Recent Writings on Archives and Manuscripts

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RECENT WRITINGS ON ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS

The archival world is the richer for two new journals that have begun publication during the past few months. Both are issued by regional archivists' associations, giving further emphasis to the good work these organizations are doing in building a spirit of community among archivists of geographical proximity. More importantly, these journals increase the opportunity, ability, and necessity for us to communicate with our colleagues. Communication is the essence of welding the many and scattered members of our profession into an effective voice equally for the interest of the profession and for the historically valuable records we seek to preserve. The journals, whose articles are listed below, are the Midwestern Archivist (order from Joanne Hohler, Secretary-Treasurer, Midwest Archives Conference, 5742 Elder Place, Madison, Wis. 53705, for $3 per year), and the Intermountain Archivist (order from Jay Haymond, Conference of Intermountain Archivists, 603 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102, for $3 per year). Long may they publish.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Nicholas C. Burckel, "The Expanding Role of a College or University Archives," Midwestern Archivist, I (1976), 3-15, provides almost a catalog of the means a repository can use to become more vital to its parent institution.

Charles B. Elston, "University Student Records: Research Use, Privacy Rights and the Buckley Law," Midwestern Archivist, I (1976), 16-32, searches the issue intensively, upbraids archivists for being silent on this matter that affects them so directly, and suggests revisions to the law to clarify its affect on archival agencies.

**CONSERVATION**

A fine, concise article on conservation is George M. Cunha's "Conserving Local Archival Material," Technical Leaflet #86 from the American Association for State and Local History.


**DIRECTORIES**

The Business Archives Committee of the SAA has published a *Directory of Business Archives in the United States and Canada* including 196 entries and available for $1/members, $3/non-members.

The Society of California Archivists is the second regional association to publish a directory of repositories within its area. Copies are available for $2.25 from SCA, Box 751, Redlands, CA 92373.

**MICROGRAPHICS**

Paul A. Napier, "Developments in Copying, Micrographs, and Graphic Communications, 1975," *Library Resources and Technical Services,* 20 (Summer 1976), 236-258, is an invaluable review of developments last year in law, hardware, and publications in this field.
Pamela W. Darling, "Microforms in Libraries: Preservation and Storage," *Microform Review*, 5 (April 1976), 93-100, discusses both the use of microform technology as a tool for storing and preserving information traditionally recorded on paper and the proper methods of storing and preserving microforms themselves. Though not aimed directly at archivists, there is much here for us.

Otilia M. Pearson, "Planning for Preserving the Schomburg Center Vertical File Via Microfiche," *Microform Review*, 5 (January 1976), 25-33, describes the copying onto microfiche, for preservation and use, of a large and valuable collection of news clippings on blacks in the New York Public Library. Details of staff and supplies required, as well as grant funds obtained, are included along with illustrations.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ARCHIVES

Harriet W. Aveney, "Cataloging Motion Picture Film: A Descriptive Bibliography," *American Archivist*, 39 (April 1976), 167-176, is a useful reference work, while Hilda Bohem, "A Visible File Catalog for Photographic Materials," in the same issue, describes another of those projects funded by a grant to establish a model for the profession, but so expensive in application that few repositories could possibly afford the system.

Dan R. Day, "The Photographic Archive: Copy Techniques," *Rio Grande History*, 2 (Winter 1974-75), 9-10, is a fine, brief, readable overview of factors to consider in establishing a copy program, along with suggestions for those pondering acquisition of their own equipment.

Technical Leaflet #88, which accompanied *History News* for March, 1976, describes "Organizing Your 2x2 Slides: A Storage and Retrieval System." Milo Stewart of the New York State Historical Association has written so captivatively that no one should miss this leaflet. And if you are interested in the topic, your cup will overflow.
George N. Belknap, "County Archives as a Resource for Regional Imprints Studies," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, 66 (April 1976), 76-78, describes how diligent search of county files can produce whole or partial copies of local newspapers whose files are harder to find than dinosaur tracks.

Charles M. Dollar, "Computers, the National Archives, and Researchers," *Prologue*, 8 (Spring 1976), 29-34, is an excellent description of the history of computer use by the national government and the implications and ramifications of that on archivists, the problems of handling the bulk, of using it, of storing it. We hope Mr. Dollar will do much more writing on this subject. He bridges the gap between laymen and technicians well.


Michael Holroyd, "The Wrongs of Copyright," *Library Journal*, 101 (May 1, 1976), 1081-1083, is more a castigation of the idea that copies of documents lessen the value of the original than a discussion of copyright. He, as an author, has been many times frustrated in seeking the right to study material in an institution. His solutions are: 1) a computer index of manuscript material, 2) a register of copyright holders, and 3) a tax on copying.

The first number of the *Intermountain Archivist* offers articles on the various repositories of the region: Mary Ellen Glass, "A Historian's Look at the Archives University of Nevada"; Everett Cooley, "Manuscript and Archival Holdings in Utah Universities and Colleges"; Frederick C. Gale, "The Nevada State, County and Municipal Archives"; and Merle M. Wells, "The Idaho State Archives".
as well as Ann Hinckley, "The Stanley Snow Ivins Collection"; and Max J. Evans, "Wake Up the Dinosaurs: Computers and Archives."

An abridged transcript of testimony in the case of "North Carolina vs. West" is printed in Manuscripts, XXVIII (Spring 1976), 113-134. The case concerns the state's attempt to replevin a document from a collector and is highly interesting reading. In this first test, the state lost.

The North West Georgia Historical and Genealogical Society quarterly, 8 (April 1976), focuses on Haralson County.

"Paperwork Management Programs" is an 8 1/2" x 11" publication issued by the Records Management Committee of the SAA at the annual meeting last fall. The publication describes thirteen programs, from Correspondence and Forms Management to Word Processing and Microfilming. Copies are available from the SAA.


James B. Rhoads, "One Man's Hopes for His Society, His Profession, His Country," American Archivist, 39 (January 1976), 5-14, is an SAA Presidential Address.

Neil Sowards, ed., The Handbook of Check Collecting, institutionalizes another collecting field. Published privately last year, the volume is available for $5.00 from Mr. Sowards, 548 Home Ave., Ft. Wayne, Indiana 48807.


Manfred Waserman, comp., Bibliography on Oral History, contains 306 entries and is the fourth updating of this valuable work. Copies are $3 from the Oral History Association, Box 13734, Denton, TX 76203.

followed up a former SAA survey, focusing on the Deep South. Whitbeck learned nothing new. He does conclude, however, that "Overall, the picture of the field of archival management is one of great promise, but one which also requires a great deal more support if it is to reach its potential."