Archive Notes

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Publisher's Weekly announced that the Kraus-Thomson Organization, Ltd., (KTO) of Millwood, N.Y., has bought the world's most prestigious historic picture bank, The Bettman Archive, Inc., of New York City, a collection of some five million pictures. The multi-million-dollar pact was announced by Hans Peter Kraus, one of the world's leading rare book dealers and KTO chairman, and Dr. Otto L. Bettman, TBA founder and retiring chairman. Neither would discuss financial details.

The Archive supplies illustrations to such image-hungry groups as book and magazine publishers, TV broadcasters, advertising agencies, and package designers. A staff of picture librarians and researchers, backed by photography labs, word processors and computers, handle about fifty search orders a day on subjects as diverse as pie-making, marijuana, and George Washington's wooden teeth.

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"Managing Oral History Collections in the Library" is a special issue of the Drexel Library Quarterly (Vol. 15, No. 4) that considers the teamwork of librarian and archivist in making oral history materials available to users. Contributors to the issue are Carroll Hart (Georgia State Archives), F. Gerald Handfield, Jr. (Indiana State University), Mary Jo Pugh (Bentley Historical Library), Ernest J. Dick (Public Archives of Canada), Joseph B. Romney (Ricks College), Ann Kusnerz (University of Michigan). An appendix by Dale Treleven illustrates the electronic tape retrieval system developed at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. M. Patricia Freedman, sound archivist and current doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan, is the guest
editor for the issue.

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Illinois Libraries, a publication of the Illinois State Library, has devoted two of its issues in 1981 to an in-depth discussion of archival repositories in the "Land of Lincoln." Pat Quinn, archivist for Northwestern University, is special guest editor for this splendid survey which archivists in other states would be well advised to emulate.

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The National Historical Publications and Records Commission and Yale University sponsored the Yale University Archives and Record Survey from October, 1978 to March, 1980. The report on this project, entitled Planning and Organizing a Joint Archives and Records Management Program, has been published by the Department of Manuscripts and Archives of the Yale University Library. This ambitious project provides a good model for new college and university archives, since the study was undertaken at the beginning of the period of development of the Yale University Archives.

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The State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the Samuel Gompers Papers documentary publication project at the University of Maryland and Pace University recently completed microfilm publication of The American Federation of Labor Records: The Samuel Gompers Era. This publication includes 144 reels of microfilm and an attractive guide complete with a well-written introductory narrative, photographs, and a reel-by-reel listing of collection contents. The
total cost of the series is $4200; individual reels are $50. Interested parties may contact the Micro-filming Corporation of America, 1620 Hawkins Ave., P.O. Box 10, Sanford, NC. The guide may be purchased separately for $5 from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

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The Charles Babbage Institute for the History of Information Processing, at the University of Minnesota, is conducting a nationwide survey of 14,000 archival, governmental, and industrial institutions to determine if they hold records and artifacts that document the technical and socio-economic development of information processing. Institutions are invited to submit general information on archives or manuscript holdings that contain historical source materials related to information processing. Computer corporations and allied industries are requested to provide a brief overview of the types of computer-related records generated and maintained by individual companies.

The Charles Babbage Institute will use the preliminary data gathered in the mail survey to evaluate current practices in science and technology documentation and to alert librarians, archivists, and computer professionals to the importance of preserving historical resources in the field of information processing. The Institute's long-range plans also include publishing the results of the survey as a reference guide designed for students and scholars interested in the historical development of information processing.

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Mr. James E. Warren, historian of The Lovett School in Atlanta, Georgia, has completed a survey of the historical records held by private secondary
schools throughout the United States. Not surprisingly, Mr. Warren found great variation in the care with which these schools preserved their history. For more information, contact Mr. James E. Warren, Jr., 544 Deering Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30309.

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Greenbelt, Maryland: A Guide to Further Sources by Mary Boccaccio, Steven Lambird, and Carolyn Salus is now available from the Archives and Manuscripts Department, McKeldin Library, University, College Park, Maryland 20742 for $5. The guide includes a summary of blueprints, tracings, and drawings microfilmed by the library under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and a guide to other sources of information about Greenbelt in the Washington, D.C. area.

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The Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University has published a Guide to Audio and Video Recordings available in their collection. The guide includes descriptions and listings of the repository's audio and video collections and indexes to the collection by speaker, performer, song, and subject.

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The Pennsylvania Historical Museum Collection recently published the Guide to the Microfilm Collections in the Pennsylvania State Archives. The guide was compiled and edited by Roland M. Baumann and Diane S. Wallace. The records on film listed in this volume total 1,460 negative and 2,714 positive reels and include both state and personal records and papers from the colonial period to the present. Each
guide description includes collection title and ID number, span dates, number of rolls, a brief content note, repository location, and an indication of film format (i.e., positive or negative). The index is not extensive, but it is serviceable.

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As part of its government records program, the Ohio Historical Society recently published the Ohio Municipal Records Manual to provide guidelines for officials responsible for city and village records. The book includes an explanation of the elements of a records management program; fifteen chapters, corresponding to function divisions of municipal governments, which present suggested retention periods for records series usually found in each division in columnar format; samples of completed retention schedules and microfilm targets; and relevant portions of Ohio law. Although created for use by Ohio governments, the manual would be useful to any municipality. Copies are available from the Ohio Historical Society for $5.

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On May 30, 1981, the recently-formed Archives and Special Collections Roundtable of the South Carolina Library Association held its first workshop at the Winthrop College Archives and Special Collections. The workshop, entitled, "Organizing Archival Collections: A Basic Workshop," was geared towards librarians, archivists, and others responsible for supervising or establishing an archives in a library or other institution, who have had little training or experience in archival principles or practices. Archivists from various repositories in South Carolina gave presentations on a variety of subjects including arrangement and description, genealogy, conservation and security, oral history, and exhibits.