William D. Overman.

*Publication Policies*: Leon de Valinger, Jr., chairman; Preston W. Edsall, Luther H. Evans, Philip M. Hamer, Howard H. Peckham.

*Records Administration:* Philip C. Brooks, chairman; Christopher Crittenden, Harold S. Burt, Helene H. Rogers, Helen L. Chatfield.

*Research:* Carl L. Lokke, chairman; Herbert O. Brayer, Harry L. Coles, Jr., Robert W. Hill, Ernst Posner, Arthur Larsen.

*Uniform Legislation:* A. R. Newsome, chairman; Richard B. Morris, Francis S. Philbrick.

*Special Committee on Improvement of Provisions for Amending the Constitution:* Virginia Leddy Gambrell, chairman; R. D. W. Connor, Margaret C. Norton.

*Representatives on Council for Specialized Scholarly Techniques:* Christopher Crittenden, Oliver W. Holmes.

Major H. E. Bell, British archives officer serving with the Allied Commission's Subcommittee of Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives in Italy, in a recent letter to the secretary of the Society of American Archivists credited much of the success of the subcommittee to the work of William D. McCain, member of the Society and director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Major Bell wrote:

As the only British archivist remaining on the staff of this subcommittee, I write on behalf of my colleagues, as well as on my own account, to say that much of the success of the Archives work of this subcommittee—particularly in connection with modern records—was due to your member, Mr. William D. McCain. We all look back on our association with him as one of the happiest features of our work; and we look forward to co-operation in other fields in the years ahead.

Capt. McCain, who has recently returned to his archival post in Mississippi, served with the U. S. First Army in North Africa and Italy, and was assigned to the subcommittee after the fighting ended.

#### THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Copies of the *Eleventh Annual Report of the Archivist of the United States for the Fiscal Year 1944-45*, just published, may be obtained upon request from the assistant administrative secretary. This report will be reviewed in THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST.

Now that the war is over the National Archives can once again take orders for file microcopies. The program to reproduce on microfilm bodies of records of outstanding research value and to provide positive prints to the public at cost was begun in 1940 but was hampered by war-time reductions in staff and the scarcity of materials. Nevertheless, during the past five years some fourteen hundred rolls of file microcopies have been made. Among the file microcopies completed are the following: population schedules of the census of 1830 for Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida,

Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina and Tennessee; records of the Office of Indian Affairs, consisting of letters sent by the commissioner of Indian affairs, 1824-1869, registers of letters received, 1824-1880, records of the Oregon superintendency of Indian affairs, 1848-1873, and records of the Washington superintendency of Indian affairs, 1853-1874; and records of the Department of State, consisting of consular and diplomatic instructions, 1791-1834, despatches from United States ministers to Great Britain, 1792-1870, despatches from United States ministers to France, 1789-1870, and registers of correspondence, 1870-1906.

The archivist of the United States announces that the following have returned from military service and have rejoined the staff of the National Archives: Thomas H. Bailey, Harry J. Baudu, Henry P. Beers, Frank E. Bridgers, Don B. Cook, Maxcy R. Dickson, Arthur E. Kimberly, Salvatore D. Nerboso, J. Carlisle Ruddy, John F. Simmons, and Charles L. Stewart. Miss Frances T. Bourne and James R. Masterson, members of the staff for more than three years, have transferred to the Bureau of the Budget and the War Department respectively.

Two articles pertaining to records in the National Archives have been published recently. The general records of the Department of Agriculture have been described by Guy A. Lee in *Agriculture History* for October, 1945, while the records of the Washington superintendency of Indian affairs, 1853-1874, have been described by James R. Masterson in the January, 1946, issue of the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*.

#### LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

In 1923, President Lincoln's papers, which had been on deposit for many years, were formally presented to the library by his son, Robert Todd Lincoln. The gift was made subject to the following reservation:

... to be deposited in the Library of Congress for the benefit of all of the PEOPLE, upon the condition, however, . . . that all of said letters, manuscripts, documents and other papers shall be placed in a sealed vault or compartment and carefully preserved from official or public inspection or private view until after the expiration of twenty one (21) years from the date of my death.

Robert T. Lincoln died July 26, 1926, and thus it will not be before midsummer, 1947, that this treasure will become available to students. In the January preceding his death Mr. Lincoln emended the condition governing the gift so as to give the librarian authority to have made a complete index of the papers. These papers were used by Nicolay and Hay in preparing their *Life of Abraham Lincoln* and may contain little unpublished material calculated to change estimates of men or manners.

As a result of the modification of the terms of the gift, the late John C.



Fitzpatrick, began the preparation of a checklist, but the work was interrupted and was never resumed by him. More recently C. Percy Powell, of the Division of Manuscripts, whose work with the library's Herndon-Weik collection of *Lincolnia* made him the logical choice for the assignment, undertook the completion of Dr. Fitzpatrick's inventory.

Establishment of a central clearing house of information on government motion picture film and the necessary facilities for the distribution of such film is being undertaken by the Library of Congress. The film under consideration consists principally of 16mm. motion pictures that have already served the original purpose for which they were created and that have been distributed administratively by the agencies of origin. It will consist also, but in a smaller degree, of film inherited from liquidated agencies or as the result of liquidated functions within continuing agencies. The distribution functions being assumed by the Library of Congress will broadly resemble those formerly performed by the Office of War Information.

Catalogues and listings of available film will be published by the Library of Congress as soon as possible and will be made available to film users throughout the country. Government agencies in Washington will be served directly by the library, while distribution to schools, clubs, civic, and industrial groups and the general public will be served through qualified film and book libraries.

The library will not compete with nor attempt to regulate the motion picture programs of other government agencies, either on a production or distribution basis, but will undertake to supplement such programs. It will seek as far as possible to utilize channels already available, such as those of the Office of Education and other agencies interested in secondary distribution. Perhaps the library's greatest contribution in respect to these new activities will be the co-ordination and dissemination of information pertaining to motion picture film.

This proposed film program is in its formative stage and the new obligations it represents cannot be assumed until funds and personnel become available in July. It is urged, therefore, that prospective film users withhold requests for such service pending a further announcement.

#### TRAINING PROGRAMS IN RECORDS AND ARCHIVES ADMINISTRATION

The National Archives and the Maryland Hall of Records are again co-operating in the presentation of an intensive course on the preservation and administration of archives to be offered by American University, Washington, D.C., from June 17 to July 6, although students may elect to remain an additional week to work on projects. This short course will consist of lectures and laboratory work and will give special consideration to the problems of small institutions. It will be conducted by Ernst Posner, professor of history and archival administration of the American University, Morris L. Radoff,

archivist of the Maryland Hall of Records, and members of the staff of the Maryland Hall of Records and the National Archives. The fee for the entire program, including the fourth week, is forty dollars. Veterans may enroll in the course under provisions of Public Laws 16 and 346. Detailed information may be obtained by writing to Ernst Posner, School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, American University, 1901 F Street, Washington, D.C.

During the spring term American University is offering a continuation of Dr. Posner's one year course in the "History and Administration of Archives." Miss Helen L. Chatfield, treasurer of the Society of American Archivists and records officer of the Bureau of the Budget, is conducting a course on the "Organization and Procedure for Handling Government Records" during the same term.

The Department of Agriculture Graduate School will not offer its course in "Records Management Procedure" until the fall term.

#### INTERAGENCY RECORDS ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Interagency Records Administration Conference is being sponsored currently by the National Archives. It formerly was conducted by the Personnel Management Advisory Service, Examining Division, Civil Service Commission. Since the last report was submitted to THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST, the conference has held three sessions. The December meeting heard a discussion of the use, standardization, and disposition of the individual personnel record by a panel consisting of O. Glenn Stahl, Federal Security Agency, Kenneth B. Atkinson, Department of Commerce, and Dan Lacy, the National Archives. The January meeting considered federal laws governing records, the speakers being Herman Kahn, the National Archives, L. E. Donaldson, Department of Agriculture, and E. O. Alldredge, Navy Department. The February meeting took the form of an "Information Please" panel led by T. T. Beach, Navy Department, and involved a discussion of the application of schedules. The panel included Capt. R. O. Pennypacker, Surgeon General's Office, Helen F. Collins, War Relocation Authority, Madileen Small, Bureau of Ordnance (Navy), Robye N. Gibson, State Department. The program for the March meeting will deal with statistical records. Reports and abstracts of some papers for the 1945-1946 conference season may be secured by writing Frank E. Bridgers, secretary, Interagency Records Administration Conference, the National Archives, Washington 25, D.C.

#### OFFICE METHODS BRANCH, NAVY DEPARTMENT

The Records Administration Division, as a part of the peace-time reorganization of the Navy Department, has been given additional functions and a new name. In addition to the management of correspondence, current

records, noncurrent records, and microfilming, which it had throughout the war, it has been given the additional responsibilities of standardizing forms, office supplies, and office equipment for the Navy. To reflect these broader duties its name effective January 1, 1946, is Office Methods Branch, Administrative Office, Navy Department. Commander Herbert E. Angel, USNR, continues as head of the branch with the title of director of office methods.

The headquarters office of the branch consists of the following: three divisions—Forms and Correspondence Management, Records Management, and Standards; a Chief of Field Program Planning; and the Navy Department Records Center. The Forms and Correspondence Management Division is headed by Lt. Commander E. C. Maiden, USNR, whose principal assistant on forms standardization will be Clifford King and whose principal specialist on correspondence management has yet to be selected. Edmund D. Dwyer, who has recently been placed on inactive duty in the naval reserve, will continue as head of the Records Management Division. Assisting him will be Lt. (j.g.) Charles A. Sterman, USNR, for current records management, and Lewis J. Darter for noncurrent records management. Mr. Darter, who has also recently been placed on inactive duty in the naval reserve, served successively while he was in uniform as director of the records centers at Los Angeles, Washington, and Philadelphia, and was previously a member of the staff of the National Archives. In his new post Mr. Darter succeeds Adeline Barry Davee, who removed to Chicago following her recent marriage. No head has been selected as yet for the Standards Division, which is responsible for office equipment and supplies standards and for microfilming. Lt. (j.g.) John E. Souders, USNR, has been designated as officer in charge of Microphotographic Service, however, succeeding Lt. Commander L. Ray Awtrey, USNR, who has been placed on inactive duty in the naval reserve and has accepted a position with the Bureau of Reclamation of the Interior Department. Lt. Everett O. Alldredge, USNR, who established and served as director of the records centers at Philadelphia and Los Angeles, has been designated as chief of Field Program Planning and as such is responsible for the operations of all records centers and district records officers. Paul L. Bishop continues as director of the Navy Department records center in Washington, which he formerly headed as a member of the naval reserve.

Like the former Records Administration Division, the Office Methods Branch directs the operations of records centers at Philadelphia, Los Angeles, New York, and New Orleans and the Naval Records Division of the large naval supply depot at Mechanicsburg. It also has technical direction of records officers and forms standardization officers in each bureau of the Navy Department and in each naval district. The records center in New Orleans was established in January with Lt. Commander J. E. Rice, USNR, who was formerly connected with the WPA Survey of Federal Archives, as director.

The Naval Records Division at Mechanicsburg, which was established at the same time, serves primarily as a depository for the dead storage of contracts and other highly inactive records.

In connection with this reorganization certain appointments and transfers have been made in addition to those mentioned above. Clifford Johnson, formerly a member of the staff of the Philadelphia center and a records analyst in the War Department, and Alice E. Cutter, formerly a communications officer in the Bureau of Naval Personnel and previously connected with the Harvard University Library, have joined the headquarters staff as records analysts. Lt. Commander John D. Bayless, USNR, and Lt. Neisen R. Bank, USNR, have been designated as officers in charge of the centers at Los Angeles and Philadelphia. The staff of the New York center has been augmented by John F. X. Britt, formerly records analyst at the headquarters office in Washington, who will be in charge of the current records management work at the center, and by Eunice Whyte, formerly a WAVE officer and a member of the staff of the National Archives, who will be in charge of noncurrent records management.

The Secretary of the Navy has written letters of commendation and has awarded the Navy Commendation Ribbon to Lt. Commander Emmett J. Leahy, USNR, now associated with Remington Rand, Inc., and Lt. Commander (now Commander) Herbert E. Angel, USNR, for their work during the war as director and assistant director of records administration, respectively.

#### AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS IN EUROPE

It will be recalled that Sargent B. Child was sent to Germany by the War Department last April for the purpose of making recommendations to the Allied Control Council for Germany (U. S. Group) as to the setting up and operation of an organization to administer captured German records. Mr. Child, whose present title is advisor on archives and libraries, Office of Military Government for Germany (U. S.), recently paid an official visit to the National Archives in Washington. While there he talked briefly of his experience in Germany before an informal meeting of staff members of that agency.

After praising the preliminary work done by Fred W. Shipman, director of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, who had preceded him as temporary archives advisor in 1944, Mr. Child described his first consultations with personnel in rear echelons of the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Section at Versailles and his meetings with General Lucius M. Clay and Colonel Henry Newton, which resulting in his establishing the right to advise on archival matters in general. General authority was necessary, he said, because both his colleagues in the section and the G-2 (Intelligence) officers of the army held too limited a view of work with archives. The former, chiefly

experts in the arts, were concerned only with older archives as cultural materials; the latter were interested in enemy records solely from the viewpoint of the military information they contained; whereas his assignment demanded equal concern for the administrative, military, or cultural values of records, whether modern or ancient. He paid tribute to the work of both groups of officers, however, pointing out that in terms of their own fields, their instructions, their training, and the time available to them for archives work, they had done much for the preservation of records in war areas. If they did not do all that we might wish for archives, we must remember that they would not have accomplished so much good in their own fields if they had spent more time dealing with archival problems.

Mr. Child then described conditions at the first "target" he visited—a salt mine in which key intelligence records, stored a half mile below the earth's surface, had been set afire by order of the German government. The fire had been so intense that the ceiling had collapsed, putting out the fire, so that workers seeking to salvage the records had to break up huge blocks of rock salt before the documents could be reached. Although there was great destruction in this depository—only eighteen boxes of records were salvaged—much of the information contained in the collection was found later elsewhere as a result of the German habit of making and preserving numerous carbon copies of administrative papers.

The condition of German records today varies from place to place, Mr. Child said. In some towns the archives are found intact, in others nothing remains but pulp and charred remnants lying in the rubble. Generally speaking the older archives of Germany seem to have suffered least, probably because a large part of them had been evacuated to places of relative safety early in the battle for Germany. Current records suffered severely because they were not moved from the offices until the last possible moment and were hastily stored in relatively unsafe places, oftentimes under enemy fire. In the last days of the Reich the ministerial records of the central government were moved, sometimes with key personnel, to more than two thousand separate repositories. After obtaining a clear picture of the problems confronting him, Mr. Child reported that the task of salvaging and reconstituting the German archives would require a staff of thirty to thirty-five archivists. Although this number could not be obtained for his work, he now has nine specialists on the job in the American zone, who, with the assistance of a carefully selected corps of German archivists, are bringing some order out of chaos so that records are gradually moving back into German custody, although not into German ownership.

Before Mr. Child's arrival in Germany, Dr. Sinclair Armstrong conceived the idea of gathering together and reconstituting all ministerial records of the central government (except the army, navy, and air force records, which

are to be removed from Germany) for the administrative use of Allied Military Government. This scheme, known as the Goldcup Project, included the use of German personnel, often found with the records, as assistants to the American officers in charge. In June, 1945, a large munitions center of four hundred buildings sufficiently intact to house a vast collection of records was found available at Eschenstruth near Kassel. Here the Ministerial (Records) Collecting Center was established and Captain (now Major) Lester Born was placed in charge.

Centers for the collection of other types of records and library materials have been established at Oberammergau, Offenbach, and Landshut, and potential centers exist in the Hesse-Nassau and Baden-Württemberg areas. There is also an Austrian Control Center at Linz. Reports of records and library materials found at various depositories have been maintained in a central file and, in some instances, title-line inventories are being developed. The chief problems faced by Mr. Child and his assistants in the early days were the lack of adequate communication facilities, the locating of competent German archivists, and the constant shifting of corps and divisional headquarters from which clearance for action had to be obtained. After describing the damage done to the Bavarian Military Archives and to the costume collection of the Berlin Opera by rioting displaced persons, Mr. Child told the intriguing story of the finding by troops of the alphabetical and geographical personnel files of the Nazi party in a pulp mill to which they had been sent for maceration.

Mr. Child reported that his staff now included Major Lester Born, Dr. Harold Clem, Dr. Edgar Breitenbach, Dr. Paul Vanderbilt, Lieutenant Kuhlka, Lieutenant Leslie Post, Major Willard Heaps, Jesse Boell, and Captain Seymour Pomrenze, the last two being former members of the National Archives staff. Although not all these men are professionally trained archivists, all are possessed of background knowledge and experience that makes them experts for their work.

Mr. Child concluded his remarks by saying that archives officers had done little microfilming of cultural materials as yet because of G-2 requirements for all microfilming equipment in the European theater.

#### AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Subcommittees of the association's Committee on Historical Source Materials include a Special Committee on Business Records and a Special Committee on Archives. Members of the first of these are Thomas C. Cochran, chairman, Ralph M. Hower, William D. Overman, Oliver W. Holmes, Lewis Ather-ton, Thomas D. Clark, Herbert O. Brayer, and Richard Overton. Members of the second are William D. McCain, chairman, Emmett J. Leahy, Edwin A. Davis, Solon J. Buck, Charles M. Gates, Luther H. Evans, Margaret C. Norton, and Virgil V. Peterson. It is interesting to note that almost all of these persons are members of the Society of American Archivists.

## AMERICAN DOCUMENTATION INSTITUTE

The Society of American Archivists was represented at the annual meeting of the American Documentation Institute on January 31 by Vernon D. Tate of the National Archives. Some sixty representatives of member societies and others attended. Watson Davis, the president, proposed that an examination be made of the future objectives and activities of the ADI in the light of the following suggestions included in his mimeographed report:

1. Survey of methods and mechanisms in documentation
2. Survey and listing with sources and prices of document duplication apparatus commercially available
3. Co-operation with commercial and other organizations with the purpose of bringing into production needed document duplication apparatus
4. Extension and promotion of auxiliary publication
5. Co-operation in the governmental plans for the distribution of scholarly and scientific information abroad
6. Co-operation with the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organization, the International Federation For Documentation, and other international organizations
7. Further efforts to bring microfilming-to-order in various libraries into more uniformity as to prices and methods, achieving the ideal of "one big library" for the world from which any scholar or scientist can get what he wants by ordering from any library anywhere
8. Compilation and issuance from time to time of lists of microfilm services offered by libraries and other institutions

Dr. Tate reports that the description of French progress in microphotography during the war period presented by Dr. Atherton Seidell was of particular interest. It appears that the German occupation forced the French to rely upon microfilm. Furthermore, archival microfilming was given great impetus as a result of the loss of the Bibliothèque des Chartes which was bombed and fired during the war. At the same time, engineers who in peace-time would have been otherwise employed were free to work intensively on designs for new microphotographic equipment. Thus a reader has been developed by Le Matériel Téléphonique (French subsidiary of IT&T) that is said to illustrate an entirely different concept of microfilm reading. The Bibliothèque Nationale has built a very elaborate camera and other auxiliary equipment, thereby greatly expanding its postwar services.

## THE NATIONAL MICROFILM ASSOCIATION

The National Microfilm Association is considering the issuance of a booklet on various aspects of the work and products of its various member companies. The booklet will probably contain an outline of the types of microfilm equipment now available and the price of each, together with a description of the work which each piece of equipment can do; a statement of the responsibilities



assumed by microfilming companies when producing microfilm as a record medium; a statement of the probable cost of establishing a microfilm service and an indication of the abilities and type of experience necessary for success; a statement of what microfilm is, where it should and can best be used (to serve as a guide to prospective users in determining whether or not microfilm can help solve their problem); and a list of various microfilm services rendered by each company.

Franklin M. Morgan, recently microfilm consultant to the Signal Corps Photographic Center at Astoria, L.I., and formerly president of the Graphic Microfilm Service of New York City has joined the staff of the York Microstat Company. Mr. Morgan assisted in the formation of the NMA and served as its first president. He is also a member of the Society of American Archivists.

The Houston Corporation, 1180 Olympic Boulevard, West Los Angeles, California, has become a full member of the association and Peter Brulatour, 847 Wyoming Avenue, Maywood, New Jersey, has become an affiliate member. Interested archivists may secure copies of the NMA constitution, its list of members, and news releases of the organization by addressing the Association at 303 Lexington Avenue, Suite 208A, New York, 16.

#### UNIVERSITY MICROFILMS .

Robert E. Booth reports that University Microfilms has recently published a brochure entitled *University Microfilms* describing the activities of the organization in detail. He invites readers of THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST, particularly those interested in microfilm services, who desire a copy to address University Microfilms at 313 North First Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan. He also calls attention to an article in the February 1 issue of the *Library Journal* describing the new periodical series of University Microfilms which consists of microfilm copies of every American periodical published between 1800 and 1825.

#### EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY, RECORDAK DIVISION

The National Microfilm Association reports in its *General Bulletin* No. 7 that Recordak has developed a new automatic microfilm camera capable of photographing both sides of a document in one operation. This equipment, known as "Duplex Recordak," will record both sides of 10,000 bank checks (side by side) on 100 feet of 16 mm. film, and in the same operation automatically face stamp each check to certify that it has been microfilmed.

#### REMINGTON RAND, INC.

Members of the Society of American Archivists will be interested in the recent establishment of a Records Management Services Department as a



new unit in the Systems Division of Remington Rand, Inc. For years Remington Rand has been one of the leading firms engaged in providing business systems, installations, equipment, and supplies. Recognizing the increasing complexity of business and governmental problems, the company has decided there is an appropriate place in their organization for expert counseling on a fee basis in regard to these problems. Emmett J. Leahy, member of the Society of American Archivists, formerly of the National Archives staff and more recently director of records administration in the navy, has been appointed manager of this new department. Mr. Leahy writes that he will inform members of the Society from time to time about the type of problems encountered in his company's program and the nature of the progress made in dealing with them.

#### FOREIGN NEWS

##### *United Nations*

A mimeographed report of recommendations of the Executive Committee of the UN Preparatory Commission, made in London last November, included the "en bloc" transfer to the UN of the nonpolitical functions and activities of the League of Nations "together with its physical assets, such as buildings, in Geneva, the library and the archives." An extensive and useful survey of the record making and record keeping practices of the League of Nations is available in an appendix of Ranshofen-Wertheimer's *International Secretariat* recently issued by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The National Archives of the United States has submitted for purposes of discussion a *Proposal for the Establishment of a United Nations Archives* to officials of the American government who are concerned with United Nations matters.

##### *International Federation For Documentation (FID)*

The federation will hold a "restricted conference" in Paris, probably in April. The program will include a discussion of co-ordination of abstracting bodies, standardization of document sizes, co-ordination of information services, photographic reproduction, classification schemes, the international directory of documentation centers, subject list of periodicals, and rehabilitation of libraries.

##### *Australia*

Arrangements have been concluded for the microfilming of valuable historical documents relating to the history of Australia kept in the British Public Record Office. Approximately one million pages of records are involved and the task will take about five years.

The *Annual Report of the South Australia Libraries Board for 1944-45*

indicates that the documents stored in the country during the war are being returned to the archives gradually. Archival accessions during the year included the roll-book of the Australasian Federal Convention, 1897-1898, Port Adelaide shipping registers, 1898-1918, passenger lists of overseas vessels arriving at and leaving Adelaide, 1901-1920. The archivist received fourteen applications from the department to destroy records and from the "condemned material" some correspondence of the warden of standards was salvaged. The reference service handled 1,424 services, including 171 from the Commonwealth Pension Office, and produced 3,992 documents, 171 maps, and 2,037 photographs for students.

### *Canada*

On September 20, 1945, the governor general issued an Order in Council (P.C. 6175) creating a Committee on Public Records under the chairmanship of the secretary of state and consisting of the following officials; a representative to be named by the minister of national defense (Army and Naval Services), representatives to be named by the ministers of National Defense (Air), Public Works, Munitions and Supply, Reconstruction, Labour, and the secretary of state (External Affairs). A secretary was to be provided from the Privy Council Office. The order contains other provisions as follows:

1. The Canadian Historical Association shall be asked to recommend two professional historians to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee to serve at no salary but with expenses to be provided by the government
2. The duties of the Committee shall be to keep under constant review the state of the public records and to consider, advise and concert with departments and agencies of the government on the organization, care, housing, and destruction of public records
3. The Committee shall, as a part of their duties, examine and report on the following:
  - a. The preparation by departments and agencies of government of suitable accounts of their wartime activities, and,
  - b. The implementing of the approved recommendations of the Royal Commission on Public Records of 1914 regarding the establishment of a public records office, with particular reference to the integration of the Public Archives therein, and the type of organization which should facilitate the best use of the public records.
4. When questions specifically affecting the records of a department are being dealt with, a representative from that department shall be present at the meeting
5. The primary responsibility for the care and maintenance of records and for seeing that the policies of government in respect to disposition of records be carried out so far as to ensure that material of permanent value be not unwittingly destroyed will rest with departments and agencies of the government concerned

6. Each department shall assign responsibility for such superintendence of its records to one or more senior officers, preferably the departmental secretary if such a position exists, or an official of similar rank. The duties of these officers will be to review periodically the state of the departmental records and to reclassify them with a view to disposal or transfer to those of permanent value but not currently required to the Public Archives (or Public Records Office, if established) or to other dominion or provincial departments, or by some form of destruction under existing regulations. These officers will also maintain liaison with agencies responsible to the minister. Recommendations respecting contemplated disposal along the above lines shall be submitted, in all cases, for formal approval of the Committee on Public Records.

### *Germany*

In a broadcast discussion February 9 on the conduct of the Nürnberg trial of Nazi leaders, Charles A. Horsky of Chief Justice Jackson's staff told of two interesting events pertaining to German records. The following paragraph is taken from Mr. Horsky's remarks as printed in the State Department *Bulletin* for February 17, 1946:

One day a young lieutenant on our staff got a tip that there was something very hot hidden in a certain castle in Bavaria which had already been searched. He investigated it again and finally found behind a false wall all the personal papers of Rosenberg, the defendant who was known as the "spiritual leader" of the Nazis. They were all neatly bound in 250 volumes. He also found recordings of Rosenberg's speeches and films showing the Nazi leader outlining Nazi aims. All of these have been of great value at the trial. It was lucky for us that the Germans have such a passion for keeping detailed records of their doings.

Most of the valuable documents, though, didn't turn up that easily. We had to dig them out. For instance, an American reporter, Dan de Luce, was driving past the Air Ministry in Berlin one day in a jeep. He saw some German workmen burning papers that were scattered about from the bombings. He gave two of the men a cigarette apiece to load the rear end of the jeep with a pile of those papers. When he went through them, he noticed a black book marked "The Case of Austria—Closed." It was the complete transcript of all the telephone conversations by Hitler, Goering, Mussolini, and others dealing with the first Nazi aggression—the seizure of Austria. . . .

Persons interested in the history of such discoveries as those described above by Mr. Horsky will want to read L.S.R. Shapiro's copyrighted dispatch of February 24 to the North American Newspaper Alliance, Inc., printed in the New York *Times* and other metropolitan dailies on the next day, describing the secret mission of February 11-12 into Bohemia to discover the buried records of the German occupation of Czechoslovakia.

*Great Britain*

The British Records Association held its thirteenth annual conference in London on November 13 and 14. The two day program included a meeting of the publications section featuring a discussion of "The Future of Record Publication" led by R. B. Pugh of the Public Record Office, a business meeting of the Records Preservation Section; a discussion meeting on the subject "Records in Peril," (an interchange of experience in regard to (a) special dangers of the present time, (b) local records of the late war, and (c) accumulations in solicitors' offices). A meeting of the Technical Section which discussed "The Schemes for the Training of British Archivists and for a Repairing Centre and School"; a discussion meeting on "The National Register of Archives" led by the registrar, Lt. Col. G.E.G. Malet; and the annual general meeting. The association has distributed printed reports of the Records Preservation Section and of the council for the year 1944-1945.

*India*

A post-war plan for the "reorganization of historical archives in India" has been drawn up and approved by the Indian Historical Records Commission. The commission has recommended that the plan be forwarded to the government of India, the provincial governments, and the Indian states for necessary action.

The Imperial Record Department has a five-year publication program underway, by which it is proposed to publish in extenso the correspondence of the East India Company with their servants in Bengal between 1748 and 1800 and many other historical documents. Data on these and other archival activities in India are published in the *Proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission*, 1945, and in the *1944 Report of the Imperial Record Department*, both of which will be reviewed in this journal.

*Sweden*

The annual report (*Meddelanden*) for the year 1944 of the Swedish Royal Archives has been received by the National Archives Library. This report will be reviewed in THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST.

*Venezuela*

Word has been received from Ambrosio Perera, director of the General Archives of the Nation, that a Cultural and Historical Investigations Service has been created in the archives. The purpose of the service is to facilitate the relations of the archives with the public in general and with historians in particular. It has as its principal function the lending of fullest co-operation to all persons and institutions concerned with social and historical studies, desiring to

consult documents reposing in the archives or in the library attached thereto, including the making of reproductions of manuscripts or printed matter.

#### ALABAMA

Mrs. Marie B. Owen, director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, reports that David L. Darden, formerly historical materials collector for the department, has resigned following his return from the army to accept a position with the Veterans Administration in Augusta, Georgia. Col. Emmett Kilpatrick, associate editor of the *Alabama Historical Quarterly* and professor of languages at Troy State Teachers College has also returned from overseas duty. Mrs. Owen further states that the department's program of translating French archival documents pertaining to the history of Alabama, transcripts of which are in the Library of Congress, has been discontinued. Mrs. Grace Scott, translator, is no longer connected with the department. Friends of Mrs. Owen will be pleased to learn that she is writing a three-volume history of Alabama.

#### COLORADO

Copies of the *Second Annual Report of the Division of State Archives of the State Historical Society of Colorado* are now available upon request from Virgil V. Peterson, acting state archivist, Denver 2, Colorado. Herbert O. Brayer, director on leave, will depart April 1 for a year's research in British archives in connection with his five-year study of the economic development of the western range cattle industry sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Dorothy K. Taylor, supervisor of records for the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company, writes that she has just finished making recommendations for the purchase of new steel filing cabinets for housing current and storage files of the road. Within five years she hopes "to have all the railroad records either in first class cabinets or on film." With twenty-one employees working under her direction, Miss Taylor has microfilmed approximately 21,000,000 documents, the films being housed in humidified steel cabinets in a fire proof vault in the general office building of the company. The latest project she has undertaken is the filming of train sheets, a form of permanent record detailing the movements of every train. These sheets, measuring as much as 7 feet 6 inches by 21 inches, are being filmed on 35 mm. film by a large machine. Three commercial machines and one Model D, each with an operator and assistant, are in production full time. In order to keep all records custodians current in regulations of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Denver and Rio Grande Western, Miss Taylor has revised Section 15 of the railroad's *Manual of Procedures*. This section gives complete information on all records by form numbers and lists those documents

that cannot be designated by form numbers. Additions to this section are made by monthly correction letters, and it is revised in its entirety once a year.

#### CONNECTICUT

Charles R. Hale, state military necrologist, died February 13. In addition to locating over forty thousand graves of Connecticut soldiers who participated in all of the wars in which the colony and state of Connecticut participated, indexing over a million headstone inscriptions from over twenty-two hundred cemeteries, and indexing marriage and death records in Connecticut newspapers prior to 1866, Mr. Hale had only recently completed indexing the library's photostat copies of the federal census for the state for 1800-1850.

Rockwell H. Potter, Jr., was appointed chief of the War Records Department of the Connecticut State Library, succeeding Thomas D. Murphy, who resigned to become assistant professor of history at the University of Hawaii. Mrs. Louise G. Bassett, chief of the Church Records Department, and Mrs. Edith Colvin, custodian of Memorial Hall, have retired. Wesley G. Dennen succeeds Mrs. Bassett.

Volume Six of *Public Records of the State of Connecticut from May 1785 through January 1789* has been published recently. This volume of 642 pages was compiled by Leonard Woods Labaree, state historian, and may be obtained from James Brewster, state librarian, at \$5.00 per copy.

Connecticut College has received papers of Frances Perkins, secretary of labor in President Roosevelt's cabinet, 1933-1945. The collection consists chiefly of materials relating to immigration, social security, general correspondence and committee reports.

#### DELAWARE

Leon de Valinger, state archivist, has received sixty eight colonial documents dealing with land surveys and land warrants for areas around New Castle County. These papers have been in the possession of Pennsylvania for the past 145 years and were sent to Mr. de Valinger by Warren J. Daniel, director of the land office department of Pennsylvania. They became the property of Delaware under an act passed by the Pennsylvania legislature in 1802. In 1704, when Delaware set up its colonial assembly in New Castle, all documents, including land and warrant surveys, were shipped to Philadelphia. When Pennsylvania sought to have the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal dug in 1801, the Delaware legislature refused to pass a bill favoring the project unless Pennsylvania returned its original documents. This week's shipment was evidently the last of the documents that were in Pennsylvania's possession.

The first issue of *Delaware History*, magazine of the Historical Society of Delaware, was published on January 31. Charles L. Reese, Jr., is editor, and Judge Richard S. Rodney, Leon de Valinger, and Richard Riegel are mem-

bers of the editorial board. The journal is planned as a semi-annual.

Miss Gertrude Brinckle, librarian of the society reports that Lt. Grace Heilman and Ens. Dorothy Ditter, formerly librarian and assistant librarian of the society, will not return to Wilmington after their separation from the WAVES. Miss Ruthanna Hindes is assistant librarian.

#### HAWAII

The Hawaii War Records Depository, established in pursuance of the territorial legislature's Joint Resolution 6 of the 1943 session, has made arrangements to have all OCD records placed in the depository until the history of Hawaii's part in the war has been written. The depository is under the general supervision of the University of Hawaii Faculty War Records Committee. A statement of the work of the depository was published in the University of Hawaii *Bulletin* for December, 1945.

#### ILLINOIS

The Newberry Library, Chicago, has acquired the papers of Gen. William Vorhees Judson who served with Gen. Goethals at the Panama Canal, and in France and Russia during and immediately after the first World War. Other manuscripts accessioned include the papers of Herman Raster, German emigré of 1848 and editor of the *Illinois Staats-Zeitung*; papers of Joseph Kirkland, midwest literary figure; papers of Francis Fisher Brown, editor of the *Chicago Dial*, 1880-1913; and the papers of Henry B. Fuller, well-known Chicago novelist of the 1890's.

Margaret C. Norton, archivist of Illinois, writes that a civil service examination has been scheduled April 1 for the positions of document archivist and classifier (assistant archivist), field visitor for archives, and for photographers.

#### KANSAS

The 1945 Kansas legislature appropriated \$33,800 to the Kansas State Historical Society for the establishment of a microfilm division.

#### MARYLAND

Roger Thomas, assistant archivist, reports that the Maryland Hall of Records has acquired the records of the clerk of court and the register of wills of Kent County prior to 1788 and the records of Queen Anne's County for the same offices with the exception of the land records which will be transferred at a later date. These transfers were made in accordance with the provisions of an act of the 1945 general assembly.

The *Tenth Annual Report of the Archivist of the Hall of Records for the Fiscal Year July 1, 1944 through June 30, 1945*, is ready for distribution.



Also available is *Bulletin* No. 7, *Indexes to Original Records at the Hall of Records*. This is a revision of the guide to *Index Holdings of the Hall of Records* issued as *Bulletin* No. 6.

In addition to a group of Washington papers, the Maryland Historical Society's recent accessions include a manuscript journal of Charles Eaton during travels in Europe, 1839-1841; papers dealing with Jehu Bouldin's proposed survey of Baltimore in 1812; letters between John Taylor, USN, and his father, Baltimore commission merchant, 1849-1855; a volume of pilot certificates, District of Maryland, 1853-1855; and miscellaneous papers of the Ringgold family of Baltimore.

#### MICHIGAN

The Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library continues to receive small lots of records, ten years old, from the city of Detroit. The most recent transfer is that of the mayor's correspondence for the years 1934 and 1935. Mrs. Elleine H. Stones, chief of the collection, reports that included among the other manuscripts added in 1945 are: a small group of James Abbott papers, 1781-1831; records of the Detroit Fire Department Phoenix Engine Company No. 5, 1845-1853; a large collection of papers of Emma (Stowell) Fox, prominent Detroit clubwoman; four filing boxes of papers of Gen. John Mason and family, 1888-1919; records of the John Meyer drug business in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, 1833-1926; Michigan history and other papers of Melvin Durfee Osband, 1824-1911; papers of Lois Rankin, including minutes of the Racial Survey Committee meetings, 1929-1933; memorandum book, 1857-1864, of Thomas Rowland, Detroit, including years he was at the U. S. Military Academy; papers and medical diplomas of Isaac S. Smith, 1804-1886; ledger, 1855, of Steer's General Store at Wayne, Michigan; papers of James Vernor, manufacturer of ginger ale; microfilm of a large group of papers of Eber Ward, 1782-1855, early navigator, shipper of fish, and lighthouse keeper at Bois Blanc; docket book of the Wayne County, Michigan Justices Court, 1826-1827; records of the White Pigeon, Michigan, Congregational Church, 1848-1849, and Presbyterian Church, 1830-1919; and records of the Yosemite Crew, Gilbert Wilkes Camp No. 17, United Spanish War Veterans, 1898-1942.

The *Annual Report of the William L. Clements Library* for 1944-1945 has recently been issued. Manuscript and Map Division activities are described on pp. 12-14.

#### MISSOURI

The University of Missouri has received the papers of Carl Crow, author, traveler, and journalist; the Cahoon correspondence, papers of a prominent



post-civil war Missouri lawyer; the papers of U. S. Senator Peter Norbeck, 1914-1936; the Wood-Holman Papers, 1805-1906, containing much Missouriiana; the papers of P. D. Decker, Missouri lawyer and Congressman, 1898-1935; data collected by the Area and Language Study Group; and the records of the O. P. Morton Post of the GAR of Joplin, Missouri.

#### NEW JERSEY

The following notes regarding New Jersey were submitted by Sidney Goldman, head of the Division of State Library, Archives, and History:

The Public Records Office of New Jersey was established in 1920. Among its responsibilities were: (a) the supervision, care and control of the records of extinct public offices and bodies; (b) the examination of records of counties, municipalities and public bodies and institutions, as to condition, and establishing rules and regulations concerning their care and preservation; (c) accepting the transfer of records from any state department, county, municipality or public body, when such records are not in general use and offered to the Public Records Office; (d) acquiring and preserving historical records; and (e) authorizing the destruction or disposition of public records by state, county or municipal officers, or by any public body.

The Public Record Office was placed under the State Library in 1941, upon the death of its director, Dr. Carlos E. Godfrey. The State Library was placed in the Division of the State Library, Archives and History, under the Department of Education, in the reorganization which took effect July 1, 1945. The new division consists of four bureaus: Law Library, General Reference Library, Public and School Library Services Bureau, and Archives and History Bureau. The last mentioned will continue the functions of the old Public Record Office. No special personnel having been assigned to public records work since 1941, efforts are now being made to obtain at least one trained assistant.

A study is now being made of the possibility of setting up a central photo-reproduction facility consisting of microfilm units and photostat equipment. The Bureau has requested space in the new State Office Building, the first unit of the state building program.

The library of Princeton University, by the generous donation of the late Stewart B. Hubbell, '07, has received a collection of papers of great interest to students of the early New York state. This comprises historical and legal documents running from 1788 on, including the important "Book of the Phelp-Corham Purchase" with its maps in water color, and legal papers and correspondence pertaining to lands in Monroe and Ontario counties, New York. The Harvey S. Firestone Memorial Library, which will provide fitting and adequate quarters for the manuscripts and archives of Princeton University, is now in the process of construction.

## NEW YORK

The Division of Archives and History, State Education Department, has recently issued an interesting mimeographed document entitled *For Solution of Your Public Records Problems: A County Records Depository*. This document is divided into five parts, presented under the following headings: (1) Do you have a records problem? (2) Can your public records problem be solved? (3) What is a central county records depository? (4) Why your solution is a central county records depository; and (5) What can I do to further a central county records depository in my county? Appended is a table showing the estimated immediate economies to be derived from central county records depositories.

The second annual meeting of the New York State Association of County Historians was held in Utica on November 3, 1945. The program included discussion of the services of local historians in their communities and canvassing the possibility of holding a second Institute for Local Historians, such as was held last summer. W. Glenn Norris, county clerk and county historian of Tompkins County, discussed the nature of the records in a county clerk's office and described the service that office can render to county historians. Hermann F. Robinton, supervisor of public records, discussed the need for recapturing official records that have strayed from the custody of public officials and laid emphasis upon the character and importance of records in the furtherance of local government.

The Board of Trustees of the Town and County Officers Training School of the State of New York, in co-operation with the Association of Towns, the County Officers Association, and the Bureau of Public Service Training, is publishing a small bulletin called *Town Clerk Topics*. Articles of interest to archivists or to local historians have appeared—material on local historical societies, the value of vital statistics and war records, the safekeeping of records, etc. All county, city, town, and village clerks, and supervisors get copies, so circulation of such information is widespread. For further information address Edward F. N. Uthe, executive secretary, Association of Towns, TenEyck Hotel, Albany, New York.

The University of Rochester Library has issued the first number of a new *Bulletin*. It will be published three times a year and is edited by John R. Russell, well known to members of the Society of American Archivists as the former head of the catalogue division of the National Archives. The *Bulletin* will carry articles on materials in the library, including manuscripts, and will also furnish the reader with data on manuscript accessions.

The Collection of Regional History at Cornell University, Mrs. Edith M. Fox, acting curator, recently received from Mr. Churchill Cobb of Canisteo several tons of records of the New York and Pennsylvania Railway. This road, extending from Canisteo, New York, to Shingle House, Pennsylvania,

was a consolidation—in 1904—of four previously incorporated railroads. A series of disasters including the great flood of 1935, the depression, the closing of heavy shipping industries, and trucking and bus competition forced it into bankruptcy and abandonment. Covering more than forty years of operation, the records are fairly complete and include daily, monthly, and yearly reports on executive and road operations, bulletins, messages, telegrams, shipping orders, accounts, payroll books, letter books and correspondence files, maps, blue prints of construction and rights of way, scrapbooks of the coupons clipped from company stock, state, interstate, federal, and other reports, even tickets and excursion handbills.

Mrs. Fox has also recently obtained the deposit of thirty-nine volumes of the Holland Land Company records for the Cornell University Collection of Regional History. These had been acquired by the grandfather of Mr. Fred Ryder of Ellicottville, New York, from the old Devereux land office. Covering nine ranges of townships in Cattaraugus and Allegany counties and illustrated by plats, the accounts describe the sales, payments, and reversions, lot by lot, during a period from 1803 to 1863. For 1835, the accounts showed large blocks of land as sold to Gould Hoyt, Rupell H. Nevins, Rufus L. Lord, William Kent, and Nicholas Devereux. The Devereux land office continued its accounts in the same books.

Bill of Rights week in New York state, February 17-23, was appropriately noted by the New York State Library with an unusual exhibit of some of the most precious archival and manuscript documents in the possession of the American people—the original draft of Washington's Farewell Address and the original manuscript of the first, or preliminary, Emancipation Proclamation, of September 22, 1862; Washington's opinion of his surviving generals of the Revolution, written in 1791, and a tabulated account of his household expenses in 1789, both written in his own hand; the document whereby New York in convention at Poughkeepsie in 1788 ratified the Constitution of the United States, with certain amendments which formed a "Bill of Rights," and a resolution of the assembly calling on Congress to incorporate them into the Constitution; the first three constitutions of New York state—1777, 1821, and 1846; the original charter of the territory of New York from Charles II to his brother the Duke of York, 1664; the state library's copy (1674) of the duke's laws; the Dongan charter, 1686, to the city of Albany; and the volume of Dongan laws, 1683-1684, containing acts passed by the first general assembly of the Province of New York, and papers found in Major Andre's boots when he was captured.

Thomas F. O'Connor, historiographer of the archdiocese of New York and member of the Society of American Archivists, was elected president of the American Catholic Historical Association at its annual meeting in Washington in December. Mr. O'Connor's paper on "Catholic Archives of the United

States," read at the joint meeting of the Society of American Archivists and the American Association for State and Local History last November, has been printed in the January, 1946, number of the *Catholic Historical Review*. It will also be published as one of the papers in a forthcoming *Bulletin* of the American Association for State and Local History.

The New York Historical Society has recently accessioned eight account books of Aaron Belknap, Newburgh, New York, lawyer and master in chancery, together with his papers as postmaster of Newburgh; deeds and other papers pertaining to the famous Lenox Farm, New York City; account books of Henry Remsen; business records of Richard Irwin and Company, commission merchants and bankers of New York City, 1799-1911; seventy-nine photographs of the Anti-Motorboat Boom, and Anti-Submarine Net in New York Harbor, 1941-1942, and a large collection of photographs of naval vessels, 1941-1945; more than three thousand glass negatives of buildings, street scenes, and historical landmarks of early twentieth-century New York City; and twenty-eight letter press books and thirty-six boxes of letters of I. N. Phelps Stokes, 1898-1937.

Colgate University has issued an eleven page descriptive statement about the Samuel Colgate Historical Collection, said to be the largest body of Baptist historical materials in this country.

#### NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Society of County Historians met at Chapel Hill on November 17. R. E. Wicker of Pinehurst was elected president, succeeding Prof. Phillip Russell of Chapel Hill.

The Historical Society of North Carolina was organized in Chapel Hill on November 17. Alice Baldwin of Duke University was elected president and Cecil Johnson of the University of North Carolina, treasurer. Christopher Crittenden, director of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History, and member of the Society of American Archivists, is a member of the executive council.

The Southern Historical Collection of the University of North Carolina Library has received a collection of papers of John Macpherson Berrier, former U. S. senator and attorney general of the United States.

#### OHIO

Bertha E. Josephson, head of the Department of Documents at the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, is on six months' leave of absence. She will continue to edit the *Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*, although her other duties will be performed by Elizabeth C. Biggert, a former staff member recently separated from the WAVES. Miss Josephson has begun the publication in the *Quarterly* of a catalogue of the manu-

script collections of the society, the first installment having appeared in the January-March issue, p. 44-67. Cataloguing is being done "according to the unit card method" and collections are entered in the catalogue alphabetically. Collections through the letters "Camp" have been covered, a total of ninety-five collections in all, and these, plus some miscellaneous letters mentioned in the April, 1945, issue of the *Quarterly*, have resulted in the addition of 6,549 cards to the catalogue.

#### OREGON

The Oregon Historical Society has accessioned a collection of twelve thousand photographic negatives made by Ralph Gifford pertaining to the Northwest. Most of these were made prior to 1909. Another collection of photographs acquired was made by Watkins and depicts the Columbia River at various points during the 1880's and 1890's. The society also has on loan fifty-five cases of the Oregon Rivers and Harbors file of the Division Office of the U. S. Army Engineers.

The Oregon State Defense Council has transferred its administrative records to the Oregon state archives as the first accession since the arrival of the archivist. The files include a general file of the administrator; the Civilian Protection Division and the administrator's staff, 1941-1945; the files of Civilian War Services, 1942-1944, and of the Consumers' Interest Division, 1941-1943. An inventory of early files of the administrator, 1941-1942, and of all the files of Consumers' Interest Division and Civilian War Services has been completed, and the records are now open for the use of students of our war-time experience in Oregon.

#### PENNSYLVANIA

The National Microfilm Association reports in its *Membership Bulletin* No. 7 that Pennsylvania is microfilming records of the Land Office of the Department of Internal Affairs. One set of the microfilms will be kept at Harrisburg, the state capitol, for use in lieu of the original records, and another set will be stored in a safety deposit vault some distance from the capitol. These records cover about twenty-nine million acres of land and date back to 1682 when the land office was established.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

A brief report on the activities of the South Carolina Historical Commission for 1944-1945 has been issued by its director, Mr. A. S. Salley.

#### TENNESSEE

Mrs. John Trotwood Moore, state archivist, has been engaged in compiling from the original manuscript volumes in the Tennessee archives, a record of

the names of the men commissioned as officers in the Tennessee militia after the admission of the state to the Union in 1796. These records are being published serially in the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, beginning in the March, 1942, issue. To date, the record has been published from 1796 through the year 1811. The list is arranged chronologically, the names appearing alphabetically by counties. This work was begun with a view to aiding historians in the preparation and publication of county histories which was decided upon by the Tennessee Historical Commission as a project in the celebration of the sesquicentennial of the state in 1946.

Mr. Robert T. Quarles, Jr., assistant to Mrs. Moore, spent the month of November in the National Archives checking on some Tennessee military records which had been photostated for the division some years ago.

#### TEXAS

The National Microfilm Association reports in its *Membership Bulletin* No. 7 that County Judge A. Templeton of Dallas, Texas, has recommended the use of microfilm for recording discharges of returning war veterans. Approximately 750 discharges are received weekly for recording in the county clerk's office and it is estimated that microfilm recording would save \$15,000 and much clerical time for the county.

#### VIRGINIA

W. Edwin Hemphill has succeeded Lester J. Cappon as director of the Virginia World War II History Commission. Dr. Cappon resigned, effective January 1, 1946, because of his new duties as research editor of the Institute of Early American History and Culture in Williamsburg. In connection with its sponsorship of local war histories to be published by a score or more of Virginia counties and cities, the commission published last October a twelve-page circular titled *Writing Your Community's War History: Some Suggestions on Contents and Sources of Information*, which includes a chronological and topical outline. Copies of this circular may be had upon request addressed to the commission at the University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville.

The *Annual Report of the Virginia State Library for 1944-45* includes a section, pp. 8-10, relating to the activities of the Archives Division headed by William Van Schreeven.

#### WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. Roy Bird Cook has succeeded Bess Harrison as director of the state Department of Archives and History effective February 17.





