

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

For the year 1954



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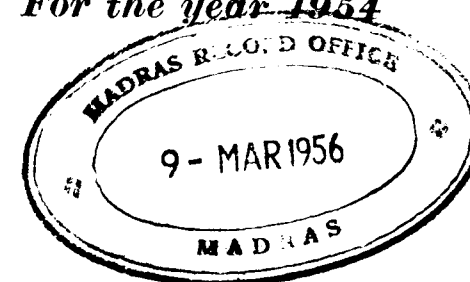
Printed at
Rashtrapati Bhavan Press,
New Delhi.

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Published by
The Director of Archives,
Government of India.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

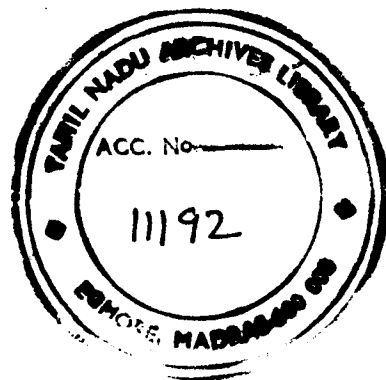
Staff.

The staff of the Department underwent some changes during the period under review. Dr. S. Gopal, Asst. Director of Archives (Publication), left the Department on 8 September 1954 on his appointment as Director, Historical Division, Ministry of External Affairs, and Mr. S. C. Gupta, Archivist, was temporarily promoted to the vacancy with effect from 25 September 1954. Mr. M. H. Rizawi, Archivist, was transferred as Keeper of Records to the newly opened Regional Record Office at Bhopal. A post of Research Officer was created in January 1954 in order to give impetus to historical research at the National Archives. Other posts created during the year include those of 1 Archivist, 1 Asst. Archivist (Gr. I), 1 Asst. Archivist (Gr. II) and 3 Clerks. The total strength of the establishment on 31 December was 274.

Accessions.

In spite of the shortage of storage space in the National Archives of India, accession of the non-current records of various agencies of the Government of India continued during the year under report. The records of the Hyderabad Residency and its successor bodies (1876-1953), the Western India and Gujarat States Agency (1808-1952) and the Central India Agency (1805-1952) were transferred to the Department, besides some belonging to the Ministry of Finance (1931-48), the Ministry of Home Affairs (1907-16), and the Foreign and Political Department (1891-1923).¹ Side by side with the accession of public records the building up of its collection of private papers, either in original or in microfilm copies, to supplement the official sources was continued. Among such acquisitions of the Department is a unique collection of the papers of Lord Macartney, Governor of Madras during the years 1781-85, obtained from Mr. Muhammed Hussain of Bhopal. Another valued acquisition is a holograph letter of M. H. Hyndman, the well-known English socialist leader of the 19th century. The document, which is addressed to Robert La Monte and is dated 17 November 1909, was first received in the Prime Minister's Secretariat. In this letter Hyndman, whose love for India and sympathy for her nationalist aspirations are well-known, delivers an outspoken criticism of the "unsympathetic and unimaginative capitalist domination" of the British in India, and expresses his conviction that "India will be very great again some day". Microfilm copies of certain manuscripts such as *Kalpasutra*, Holy Quran, and the story of Kalkacharya were also acquired.

1. For details see Appendix I.



The collection of Persian Manuscripts was enriched by the acquisition, among others, of a diary or note book of Mir Ahmad Saad, which gives an eye witness account of the battle of Kalinadi near Kanauj fought in 1750 between Maharaja Nawal Rai, Deputy of Safdar Jang, and Ahmad Khan Bangash, Nawab of Farrukhabad; *Tawarikh-i-Alamgiri*, a history of the first five years of Aurangzeb's reign, by Aqil Khan; and *Qalaat-i-Gwalior*, a history of Gwalior from early times to the Mughal period. In addition, *Guldastai-Shujaat*, an Urdu manuscript, which contains a biography of Jean Baptiste de la Fontaine Filose, was acquired.

Other significant acquisitions include photostat copies procured from Hungary of two holograph letters of Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore, and three verses in Persian written in his own hand by Muhammad Iqbal.

Map Division.

Since its inception in October 1953, the Map Section of the National Archives of India has been doing valuable service in the matter of accessioning, preservation and study of maps. During the year under review more than 10,000 maps in folios were received from the Survey of India. With this instalment a large part of the historical maps available at the Surveyor General's Office has been transferred to the National Archives of India for safe custody. Maps and charts which are in an advanced stage of decay are being rehabilitated by the use of the latest methods of repair, and a descriptive list is being prepared to facilitate easy reference. Investigations into their background are also being carried out.

Microfilm Library.

New additions to the Microfilm Library include copies of nearly 60,000 manuscript pages from the Additional Manuscripts and the Hardwicke and Egerton Collections available at the British Museum, London. These range from the 16th century and include papers relating to the Portuguese Jesuit missions in the East Indies (1582-1693), a journal in Dutch by Bartholomew Verwag on his voyage in the Eastern Seas (1664-67), notes of Sir William Jones, the great Orientalist, on cases instituted in the Supreme Court at Calcutta, letters and papers on the Bengal Army (1776-85), and letters of Collin Mackenzie, Colonel Adam and James Tod.

The Department also acquired during the year microfilm copies of 9,600 pages of Indian interest from among the Chatham and Pitt papers at the Public Record Office, London, ranging from 1757 to 1805. In addition to the private correspondence of the two Pitts, the collection includes those of almost every distinguished soldier and statesman who had a prominent part to play in the Anglo-Indian politics of the period. Among

the important items discussed in them are:—*Diwani* of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, 1765; Pitt's India Act of 1784; commercial privileges of the East India Company; Company's debts; impeachment of Warren Hastings; and the third Mysore War. Though these documents are not official archives, one can hardly over-emphasize their value as source material for history.

From the Algemeen Rijksarchief, The Hague, the Department secured copies of some additional Dutch records of Indian interest covering about 55,000 pages and ranging from 1693 to 1699.

The Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, supplied copies of nearly 8,000 manuscript pages from the Nouvelles Acquisitions Series. Most significant among these records are the correspondence covering the period from 1767-78 of Barnard Picot de la Motte, the French Commanding General on the coast of Malabar, and the papers of Charles d'Ochoa, who was in charge of the French Mission in India during 1841-48.

Checking and Arrangement.

During the year 3,826 volumes, 7,019 bundles and 9,427 files belonging to the various Departments ranging from 1761 to 1951 were checked and arranged.

Reference Media.

Under this head come lists, guides, inventories, etc.—all designed to facilitate knowledge of what records are available in the National Archives of India and the nature of their contents.

The records check-listed include 5,660 files of the Legislative Department (Solicitor's Branch Deposits 1920-30, Establishment files 1933-40, Publication Branch files 1921-30); 1,593 files and 5,711 original consultations of the Secret Department covering the period 1764-86; Central Board of Revenue records pertaining to Separate Revenue Stamps 1860-1880 and Liquor Excise 1918-24; 14,821 original consultations (1837-85) and 513 files (1891-1918) belonging to the Home Department Public Series; 23,565 files of 1845-49 and 29,273 original consultations of 1846-50 of the Military Department; and the papers of the Thugi and Dacoity Department covering the years 1829-1904, which reveal the steps taken to extirpate the menace of Thugi and dacoity.

With a view to bringing the Abstract List of the post-Mutiny records up to date, the lists of the records of the Legislative Department, the Public Works Department, the Director-General of Health Services and the "Separate" records of the different Ministries were re-examined.

The importance of the revision of the *Hand-book to the Records of the Government of India* housed in the National Archives for administrative and research purposes and the need for sanctioning the necessary staff for this task were again brought to the notice of the Government. In the mean time collection of information on the organisational history and archival assets of the various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India was continued.³

Care of Records.

Greater attention was paid to cleaning and dusting. Over 3,265 shelves were dusted with the help of vacuum cleaners.

The Department's programme to label each bundle, proceedings volume and loose document not already labelled to facilitate their easy location and restoration to their parent archival fonds was pushed through, 778 bundles and 147 volumes of records belonging to the Home, Foreign, Judicial, Legislative, Finance, Separate Revenue, Land Revenue, and Military Departments being labelled and restored to their proper places.

About 137,790 sheets of documents of different Departments and 43 volumes of the Secret and 30 volumes of the Political proceedings were paginated.

Appraisal.

Examination of records with a view to determining which of them are of enduring value and which can be safely weeded was continued. A general survey of the records of the Railway Board (1936-43) was made in order to estimate their value, and a report on the subject was submitted to the Ministry of Railways for information. Advice on methods of appraisal of records and disposal of the weeded ones was furnished to the Ministries of Law, Food and Agriculture, and Commerce and Industry, and the Government of Madhya Bharat.

With a view to standardizing the rules for weeding records the various State Governments were requested to state the method followed by them in this respect. The reports received from the State Governments have been scrutinized and a uniform set of rules is being drawn up.

Reference Services.

Requisitions for records have shown a progressive upward trend during the past few years. During the year under review, 46,628 requisitions for non-current files from the Union Ministries and Departments and research scholars were attended to as against 34,509 requisitions the previous year. 38,992 files received back from the borrowing agencies were restored to their proper places.

3. For details see Appendix III.

The Department also undertook research amongst its records in connection with 74 enquiries⁴ received from Government agencies and private individuals. The enquiries related to a wide variety of topics ranging from the history of the British relations with the Rana of Gohad to the Indian career of the famous Russian dramatist Lebedeff.

Research.

In order to provide greater facilities to research students, an Historical Section was opened and placed in charge of a Research Officer, who, in addition to his other duties, is responsible for the implementation of the Government of India Fellowships Scheme.

The Government of India's scheme of awarding Research Fellowships to Post-Graduate students for carrying on research in Modern Indian History at the National Archives of India has been received well by most of the Universities. As a further impetus to scholars, the amount of the scholarship has been raised from Rs. 125/- to Rs. 150/- per month. Applications for the Fellowships were received from many Universities, and from among them six candidates were finally selected.

That the National Archives is increasing in importance as a research centre is evidenced by the significant increase in the number of scholars. During the year under review, 98 scholars secured permission to consult records for purposes of research and 85 of them availed of it. 15,886 pages of excerpts taken by them were scrutinized and 11,538 pages released. The remaining pages were either withheld as objectionable or awaiting scrutiny by the Ministries concerned as they related to the period after 1901.

It has been proposed to publish an annual bulletin of theses completed or under preparation in the field of Modern Indian History at the various Universities and other research centres. The intention is to help planning and prevent duplication of research. The first issue of the bulletin was completed and sent to the press at the close of the year.

Library.

1,800 books and periodicals were added to the Library during the year. By far the most significant accessions among these include 31 volumes of *Dagregister Gehoden In't van Batavia* for the years 1624-28 obtained from The Hague.

Statistics of book production in the Indian Union during 1953 were forwarded to UNESCO as usual.

4. For details see Appendix IV.

A sum of \$ 2,500 was allotted by the Ministry of Education to the National Archives Library under the Wheat-Loan Programme of America, and a list of books proposed to be purchased out of this sum has been drawn up.

Special attention was given to repair and binding work during the year.

Preservation.

Work under this head includes fumigation and repair by various methods. During the year 7,551 bundles, 739 volumes, 424 books and 26 files were air cleaned and 7,887 bundles and 175 bags of records and 739 volumes, 446 books and 26 files fumigated. 2,634 sheets were repaired with chiffon and 58,599 with tissue paper. Half margin repairs of 38,535 sheets and minor repairs of 64,716 sheets were carried out. 2,38,694 sheets were guarded and 4,777 repaired with acetate foil and acetone. As a part of the flattening programme prior to lamination 67,656 folded sheets were flattened and docketed. 1,373 volumes were bound and 9,495 volumes treated with leather preservative mixture.

The scope of the normal rehabilitation work was expanded to include maps and charts transferred to this office by the office of the Surveyor-General of India, some of which are in a very bad state of preservation. Over 400 of these maps were repaired and mounted during the year.

Of the repair work done for outside agencies, special mention may be made of the repair of the sacred Jain manuscript *Dhavalā (Purva Bhāga)* written on palm-leaf, manuscripts of Tagore's works belonging to Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, a hand-written copy of the *Ramayana* in Hindi belonging to the Maharaja of Banaras, 8 sheets of Gandhiji's writings received from Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, New Delhi, a Persian manuscript *Taliquat Wa Nawadir* belonging to the Royal Asiatic Society, Bengal, and a cloth manuscript *Panchikaran*, popularly known as *Dasopantchi Pasodi*, nearly 40 feet long, received from Marathavada Sahitya Parishad, Hyderabad, Deccan.

The Department attended to 44 enquiries from outside agencies on various problems relating to preservation of records. Information regarding techniques of repairing palm-leaf manuscripts was supplied to the Librarian, Adyar Library, Madras, as well as to the Baroda Record Office. A note on preservation and repair of records, along with detailed specifications of lamination and vacuum fumigation equipment, was supplied to the Government of Ceylon. A note detailing ways and means of removing white ant infestation of records was supplied to the Manager, R.S.S. Division, Sambar Lake. An inspection was made of the office of the A.G.C.R., whose records were damaged by white ant infestation, and precautionary measures against further infestation were suggested. Details of the procedure to be adopted for the repair of documents with tissue

paper and cellulose acetate foil using acetone were sent to the Chief Archivist, Central African Archives, Rhodesia; and specifications of docket covers and 5-ply wood boards used for keeping the records in good condition, with samples of these materials, were supplied to the Mysore Government.

During the year under review, stainless steel racks with trays were acquired for placing documents on them for humidification, and this has considerably facilitated the flattening of brittle records. Transit of records from the stack areas to the fumigatorium for air-cleaning and fumigation operations has been made easier by the acquisition of steel trolleys fitted with castors.

An oil-fired boiler suitable for the lamination press is expected to be installed shortly and it will then be possible to introduce the lamination process of repair of records with cellulose acetate foil.

Microfilming and Photoduplication.

The programme of microfilming the pre-Mutiny records was continued during the year and 156,070 exposures of Foreign Department records for the years 1804-1859 and 76,741 exposures of the Home Department records for the years 1781-1891 were taken. In addition, photoduplication service was rendered among others to the Keeper of Records, Punjab, National Physical Laboratory, National Library, Postage and Stamps Exhibition, Italian Embassy and Iranian Embassy.

A new portable microfilming camera has been bought by the Department to allow taking of photographs of records on the spot. A photostat machine has also been installed during the year.

Research Laboratory.

Successful experiments were carried out in the Laboratory to remove greasy spots and dust particles from parchment. Samples of indigenous hand-made paper and tissue paper received from the Central Stationery Office, Calcutta, were put to permanency and performance tests to determine their suitability for repair of records.

The effect of dextrine paste, which is being used as an adhesive for reinforcement of weak and fragile paper, on chiffon is being observed. Investigations on *Gastrallus Indicus* infestation (very common in India) were undertaken to find out ways of fighting the menace effectively.

Publication.

During the year, steps were taken to expedite the publication of the volumes of the *Fort William-India House Correspondence* series. In view of the fact that the Government of India Press was not in a position to

undertake any further work for this Department, permission was accorded by the Government of India to have six of the volumes in the series printed at private presses. In accordance with this decision two volumes—Volume XVII (Honorary Editor Professor Y. J. Taraporewala) and Volume II (Honorary Editor Dr. H. N. Sinha)—were sent to Sree Saraswaty Press, Calcutta, and tenders for printing four other volumes were invited. Towards the end of the year, the printing of Volume XVII was completed but for the index, and the setting of Volume II had made good progress. The volumes expected to be sent to the press next are Volume IX (Hony. Editor Dr. B. A. Saletore); Volume XIII (Hony. Editor Dr. P. C. Gupta); Volume IV (Hony. Editor late Prof. C. S. Srinivasachari); and Volume VI (Hony. Editor Dr. B. Prasad). Volume I, which is with the Government of India Press, made some further progress and by the close of the year 663 pages of the text were struck off.

The remaining volumes in the series are in various stages of progress. Volumes III (Hony. Editor Dr. R. R. Sethi), VII (Hony. Editor Dr. R. P. Patwardhan), and XVI (Hony. Editor Prof. S. Askari) are being made ready for the press. The editorial works of Volume XVIII (Hony. Editor Fr. Heras), Volume XX (Hony. Editor Dr. A. C. Banerjee) and Volume XV (Hony. Editors C. H. Philips and Dr. B. B. Misra) were received during the year.

Under Scheme II of the Publication Programme, which envisages publication of volumes exclusively by the Director of Archives with the help of his staff, the editing of the correspondence of Major Brown, the envoy at Shah Alam's Court (1782-85), was completed during the year under report. The third and final item under this scheme, Sir John Shore's Minutes (1793-98), was also taken up and a preliminary examination of the relevant papers was made.

Under Scheme III (a) of the Publication Programme which provides for the publication of Records in Oriental Languages, the Rajasthan Government entered into a formal agreement with the Government of India for the publication of the second volume of *Hindi Letters*, the publication of the first volume having been undertaken by the Allahabad University. The editing of *Marathi Letters* undertaken by the Bharata Itihasa Samshodhaka Mandala was completed during the year and the Mandala was making arrangements for its printing. The Delhi Tamil Sangam has entered into a formal agreement for publishing a volume of *Tamil Letters*. The editing of the volume of *Persian Akhbars* undertaken by the Delhi University is reported to have made satisfactory progress under the editorship of Dr. P. Saran.

As regards Scheme III (b), under which selections from records are to be published by outside agencies, the editing of the first volume of *News Letters*, which was undertaken by Dr. B. A. Saletore on behalf of the

Indian Council of Cultural Relations, made steady progress, while the second volume remained unallocated. Negotiations are going on with the University of Rajasthan in this connection. The printing of the *Elphinstone Correspondence*, the publication of which was undertaken by the Nagpur University Historical Society, has not yet been completed.

A *Quinquennial Review* of the National Archives covering the years 1948-52 was published and the material for the Annual Report for 1953 was sent to the press.

The Indian Archives.

Two issues of *The Indian Archives*, the biannual journal of this office—Volume VII, No. 2 (July-December 1953), and Volume VIII, No. 1 (January-June 1954)—were published during the year. Several interesting articles by writers of international repute were published in these issues.

Calendaring.

The typescripts of Volume X (1792-98) of the *Calendar of Persian Correspondence* were finally checked and the volume was got ready for the press. The Government of India have sanctioned its printing at a private press and tenders have been called in this connection. Considerable progress was made in the compilation of Volume XI (1794-95) and Volume XII (1796-97).

The listing of the manuscripts of the Board of Examiner's Library was taken in hand and a list was drawn up. Assistance was given to research scholars working among the Persian records.

Indexing.

The checking of the typescripts of the Index to the Records of the Foreign and Political Department (1756-80) was completed during the year and the preparation of the press copy was taken in hand. The question of selection of a suitable private press for printing the volume was also taken up.

Training in Archives Keeping.

The Diploma Course or the One Year Course for 1953-54 had commenced in October 1953 with 4 trainees on the roll. Besides regular classes, a series of seminars was held under the guidance of the Director of Archives, and the Assistant Directors of Archives. The final examination was held in September 1954 and all the trainees, along with two who appeared in Record Administration (Theory) only, came out successful.

There were two Three Month Courses during the year. The first course was held from January to March with 15 trainees from different Ministries and offices of the Government of India and from State Governments, and the second course with 13 trainees on the roll was held from July to September.

The training scheme was reviewed by the Government of India, and it was decided to award two stipends of Rs. 125/- each to the two best candidates in the One Year Diploma Course, selected on the basis of a test. A proposal for continuance of both the One Year and Three Month Courses for a further period of three years is under consideration.

Exhibitions.

At the thirtieth session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Hyderabad in February 1954 the usual exhibition of documents illustrating different aspects of the history of India from the early days of the East India Company was organised. A special section was devoted to showing the damage caused by various insects to the records and the measures adopted in the National Archives of India for preventing the same.

Interior fluorescent lights were installed in the show cases in the National Archives of India to render the exhibits more distinct.

The increasing number of visitors to the National Archives during the year is proof of the growing interest taken by the public in the archival treasures stored in this office. Distinguished visitors during the year included Professor Julian Huxley, the eminent scientist-philosopher, Mr. J. B. Reid, head of the UNESCO Technical Assistance Team, Mr. I. H. Abdul Rehman of Cairo University, Egypt, Mr. Egmont Zerklin of the University of Hamburg, West Germany, Shri R. R. Diwakar, Governor of Bihar, Mr. W. Norman Brown, Professor of Sanskrit and Chairman of the South Asia Regional Studies, University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., and Sir John Wilson, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, United Kingdom.

The Department undertook the publication of popular pamphlets to illustrate the value of records in its custody as source material for Indian History. The following pamphlets were published under the series *Source Materials* during the year: "The Indian Press", "Social Legislation", "Progress of Education (Primary)" and "Progress of Education (Higher)". Under the sister series *Our Neighbours* based on Persian, Arabic and Urdu records in the custody of the Department were published "India and the Middle East" and "India and the South East".

Indian Historical Records Commission.

The thirtieth annual session of the Indian Historical Records Commission was held at Hyderabad from 1-5 February 1954. Owing to the

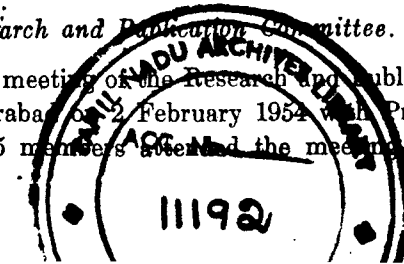
unavoidable absence of the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who is the *ex-officio* President of the Commission, the meeting was presided over by Professor Humayun Kabir, Educational Adviser and Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Education. The proceedings of the public meeting began with the welcome address of the Chairman of the Reception Committee, Shri Gopal Rao Ekbote, Minister for Education and Local Self-Government of Hyderabad. The session was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Hyderabad, who in his address drew the attention of the historians to the greater need for studying the recent past of India, which was of great significance, politically, socially and economically. This was followed by the presidential address delivered by Professor Humayun Kabir, who observed that "the care which a nation devotes to the preservation of the monuments of its past may serve as a true measure of the civilization to which it has attained". The public meeting of the Commission concluded after the Secretary had read out the messages received for the success of the Commission from several distinguished persons both in India and abroad.

The Members' Meeting was held on the morning of 2 February 1954 with Professor Humayun Kabir in the chair. After passing the condolence resolution on the death of Shri B. W. Bhat and Professor V. R. Ramachandra Dikshitar who were members of the Commission, a number of problems relating to archives administration in India were discussed. The most significant resolution passed was that pointing out the grave consequences of the growing tendency in some of the States in India to bifurcate their records into historical and administrative. The Commission also emphasized the necessity of maintaining the integrity of the records of the States which might be partitioned as a result of the recommendations of the States Reorganisation Commission. After the Members' Meeting was over, the Commission took up the discussion of the papers contributed by the scholars.

An important feature of the Indian Historical Records Commission Sessions is the organisation of an exhibition of records, manuscripts, paintings, photographs, maps and charts, etc. The exhibition was opened by Dr. G. S. Melkote, Minister for Labour and Public Works, Government of Hyderabad, on 1 February 1954, and was kept on view for the duration of the session. Exhibits displayed included those from the National Archives of India, the Combined Inter-Services Historical Section, Ministry of Defence, various State Governments, learned institutions and private individuals.

Research and Publication Committee.

The twenty-second meeting of the Research and Publication Committee was also held at Hyderabad on 2 February 1954 with Professor Humayun Kabir in the chair. 35 members attended the meeting. The Committee



reviewed the progress made in the Publication Programme of the National Archives of India during 1953. One of the members suggested that the printing of all the remaining volumes of the series *Fort William-India House Correspondence* be entrusted to private presses to expedite their publication. The Chairman offered to look into the matter personally and assured the Committee that all facilities for printing these volumes would be offered by the Government of India. In order to facilitate the work of research scholars, the Committee recommended that copies of all such documents as are listed in the Index volumes but are known to be missing from the National Archives or may be known from time to time to be missing be obtained. Another resolution passed by the Committee recommended that all material collected for the writing of the History of the Freedom Movement be preserved at the National Archives of India or the State Record Offices.

The twenty-third meeting of the Research and Publication Committee was held at the National Archives of India, New Delhi, on 30 October 1954. In the unavoidable absence of Professor Humayun Kabir, *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee, Dr. R. C. Majumdar, the senior-most member, was voted to the chair. Professor L. R. Sethi, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Education, also attended the meeting by special invitation. In all 26 members were present.

Among the several resolutions passed by the Committee, special mention may be made of Resolution IV, which recommended publication by the National Archives of India of a bulletin of theses, completed or under preparation, in later medieval and modern periods of Indian History at the various Universities and other research institutions. By a further resolution, the Committee requested the Universities and research institutions to take more active interest in the study of regional and local history, the materials for which are available in the State Record Offices.

Local Records Sub-Committee.

The fourteenth meeting of the Local Records Sub-Committee, an adjunct of the Indian Historical Records Commission, was held on 9 July 1954 in New Delhi. Professor Humayun Kabir, Educational Adviser to the Government of India and *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee, presided. The other members present were Sardar Fateh Singh, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dr. J. N. Khosla, Director, Historical Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Shri C. Ganesan, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of States, Shri E. Kolet, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Dr. B. A. Saletore, Director of Archives (Secretary). The Committee took note of the fact that there was an acute shortage of accommodation in the Ministries and that unless the bulk of their non-current records was taken over by the National Archives of India, it would be increasingly difficult for them to find adequate storage space for their

semi-current and current records. The Chairman informed the Committee in this connection that the Planning Commission had sanctioned the expenditure of Rs. 18 lakhs for the construction of an annexe to the National Archives of India to cope with the increasing demand for space.

The Committee also recommended a uniform filing system on the basis of subject indexes prepared by each Ministry or Department.

National Committee of Archivists.

The first meeting of the National Committee of Archivists was held at the Central Record Office, Hyderabad, Deccan, on 1 February 1954. The following were present:—Raja Triambak Raj Bahadur, Director, Central Record Office, Hyderabad, Deccan; Dr. M. L. Sharma, Director of Archives, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur; Mr. V. S. Suri, Keeper of Records, Government of Punjab, Simla; Dr. G. N. Saletore, Keeper of Records, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad; Dr. P. M. Joshi, Director of Archives, Government of Bombay, Bombay; Dr. B. S. Baliga, Curator, Madras Record Office, Madras, and Dr. B. A. Saletore, Director of Archives, Government of India (Convener).

The items which came up for discussion included the lamination process for repairing of records, air-conditioning of record buildings, use of carton boxes for keeping records, methods of keeping maps of various sizes, and publication in *The Indian Archives* of accounts of periodical acquisitions of records in, and of any special work done by, the State Record Offices.

Inter-Ministry Committee.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Inter-Ministry Conference held on 15 April 1953, an Inter-Ministry Committee was constituted during the year under review for drafting an Executive Order prescribing the lines on which records should be administered in future by the the Departments concerned as well as by their custodians. The Committee was also asked to prepare a rational filing system after a detailed study of the filing systems in vogue in the various Departments.

Inspection.

The Local Records Sub-Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission at its thirteenth meeting held in July 1951 had recommended that the records of the various Ministries of the Government of India should be maintained on scientific lines. To enable the Ministries to do so the National Archives placed its experience at their disposal. To begin with, the record room of the Ministry of Commerce was inspected and a report was sent to the Ministry for necessary action.

The Government of Bombay requested the Director of Archives to depute an officer to inspect the Government Photo Registry Office at Poona and suggest ways and means of improving its technical efficiency. Mr. R. C. Gupta, Assistant Director of Archives (Preservation), inspected the office in November 1954 and submitted a detailed report to the Bombay Government. Mr. Gupta also visited the Land Survey Office and the Alienation Office, Poona, and suggested improvements in methods of repair and preservation of records. On his way back he paid a visit to the Bombay Record Office to examine the condition of the records belonging to the Government of India.

At a request from the Government of Bihar, the Archival Chemist was deputed to inspect the Raj Library of the Maharajahdiraj of Darbhanga in December 1954. His report on the proper preservation and repair of its huge collection of palm-leaf and other manuscripts was forwarded to the Government of Bihar.

Mr. S. N. Roy, Assistant Director of Archives (Records), was deputed in April 1954 to submit a report on the retention value of the records of the Ministry of Defence in their record room at Calcutta. On the basis of his report, the National Archives of India acquired 3,177 bundles and 488 volumes of those records. These records fill to a great extent the gaps in the existing series of the Defence Department records available in this Department. Of the 32 groups of records in this collection, the most important are the proceedings of the former Military Department ranging from 1873 to 1906.

Other Activities of the Director of Archives.

The Director of Archives represented the Government of India at the first meeting of the Education Sub-Commission of the Indian National Commission for co-operation with UNESCO held from 9—14 January 1954 at New Delhi. He also attended an informal meeting called by the Secretary, Ministry of Education, on 26 March 1954, in pursuance of a resolution of the Indian Historical Records Commission recommending the appointment of a committee of experts by the Government of India for the preparation of a plan for the protection of archives and other cultural properties in the country during armed conflict. Other meetings attended by the Director of Archives during the year include a meeting of the Raza Library Trust at Rampur on 28 August, the tenth meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology in New Delhi on 18 September and a conference of professors of History held in New Delhi under the auspices of the Government of India from 5—7 March. He also represented the Government of India at the seventeenth session of the Indian History Congress held at Ahmedabad from 27—29 December 1954.

APPENDIX I

ACCESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA RECORDS IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA DURING 1954.

Name of Department or Residency	Years	Bundles or files	Volumes
1. Office of the Salt Commissioner, New Delhi.	(1913-27)	1350 files	—
2. Legislative Department Indexes, New Delhi.	(1922-35)	—	14 vols.
3. Home Department (Political), New Delhi	(1907-16)	150 files	—
4. Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) Indexes, New Delhi.	(1922-46)	—	26 vols.
5. Office of the Collector of Customs, Madras	(1907-33)	18 files	175 vols.
6. Office of the Collector of Customs, Calcutta.	(1860-1935)	21 files	—
7. Office of the Collector of Customs, Bombay.	(1849-1928)	47 files	—
8. Foreign and Political Department, New Delhi.	(1891-1923)	10410 files	—
9. Ministry of Finance, New Delhi	(1931-48)	3420 files	—
10. Western India and Gujarat States Agency, Rajkot.	(1808-1952)	780 bundles & 824 maps.	—
11. Central India States Agency, Indore	(1805-1952)	116895 files	189 vols. 250 registers & 430 maps.
12. Hyderabad Residency, Hyderabad	(1876-1953)	500 files	103 vols.
13. Passport records of Hyderabad, Mysore and Travancore Residencies.	(1905-1948)	12800 files	—

APPENDIX II

RECORDS CHECKED AND ARRANGED DURING 1954.

Commerce Department	...	...	...	...	1888-1940
Secret Department	...	...	...	...	1764-1849
Education Department	...	...	...	...	1898-1932
Salt Commissioner's Office	...	...	...	...	1917-1937
Foreign and Political Department					
Secret Internal	...	...	...	...	1883-1921
Secret External	...	...	...	...	1882-1931
Secret War	...	...	...	...	1914-1920
Secret War A	...	...	...	...	1914-1920
War B	...	...	...	...	1914-1920
War Original	...	...	...	...	1914-1920
Secret Supplement	...	...	...	...	1878-1881
Secret Collections	...	...	...	...	1869-1882
Home Department					
Public	...	...	...	...	1761-1773, 1789,1800- 1802,1856- f.f.
Political Branch	...	...	...	...	1907-1912
Confidential	...	...	...	...	1913-1916
Judicial	...	...	...	...	1833-1855
Collector of Customs					
Calcutta	...	...	...	...	1860-1933
Bombay	...	...	...	...	1849-1923
Madras	...	...	...	...	1907-1933
Ministry of Finance	...	...	...	...	1931-1948
Separate Revenue Consultations	...	...	...	...	1831-1859
Railway Board Indexes	...	...	...	...	1922-1944
Western India & Gujarat States Agency	...	...	...	...	1868-1952
Rajputana Residency, Abu	...	...	...	...	...
Punjab States Agency	...	...	...	...	...
Hyderabad Residency	...	...	...	...	1831-1953
Kashmir Residency	...	...	...	...	...
Kolhapur & Deccan States Agency	...	...	...	...	...
Eastern States Agency	...	...	...	...	...
Mysore Residency	...	...	...	...	...
Central India States Agency	...	...	...	...	1905-1948
Bandelkhand Agency	...	...	...	...	1858-1952

APPENDIX III

CENTRAL AGENCIES REGARDING WHOSE ORGANISATION, HISTORY AND ARCHIVAL ASSETS INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED DURING 1954

1. All India Radio, Jullundur.
2. All India Radio, Madras.
3. Air Port Health Organisation, Bombay.
4. Air Port Health Organisation, Calcutta.
5. Government Medical Store Depot, Bombay.
6. Government Medical Store Depot, Madras.
7. Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research, New Delhi.
8. Office of the Serologist and Chemical Examiner to the Government of India, Calcutta.
9. Port Health Organisation, Bombay.
10. Port Health Organisation, Calcutta.
11. Port Health Organisation, Cochin.
12. Port Health Organisation, Madras.
13. Port Health Organisation, Visakhapatnam.

APPENDIX IV

ENQUIRIES DEALT WITH BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA DURING 1954

(A) *From Public Agencies*

1. Keeper of the Records of the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
2. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research.
3. The Government of Pakistan.
4. Director General of Observatories, New Delhi.
5. Assistant Director General, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi.
6. Indian Standards Institution, New Delhi.
- 7-13. The Ministry of States (7 enquiries).
14. The Ministry of Defence.
15. Deputy Director General of Archaeology (Epi), New Delhi.
16. The Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 17-21. The Ministry of Education (5 enquiries).
22. Special Officer, Government of Bihar (Rev. Dept.).
23. The Ministry of Communications.
24. Armoured Corps Headquarters.
25. Collector of Bhind.
26. Special Magistrate, Indore.
- 27-29. The Ministry of External Affairs (3 enquiries).
30. Central Water Works and Power Commission.
31. The Government of Uttar Pradesh.
32. College of Engineering, Poona.
33. Accountant General, Central Revenues, New Delhi.
34. The Ministry of Railways.
35. Commandant, Rajput Regimental Centre.
36. States Reorganisation Commission.
37. Director General, Posts and Telegraphs.

(B) *From Private individuals and Institutions*

1. Mr. B. C. Roy, Bolangir, Orissa: Orissa under the Marhattas, 1751-1808.
2. Mrs. T. McIntyre, Bangalore: Old correspondence on Hyderabad.
3. Private Secretary to the Nawab of Bhopal, Bhopal: Lord Curzon's award regarding distribution of an estate in Arabia.

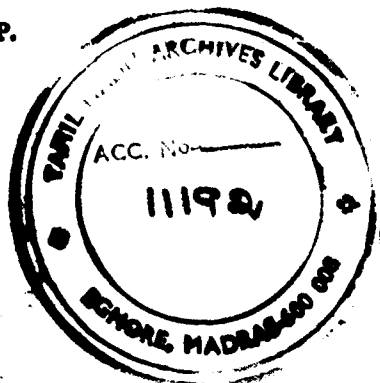
4. Mrs. G. M. Anes, London: Birth certificate of Mr. Donald Arthur Purcell.
5. Mr. Henry T. Benstein, U.K.: Rise of modern technical manpower in Bengal and N.W.P. from 1820-1890.
6. Sir Wilfred de Soysa, Ceylon: Ethnographical information about the Nagas.
7. Mrs. P. M. Ashraf, Delhi: Copy of a document signed by Jerasim Lebedeff.
8. Vankar Dhule Bhai Mither Bhai, Ahmedabad: Copy of papers from Western Rajputana Agency records relating to a murder case.
9. Mr. A. M. G. McNeelance, U.K.: Copy of a birth certificate.
10. Mr. Amar Shah Singh, Delhi: Copy of Home Department Resolution No. 1099, dated 8-8-1919.
11. Mr. K. M. Chauhan: Copy of some sale deeds.
12. The Hindustan Times, New Delhi: Lord Dalhousie's minute on Railways and Post Offices in India.
13. K.B. Mohd. Aslam, Meerut: Certificate of assignment in respect of Urdu readers compiled by his father.
14. Mrs. S. Reynolds, Calcutta: Copy of records relating to sale of land.
15. Laldas P. Bavaji: Copy of the deed of purchase of his house in Rewa Karilla State.
16. Mr. F. Faruqi, Bombay: Information about the editor of *Narun-ala-Nur* and the place where the press "Chashma-e-Faiz" was situated.
17. Rai Saheb Ram Sahai, Indore: Copies of documents regarding his service in the Dhar State.
18. Lt. Col. M. R. B. Kealy, and Capt. G. A. Passtow, U.K.: Copy of the certificate of registration of birth.
19. Mr. R. K. Das Gupta, Delhi: Copy of a letter addressed by Gerasim Lebedeff to the Hon'ble Sir John Shore dated 23-11-1797.
20. Major K. G. Khandekar: Certified copies of certain documents.
21. Nawabzada S. Fida Hussain Khan: Certified copy of a list dated 21 April 1858.
22. Mr. Niamutullah Khan: Copy of a *telugdari kabuliat* executed by his father Ibadatullah Khan.
23. Professor Northcote Parkinson, Singapore: Information as to materials available at the N.A.I. regarding Singapore, Malaya, Penang, etc.
24. Mr. H. G. Weguelin, Calcutta: Copy of a letter from Governor Farquhar of Mauritius regarding Mathias Weguelin.

25. Mr. T. K. Mukherjee, Calcutta: British relations with the Rana of Gohad.
26. Mr. Rao Sahib: Certified copy of Political Department letter No. 14PF dated 30-6-1863.
27. Mr. Kashinath Purohit: Copy of Judgment in Civil Miscellaneous Revenue Appeal No. M. of 1935 in the Court of P.A. Malwa.
28. Mrs. Mary Sutherland, London: Information regarding her forefathers in Hyderabad State.
29. Dr. P. C. Gupta, Calcutta: Nana Saheb of Bithoor, 1851-1895.
30. Prof. R. M. Sinha, Nagpur: Copies of some documents of the 19th Century Nagpur.
31. Mr. K. Shiv Pal: Copy of exemption certificate issued to him by the defunct Punjab States Agency under the Indian Arms Act, 1924.
32. Bharat Udyog Bhavan, Bombay: Rules and regulations of historical research in the National Archives of India.
33. Bima Shree Shahjahan Bakhte Amir Bakhte, Saurashtra: Certified copies of her mother's application to the Agent to Governor General, Western Indian States Agency, Rajkot, regarding maintenance and restoration of her youngest daughter.
34. Mr. M. A. Rahim, Nagpur: Appointment of Colonel Sleeman to operate against *Thugi* in Punjab.
35. Miss N. S. Roeslar: Origin of Mr. A. P. Tarwid.
36. Mr. R. Balchand: Short biographical sketch of Lt. Col. C. H. Dickens of the Bengal Artillery.
37. Mr. H. P. Pandya, Advocate, Morvi: Returns of the political relations of the ruling chiefs of the former Morvi State submitted to the Political Agent of Halar Prant in the Western India States Agency, 1918-1919.

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