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Reviews in Brief

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Museum Review in Brief

The use of documents presented in their original form causes a few problems for the reader of the SPECS Kit #70. There is, for example, some repetition of information, particularly in section 1. In addition, the differences in style and in documentation from memoranda to instructional papers makes the reading a bit difficult. In spite of the problems, this kit contains valuable information and the reassurance that basic preservation need not be postponed due to a lack of funds or highly-trained staff.

Tennessee State Library
and Archives

Susan Tannewitz-Karnes

REVIEWS IN BRIEF

THE JOURNAL OF THE BIRMINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Edited by Marvin Yeomans Whiting. (Birmingham, Alabama: The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, 2020 Park Place, Birmingham, 35203. Subscription rate: \$10 for libraries; \$5 for Society members; and \$6.00 for non-members. The JOURNAL is issued semi-annually).

The Volume VI, Number 4 issue of the JOURNAL OF THE BIRMINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY (July, 1980) has just crossed the editor's desk. It is an impressive publication in terms of both its content and its layout. This particular issue is devoted to "Birmingham Remembered: A Decade of Change, 1910-1920," and includes articles by Michael A. Breedlove and Marvin Y. Whiting as well as a survey of location names (complete with a town map) as of June 10, 1914 edited by Alice M. Bowsher, Ann M. Burkhardt, Eva M. Holley, Mary S. Miller and Marvin Y. Whiting. The JOURNAL is an excellent reminder of the contributions of local historical societies to the preservation and greater appreciation of our material culture. Archivists

have an important part to play in these organizations and their many community activities.

AN INDEX TO GEORGIA COLONIAL CONVEYANCES AND CONFISCATED LANDS RECORDS, 1750-1804. Edited by Marilyn L. Adams. (Atlanta, Ga: R. J. Taylor, Jr., Foundation, 1981. Pp. v-97. Introduction, map, index, bibliography. Paper. \$8.)

The main section of this book consists of a carefully edited, computer-generated index to the eleven-volume series of Georgia colonial conveyance (deed) books. These volumes were maintained from 1750 until 1804 and contain records of land transactions from the earliest days of the colony in the 1730's through the beginnings of the American Revolution. In addition, the series includes documents relating to the disposition of lands confiscated from Loyalists during and after the war. The index contains more than 40,000 references to the names of grantors, grantees, adjacent landowners, witnesses, and former owners mentioned in the original documents.

DATAPRO REPORTS. Prepared by Datapro Research Corporation, a McGraw-Hill Company. (Delran, NJ: Datapro Research Corporation, 1981. Loose-leaf information services, up-dated monthly or bi-monthly. From \$330 to \$690 for each new subscription and from \$280-\$635 for each renewal).

The latest trends in information management and data processing have a two-fold impact on archivists. On the one hand, the widespread use of automated systems in government, corporate, and university office environments raises special problems and new demands for archivists charged with the responsibility for managing the non-current records generated by these offices. On the other hand, this new technology affords archivists and other information

managers an opportunity to employ this new technology in their own shops. However, the archivist is hard pressed to keep up with events in EDP and manage his or her other, more traditional operations as well. DATAPRO publications offer a helpful information shortcut. Each loose-leaf series provides up-to-date information on automated systems, techniques, and programs. They cover such subjects as small computers, minicomputers, word processing, and automated office systems, and include buyer's guides, hardware and software comparisons, and vendor directories. While the cost of the DATAPRO series are high, their usefulness to administration, computer services, records management, and archival personnel may justify their acquisition as library reference tools. DATAPRO publications bring together information that is not otherwise readily available. As archivists find themselves confronted with the machine-readable records of office EDP systems, they will find much useful information in these volumes.