

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS

COMMISSION

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

AGENDA

JAIPUR, 1948

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AGENDA

ELEVENTH MEETING, RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION COMMITTEE,
JAIPUR, 1948.

1. Review of action taken on some resolutions passed at Fifth (Udaipur), Seventh (Peshawar) and Eighth (New Delhi) meetings of the Research and Publication Committee.

(Please see conspectus)

2. Review of work done in connexion with the Five-year Publication Programme—Indian Records Series and Records in Oriental languages.

(i) Progress of work under the Five-year Publication Programme has not been as will appear from the annexed chart as satisfactory as might have been desired. Only a few volumes are ready for the press but even these cannot be published due to the difficulty of finding out a suitable press to undertake the work of printing. Negotiations for the printing of Thevenot and Careri's Travels have been going on for the last one year without success. It is presumed that our failure to bring out any of the earlier volumes of Court Letters is to a large extent hampering the work of the subsequent volumes. The Department is continuing its efforts to get these volumes published but their success will depend on many factors beyond its control.

(ii) *Appointment of Editor.*—The Commission suggested at its Indore session that Dr. Yusuf Hussain Khan of Hyderabad-Deccan should be appointed to edit Vol. XX but as there were some technical difficulties about the appointment, the Secretary suggested the name of Dr. A. C. Banerji of Calcutta in Dr. Yusuf Hussain Khan's place in anticipation of the Commission's approval to avoid further delay.

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INDIAN RECORD SERIES—SCHEME I—Fort William—India House
Correspondence

Year	Nature of Records	Volumes	Editors and/or Publishers	Remarks
I Year	Home Department 1748-72.	I (1748-56)	Dr. K. K. Datta . .	Reports having completed his work.
		II (1757-59)	Dr. H. N. Sinha . .	Volume ready for the press.
		III (1760-63)	Prof. D. N. Banerji . .	Only a part of his work received.
		IV (1764-66)	Diwan Bahadur C. S. Srinivasachari.	Do.
		V (1767-69)	Dr. N. K. Sinha . .	Volume ready for the Press
		VI (1770-72)	Dr. Bisheshwar Prasad .	Only introduction received.
II Year	Home Department 1773-88.	VII (1773-76).	Mr. R. P. Patwardhan .	No report received.
		VIII (1777-81).	Prof. Mohd. Habib . .	Do.
		IX (1782-83).	Dr. B. A. Saletore . .	Do.
		X (1786-88)	Dr. T. G. P. Spear . .	Do.
III Year	Home Department. Home, Sep. Rev. Home, Sep. (Legislature) Secret, Select Committee.	XI (1789-92).	Dr. I. B. Banerjee . .	Do.
		XII (1793-95).	Dr. S. N. Das Gupta . .	Do.
		XIII (1796-1800).	Dr. P. C. Gupta . .	Do.
		XIV (1752-81).	Prof. J. C. Taluqdar . .	Do.
IV Year	Foreign. Secret. Secret & Sep. Sec., For. & Pol. Do.	XV (1782-86).	Dr. A. G. Pawar . .	Do.
		XVI (1787-91).	Khan Sahib S. H. Askari	Do.
		XVII (1792-95).	Mr. Y. J. Taraporewala	Only the introduction received.
		XVIII (1796-1800).	Rev. Father H. Heras .	No report received.
V Year	Military Department 1787-1800.	XIX (1787-92).	Brig. H. Bullock . .	Material handed over.
		XX (1792-95).	Dr. A. C. Banerjee . .	Material not delivered yet.
		XXI (1796-1800).	Prof. S. R. Kohli . .	Do.

INDIAN RECORD SERIES—SCHEME II—Selections from English Records

Year	Nature of Records	Volumes	Editors and/or Publishers	Remarks
I Year	Brown's Correspondence.	I	Director of Archives, Government of India.	Efforts to get the missing pages from the India Office continuing.
II Year	Sir John Shore's Minutes.	I	Do.	Progressing.
III Year	Do.	II	Do.	Do.
IV Year	Do.	III	Do.	Do.
Year	Thvenot & Careri's Travels.	I	Do.	Negotiation with the press going on.

RECORDS IN ORIENTAL LANGUAGES—SCHEME III (A)

Year	Nature of records	Volumes	Editors and/or Publishers	Remarks
I Year	Bengali (1779-1820) .	I	Calcutta University .	A volume entitled "Prachin Bangla Patra Sankalan" has already been published.
	Marathi (1779-1803) .	I	Bharata Itihasa Sam-sodhaka Mandala, Poona.	.....
	Persian Akhbars (1773-1803.)	I	Delhi University .	.....
II Year	Hindi (1793-1820) .	I	Allahabad University	Transcripts handed over.
III Year	Do.	II	Kotah Darbar .	Editing in progress.
	Sanskrit (1778-1857) .	I	Ganganath Jha Research Institute, Banaras.	In the press.
	Tamil (1824-64) .	I	Annamalai University.	.....
	Kannada (1791-1865)	I	Dr. G. N. Saletore .	Dr. Saletore proposes to move the Bombay University to publish the volume.
IV & V Year	.....	...	.....	.....

SELECTIONS FROM ENGLISH RECORDS—SCHEME III (B)

Selections from Orme Manuscripts.	I	Annamalai University	Work progressing.
Cornwallis Correspondence on Sindia's Affairs (1786-93).	I	...	The Gwalior Darbar have declined in view of their opinion that the papers would not add much to the existing knowledge.
Punjab Akhbar (1839-41).	I	Sikh History Society, Amritsar.	Work progressing.
News Letters (1839-42)	...	.....	Negotiation with the Punjab University was proceeding when the partition intervened.
Elphinstone Correspondence Nagpur Period (1839-42).	...	Nagpur University .	Agreed to edit the volume.
Ochterlony Papers on Delhi and Central India (1818-25.)	...	.....	Dr. Bisheshwar Prasad's list of documents is not ready yet.

3. Review of financial grant to the Survey Committees.

The Government of India made a grant amounting to Rs. 6,500 during 1946-47 to meet contingent expenses of the *ad hoc* Survey Committees. As the grant was limited, the item of expenditure had to be reduced to minimum viz.,

transcription, stamp, stationery, etc. Distribution of the grant and expenditure incurred has been explained below :—

Regional Committees	Amount sanctioned	Amount spent	Amount spent in excess	Unspent balance surrendered to the Government	Remarks
1. Madras	780	780	..	..	....
2. Bombay & Sind	790	950	160	..	Committee agreed not to claim amount mentioned in Column IV.
3. Bengal & Assam	750	750 0 3	0 0 3	..	Do.
4. United Provinces	720	720	..	..	....
5. Central Provinces & Berar	790	390	..	400	....
6. Bihar	750	790	40	..	Committee agreed not to claim amount mentioned in Column IV.
7. N.W.F.P.	786	786	..	..	....
8. Orissa and Eastern States Agency	715	123	..	592	....
9. Delhi	419	419	..	..	....
	6,500	5,700 0 3	200 0 3	992	

4. Submission of Accounts of the expenditure incurred.

One of the conditions of the Government of India grant is that future grants are to be made to the Committees on submission of satisfactory accounts of expenditure incurred. Accounts submitted by some of the Committees do not appear to be in regular form. Some submitted monthly statements, some quarterly and others only an abstract. These lead to administrative inconvenience resulting in further confusion and delay. It is therefore suggested that the conveners should submit half-yearly accounts to the Secretary duly filled in a "form" to be supplied to them.

5. Publicity through Radio and Press.

In view of the disturbances in the country the programme of publicity through radio and press could not be undertaken in the current year. In addition to what was reported in the proceedings of the last year, five more talks were broadcast from the various centres of the All-India Radio, under a general heading "The Raw Materials of Indian History". The names of the speakers and

the subjects of their talks are noted below :—

Name of speaker	Subject	Station	Language
1. Sir Maurice Gwyer (Delhi).	Preservation of Historical manuscripts.	Delhi	English.
2. Dewan Bahadur C. S. Srinivachari (Madras).	Historical Records—objects of the Indian Historical Records Commission.	Madras	Tamil.
3. Mahamahopadhyaya D. V. Potdar (Bombay and Sind).	What should we do with our historical records.	Bombay	English.
4. Dr. R. C. Majumdar (Bengal and Assam).	Manuscripts material in Bengal and Assam.	Calcutta	English.
5. Dr. Tara Chand (U.P.)	Historical documents in United Provinces.	Lucknow	English.
6. Dr. K. K. Dutta (Bihar)	Rescue of historical documents in Bihar.	Calcutta	English.
7. Dr. Y. K. Deshpande (C.P. and Berar).	Unearthing historical documents in C. P.	Bombay	English.
8. Prof. G. S. Das (Orissa and E.S.A.).	Records hunting in Orissa	Calcutta	Oriya.
9. Prof. G. M. Tabassum (Punjab).	Our Cultural Treasure	Lahore	Hindustani.
10. Mr. S. M. Jaffar (N.-W.F.P.)	Manuscripts in N. W. F. P.	Peshawar	Urdu.

As regards publicity through press no suitable material has been received from any committee except that of Madras, Jodhpur and Bengal. It is however hoped that now that normal conditions have been restored the Committees in the Provinces and the States will avail of the facilities offered by the Government of India.

6. Annual Report.

All the annual reports received from the various Committees in the provinces and states have been reproduced in the Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings Vol. XXIII. This year reports have been received from the Committees in Central Provinces and Berar, United Provinces, Bihar, Jodhpur, Baroda and Kalahandi. These are laid on the table.

Proposals by Dr. R. C. Majumdar.

7. Reconstitution of Bengal Regional Committee.

That the relation of the present Regional Survey Committee of Bengal with the areas included in Eastern Pakistan be clearly defined and its membership and scope of activity be changed accordingly, if necessary.

Secretary's Note.—In view of the partition of Bengal, it was considered necessary to reorganise the Regional Committee for Bengal and Assam. With the approval of the Chairman of the Research and Publication Committee, the Convenor was requested to set up a new Committee for West Bengal.

8. Partition of Bengal Government Records.

That a directive be given to the Government of Bengal by the Government of the Indian Union that the local Regional Survey Committee be consulted before any decision is arrived at regarding distribution of the local official records between Western Bengal and Eastern Pakistan.

Secretary's Note.—It is suggested that in dealing with the question of partition of records the principles established by international usage and practice should be confirmed to.

9. Compilation of Sources for the preparation of a History of National struggle.

That an attempt be made to compile a list of important records, both published and unpublished, bearing upon the national struggle for freedom.

Explanatory Note.—In view of the recent constitutional changes, it is now the bounden duty of India to prepare as complete a history as possible of the great National Struggle for freedom since the beginning of the 19th century. Many of the records bearing on this subject may be found scattered about in the provincial archives though some might have been printed in official publications, or the various articles published in different journals. It would be an inestimable advantage for the future Historian of India if an attempt be made now, before it is too late, to prepare as complete a list as possible of the various records under this head, because many of these are likely to disappear in course of time. I therefore propose that first of all it should be approved in principle and then each Regional Committee shall be requested to make a definite search for the records which may be one of the following types : (a) Confidential report of the Government officials ; (b) Judicial proceedings ; (c) Local newspaper reports ; (d) Proscribed books and leaflets ; (e) Letters, memoirs etc., of leading members.

Secretary's Note.—The working of the scheme and the expenditure involved in the work may be examined by the members to enable the Government of India to consider the question in all its aspects.

10. Throwing open of Records.

That confidential records, Central and Provincial, of the military and civil, be thrown open to bonafide students of Indian History under such conditions as may be prescribed by the Commission.

Explanatory Note.—In view of the achievement of independence by India, there is no need at present to regard any old public document as confidential, and from the point of view of History, the sooner these records are carefully studied, the better, as many of them might be lost in course of time.

11. Annual Reports of Survey work.

That a short account of the important activities of each Regional Survey Committee be published in the form of Annual Reports, so that the important documents brought by them to light might be available to all students of history and an impetus be given to the local public for helping the Regional Committee to discover more such documents.

Explanatory Note.—The short Annual Report published by Bengal Regional Survey Committee has already elicited encouraging response and it appears that nothing else could give the lay public a more accurate idea both of the activities of the Committee as well as of their great importance and interest from the point of view of history. Besides, by the proposed step, we will conserve some important documents which are not likely to be published elsewhere, at least within a reasonable period of time. Many families would be tempted to offer documents to the Committee in the hope of seeing their names in print at an early date and this is of no small significance.

Secretary's Note.—See Resolution VI of the Third Meeting of the Research and Publication Committee (I. H. R. C. Proceedings Vol. XX, part III, page 82). It was recommended that brief annual reports should be published in the Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings volumes. The Government of India accepted the suggestion. But printing of elaborate reports as proposed might prove expensive and such a venture cannot perhaps be made with the limited resources now available without detriment to the cause of salvage and safe keeping of documents procured.

12. List of papers laid on the table.

Annual Reports of :—

- (i) United Provinces Regional Survey Committee.
- (ii) Bihar Regional Survey Committee.
- (iii) Central Province and Berar Regional Survey Committee.
- (iv) Baroda Regional Survey Committee.
- (v) Jodhpur Regional Survey Committee.
- (vi) Kalahandi Regional Survey Committee.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION COMMITTEE—CONSPECTUS OF ACTION TAKEN—FIFTH MEETING, UDAIPUR, 1944

Resolution X

(i), (ii) and (iii)—This Committee recommends that the Secretary should be authorised (i) to give necessary publicity to the answers already received, (ii) to work as the agent of the Commission in a general way and to persuade the Provinces and States to take such steps as may improve the prevailing archives arrangement if it is not quite up to date, and (iii) to report to the Commission such fresh action as the Provinces and States may take from time to time.

1. The Government of North West Frontier Province inform that so far as the second part of the Resolution is concerned, the Provincial Government will welcome the advice of the Secretary of the Indian Historical Records Commission in Archives Administration. As regards the third part of it, they have no objection.

2. The Government of United Provinces inform that the Provincial Government have no comments to offer on part II of the resolution. They have however no objection to the proposal regarding submission of inspection reports by the Secretary of the Commission to the Indian Historical Records Commission.

3. The Government of Assam inform that they have no comments to make on the resolution.

4. The Government of Orissa state that the Provincial Government have no Records Office. They have however no objection to the resolution, which purports to define clearly the function of the Secretary in the matter of taking steps to improve the existing archives arrangements in the Provinces and States, and to place the Inspection Report of the Secretary before the Indian Historical Records Commission.

5. The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, informs that the Registrar, Delhi University, and the Superintendent of Education, Delhi, were consulted. The former reports that the University has a few historical manuscripts and documents which are properly catalogued and open to inspection by bonafide research students. The administration has no objection to inspection Report being submitted to the Indian Historical Records Commission. The Administration agrees to co-operate with the Secretary in the subject matter of the resolution.

6. The Government of Bundi have no objection to the Secretary of the Indian Historical Records Commission being authorised to act as recommended in the resolution.

7. The Pudukkottai Darbar inform that they will be glad to have the advice of the Secretary of the Indian Historical Records Commission cum Director of Archives of the Government of India in the matter of improving the arrangement of the State archives.

8. The Travancore Government inform that they would be glad to welcome any advice from the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission, regarding the improvement of archives and to co-operate with the Secretary in his work.

9. The *Cochin State* inform that the suggestion contained in the resolution is approved by the State Government.

10. The *Government of Madras* state that they are not in agreement with the recommendations contained in the resolution. The resolution seeks to invest the Secretary of the Commission with a role which should only be exercised by the Government of India. The powers which it is proposed to vest in the Secretary to the Commission are so general and comprehensive in nature that in exercising them he is likely to come into perpetual conflict with the Provincial and State archivists. It is therefore suggested that the existing procedure under which the Central Government commends to the Provincial Governments and others the suggestions of the Indian Historical Records Commission for consideration will suffice and may continue. It is always open to the nominees of the Provincial Governments and States who are members of the Commission to bring to the notice of their respective Governments and States the defects, if any, which exist in their archives and make suggestions for their improvement.

So far as the province of Madras is concerned there is no scope for the advice or interference of the Commission, as the Madras Record Office has been organised on up-to-date lines and placed under the care of a Curator who has received a training abroad in the technique of archive preservation. The Madras Record Office has always been a member of the British Records Association and receives regularly all literature on Archivism issued by that Association. It likewise receives the administration reports and other technical literature issued by the National Archives, U.S.A. Thus it is constantly in touch with all the latest methods of archive administration.

Remarks.—The Resolution does not aim at investing the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission, with any new powers, but merely places him under an obligation to make periodical visit to archives offices in such Provinces and States as would agree to invite him to inspect the records. The object of the resolution is merely to enable the Commission to have first hand knowledge about the condition of all the record rooms in India and to raise the general standard of archives-keeping in consultation with the custodians of records. The recommendations of the Commission are not mandatory and if the Madras Government do not willing to co-operate with the scheme, their Records Office may be excluded from the programme.

11. The *Government of Punjab* (late) informed that they have no objection to the proposal contained in the resolution.

12. The *Agent to the Governor-General, Resident and the Chief Commissioner in Baluchistan* informs that the Administration has no objection to the proposal.

13. The *Jodhpur Government* inform that there is no objection if the Secretary of the Indian Historical Records Commission, as an agent of the Commission, makes his suggestions to the Jodhpur Government for improving the prevailing archives arrangement. They will put them into force as far as practicable.

14. The *Government of Central Provinces and Berar* inform that they have no objection to the proposal.

15. The *Government of Bihar* inform that they have no objection to the proposal.

16. The *Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Marwar*, informs that he has no objection to the proposal.

Seventh Meeting, Peshwar, 1945

Resolution II.—This Committee recommends to the Government of India to use paper of the best quality procurable for the publications planned by the Committee and to make paper of the same quality available to other institutions undertaking the same work.

The *Government of India* have issued instructions to the Government of United Provinces and Hon'ble the Resident for Rajputana to assist Ganga Nath Jha Memorial Institute, Allahabad University, and Kotah Darbar who are at present engaged in editing and publishing Sanskrit and Hindi records under the Five-year Publication Programme of the National Archives of India, in the procurement of required quality of paper.

Resolution III.—Resolved that the following persons be appointed to edit the next four volumes of the East India House Correspondence :

1. Rev. Father H. Heras, S.J., M.A., Bombay.
2. Mr. Y. J. Taraporewala, M.A., Muzaffarpur.
3. Khan Sahib S. H. Askari, M.A., B.L., Patna.
4. Dr. A. G. Pawar, M.A., LL.B., Ph.D., Bar-at-Law, Kolhapur.

The *Bombay Government* inform that Rev. Father H. Heras has been formally invited to undertake the editing work under the Five-year Publication Programme of the National Archives of India.

The University of Bombay has however expressed inability to incur any expenses on his travelling and other incidentals.

Eighth Meeting, New Delhi, 1946

Resolution III.—Resolved that now that normal conditions have been restored the provincial Governments be requested to grant all reasonable facilities to bonafide research scholars for their work among official records in provincial custody.

1. The *Government of Bengal* (late) informed that all reasonable facilities are extended to bonafide research scholars for work among the records in the custody of the Provincial Government.

2. The *Government of Punjab* (late) informed that the Provincial Government have always followed a very liberal policy in respect of granting reasonable facilities to bonafide research scholars to do research work among official records in its custody. The rules of the Punjab Historical Record Office governing access of bonafide research scholars to official records were in fact designed to this end.

Resolution IV.—This Committee recommends that the Regional Survey Committee be directed to encourage the examination of old historical records, whether in private or official custody, and the local Governments be requested to give all facilities to the Committee to fulfil this duty.

1. The *Government of United Provinces* inform that they have already issued necessary instructions to all Commissioners of Divisions regarding facilities to be given to the members of the Regional Survey Committee, United Provinces, for examining old records in their offices. Instructions are being issued for those members to be given similar facilities in respect of the records in the old Record Room in the office of the Board of Revenue, United Provinces and District Officers are being instructed likewise in respect of old records in their offices. District Officers are also being asked to give such assistance as is possible in obtaining access to historical records in possession of old and influential families.

Resolution V.—This Committee recommends that the Regional Survey Committees in the Provinces and States be given facilities to carry on their work in and to have easy access to the adjoining places and to take impressions, photos, etc., wherever necessary. The members of the Survey Committees be given facilities to utilise Dak Bungalows and to secure provisions and transport at reasonable costs.

1. The *Government of Punjab* (late) informed that the (late) Punjab Regional Committee was already granted travelling facilities including the use of Dak Bungalows for carrying on their work and that in case they found it necessary to take impressions and photos of historical objects the Government would afford the necessary facilities.

2. The *Government of Bombay* inform that the members of the Provincial Regional Survey Committee have been permitted to use the District and other Government Bungalows in the course of their survey works, provided they are vacant and are not already reserved for other officers.

Resolution VI.—Resolved that the Government of India be requested to ask the Provincial Governments and Indian States to set up permanent Regional Survey Committees in view of the altered position consequent on the cessation of hostilities.

1. The *Government of Central Provinces and Berar* inform that they accept the recommendation of the Research and Publication Committee for the setting up of a permanent Regional Survey Committee by the Provincial Government.

2. The *Tripura Government* state that they have no objection to the proposal for setting up of a Regional Survey Committee by them and steps are being taken to form such a body.

3. The *Government of United Provinces* inform that they have no objection to the setting up of a permanent Regional Survey Committee in the Province. They however presume that the Provincial Government will not be required to give any financial assistance to the Committee.

Remarks.—The Government of United Provinces was informed by the Government of India that the Regional Survey Committees appointed by the Provincial Governments would naturally be given financial help by them.

4. The *Jodhpur Government* have appointed a permanent Regional Survey Committee for the State by 1945. (The names of the members of the Committee appeared in the Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings Vol. XXIIIO)

5. The *Jaipur Government* inform that it will be a function of the University of Rajputana to conduct and co-ordinate research in regional history and the University will also be in a position to make suggestions to the Governments of Rajputana States within the University regarding a census of records and their acquisitions. The University authorities have therefore been asked to take up this question.

AGENDA

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION. INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION, JAIPUR 1948

1. Vote of Condolence on the death of Sir Shaffat Ahmad Khan.

Dr. Sir Shaffat Ahmad Khan was an ordinary member of the Indian Historical Records Commission from 1937 to 1940 when the Commission was re-constituted. He was subsequently appointed India's High Commissioner in South Africa and in September 1946 became the first Education Member of the Interim Government of India and the *ex-officio* President of the Indian Historical Records Commission. During the tenure of his office as an ordinary member of the Commission Sir Shaffat rendered invaluable service to it. He was a scholar of world-wide reputation and remarkable erudition and had a number of publications based on original research to his credit. He was besides a founder member of the Indian History Congress and one of the originators of the History Congress plan for a comprehensive History of India.

2. Review of action taken on the Resolutions of the Twenty-first (Udaipur), and Twenty-second (Peshawar) Sessions of the Indian Historical Records Commission.

(Please see conspectus)

3. Recommendations of the Research and Publication Committee during the Jaipur Session.

4. Review of action taken on the Post-war development scheme.

The principal recommendations of the Indian Historical Records Commission (Udaipur Session in 1944) regarding the "Post-war Re-organisation of Archives Offices in India" are :—

(i) Microfilm copies of all unpublished records relating to modern Indian history not available in this country should be obtained and preserved in the Imperial Record Department.

(ii) All necessary steps should be taken for salvaging privately owned manuscripts in India. The central and provincial record offices should be legally authorised to take charge of such manuscripts when their respective owners are willing to transfer their custody on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon. Such owners as may be prepared to provide for the better preservation of their manuscripts should be given such technical advice and service as they may require.

(iii) Unwarranted destruction and export of historical manuscripts should be legally prohibited.

(iv) Microphotographic copies of all rare publications on India not available in this country should be obtained irrespective of the period they deal with and placed in the custody of the Imperial Record Department.

(v) All bonafide students should have access to these copies.

(vi) The Imperial Record Department should supply at a reasonable price copies made out of the microfilms mentioned above to Universities, learned societies, public libraries and such persons as may apply for them.

(vii) Early steps should be taken to air-condition the muniment rooms of the Imperial Record Department with a view to securing uniformity of temperature and relative humidity.

(viii) Vacuum fumigatorium and laminating machines should be installed in the Imperial Record Department at an early date.

(ix) Imparting instructions in theory and practice of archives-keeping should be recognised as one of the normal duties of the Imperial Record Department.

The report on "Post-War Re-organisation of Archives Offices in India" was printed in a pamphlet form and distributed widely in India and abroad and it is a matter of gratification that many foreign agencies have taken a very keen interest in the archival activities in this country and have furnished interesting information regarding the location of documents of Indian interest in foreign repositories. A brief summary of the observations made by some of the leading foreign institutions has been appended for the information of the members.

(i) *above*. Preliminary work on this item has been started but it can be systematically pursued only when we have the additional staff and money which is expected to be sanctioned by the Government of India this year (1947).

(ii) *above*.—(a) Two years ago the Indian Historical Records Commission set up nine *ad hoc* Regional Survey Committees in the Provinces and the Government of India sanctioned last year a token grant of Rs. 6,500 for salvage work. These Committees are functioning but the progress of work has been greatly retarded owing to intermittent disturbances in different parts of the country. It is expected that the grant will be reprovided this year to enable the Committees to continue their work.

(b) The Government of India have approved in principle the Director of Archives' proposal for the grant of an annual sum of Rs. 10,000 towards the purchase of documents. The administrative sanction of Government is awaited.

(c) The Government of India have also approved in principle the Director of Archives' proposal for an annual grant of Rs. 10,000 for tendering technical service to such institutions and repositories as lack the means to take proper care of the manuscripts in their custody.

(d) Formal sanction of a further grant of Rs. 10,000 on account of subvention to learned institutions in India is also awaited. The object of this grant is to assist the institutions in preserving the records and manuscripts salvaged by the Survey Committees. It is essential that the Commission should express its opinion in the method of disbursement of the sums referred to in sub-para. (b) and (d) above.

(iii) *above*.—The question of legislation regarding unwarranted destruction and export of historical manuscripts is under the consideration of the Government of India. It will interest the members to learn that an act entitled the Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947, has already been placed on the Statute Book. The term *antiquity* as defined by the Act includes not only coins, sculptures and epigraphs but also manuscripts which have been in existence for one hundred years and thus in a way, cover also records and historical documents. These features of the new Act deserve particular notice.

(1) Under clause 6 "If any question arises whether any article, object or thing is or is not an antiquity for the purposes of this Act, it shall be referred to the Director General of Archaeology in India and his decision is final". While Director General of Archaeology is certainly the competent authority to determine whether a manuscript should or should not be treated as an antiquity, it is certainly for a specialist in archive science to adjudge whether a manuscript falls under the category of *records* or *historical document*. As the intention of the Resolution of the Commission is to prevent the export of records or historical document of any category whatsoever it is extremely doubtful that the present Act will realise that object.

(2) The Act contains no prohibition in respect of rifling, mishandling, mislaying or dispersing the records in the private or public custody in the provinces, the States or at the centre, and it is essential that there should be a law on the Statute Book preventing these malpractices.

(3) The definition given bears the implications that no object which is less than 100 (hundred years) old should come under the operation of the law. This may be valid so far as antiquities are concerned but is certainly not for records or historical manuscripts. What is needed therefore is a comprehensive public records legislation in the lines suggested in the Resolution.

(iv-vi) *above*.—As the majority of the records repositories in Europe are still in a dislocated state it has not been possible to take steps for obtaining microfilm copies of record of Indian interest in foreign repositories. Preliminary work has however begun and attempt is being made to contact the leading archives repositories by correspondence.

(vii) *above*.—The sanction is expected for the expenditure of a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 for air-conditioning the National Archives muniment area.

(viii) *above*.—Orders have been placed in U.S.A. and Canada for Vacuum Fumigatorium and Laminating Machine and they are expected to arrive in India early in 1948.

(ix) *above*.—The syllabus for training in Archives Keeping was revised and circulated among leading institutions in India and abroad. It is gratifying to note that the remodelled syllabus has been favourably commented on by distinguished authorities on the subject, like Professor V. K. Galbraith, the Director of the Institute of Historical Research, London, and Hilary Jenkinson, Deputy Keeper, Public Record Office, London, and Secretary to the British Records Association. An appreciative notice has also been published in the *American Archivist*, the journal of the Society of American Archivists. In its meeting held in Simla in May 1946, the Standing Committee of Central Legislature on Education considered this training scheme and recommended that requisite financial assistance should be forthcoming to encourage students to take up this training in larger numbers. The Government of India are expected to sanction three stipends at Rs. 100 per month each amounting to an annual expenditure of Rs. 3,600.

The series to be published under the scheme I of the Five-year Publication Programme has been named "Fort-William India House Correspondence", and 178 MSS. Vols. will make 21 volumes in print. Typescripts of almost all the 21 volumes have been distributed to the Honorary Editors appointed from time to time by the Government of India at the instance of the Indian Historical Records Commission. It is hoped that the Government of India will sanction the payment of a honorarium of Rs. 1,500 to the editor of each volume. The progress of work has been detailed elsewhere.

5. Representation on the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology

The term of office of the present representative (Dr. S. N. Sen, Secretary), on the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology will expire in February 1948. The Government of India have requested the Indian Historical Records Commission to send up its nomination for another term. Suggestions of the members are invited.

6. International Archives Organisation

Dr. Solon J. Buck, Archivist, The National Archives of U.S.A., addressed letter to Dr. S. N. Sen, Director, National Archives of India, soliciting his views on the proposal to establish a permanent international archives council. The details of the proposal are appended. The members are requested to offer their comments.

7. Establishment of Cultural Relation with Egypt

The Consul-General for Egypt approached the Government of India in connexion with the Royal Society of Historical Studies in Egypt. This Society is concerned with historical studies in general and specially with the various aspects of Egyptian history. It sought to establish relations with similar societies in India. A brief account of the aims and objects and the activities of the Indian Historical Records Commission was furnished and a few books and pamphlets were also supplied to the Society. A list of fifteen leading historical research institutions in India was also supplied. The Royal Society has been assured of the Commission's cooperation

8. Diamond Jubilee of the Allahabad University

The University of Allahabad which celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in December 1947, invited the Indian Historical Records Commission to appoint one or more delegates to be present on the occasion. As the terms of office of all the members of the Commission expired on the 15th August, the Secretary approached the President of the Indian Historical Records Commission and the Chairman, Research and Publication Committee to nominate one delegate out of the three *ex-officio* office bearers of the Commission. The Government of India have since nominated the Secretary to represent the Indian Historical Records Commission on the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Allahabad University.

9. Reports on Inspection of Records

In conformity with the Resolution III of the Indian Historical Records Commission met at Peshawar in 1945, the Government of India permitted the Director of Archives to visit each province every three years and to submit reports to them and also to the Commission on the state of preservation of Central Government and Crown records in provincial custody. The late His Excellency the Crown Representative also permitted him to inspect old records in the custody of the Residencies. Some of these Reports are laid on the table.

10. Parliamentary Papers

The question of free supply of Parliamentary Papers to the Library of the National Archives of India was considered by the Government of India at the instance of the Indian Historical Records Commission. The Government of India inform that they are not in a position to obtain free supply of these reports from His Majesty's Government. The collection in the national archives has many gaps in them and to render the collection more useful it is essential that it should be completed and brought up-to-date. It is therefore, for consideration whether a separate Government grant should not be asked for filling the gaps as well as for regular purchase in future.

11. Proposal by Pudukkottai Durbar on Residency Records

With the cessation of paramountcy on the 15th August, it is expected that Residencies will be closed. It is therefore recommended to the Dominion Governments of India and Pakistan and the Central Records Department that all documents in the Archives of the Residencies may be transferred to the respective States to which they relate.

Explanatory Note.—The need for such a transfer is obvious. After paramountcy goes, there is no question of any document being confidential. A collection of all records relating to the different States, housed in the Central Records Offices of the respective States will afford proper scope for scholars to carry on research on the history of those States.

Secretary's Note.—The problem of the future custody of the Residency records is still under the consideration of the Government of India. It may however be stated that these records do not come under the category of the regional records properly so called. They are on the contrary administrative instruments of agencies under the control of a Central authority now defunct, *viz.*, His Excellency the Crown Representative. Under established international practice the archival assets of a defunct State or Government are inherited by the successor Government. It should also be noted that most of the States are still without properly organised records offices and research students have no access to documents owned by them.

Proposals by Dr. Y. K. Deshpande

12. Inheritance of India Office Assets

In view of the abolition of the India Office of the Secretary of State, the question of locating the library of the printed books and also that of the manuscripts of literary and historical value in the East India Office might be under consideration. It is therefore proposed that the Central Government at Delhi be requested to move the British Government to hand the library to it (the Central Government at Delhi), and that it is further suggested that the library be under the control of the Director of the Imperial Records Department at Delhi.

Explanatory Note.—Majority of the printed books in the library are in the oriental languages and have been obtained mostly from India from the authors and publishers under specific rules. The manuscripts of literature have been collected from India and mostly belong to the oriental languages. As for the records in manuscript which are in the India Office Library, are connected with the Indian affairs and are wholly of the historical nature. It will therefore be in the fitness of things that the whole library should be handed over to the Central Government at Delhi as it is the Central place. It will be proper and also convenient to the scholars if the library is under the control of the Director of the Imperial Records Department.

13. Creation of Historical Sections in Records Offices

That this Commission recommends all the provincial Governments and the states to open a separate section in the Record Department for historical records and that section should be given in charge of an officer who knows English, Persian and the language of the province.

Explanatory Note.—At present the manuscripts of the historical nature have been kept in the records of the various departments and as such it is not available in one place. Besides there is no one person in charge of such documents. If there is one person in charge of the historical documents it will be convenient to arrange to preserve them and also it will be easy for the scholars who desire to study them, to get them without loss of time in search for them.

Secretary's Note.—Only a few Provinces and Indian States have fully organised Central Records Offices. Moreover, all records are of historical value and it is neither desirable nor practicable to separate the so-called non-historical records from historical. Papers which may appear at one time unimportant, may prove of great historical importance at a subsequent date. Many of the papers which were at one time classed as 'C' (unimportant) at the National Archives of India have on later examination been found to be of immense evidential value.

Resolution by Dr. B. Prasad

14. Creation of a Department of Archives

This Commission recommends to the Government of India to establish a separate and independent Department of Archives and not make this subject an appendage of other Department.

Explanatory Note.—The subject of archives is a highly technical and important subject which requires for its adequate treatment an independent Department of the Government of India. At present the Imperial Record Department is subordinate to the Department of Education which is over-burdened with educational work and as such may not be able to give the same attention which the proper preservation, acquisition and control of archives throughout the Indian Union may demand. In order to have a uniform policy throughout the Union and have an active control over the provincial archives as well as to implement the programme of regional survey it is essential that the Government of India should have a separate department of archives.

15. Legislation on Archives

Resolved that the Commission reiterate their request to the Government of India to undertake suitable legislation, by amendment of Act III of 1879 or otherwise for preventing export or transfer outside of records, historical documents and manuscripts from the Indian Union, and unwarranted destruction thereof.

Explanatory Note.—At the Twenty-third Session, 1946, a resolution to this effect was adopted by the Commission but so far the Government of India do not seem to have given their attention to this matter. In the meantime there has been a partition of India involving the creation of a separate sovereign State of Pakistan which has led even to the demand for a partition of the records and their transfer to the Pakistan Government outside the Indian Union. The danger of export of historical documents and manuscripts from the shores of India to the other countries has always been acute but with the creation of the Pakistan State it has become all the more serious. Unless, therefore, suitable Legislation altogether forbidding the movement of records, historical documents and manuscripts from the Indian Union is immediately undertaken there is every likelihood of the Union being defrauded of its historical treasures. In the past years the Historical Records Commission has made a demand for the amendment of Act III of 1879 to prevent unwarranted destruction of records. The post-war reconstruction scheme adopted by the Commission in 1944 laid stress on the legal prohibition of export of the historical manuscripts but no action has yet been taken on this demand by the Government of India. As the danger is imminent, the Commission should now request the Government of Indian Union for immediate legislation for banning the movement of all such records and manuscripts out of the country.

Secretary's Note.—In Resolution IV of the Research and Publication Committee which met at Indore in 1946, Dr. Bisheshwar Prasad moved the same resolution. It was forwarded to the Government of India with suitable recommendation and their decision is awaited.

16. Resolution by Sri S. Gopalan on South Indian History

That three members of this Commission be deputed to compile and publish a history of South India under the heading RECONSTRUCTION OF SOUTH INDIAN HISTORY.

Explanatory Note.—It is found from authentic records available in the Saraswathi Mahal Library at Tanjore and elsewhere that events like wars and dynastic changes and their causes have yet to be brought to light and that the conventional accounts of the same as given in text books and other publications on the subject have to be rewritten in the light of the said records. For instance, the real causes for the invasion of the South by Hyder Ali and the clash between him and the East India Company as well as the Crown Representative in Madras, the alignment of powers in the south during the 18th century, and the battles and campaigns conducted by the British in conjunction with and in opposition to chieftains and kings, provide many fresh chapters in our history.

Secretary's Note.—This Commission is concerned with unearthing and publishing original sources of Indian history. The actual compilation of history should be the business of other organisations.

17. Resolution by Mahamahopadhyaya B. N. Rau—On the use of Hindi or Hindustani

In view of the emancipation of the country from its foreign servitude, necessitating the re-orientation of our outlook and aspirations in all walks of life—the historian's sphere being no exception,—and in view of the lead given by the Union

Government, a number of provincial Governments, local bodies and Universities to raise Hindi or Hindustani from its erstwhile position of a vernacular to the dignified status of a common vehicle of national intercourse, it is highly desirable that the Indian Historical Records Commission will rise to the occasion by gradually shedding its English complex and giving every facility and encouragement for its proceedings being conducted in Hindi or Hindustani, so that within a period of five years at the maximum, Hindi or Hindustani written in the Devanagari character may come to supplant entirely its English predecessor. It is therefore proposed that an amendment in the constitution of Commission may kindly be made accordingly.

18. Any other subject which may be brought before the Meeting

19. Date and place of the 1948 and 1949 Meetings

20. Papers on the following subjects are laid on the table.—

(i) Report of the Tenth meeting of the Research and Publication Committee held at New Delhi in March 1947.

(ii) Annual Reports of the—

(a) Imperial Record Department (1946).

(b) Bengal Records Office (1945).

(c) Coorg (1946).

(iii) Constitution of the Indian Historical Records Commission as amended by the Government of India after the creation of the Dominion of India.

(iv) Inspection reports of the Director of Archives, Government of India, of the Crown and Central Government records and records in the custody of—

(a) Government of United Provinces (Lucknow and Allahabad).

(b) Government of Bihar (Patna).

(c) Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Marwara (Ajmer).

(d) Rajputana Residency (Mt. Abu).

(e) Central India Residency (Indore).

(f) Jaipur State.

(g) Alwar State.

(i) List of books and periodicals presented to the Indian Historical Records Commission and or the National Archives of India during 1947

GROUP I.—Presented by the Authors and the Individuals.—

Dr. N. K. Sinha and Dr. A. C. Banerjee, History of India, 2nd edition, 1947

Dr. P. C. Gupta, Polier's Shah Alam II and his court—1947.

Mr. Jagmohan Mahajan, Private Correspondence of Sir Frederic Currie, 1846-4

Dr. G. N. Saletore, The British Expedition against Dhondji Vagh (pamphlet).

Col. R. H. Phillimore, Memoirs Relative to the State of India by Warren Hastings, 1787.

GROUP II.—Presented by the learned Institutions.

Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona—

Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Vol. XXVII, Parts I—IV in 2 vols. 1946.

Agra University—

Agra University Calendar, 1945-46.

Bombay University—

Catalogue of the Library of the University of Bombay for 1901, 1920-1941 and list of additions for 1947 23 vols.

Madras University—

Catalogues and books on Chemistry, Technology, Engineering, Physics and Mathematics, 1939.

Supplement to the Madras University Library Catalogues, 1938-1940.—6 vols.

Mysore University—

Catalogue of books on several works, Philosophy, Religion, Sociology, Philology, Science, Useful Arts, Fine Arts, Literature, History, Persian, Arabic and Urdu books, 1935.—7 vols.

Nagpur University—

1. Nagpur University Library catalogue of Books on Philosophy, Religion, Economics, History and Social Sciences, 1942-43—4 vols.

2. Nagpur University Journal—Journal of the University of Nagpur 1945.

Nagpur University Historical Society—

Annual Bulletin of the Nagpur University Historical Society, October 1947

Patna University—

Catalogues of Patna University Library from 1927-1933 and from 1936-39.

Karachi Corporation—

Administration Report of the Corporation of the City of Karachi for 1945-46

Editor, Investment and Finance, Delhi —

Investment and Finance, January to November 1947.

Government of Assam, Dept. of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Gauhati—

1. Annals of the Delhi Badshahate by Dr. S. K. Bhuyan, 1947.

2. Lachit Barphukan and his times by Dr. S. K. Bhuyan, 1947.

3. Asamar Padya Buranji, ed. by Dr. S. K. Bhuyan, 1932.

4. Deodhai Assam Buranji, ed. by Dr. S. K. Bhuyan, 1932.

5. Assam Buranji, 1228-1696, ed. by Dr. S. K. Bhuyan, 1945.

6. Kamrupar Buranji, ed. by Dr. S. K. Bhuyan, 1930.

7. Jayantia Buranji, ed. by Dr. S. K. Bhuyan, 1937.

8. Tripura Buranji, ed. by Dr. S. K. Bhuyan, 1938.

9. Ankia Nat, ed. by Dr. S. K. Bhuyan, 1940.

10. Nitilatankur, ed. by Sarat Ch. Goswami and Pandit Joy Krishna Misra 1941.

Baroda State Museum and Picture Gallery, Baroda—

Bulletin of the Baroda State Museum and Picture Gallery 1943-44, to 1945-46.—5 vols.

Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris—

Catalogue General ; list des catalogues evente—cabinet des estampes (1946) lists des Department des Medailles et antique etc. 1946.

Institute of Historical Research, London—

1. Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research, Vol. XX May and November 1944 ; May & Novr. 1945.

2. Institute of Historical Research, Twentyfifth Annual Report of the Institut^o of Historical Research, London, 1945-46.

3. School of History and Institute of Historical Research, Instruction Courses for 1946-47.

School for Oriental and African Studies—

Calendar for the year 1946-47.

Report of the governing body. Statement of accounts and departmental reports for the year ending 31st July 1946.

University of London—

University of London—subjects of dissertations and theses and published work presented by successful candidates at examinations for Higher degrees from 1937-1944.

University of London Library.—Classified catalogue of selected accessions 1945-46.

Royal Empire Society, London—

1. Best books on the British Empire. A bibliographical Guide for students by Evans Lewin, 2nd ed., London—1945.

2. Bibliography of Pacific region and East Indian Islands, Exclusive of Japan by Evans Lewin, 1944.

3. Hastings Bi-centenary. Selected list of printed publications relating to Warren Hastings by Miss Vera Ward, 1932.

4. Royal Colonial Institute—

A select list of recent publications contained in the library of the Royal Colonial Institute, London, illustrating the constitutional relations between the various parts of the British Empire, compiled by Evans Lewin, 1937.

Harvard University—

Harvard University Archives, 1942.

Library of Congress, Washington—

1. Library of Congress—information Bulletins, 1947.

2. Library of Congress quarterly journal and current Acquisitions.—February 1946 : November 1946.

3. List of publications issued by the Library of Congress since 1897, 1935.

4. Library of Congress, Orientalia Division.

South East Asia 1935-45 (a selected list of reference books) Washington 1946.

Louisiana State University, Department of Archives—

Guide to manuscript collections in the Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, Vol. I, ed. by William Hogan, 1940.

Illinois State Library, Springfield, Illinois—

Illinois Libraries

Bulletins from September to December 1946.

National Archives, Washington—

1. The Archivist's "One World" by Solon J. Buck.

2. Eleventh Annual Report of the Archivist of U.S.A. 1944-45.

3. Twelfth Annual Report of the Archivist of U.S.A. 1945-46.

4. A proposed Archives programme for the U.N.E.S.C.O., by Solon, J. Buck.

Chinese-American Institute of Cultural relations and the National Library of Peiping, China—

Quarterly Bulletin of Chinese Bibliography. Vols. IV & V, 1944-45.

New York Public Library—

1. Bulletin of the New York Public Library, June 1947.
2. Report of the New York Public Library for 1946.

Oregon State Library—

Report of State Library, Archives Division, July 1944 to June 1946.

L'Ecole Francaise D'Extreme-Orient, Hanoi—

1. Bibliographie de L'Indochine Francaise by Paul Boudet and Remi Bourgeois, for 1927—1929 & 1930. 2 Vols. Hanoi, 1933.
2. Bibliotheque De L'Ecole Francaise D'Extreme-Orient L' menagement de Cettae Collection de Livres et de manuscripts n.d.
3. L'Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient Less civilisations de L'Indochine et L'ecole Francaise D'extreme-Orient— 1943.
4. L'Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient Sommaire de L'activite de L'Ecole Francaise D'extreme-Orient, de 1940—1945.
5. Malleret' Louis
Aux temple d'Ahankor Avecles vo ageurs, Les romanciers et lespoetes, Saigon 1932.

6. Institute Indo-chinois pour L'etude de L'Home Sommaire detaille des cours et conferences (Annee Scolaire 1943-1944) Hanoi, 1943.

Association Francaise de Aruits de L'Orient, Paris—

Institute de France (Annuaire pour 1945 et 1946).

Director, French Information Services, 27, Connaught Circus, New Delhi—

1. France Orient, Fevier 1947.
2. French Weekly, January to April 1947.

Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia Government Archives—

Baines, Thomas

Northern Goldfields diaries of Thomas Baines 1869—1872 published in London by Chatto & Windus for the Government Archives of Southern Rhodesia, 1947, 3 Vols.

Union of South Africa Archives—

1. Archives year book for South African History; published by the authority of the minister of the interior ed. by Coenraed Beyers and others, 1943-44.
2. Report of a visit to Various Archives Centres in Europe, United States of America and Canada by C. Graham Botha, 1922.

Archivo Nacional de Cuba, La Habana, Cuba

1. Indica del Boletin del Archivo Nacional No. 12, 1946.
2. Catalogo de Los fondos de la Junta Superior de Sanidad de la Isla de Cuba, No. 13, 1947.

Saskatchewan Archives, Regina—

First report of the Saskatchewan Archives, 1945-46.

Indian Historical Record Commission—conspectus of action taken—twentyfirst Session, Udaipur, 1944

Resolution III.—This Commission fully approves of the scheme embodied in the Report on the Post-war Reorganisation of Archives Offices and Historical Researches in India drafted by the Research and Publication Committee at its fourth meeting and recommends that the report be forwarded at an early date to the Government of India, Provincial Governments and Indian States for necessary action.

1. *The Karauli Darbar* state that their Post-war re-organisation scheme is limited to the construction of roads only. They add that such records as relate to the war period and are not required for current purposes have already been preserved and will be available to future research scholars readily.

2. The reply of the Government of Madras is noted below :—

- (i) *Proposal to depute an officer to foreign countries to take microfilm copies of records which are missing in the Imperial Record Department.*—No action in this respect is called for by this Government since the gaps in the Madras Records are extremely few.
- (ii) *Proposals to take steps to salvage manuscripts of historical interest lying in private custody and to set apart funds for the purpose.*—These suggestions will be considered when a permanent Regional Survey Committee for this Province is set up by Government.
- (iii) *Proposal to keep bundles containing records flat upon the shelves instead of vertically.*—This suggestion is now under the consideration of this Government in consultation with the Curator, Madras Record Office.
- (iv) *Proposals to introduce vacuum fumigation and air-condition in the record rooms of the Imperial Record Department.*—The records of this Government in the Madras Record Office are generally free from insects and hence vacuum fumigation is not really necessary. Air-conditioning of the rooms will be too costly to be undertaken by this Government. A proposal to provide additional vacuum cleaners for dusting the records is under consideration.
- (v) *Proposal to repair old records according to the method of lamination.*—This method requires special and costly machinery and skilled technician to work it. Moreover, it is understood that this method has been severely condemned by eminent archivists as a dangerous innovation. The present methods of repairing records is with chiffon and as it has stood the test of time it is proposed to continue it.
- (vi) *Proposal to train archivists in the Imperial Record Department.*—As facilities are available in the Madras Record Office to train Record-keepers, it is considered unnecessary to depute any person to the Imperial Record Department for training.
- (vii) *Proposal that the technical services of the Government record offices should be available to private owners, small record officers in British India and the States which may be unable to go in for costly scientific apparatus.*—The Madras Record Office has always been rendering such service whenever approached.
- (viii) *Proposal for legislation to prohibit the unwarranted destruction and export of historical manuscripts.*—The Government of India Act XXXI of 1947 is sufficient for the present to prohibit exportation of historical manuscripts. The type of legislation contemplated to prohibit unwarranted destruction of records may be indicated clearly to enable this Government to offer their remarks.

REMARKS.—The Government of Madras was informed with reference to para 5 of their letter that the Indian Historical Records Commission is not aware that the process of lamination has been condemned by any eminent archivist as a "dangerous innovation". They were requested to quote or send the relevant literature in which any eminent archivist had categorically condemned the lamination process as a dangerous innovation for being placed before the Indian Historical Records Commission for discussion.

Resolution VIII.—This Commission recommends to the Provincial Governments and States to institute scholarships to enable competent students to carry on original investigations in the Central and Provincial Records Offices and to finance the publication of the results of their research work when completed.

1. The Government of Central Provinces and Berar regret that it has not been possible for them to consider the resolution for the budget of 1947-48 owing to other heavy financial commitments.

2. The *Dhar Darbar* are maintaining a History Department which is doing research work in Regional History. They do not consider it necessary to institute the scholarships.

3. The *Jaora Darbar* inform that there is no suitable candidate in the State to carry on original investigation in the Central and Provincial Records Offices. They regret therefore that no action can be taken on the Resolution.

4. The *Sailana Darbar* approve of the resolution and will take steps to implement it as and when necessary. There are no students to carry on any research work.

5. *Jhabua Darbar* state that no candidate is available in the State to carry on original investigation in the State Records Office and hence the Darbar do not consider it essential to institute any scholarships for the purpose or to finance the publication of the results or research work, when completed.

6. The *Barwani Darbar* inform that the old records of the State have been destroyed by fire and therefore the action recommended by the Commission cannot be taken by the Darbar.

7. The *Alirajpur State* is too small to take any action recommended in the resolution.

Twenty second Meeting, Peshawar, 1945

Resolution I.—The Commission lends its whole-hearted support to the proposals of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal in general and to that relating to the establishment of a Central Records Office at Calcutta in particular and invites attention of the authorities to the Resolutions passed by the Commission on the subject in its previous sessions and recommends that a Central Records Office be established by the Government of Bengal as early as possible.

The decision of the Government of India on the proposals of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal which have nine parts are as follows :—

(i) *Establishment of a Traveller's Department in India.*—A copy of the Resolution was forwarded by the Government of India to the Late Railway Department (Railway Board) for information in so far as it related to the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal's proposal for the establishment of a Traveller's Department in India. (Please see conspectus page 122, Part III, I.H.R.C. Proceedings Vol. XXIII).

(ii) *Establishment of a Central Records Office in Bengal.*—The Government of Bengal (late) to whom the resolution was forwarded by the Government of India, informed that the creation of a Central Records Office in the Province formed one of the Post-War Reconstruction Schemes of the Government. But as the scheme was given a low priority by the Provincial Development Board there was little likelihood of its being taken up within the next year or two.

(iii) *Development of the Archaeological Survey of India.*—The Government of India have already sanctioned the first and second instalments of the proposals made by the Director General of Archaeology in regard to the re-organisation of the Archaeological Survey of India. The third and final programme in this respect is at present under consideration of the Government.

(iv) *Establishment of a National Museum.*—A scheme for the establishment of a Central National Museum of Art, Archaeology and Anthropology prepared by the Gwyer Committee has been accepted in principle by the Government of India and the details of this scheme are under consideration.

(v) *Amendment of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act.*—The amendment of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act is under consideration of the Government of India. The views of the Provincial Governments who were addressed are being awaited. An Act, called the Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947, making better provision for controlling the export of objects of antiquarian or historical interest or significance from India has recently been passed.

(vi) *Establishment of a School of Architecture in India.*—The decision of the Government of India is awaited.

(vii and ix). *Creation of a National Cultural Trust and Constitution of National Parks.*—Copies of the Royal Asiatic Society's scheme for the establishment of National Parks in India were forwarded to the Provincial Governments (June 1945) for such action as they considered desirable. The Society was informed of this. The Central Advisory Board of Education have formulated a scheme for the establishment of an "Indian Cultural Trust" which will undertake among other things the establishment of National Parks in India. This scheme is now under the consideration of the Government of India.

(viii) *Establishment of a National Academy of Art and Letters.*—The decision of the Government of India is awaited.

REMARKS.—The decisions of the Government of India have been communicated to the Secretary, Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.

Resolution III.—This Commission is of opinion that it is desirable that the Director of Archives should visit each Province once in three years and submit reports to the Government of India and to the Indian Historical Records Commission on the state of preservation in which the old historical Records may be found with such suggestions as may lead to improvement in the existing state of things.

1. The Government of Bengal (late) informed that all facilities would be afforded to the Director of Archives, Government of India while visiting the Province in connection with the examination of the Crown and Central Government records in the custody of the Provincial Government.

Resolution VII.—This Commission requests the Provincial Governments and Indian States to furnish the Imperial Record Department with a list of different series of records in their possession showing the gaps or wanting papers in such series.

1. The *Dholpur Government* agree to the recommendation and add that there is a General Record Room in the State and any records, if and when received, which may be found to be of interest for the Imperial Record Department, will be communicated to them.

2. The *Patiala Government* have forwarded the following list of historical documents which are in their archives :—

I. Firmans and Sanads from and Agreements with—

(a) The Padshahs of Delhi.

(i) Firman, dated Ziqad 10, Julus 5 conferring the title of Maharaj-adhiraj Rajeshwar on Maharaja Sahib Singh Mahendar Bahadur by Akbar Shah II.

(b) The Shahs of Afghanistan

(i) Two documents, dated Shaban 22, 1174 H from Ahmad Shah's Wazir confirming Raja Alha Singh in the possession of his territory.

(ii) Firman from Timur Shah, dated Rajab 11, 1192 H.

c) The Marathas

(i) Wajib-ul-Arz to General Perron for co-operation against George Thomas, dated 30 Rabi-us-Sani, Julus 43.

(ii) Treaty of Friendship with General Perron, dated Ramzan 21, 1216 H.

(d) The British Government in India

(i) Wajib-ul-Arz to Lord Lake and its reply acknowledging amity with Patiala.

There are a number of Sanads from the British Government relating to grant of territories and conferring certain rights and privileges. Most of these are printed in Aitchison's *Treaties and Sanads*.

II. CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE BRITISH RESIDENTS AT DELHI AND BRITISH OFFICERS. SOME OF THE LETTERS ARE :—

(i) A Seton to Maharaja Saheb Singh, May 29, 1808

(ii) A Seton to Maharaja Saheb Singh, Nov. 17, 1808

(iii) C. Metcalfe to Maharaja Karam Singh, June 24, 1808

(iv) W. Fraser to Maharaja Karam Singh, October, 1, 1814.

(v) C. Elliot to Maharaja Karam Singh, November 24, 1824.

(vi) D. Ochterlony to Maharaja Saheb Singh, March 14, 1811.

(vii) D. Ochterlony to Rani Sahiba, Oct. 9, 1814.

(viii) D. Ochterlony to Maharaja Karam Singh, October 19, 1822.

III. REPORTS OF PATIALA VAKILS FROM CONTIGUOUS BRITISH DISTRICTS FROM SAMVAT 1883 TO 1912 (PRE-MUTINY PERIOD).

3. The *Jhalwar Darbar* have furnished the following list of Hindi Books (manuscripts) of historical significance available at Brijnagar.

(i) Mahabharat Adi Sabha Van Paryantam by Vyas Nilkanth (1145 pages) Samvat 1947.

(ii) Bharat Sar by Vyas Nilkanth (167 pages) Samvat 1884.

(iii) Valmiki Ramayan by Govindachaya (781 pages) Samvat 1884.

(iv) Itihas Sar Samucharya (printed) by Mansaravi (120 pages) Samvat 1853.

(v) Prithviraj Rasa by Chand (287 pages) Samvat 1845.

4. The *Narsingarh Darbar* inform that they have no historical papers of the nature suggested by the Commission.

Resolution IX.—This Commission recommends to the Indian Universities that under their schemes of popular and extension lectures, keepers and curators of records offices and scholars engaged in editing old records (Imperial, Provincial or States) be requested to deliver courses of lectures in different provincial centres on the nature and subject matter of the records that they have examined and edited.

2. The *Osmania University* informs that the Board of Extension lectures of the University has decided that if there are any eminent scholars among the person referred to in the resolution, the question of inviting them for extension lectures will have due consideration.

2. The *Punjab University* (late) accepted the recommendation with the addition of the word "and other educational centres" after "in different Provincial Centres".

APPENDIX A

Summary of messages of good will received from distinguished foreign archivists and scholars on the Post-war Reorganisation of Archive Offices in India.

1. *Mr. D. A. Chart—Deputy Keeper of the Public Records Office, Northern Ireland.*—"This office is naturally interested to hear of the developments in record collection and maintenance which have been going in India, and will be very ready to co-operate in every way it can. Matters of Indian interest occasionally came to light here as for instance, the references to Warren Hastings and Macartney in the annual printed reports, 1925, p. 19, 1926, p. 17, and 1930 p. 5. In 1936 we were able to secure the deposit in the India Office of the letter book of a servant of the East India Company Andrew Duhram 1783-1791....."

2. *Mr. R. L. Atkinson, Secretary, Historical Manuscript Commission, London.*—"The scheme seems an admirable one and should be very useful if it can enlist the intelligent and active support of the Governments and Institutions concerned. The difficulty of a large scale scheme for the training of archivists is to be sure that enough bodies are prepared to employ the archivists when trained; but as your course is being arranged under Government auspices it is to be hoped the Government of India will, so far as it can, impress upon the provincial governments, and on those of the States, the importance of providing for the care and maintenance of their archives..... It is possible that the Register of Archives now being undertaken by my Commission may reveal other manuscripts collections of Indian interest, and if so I could give you brief particulars as to their extent and location."

3. *Mr. H. E. Cashmore, President, Library Association, London.*—"I..... keenly appreciate your kindness in sending me the publications which you enclose. They are very interesting and show that you are doing a very valuable work in India.... I suggest that you should keep the Secretary of the Library Association informed of your activities."

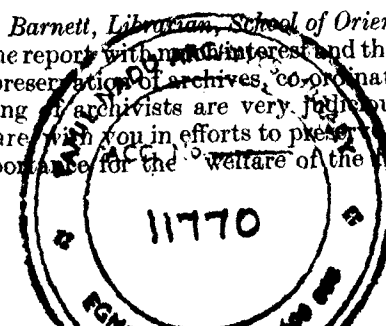
3. *Mr. William Angus, Keeper of the Registers and Records of Scotland.*—"I am happy to assure you that this Department will gladly co-operate and give every assistance to promote the objects of your Historical Records Commission. Among the papers deposited in the Department the following may be of interest to you :—

Hamilton Bruce Collection including papers which belonged to Professor John Bruce (1745-1826). In the course of a survey which is being undertaken at present in this country from this Department, I should also draw attention to the following item which may throw light on the history of India :—Diary of North Dalrymple afterwards 9th Earl of Stair. Should other item be found in future I shall communicate them to you....."

4. *Mr. A. S. Collins, Deputy Keeper of Manuscripts, British Museum, London.*—"States that he has read the report on post-war organisation of archives with great interest.

5. *C. E. A. Bedwell, Secretary, Society of Comparative Legislation London.*—"States that the scheme for re-organisation of archives offices has much interested him. Promises to furnish the Commission with information on archival legislation in other countries.

6. *Dr. L. D. Barnett, Librarian, School of Oriental and African Studies, London.*—"I have read the report with much interest and think that the suggestions contained in them for the preservation of archives, co-ordination of libraries, and other collections, and training of archivists are very judicious and deserve to be successful. My best wishes are with you in efforts to preserve the records of the past which are of such vast importance for the welfare of the future".



7. *Mrs. R. L. Saur e, Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, London.*—"We were exceedingly interested in the details you have given about the work and aim of the Indian Historical Records Commission as well as in the Report which you so kindly sent. This Report will be the subject of a note in our Information Bulletin which is issued to all our members every month."

8. *M. Edvard J. Carter, Counsellor, Libraries and Museum, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.*—"I am interested to have your report on post-war re-organisation of archives offices in India. UNESCO Archives Studies will shortly be developed into an active programme and it is most valuable to us to have in our hands such valuable documents as this particular report, which gives an excellent picture of current archival work in India".

9. *M. Michel Lheritiez, Secretary, Comité International Des Sciences Historiques Paris.*—Finds the Report exceedingly interesting and offers all co-operation in the work.

10. *M. Charles Petit-Dutaillis, Member, Institut de France, Paris.*—States that he has read with deep interest the report on re-organisation of archives offices and suggests that the Commission should establish cultural contact with the Ecoles Chartes of France.

11. *M. M. Rieunier, Secretary General, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.*—States that he has gone through the report with a great deal of interest. Welcomes the plan for replenishing gaps in Indian archival and manuscripts repositories by means of transcripts from French Collections. Furnishes a list of catalogues relating to Oriental manuscripts deposited in the Bibliothèque.

12. *Archivio Di Stato, Rome.*—Congratulate the Commission on the excellent work being done by it.

13. *Herr Asgaut Steinnes, Riksarkivet, Oslo.*—Promises co-operation in the work of filling in the lacunae in Indian repositories. Furnishes a list of interesting Danish archives relating to Chinappa Nayaka and Peter Anker.

14. *Mr. H. I. Bell, Association on the Sub-Committee of the Anglo-American Historical Conferences.*—"I write to say with what interest and good will I have read your report and proposal. They seem to be on the right lines and all of them highly desirable. I can understand that conservation is one of your major problems. Here American experience might help you. . . . I do not know how India is situated with regard to Pre-British records—whether many or only a few survive—but I certainly agree with the note of Mr. S. M. Jaffar that whatever such records exist should be brought within the scope of your activities. . . ."

15. *Professor V. H. Galbraith, Director, Institute of Historical Research, London.*—"I have to thank you not only for your letter of 11 November enclosing the brochure of the Indian Historical Records Commission and *Information regarding Diploma Course in Archives Keeping*, but also for your most interesting account of the activities of the Record Commission, which will appear in the forthcoming number of our *Bulletin*.

As one who taught Archives at the London School of Librarianship for twelve years, I am naturally interested in your efforts to stimulate the subject in India. So far as I can judge, you are proceeding on sound lines. I would only venture on a bit of advice. It is that all your archivists should not only have an M.A. degree, but as you so properly say in your memorandum, a degree in History. No amount of specialised training in Archives can make up for a deficient knowledge of History learnt in a scientific way, whereas a good historical scholar can learn all about Archive keeping in a couple of

months. The most important duties of Archivists are to help scholars with their research and to publish as many of the documents they keep as possible. These are scholarly functions and you don't want to waste the time of a good man fooling about learning how to use paste and scissors and so on. In this country we have made the mistake of putting classical scholars and mathematicians into our Archives departments and the result is there is very little imaginative grasp of the problems especially at the higher levels. In short, you must attract good historical scholars into Archive service.

As to collecting material, transcripts, etc. I see you are very up to date indeed. No doubt the Commission is right to confine its attention to records, but some authority or other ought to be actively scouring India and indeed the world for every sort of information, whether record or chronicle, and the further they go back in time the better.

With regard to the last paragraph of your letter, I am always open for any suggestions which may establish closer contact between our Institute and your Commission. As you say, your experience can only be a profit to us over here and any assistance we can give is always at your disposal."

16. *Dr. Solon J. Buck, The National Archives, Washington.*—"The most interesting part of the volume to me was Appendix F, the "Report on the Post-War Re-organisation of Archives Offices and Historical Researches in India." This is a most significant document and I intend to propose to the editor of *The American Archivist* that it be reprinted therein, either in whole or in part, in order that American Archivists may have an opportunity to know something of the thinking and planning along these lines that is going on in India. I take it for granted that you would have no objection to such reprinting. I also intend to see to it that a note concerning this volume of Proceedings is published in the *American Historical Review*."

APPENDIX B

Proposal for the establishment of an International Archives Organization

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES,
Office of the Archivist Washington, D.C.

May 2, 1947.

Dr. S. N. Sen,
Director, Imperial Record Department,
New Delhi, India.

My dear colleague :

The time has come, I feel strongly, when our profession should take steps to establish a permanent international archives organization. I am presuming to take the initiative by sending to you and to leading archivists in other countries this letter in which I invite your views, suggestions, and advice so that there may be assembled a body of information and opinion that will be useful in determining what kind of organization is desirable and what shall be the steps taken to bring it into being.

If there were in existence at present any international body that could properly take direct responsibility for promoting these objectives, I should be happy to work through it. The matter was laid before the United Nations Educational, Scientific,

and Cultural Organization, and that body at its first General Conference at Paris in December 1946 included the following paragraph in its approved program (mimeographed "Report of Program Commission Adopted by the General Conference," p. 26):

UNESCO should encourage the creation of an international organization of professional archivists. It will deal, in collaboration with the organization, with questions of technique and administration, such as the exchange of personnel, the general accessibility of archives, the establishment and exchange of inventories, the reproduction of documents and the exchange of reproductions.

UNESCO has thus recognized the importance of the subject and offered its encouragement. What concrete form this encouragement may take I cannot say at this moment when UNESCO itself is still in the process of organization. I think we can count on the sympathetic interest of officials of that organization, and perhaps, somewhat later, on help of a financial nature, but we must make a start ourselves.

I am inclined to think, furthermore, that it is important that archivists themselves take the initiative in the formation of an international body representative of their interests, so that that body will be an independent organization free to develop its own program and to work for the implementation of that program through UNESCO or through any other appropriate governmental or nongovernmental channels, as it may deem advisable. We will want to cooperate with other organizations without there being any danger of being dominated by them.

The Society of American Archivists, of which I have the honour to be the President, is much interested in this subject, and at its last annual meeting in Washington, in October 1946, it adopted the following pertinent resolution:

Whereas, it is desirable that archivists of all countries as quickly as possible reestablish their professional contacts, cooperate in the solution of urgent postwar problems of their profession, exchange experiences, ideas, methods and techniques, and work together more closely for the effective preservation, administration, and utilization of the archival heritage of mankind; and

Whereas, A representative international council is needed to provide a forum where these subjects can be presented and discussed, to provide the machinery through which approved programs and activities can be promoted and implemented, and to provide an organization that can cooperate officially with other organizations, national and international; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Society of American Archivists urges the creation of such an international archives council, and that it authorizes its President to take such steps on behalf of the Society, and in cooperation with other interested agencies and organizations, as may appear to him to be necessary or desirable to bring about the establishment of such an organization.

At the National Archives in Washington we have also given these questions much thought, and I take the liberty of enclosing with this letter copies of two documents that indicate the direction of our thinking and provide something of a framework for the consideration of these proposals. I hope you can find time to read them. They are entitled:

1. The Archivist's "One World".
2. A proposed Archives Program for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The "Recommendations" made at the close of the latter document should be ignored. These were obviously premature.

There is attached as Annex I of this letter a suggested draft statement of the "general purposes" of an international archives organization. This I hope you will

freely criticize and revise as you may deem desirable. It is my belief that some such general statement should be agreed upon early, if possible, in order that all might know what purposes we expect such an organization to serve. This statement should be quite distinct from any statement of program, which is something that may vary from time to time and something that the organization itself should be left free to develop later.

Annex II presents a suggested basis for membership in the organization and representation at the meetings and is intended merely to resent this important problem somewhat concretely and to draw forth specific observations. I hope you will comment on it freely.

Annex III presents the other questions that I hope you will be good enough to answer. I have not provided any blank forms because I want you to feel free to answer the questions at any length. It will be helpful if you will number your answers to correspond with the question number. If that is done, the questions themselves need not be repeated.

The answers to these questions will be helpful in indicating (1) the interest that exists and the cooperation and support that may be expected, (2) the nature of the organization that archivists want to see established, and (3) the next steps to be taken. I am sure that if we are to look for any outside financial assistance, it will be forthcoming only because leading archivists the world over express strong interest and convictions about these matters.

I hope you will find it possible to give this letter prompt attention and that your reply will reach me soon. This letter is sent by air mail, and it will be appreciated if your reply can be transmitted in the same manner.

Sincerely yours,
(Sd.) SOLON J. BUCK,
Archivist of the United States.

Enclosures.

ANNEX NO. I

Suggested Statement of "General Purposes"

1. To establish, maintain, and strengthen relations among archivists of all lands, and among all archives establishments, administrations, and associations, public or private, wherever located.
2. To advance all phases of the professional administration and utilization of archives by providing a forum for the exchange of views, experiences, methods, and techniques.
3. To organize, promote, and coordinate desirable international activities, programs, and projects in the field of archives administration.
4. To cooperate with other organizations in programs that will advance the documentation of human experience and the use of that documentation for the benefit of mankind.

ANNEX NO. II

Suggested basis of members and representation

1. Individuals who are professional archivists of accepted standing may become members upon payment of the established annual dues, which will entitle them to attend and participate in all meetings, to receive all publications, and to hold office, but they will have no vote at an international meeting except as delegates officially accredited to that meeting. Individuals distinguished for eminent service in the profession may also be elected at international meetings to honorary membership, in which case they would be exempt from payment of dues. A maximum number who might be elected at any one meeting should be established

2. Archival agencies, institutions, establishments, and administrations whether governmental, ecclesiastical, semi-public, or private, may be admitted as institutional members upon payment of the established annual dues (to be somewhat higher than for individuals) and will be entitled to receive all publications and to send one delegate each, officially accredited, to each international meeting.

3. Associations and organizations of archivists established on a national or international (regional) basis may become associational members upon payment of the established annual dues, and will be entitled to receive all publications and to send two delegates officially accredited, to each international meeting.

(The establishment of standards for membership in the several classes, and the passing upon applicants would, of course, be vested by the Constitution in the proper bodies or officials of the organization.)

ANNEXURE III

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe an international archives organization should be established?
2. Are you in favor of immediate steps being taken to establish such an organization?
3. What should be the basis of membership and representation? Should it be an organization of individuals? of institutions (archives establishments, agencies, and administrations)? or associations of archivists? or some combination? (See Annexure II for one suggestion).
4. Should it be associated in any formal way with national governments? with existing international organizations?
5. What should be the nature of its governing body?
6. Should it try to have a permanent headquarters and a permanent secretariat?
7. What would be an appropriate name for the organization? ("International Archives Council" has been suggested.)
8. Have you any suggestions for programs and activities in addition to those mentioned under "Present Day Needs" (Section III) in the document entitled "A Proposed Archives Program for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization"?
9. Provided suitable arrangements can be made, would you favor the holding of an International Archives Congress, a major purpose of which would be the adoption of a constitution and the formal establishment of a permanent international archives organization?
10. Should such a Congress be held in the Eastern Hemisphere or in the Western Hemisphere? What particular place or country would you suggest?
11. Have you any suggestions for financing such a Congress? Should the expenses of delegates be paid by the Congress or by the institutions or associations they represent? Should individuals be invited to attend and participate at their own expense?
12. Would you approve the setting up of a Provisional International Committee of Archivists to (1) draft a constitution for the international organization, and (2) arrange for and plan a Congress?
13. How should such a Committee be constituted? On what basis? How many members? By whom chosen?
14. Please name 5 archivists outside your own country whom you would consider suitable members of such a Provisional Committee.
15. Have you any additional suggestions or observations at present?

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES SEPTEMBER 1946

A proposed archives program for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

I.—THE PROBLEM

A large part of the documentation of human experience and human relations is to be found only in the unpublished archives of the organizations, governmental and other, that man has created for organized living.

A special reason for international concern for these bodies of records arises from the fact that, unlike published materials, they do not exist in duplicate. It follows that no one country can possess more than a part of the total archival heritage of mankind—usually the relatively small part that it has itself created. For access to the other parts it must depend upon the co-operation of other countries and the archivists of those countries. Such co-operation is vital to internationalism. Scholarship that feeds upon the archival resources of a single country cannot be otherwise than one-sided and nationalistic. The only antidotes are greater freedom of access to the originals in whatever country they may happen to be and an increase in the making and exchange of photographic facsimiles.

All of this, however, presupposes the preservation and efficient administration of the parts that compose the whole. The loss of an important body of records in any country is a loss to all countries—and it matters little in retrospect whether that loss be caused by an atomic bomb, unintelligent handling, or mere neglect. Archives because they are not ordinarily duplicated, are especially vulnerable. Their defense in these difficult times will hardly be possible without the full and frank sharing of ideas, methods, equipment, and techniques among the archivists of all lands. Channels to facilitate that exchange were being created before the last war, but, despite a greater need, are not now functioning. A review of these pre-war efforts at co-operation will help in understanding the possible responsibility and role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization in this field.

II.—BACKGROUND CONSIDERATIONS

The first and only international Congress of Archivists and Librarians was held in Brussels in 1910. Dr. Waldo G. Leland, who attended, has stated that this Congress "permanently influenced archival conceptions and practices in the United States". It had a comparable influence in many other countries, and its papers and discussions, printed in a volume of over 800 pages, are still recommended reading for students of archival administration. A permanent committee was set up to plan further international congress of this type every five years, but the first World War prevented a second meeting on schedule. Subsequently the librarians withdrew from the committee, which then continued in existence only to represent the archivists. Plans were several times made for an international congress of archivists, the last time for one to be held in Italy in 1935, but it was not possible to bring any of these to fruition.

Attention was also given to archives in the quinquennial Congresses of Historical Sciences (Rome, 1903; Berlin, 1908; London, 1913; Brussels, 1923; Oslo, 1928; Warsaw, 1933; and Zurich, 1938). Usually one of the dozen or more sections was assigned to Archives or to Archives and the auxiliary sciences. It must be admitted that it was only as one of the auxiliary sciences of history that archives were considered in most of these meetings. The Brussels Conference of 1923 established the permanent International Committee of Historical Sciences, which in turn, in 1929, created a Commission on Archives, which met annually for a number of years thereafter. The proceedings of this Commission and the results of its inquiries are to be found in the *Bulletins* of the International Committee of Historical Sciences. This Commission collected much useful information on archival holdings and regulations governing access to them in various countries, but its interests have always been those of the user and not those of the administrator of archives.

A third effort at international co-operation among archivists was represented by the Technical Committee of Archivists set up in 1931 by the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, the operating agency of the League of Nations' International Committee of Intellectual Co-operation. This was to be a sort of advisory board of archival experts from different countries, which was to meet annually to draw up resolutions and plans for presentation to the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation. Its membership was limited to 9, and a tie-in with the older organizations was provided by the stipulation that one member was to be a member of the Commission on Archives of the International Committee of Historical Sciences and one a member of the old "permanent committee" that has continued after the Brussels Conference of 1910. This Technical Committee of Archivists was interested in all phases of archival activity and administration. It studied such questions as the international exchange of photographic facsimiles, the standardization of archival terminology, the durability of modern types of records, and the archivists' concern with motion picture film. It prepared and published the *Guide International des Archives* (1934), which covered archival institutions in Europe. A proposed second volume to cover those of the rest of the world was never published. It was a very active committee for all too short a period. The fate of this committee is bound up with that of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation and probably lies now in the hands of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Another international organization that has given much attention to archives as an important phase of the larger subject of documentation is the International Federation for Documentation, an organization that goes back in its origins to the founding in 1895 of the old International Institute of Bibliography. The change in name in 1930 to International Federation for Documentation is indicative of its widening interests. This organization will hold its first post-war meeting in Paris, November 4—9, and its activities and interests will presumably, in some way, have to be tied into those of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization unless it is to continue in competition in many fields of common interest.

All of these organizations are an expression of the rising desires and needs of archivists before the last war for closer international collaboration. The war itself has given rise to additional needs for common effort. Some of them critical indeed and the movement for closer cultural co-operation in the interests of permanent peace brings forth still other considerations that are pertinent to that goal.

III. PRESENT DAY NEEDS

Archivists of all countries need to unite in consideration of the following major present day problems of the professions.

1. *The Preservation of the Archives of International Government.*—Included in this category are the archives of the United Nations and affiliated organizations, of the international organizations that the United Nations has displaced or absorbed in whole or in part, of temporary international war and reconstruction agencies, and of international congresses, conferences, and commissions. Relations between national archival administrations are no longer to be considered alone, but must be related to and integrated with the international structure in the interests of preserving the whole record. Understandings must be reached as to areas to possible overlapping and likewise as to areas for which no archival administration exists to assume responsibility.

2. *Rehabilitation of War-Damaged Archives.*—This includes the reorganization of archival administrations, the rehabilitation of damaged buildings or the construction of new ones, and the restoration and rehabilitation of archival holdings. Much of this work must be done by national and local governments, but, in so far as international co-operation and action toward this end is desirable and practicable, it should be organized preferably through channels that the United Nations Educational,

Scientific, and Cultural Organization can provide. There must at the very least be assistance in the exchange of information, technical and otherwise, that will permit this reconstruction to be modern in character.

3. *The Defense of Archives Against the Destructive Agents of Modern Warfare.*—Studies should be made of losses of buildings and archives in the last war to work out, in time to be of value in this reconstruction, principles of sounder building construction, principles of emergency evacuation and other principles of protection against the hazards of war, including plans for making and preserving insurance copies of important archival holdings. There should be study also of the organized efforts of the armies of belligerent nations in the last war to protect the archives of occupied and enemy countries with a view to making more effective plans for such programs in case of future wars.

4. *Archives in the International Peace Settlements.*—Knotty archival problems arise in connection with changes of sovereignty, some of which are capable of causing serious international friction. These problems will be complicated by (1) changes in location and custody that have taken place, and (2) destruction of significant material during the war. It usually requires the patient co-operation of archivists over a period of years to work out detailed solutions to problems that are rarely covered completely by clauses in peace treaties and perhaps cannot be covered therein in any adequate fashion.

5. *Problems of Dealing with Modern Records in Bulk.*—Archivists in all countries are now facing these problems, and the exchange of ideas, policies, techniques, and administrative experience in this field is vitally necessary if modern and recent records are to be properly handled.

6. *Handling Modern Types of Records.*—This is another area in which exchange of views and experience is seriously needed. Where do photographs, motion pictures and sound recordings fit into the archival picture, and what special facilities, equipment, and techniques are necessary for handling and preserving them? Archivists have not yet mastered the problems of preserving typescript and carbons nor the records produced by other modern methods of mechanical reproduction.

7. *Photographic Reproduction of Records.*—This is one of the most important and most rapidly changing fields of interest to archivists the world over. Its importance as a means of insurance has been mentioned. It is important also in connection with the problem of reducing bulk and of making records more widely available for use. In this field particularly archivists must keep up with advances and developments in cognate fields of documentation and work closely with leaders in those fields in developing and adapting new techniques.

8. *Promotion of a Definite Program of International Exchange of Photographic Facsimiles.*—Such a program should cover gradually but systematically all important records and series of records in the interests (1) of a broader scholarship and (2) the preservation of the contents of such records should the originals ever be destroyed.

9. *Promotion of Uniform Archival Terminology.*—The need for agreement in the use of archival terms has been noticeable in all international conferences of archivists and in all efforts to translate important archival literature. It should begin perhaps in an attempt to secure a dictionary of archival equivalents in the more important languages of the world, which would be a very useful working tool.

10. *Promotion of More General Agreement as to the Most Effective Finding Aids to Research in Archives.*—This means study and tentative agreement at least as to the place of general guides, inventories, catalogs, calendars, indexes, and the like, in archival economy and the relative priority they should have in the program of an individual institution.

11. *Co-operation in the Training of Archivists.*—The provision of better facilities for the training of archivists and archival technicians should be studied and encouraged. This should include the institution of channels for the international exchange of leaders and teachers and also for the international exchange of students.

12. *Co-operation in the preparation of the International Guide and Similar Undertakings International in Scope.*—An up-to-date guide covering not only European Archival institutions but those of the entire world is one of the most necessary post-war undertakings of the profession, and can only be performed under the auspices of an international agency that can take the place of the old International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation. A consolidated list of important archival losses of the war has also been suggested.

Many other areas of co-operation on the international level between archivists might be suggested and perhaps will be suggested. The important consideration at this time is the provision of a forum where these subjects can be presented and discussed and of a permanent office to serve as a centre for the exchange of information and for the implementation of plans that have been approved and adopted. It is believed that in the future these must be provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and that there should be conscious recognition of this fact in the organization of that agency.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. That the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its November Paris meeting take the necessary formal steps to call and hold at the earliest possible time, preferably in 1947, an Internal Congress of Archivists, at which leading archivists of the world can again renew their professional contacts, consider the emergence problems of their profession, and prepare specific recommendations to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for a permanent international program relating to archives.

B. That the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization at its November Paris meeting set up a provisional International Committee of Archivists to plan the agenda for the International Congress and to guide the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization activities with respect to archives in the interim, this International Committee to be reconstituted at the International Congress and made a permanent liaison agency between archivists and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

C. That the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization provided at its Paris meeting for a small but permanent unit in its regular organization to have responsibility for archives the head of which shall be the permanent Executive Secretary of the International Committee of Archivists. This unit should be part of a larger unit or section to have responsibility for all aspects of documentation, including libraries, bibliography, publications, museums, and cognate fields of activity.

(Sd.) SOLON J. BUCK,
Archivist of the United States.

No. F. 15-3/47-C.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

IMPERIAL RECORD DEPARTMENT,

New Delhi, the 28th May 1947.

Dear Dr. Buck,

Kindly excuse me for not answering your very important enquiry earlier. I was away on leave and on resuming duties had to proceed immediately to Simla on official business. While there I had an opportunity of discussing this subject with Sir John Sargent, Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Education, who represented India on the UNESCO and attended its last meeting at Paris. Sir John assured me that your proposal will have the official support of India if the new organization is affiliated to the UNESCO.

Annexures 1 and 2 of your letter might have caused some misapprehension on this point as an international organization is ordinarily open to persons, institutions and associations of all nations. But if I have understood properly your very interesting paper, *The ARCHIVISTS' ONE WORLD*, membership will for the present be limited to Countries now associated with the UNO. India having unequivocally identified herself with the UNO and UNESCO cannot logically co-operate with such other nations as are still outside those two organisations. Of course both the UNO and the UNESCO are expected in course of time to throw their doors open to non-participating or excluded countries like Germany and Spain. Until that day however, I believe the membership of the International Archives Council should necessarily be limited to the member countries of the UNESCO. (1) Both as a professional archivist and an Indian I endorse your proposal regarding an international archives organisation most heartily. Indian students have to go to other lands in search of source materials for the history of their own country and only a small proportion of records relating to the 18th and 19th century India are available here. But the great bulk of them is to be found in England, France, Portugal, Holland, Denmark and Italy (The Vatican Library) and India is likely to profit most from the proposed organisation. (2) The sooner therefore steps are taken to establish such an organisation the better for this country. (3) The membership of such an organisation should not be limited to institutions alone but should be extended to individual archivists as well. I am in complete accord with the suggestion made in Annexure II. Individual Archivists, Archives Offices and regional associations should all be permitted to associate themselves with this organisation. (4) It should be affiliated with the UNESCO and this will automatically ensure the support of the national governments though they may have no formal association with the Council. The value of the moral and the financial backing of the national governments cannot be discounted though their political domination may be undesirable. In Asiatic countries however non-government Archives Offices are for all practical purposes non-existent and the participation of these Archival institutions cannot be effective without official approval. (5) The utility of the organisation will depend largely on the efficiency of the governing body which need not be very large. Its membership need not exceed 20, 15 of whom should be elected and the remaining five co-opted by the members elected. Although the participating countries should not claim representation on a territorial or national basis and distinguished archivists should be returned to the Governing Body in their personal capacity it is desirable that different regions should not as far as consistent with the above principle go unrepresented. (6) The Council if it is to function properly must have a permanent headquarter and a permanent Secretariat. For obvious reasons, it is desirable that its headquarters should be located near that of the UNO. (7) The same suggested is in my opinion quite appropriate and (8) I have no suggestion at present to offer about its programmes and activities in addition to those already made in the papers circulated. (9) It is desirable to hold an International Archives Congress as it would offer the much needed forum for an exchange of opinion and formulation of schemes; and (10) The venue

of the first Congress should be in U. S. A., preferably Washington, from where the proposal has emanated. (11) The Congress will meet in different years in different countries and the general expenses should be met by the hosts but the expenses of delegates should be paid by the Institutions or associations they represent. If any individual archivist be specially invited to participate in the deliberations of the Congress on account of the special distinction that he or she may enjoy, it is but in the fitness of things that his or her expenses should be paid by the hosts. (12) A provisional International Committee of Archivists, if appointed, will certainly expedite the preliminary work and the work of the Congress will be considerably simplified if it has a draft constitution before it. (13) Such a Committee must be of an *ad hoc* character and may be nominated by the Society of American Archivists in consultation with similar societies in England, France and Russia. The membership of the provisional Committee need not exceed 12. The initiative in this matter may be taken by the President of the American Society. (14) (i) Dr. Solon J. Buck. (ii) Mr. Hilary Jenkinson. (iii) M. Charles Sumaran. (iv) Dr. Ernst Posner. (v) M. Maksakoff of Central State Archives, USSR. (15) No.

Yours Sincerely,

(Sd.) S. N. SEN.

To

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
Archivist of the U. S. A.,
The National Archives, Washington, D. C.

