Short Subjects: News Reels

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Memphis State University recently received some sixty hours of radio news tapes, dating from 1937 to the 1960s, from Plough Broadcasting. The tapes include speeches by Hitler, Mussolini, Churchill, and other world leaders around the time of World War II. A series of tapes from the Berlin Wall during the 1960s record the daily impressions of an on-the-spot correspondent. The tapes will supplement the extensive audio collection at Memphis State, which includes nearly three thousand hours of local and national programing. The collection is used by broadcast and history researchers throughout the country.

The American Historical Association received a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to publish a selective edition of the papers of John Franklin Jameson (1859-1937), a founder of the AHA, managing editor of the American Historical Review, and a principal figure behind the creation of the National Archives, the National Historical Publications Commission, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Dictionary of American Biography. Jameson provided guidance, assistance, and inspiration to hundreds of scholars as a teacher at Johns Hopkins, Brown University, and the University of Chicago. He also served as the director of the Department of Historical Research in the Carnegie Institution of Washington and as the chief of the Division of Manuscripts in the Library of Congress. The project is cosponsored by the AHA, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives.
The editors, Jacqueline Goggin and Morey Rothberg, have titled the project "John Franklin Jameson and the Development of Humanistic Scholarship in America." Contact the John Franklin Jameson Project, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

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A survey of state government machine-readable records has been commissioned by the Louisiana Archives and Records Service as part of the NHPRC sponsored Louisiana Historical Records Assessment Project. Paul Paskoff of Louisiana State University conducted the survey. His report is on file at the state archives.

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The National Historical Publications and Records Commission is offering three fellowships in archival administration for the 1985-1986 academic year beginning in September. The fellowships provide nine to ten months of advanced training in archival administration. Candidates with three years' archival work experience and two semesters of graduate work in a program containing an archival education component are eligible. For further information about the fellowships or host institutions, call NHPRC at (202) 523-5384, or write the NHPRC, Washington, D.C. 20408.

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The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), Nashville, Tennessee opened the National Information Center for Local Government Records (NICLOG) at the beginning of 1985. The center will help local officials, historians, and others find
answers to problems relating to making, storing, and retaining or disposing of public records. It will distribute an audiovisual program entitled, "Managing Your Records to Serve the Public." Featured are four local jurisdictions, ranging from rural Georgia to upstate New York, that overcame management problems, thereby saving tax dollars as well as historical documents. The program is available for a week's loan on slide or videotape formats for $10 handling charge. Write NICLOG, AASLH, P.O. Box 40983, Nashville, TN 37204.

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The Ole Miss Blues Archive has opened at the University of Mississippi. After a year of preparation by the staff, the archive was dedicated with a large gathering of people arriving from as far away as France. The archive, which is housed in Farley Hall, has received large collections from B.B. King and Living Blues editors Jim and Amy O'Neal. Holdings currently number 10,000 volumes, 30,000 phonograph records, and 100 linear feet of files, unbound periodicals, photographs, and other materials. Curator Suzanne Steel has initiated work on a microcomputer based, automated index that will provide scholars, students, and visitors with access to any song by any artist in a matter of seconds. The automation project receives support from the L.J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation. The archive is open from 8:15 A.M. to 4:45 P.M. Monday through Friday; (601) 232-7753.

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A prototype photocopy machine designed to make copies of volumes with tight bindings or narrow inner margins was exhibited at library conventions in 1984. The prototype was designed and built by Morgan Data Conversion, Inc. of Mountain View, California for the
American Library Association's Library Technology Reports Unit. The project was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The device can be attached to a standard photocopy machine and will cost approximately $6,000. For information about future development and availability, contact Howard S. White, Editor, Library Technology Reports, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611; telephone (312) 944-6780.

The Library of Congress recently issued a report that "technology is not a threat to the book." The 49-page report, entitled "Books in our Future," was prepared by Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin and presented to Congress 7 December 1984. Citing statistics that point to the strength of the United States publishing industry, Boorstin concludes, "The enemy of the book is not technology but the illusion that we could or would abolish the Culture of the Book." He recommends the abolition of literacy and an "equitable balance" among different parties concerning the enforcement of copyright laws. A copy of the report can be obtained for $2.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402; stock number, s/n 052-070-05978-8.

Paul Richard's Autographs recently sold a thank you note that shows former President Richard Nixon met with the Viet Cong in 1964 to negotiate the release of five American prisoners. The note was addressed to Hollis Kimmons, who told the autograph dealer that he was part of Nixon's army escort on the mission. Nixon was a private citizen in 1964. Kimmons had signed an agreement not to reveal the mission for twenty years. The undated note, which was scrawled
on three-by-five-inch white paper, sold for $2,500. The note: "To Hollis Kimmons, with appreciation for his protection on my helicopter ride in Vietnam, from Richard Nixon."

President Ronald Reagan in February 1985 asked Congress to appropriate $126 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for fiscal year 1986. This represents about a one-half million dollar increase over the FY 1985 proposal which was actually funded by Congress at $139.5 million. The FY 1986 budget request includes $5 million to fund an Office of Preservation as an independent budget line. Recognizing the deterioration of materials in libraries and archives, NEH plans to provide support for training, technological development, and preservation of specific collections. Harold C. Cannon, the new head of the Office of Preservation, states that his office will continue the preservation activities housed in the Division Research Programs. However, NEH projects in museums, historical organizations, and libraries will suffer a $5 million loss from FY 1985 appropriations in the proposed budget, and state programs will receive $4.6 million less.

According to Coalition to Save our Documentary Heritage, the Reagan administration proposed no money for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission grants program for fiscal 1986, despite a $5 million authorization. The coalition feels the fight in Congress for the funding will be a difficult one, because Congress is preoccupied with a budget deficit. An all out lobbying effort is recommended by the coalition.