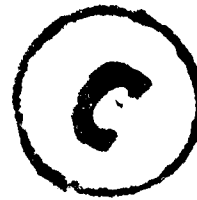


National Archives of India

Annual report-

1957



A
V2: 882 x N59
N59
11195

(237)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

ANNUAL REPORT

1957

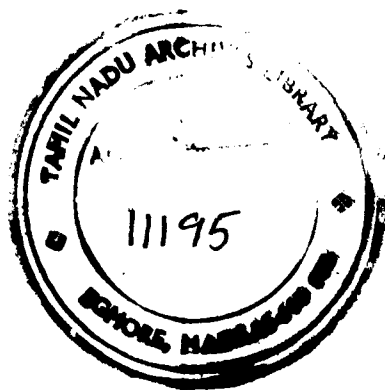


NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1959

V2:8824-1457

NS9



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1957

Staff

Dr. B. A. Saletore, who had been Director of Archives since 1952 retired on 7 February 1957 and in the absence of a new Director the charge of the Department was taken over by Shri R. C. Gupta, the senior-most Assistant Director of Archives. Shri Gupta continued to perform the duties of the Head of the Department upto 9 September 1957 when he made over the charge to Dr. T. Raychaudhuri, the new Deputy Director of Archives. The vacancy of the Director of Archives, however, remained unfilled during the year under review. During the same period Shri A. I. Tirmizi joined as Assistant Director of Archives (Persian), while Shri Dayal Dass, Archivist, was transferred from Regional Office, Bhopal, to the Head Office. In October 1957, Shri Y. P. Kathpalia, Technical Officer, proceeded to U.K. and U.S.A. for training in the latest methods of preservation and binding of records current in the archival institutions and libraries of those countries.

Among the other changes made in the establishment of the Department mention may be made of the creation of one post of Assistant Director of Archives and one post of assistant archivist, grade I, for the publication of the Selections from the Educational Records of the Government of India in continuation of the volumes already published covering the period 1781-1859. As the Department was also assigned the work of microfilming and repairing selected manuscripts in the Raza Library, Rampur, the Government sanctioned for this purpose an additional staff of one assistant microphotographer, grade I, two preservation assistants, two photo-assistants, two binders and two peons. In addition to the above, two posts of Archivists, one post of Gestetner operator, one motor-van driver, four posts of upper division clerks and two of record attendants, grade I were created for the Development Programme. One post of stenographer was created for the History of Freedom Movement Unit. On the other hand with the completion of the work of air-conditioning of the ground floor of the stack area, five posts of security guards, created for the duration of this work, were abolished with effect from May 1957. The total strength of the staff at the end of 1957 was 384 as against 375 in 1956.

Accessions

Records—The Department has been suffering from a chronic shortage of space over a number of years, particularly since 1947 when due to the dissolution of the Office of the Crown Representative, the Residencies ceased to function and the National Archives of India was called upon to house all their records in addition to the usual flow of non-current records from the various Ministries and Departments of the Government. To overcome this difficulty provision for the construction of an annexe to the present building of the Department was made as early as 1947-48, but unfortunately for one reason or the other the project could not be executed all these years. This has resulted in a virtual space crisis in the muniment rooms. In view of this situation the Department was obliged to request all the Ministries etc., to postpone transferring their non-current records until such time as the annexe was built. The only exception made in this behalf during the year under review was in respect of a few records which were needed to fill up gaps in the series already transferred to us, a few authenticated copies of bills assented to by the President and 32 documents relating to the Directorate of Audit, Indian Accounts in U.K. These records consist of 471 bundles, 33,119 files and 122 bills. The documents received from the Directorate of Audit, Indian Accounts, U.K., bear the signature of some British rulers, namely Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, King George VI and statesmen like W.E. Gladstone, B. Disraeli, H. A. Asquith, Lloyd George, N. Chamberlain, Winston Churchill and others. For details of the accessions made during the year please see Appendix I.

Manuscripts and Private Papers—During the year search for documents of Indian interest in private custody in India and abroad was continued and among the valuable acquisitions made under this programme mention may be made of 4 manuscripts in English 'Society of English and Dutch Inhabitants in Ceylon' in the early nineties; 'Diary of the wife of an officer on the Madras Establishment and later at Penang and Trichinopoly' covering the period 1846-64; a contemporary letter of an officer of Indian Army narrating an incident during the 1857 uprising; and a holograph letter of Maharaja Dalip Singh narrating his pecuniary circumstances (paper watermarked 1869). Another valuable acquisition is an album containing photographs depicting scenes from Burma and Manipur in the closing years of the 19th century. The Department also received as gift from the Bihar Government 34 letters of Gandhiji which go as far back as 1917-18 and relate to Champaran satyagraha and Gandhiji's social uplift work in north Bihar.

Besides the above, seventy documents and printed books in Persian, Urdu etc., belonging to private individuals were examined and twenty-one of them being of historical interest were purchased. Eight of these documents are *parwanas* belonging to the reigns of Mughal Emperors Aurangzeb and Muhammad Shah and of the Nawabs Amjad Ali Shah and Wajid Ali Shah of Oudh. In order to further accelerate this programme, the Department approached many owners of private archives and historical manuscripts pertaining to the medieval and modern periods of Indian history so that their collections could be acquired either by gift or by purchase. Those who did not like to part with their original papers were requested to permit the making of microfilm copies of their documents to be kept in the Department. In view of the encouraging results of this scheme, it was proposed to give it a further impetus by issuing appeals through the press and the All India Radio as well as by increased personal contacts with the owners of private archives.

Microfilm copies of records from foreign depositories—It is regretted that due to acute shortage of foreign exchange, the Department was not in a position to place fresh orders with the foreign repositories for microcopies of records of Indian interest. The only acquisition made during the year is the microcopy of correspondence of the Agent of Nana Sahib with the French authorities of Chandarnagar in 1857. This copy has been made from the French translations of the letters available at the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Paris. The Department, however, expected to get some funds from the Government for this important project, and as soon as foreign exchange is made available steps will be taken to resume the work.

Maps—Five Survey of India maps comprising 10 sheets and one wall map were acquired by this Department from the Survey of India, Dehra Dun, and Survey of India, Eastern Circle, Calcutta, respectively. Among the Survey maps, the map of the country comprised between Orenburg and Kandahar, the Caspian Sea and the Indus River, 17 October 1832; Geographical Survey of part of the Himalaya mountains, 1848-54; and a chart exhibiting the progress of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India (1857) compiled under the superintendence of Lt. Cols. Lambton, Everest and Waugh, may be of special interest to the scholars.

Checking and Arrangement

The number of records checked and arranged during the year totalled 3,076 volumes, 3,149 bundles, 26,178 files and 122 copies of bills (see Appendix II). Satisfactory progress was also made in the consolidation of certain disarranged series of the late Foreign and

Political Department (1890-1923). In addition to this as many as 1822 Mutiny Papers in Persian and Urdu were checked and arranged.

Reference Media

Providing suitable keys to the records in the custody of this Department forms one of the main items of the records administration programme. The Department made appreciable progress in this behalf and listed 28,294 Original Consultations, 3,148 files and 62 volumes. The records thus listed cover 6,612 OCs (1855-59) of the Foreign (Secret) Department; 284 files (1907-11) and 62 volumes (1862-67) of the Foreign and Political Department; 21,682 OCs (1855-56) of the Military Department; 1,070 files (1926-29) of Central Board of Revenue (Salt Branch); 407 files (1873-74) of Legislative Department; 518 files (1880-1914) of Home Department (Census Branch); 347 files (1907-10) of Home Department (Political Branch) and 522 files (1860-1910) of the late Department of Finance and Commerce (Accounts A).

The Department also completed during the year the preparation of a catalogue of printed maps in its custody, on the basis of the Dewey Classification System. The catalogued maps were arranged.

The work of survey and listing of various groups of records taken up in connection with the preparation of the *Handbook to the Records in the National Archives of India* continued to make progress. Records surveyed in this connection include those of the Foreign Department (1756-1889); Home Department (1752-1947); Public Works Department (1848-61); Legislative Department (1777-1869); Military Department (1779-1859); Imperial Council of Agricultural Research (1929-45); Railway Department (1860-1947); Central Board of Revenue (1862-1923), as well as the Hyderabad, Mysore and Madras Residency records.

Hand-lists of original Persian Letters (Receipts) for the years 1815-16 and 1818 were completed and work on the Letters Received in 1817 continued. With a view to enable research scholars to locate materials of their interest among the Persian Letters with ease and quickness, the Department also took up the preparation of indexes to the above Hand-lists and during the period under review *Index to Hand-lists* for 1806-16 was completed. The work of checking and docketing of Mutiny Papers (Persian and Urdu) in the custody of this Department was resumed and 1822 documents mostly relating to the time of Bahadur Shah's independent rule over Delhi during the great revolt were checked and docketed. Besides, Hand-lists of the following Persian *Akhbars* (Newspapers) namely the *Jam-i-Jahan Numa*, the *Aina-i-Sikandar* and *Sultan-ul-Akhbar* were also prepared for the period 1824-40.

Catalogue of Oriental Seals

As most of the Persian Letters (1759-1900) which passed between the English East India Company on the one hand and the Indian chiefs and nobles as well as certain foreign rulers of West Asia, South Asia and Far East on the other, bear original seals, which are likely to provide rich source material on Sigillography and Indian culture, it was decided to undertake a systematic study of these seals. With a view to facilitate this study as many as 1,100 of these seals were catalogued during the period under review.

Care of Records

During the year 4,170 bundles of records and 4,987 files were fumigated and air-cleaned, while 449 volumes and 1,037 bundles and 2,641 carton boxes were labelled. 3,101 shelves were specially cleaned with the help of the vacuum cleaner in addition to their daily routine dusting. 3,000 OCs, 120 bundles and 438 volumes were paginated to make them ready for repair and microfilming.

Appraisal

2,608 files of the Ministry of Education up to the year 1955 and 3,528 files of the Ministry of Railways (1936-43) which had been marked for weeding were listed for final review. Examination of these files in consultation with the Ministries concerned continued with a view to find out which among them were to be destroyed and which should be finally retained.

Reference Service

As against 50,077 requisitions for records during 1956, the Department, during 1957, attended to 50,652 requisitions from research scholars, members of the staff, Union Ministries, various Departments of the Government of India, and State Governments etc. (Appendix III). Out of the records lent out as many as 36,469 files and volumes were received back and restored to their proper places. In addition to the above, the Department supplied after considerable search 453 pages of correspondence pertaining to the Government of Himachal Pradesh for reconstructing their files which were destroyed by fire in May 1957. 49 maps were supplied for the use of scholars and other institutions and 16 maps returned by them were restored to their proper places.

The Department also attended to 120 inquiries on historical, administrative, archival and kindred subjects. Of these, about 20 inquiries related to location of certain records. These papers were traced and supplied to the authorities concerned. Among the material supplied mention may be made of the I.C.S. examination

results for the years 1942-44; papers relating to the creation of the post of Government Epigraphist, Department of Archaeology, Government of India; files containing Government of India's resolutions regarding acquisition of residential property by ruling princes and chiefs in British India; papers relating to Services Post-war Reconstruction Fund for Tehri Garhwal; and records pertaining to the gift deed of 1935 alleged to have been executed by the late Nawab of Banganapalli and deposited with the Resident of Mysore. Some other papers asked for related to the pay-bills of the staff of various agencies (Appendix IV).

Of the remaining 100 search cases, 54 [Appendix IV(A)] were conducted on behalf of the government agencies and the remaining 46 inquiries were received from private institutions and individual scholars [Appendix IV(B)].

Research

112 scholars came to the Department for consulting records on various subjects of their interest. In view of the continuous increase in the number of scholars who wanted to avail of the research facilities before and after regular office hours, the Research Room was thrown open from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. with effect from 1 April 1957. During the year the Department released to *bonafide* research scholars 17,462 pages of excerpts from records, in addition to 4,412 pages of photostat copies and 5,658 microfilm exposures. It is gratifying to note that during the last ten years the Department has been able to build up a collection of microfilm copies of records of Indian interest acquired from foreign countries as well as other institutions in India which are being made use of by more and more scholars. 3,218 pages of excerpts from the confidential publications of the Government were also released for the use of scholars.

The last scholar of the first batch of Research Fellows appointed by the Government of India having completed work on his assignment, the Department submitted a fresh proposal to the Government for the continuation of the Fellowship Scheme with certain **modifications**. New Fellows will be appointed on receipt of the Government sanction.

Library

During the year, 4,610 books and periodicals were acquired for the Departmental Library either by way of gift, purchase or by exchange. 2,848 items were classified and catalogued according to the Dewey Decimal System and the classified cards were placed in the cabinets. 40,005 requisitions for the supply of books were attended to out of which 494 books had to be requisitioned from outside libraries such as the National Library, Calcutta, the Central

Archaeological Library and the Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi. Of the books already lent out 40,103 were received back and restored to their proper places. A scheme to localize and rearrange the library contents was started in May 1957. Accordingly during May–December 1957, 6,490 books were processed, 320 lines of books localized and 217 lines of books etc. arranged. It was also decided to examine the contents of the Library with a view to sort out such books and publications which were either surplus or not required. But this scheme had to be postponed due to the shortage of staff.

At the request of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, statistics of book production for the years 1949-1954 were prepared for the use of UNESCO. Besides, a language-wise statement of books which were registered in India during 1955-56 was prepared for the use of Government.

The Department became an Institutional member of the Indian Standards Institution and the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres. Shri A. N. K. Aiyangar, Librarian, represented the Department at the I.S.I. convention held at Madras in December 1957.

Hindi Section

The section continued to issue Hindi translations of the monthly and quarterly reports of the Department. Services of the section were also availed of for translating certain French letters into Hindi.

Preservation

Repair and Rehabilitation of Records—During the year under review 1,72,263 sheets of records and 791 maps were laminated. In addition to this, 49,097 record sheets, 152 palm leaves and 261 birch bark sheets were repaired manually with chiffon and tissue paper and 384 big sized wall maps were repaired and mounted. 33,257 sheets were flattened and 2,31,173 sheets were gathered and guarded.

13,280 documents were docketed, 759 Proceeding volumes, 1,405 books and 325 miscellaneous items were bound, while leather preservative dressing was applied to 12,349 Proceeding volumes. The Department acquired a lettering stylus instrument and with its help 811 volumes were lettered.

Among the documents rehabilitated during this period for outside agencies and individuals special mention may be made of a few very old and fragmentary *farmans* of the Mughal period in the custody of the Government of Uttar Pradesh; two letters stated to have been written by the Rani of Jhansi; a number of Tagore's

49 Dir. of Arch.

manuscripts, and some old journals of *Indian Art and Industry* belonging to Visva Bharati, Santiniketan. The Department also extended services in this respect to Shri Jairamdas Daulat Ram; the Rajyapal of Assam; Rai Bahadur Ghansyam Dass of Ghazipur; Shri K. R. Kripalani; Air Commodore S. N. Goel, New Delhi; Gandhi Smarak Nidhi; the Institute of Chartered Accountants; Prime Minister's Secretariat and the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Calcutta. Work of repairing the manuscripts in the custody of Raza Library, Rampur, was also undertaken during the year. As iron ink was used in writing most of the documents which are being rehabilitated by lamination process, it was observed that the excessive acidity in them was gradually permeating the paper fibres. It was, therefore, felt desirable to subject these documents to de-acidification so as to counteract their residual and excessive acidity. The Department, therefore, started the de-acidification of the documents by Barrow's de-acidification process, using calcium hydroxide and calcium bicarbonate solutions. During the year under review 1,04,727 sheets and 235 maps were de-acidified.

It was also observed that with the adoption of regular precautions like the keeping of naphthalene bricks on the shelves, periodic spraying of Pip on the walls, corners etc., of the muniment rooms, the danger of insect infestation had diminished among records. In view of this it was decided to stop the routine fumigation of records in the muniment rooms until infestation was detected. However, the newly accessioned records continued to be fumigated as usual before being transferred to the stacks. 8,969 bundles, 1,950 volumes of records and 3,124 books were air-cleaned and fumigated.

Technical Services—The Department provided technical information on preservation and rehabilitation of records to 78 institutions and government departments. Special mention in this behalf may be made of the Deputy Registrar, Panjab High Court; Keeper of Records, West Bengal Government; Accountant General of Bombay; Curator, State Archives, Orissa; Director General, Registration and Stamps, Andhra Pradesh; Director, Art Research Council, Colombo (Ceylon); Librarian, Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi; and the Librarian, Sanskrit College, Calcutta.

In order to render technical advice on preservation of records and manuscripts, the Scientific Officer, National Archives of India, visited the record rooms of a number of local government offices, whereas the Technical Officer of the Department inspected the contents of the Raza Library, Rampur, and the Khuda Baksh Library, Patna, and suggested ways and means of repairing their rich collections.

On a request from the Director, Secretariat Training School, New Delhi, the Scientific Officer delivered a lecture on the preservation of records to the officers undergoing training. The trainees were also addressed by Shri B. Dias, Assistant Archivist, on indexing of records.

Dr. M. L. Roonwal, Director, Zoological Survey of India, visited this Department and evinced great interest in the research and other activities of the Preservation Division.

Workshop—The Departmental workshop continued to look after the maintenance and periodic check up of machinery and equipment installed for the treatment of records. In all, the workshop staff attended to about 1,558 jobs of repair of machinery and apparatus. Wherever possible small machine parts and other accessories were also fabricated in the workshop.

Research Laboratory

For the last few years the Department has been experiencing difficulty in getting a regular supply of the hitherto imported repair materials such as hand-made paper, chiffon and tissue paper. Due to this difficulty and also with a view to conserve the much needed foreign exchange it was decided to make experiments with some of the indigenous repair materials in order to find out their suitability for record repair. With this end in view samples of hand-made paper were obtained from the Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad, and the Khadi and Village Industries Commission at Bombay. On examination these samples were found suitable for repair of records. Likewise sample of chiffon received from the Government Silk Weaving Factory (Kashmir) was also found satisfactory for our purpose.

The Research Laboratory also undertook further investigations to study the performance of hand lamination process developed in the National Archives of India during 1951, *vis-a-vis* the traditional repair processes where chiffon or tissue paper are used with dextrine paste and lamination under heat and pressure. It was observed during experiments that the hand lamination process was quite satisfactory and compared favourably with machine lamination process.

Having adopted de-acidification process for documents written in iron ink as observed earlier, it was felt that there was need for evolving a suitable process for neutralising the acidity in paper written in washable carbon and coloured ink, as such writings were liable to be impaired with soaking in alkaline hydroxide and carbonate solutions. The Department accordingly tried the use of

diluted ammonia fumes for de-acidification of records written in water-soluble inks. Satisfactory reduction in acidity was obtained by the above treatment without impairing the ink.

Investigations were also undertaken in respect of the use of buffer salts (sodium benzoate and potassium lactate) for treating the leather of the bound volumes so as to counteract its residual acidity.

The Department also tried Bedicryl (122 x), a polymethacrylic-ester series of resin in 10-15 per cent solutions in benzene or acetone for varnishing map surfaces in order to protect them against dust and other foreign materials when displayed on walls. The above-mentioned treatment of maps was found quite satisfactory.

The Department continued to make routine tests to select repair materials viz., long cloth, muslin, tissue paper, cellulose acetate foil and adhesives used for repairing of records.

Microfilming and Photo-Duplication

The programme of microfilming the records of the late Foreign and Political Department made further progress as 4,57,800 additional pages of records belonging to the above series were processed during the year. In addition to this, the Department undertook in December 1957 the scheme of microfilming the rare and precious manuscripts in the Raza Library, Rampur. Among the institutions and individuals who availed of the photo-duplication services particular mention may be made of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the German Embassy, Dr. R. C. Majumdar, Dr. Raghuvira, Prof. Mujeeb, Mr. Nassenko, a Russian scholar and Mr. Leo Rose, an American scholar.

Publications

Volume II (Honorary Editor Dr. H. N. Sinha) of the *Fort William India House Correspondence* series was published in 1957. The correspondence included in this volume covers the years 1757-59, a period of great historical importance in the annals of the English East India Company. It provides interesting clues to the causes of rupture between the Company and Nawab Sirajud-Daulah of Bengal, events leading to the battle of Plassey and conflict between the English, the French and the Dutch in India. Incidentally these letters also reveal the factors which were responsible for bringing about changes in the administration of the Company at home as well as in India such as the establishment of the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors and a Select Committee of the Fort William Board. The volume consists of 466 pages of text besides an exhaustive introduction of 52 pages.

Besides the above, the printing of volume I (Honorary Editor Dr. K. K. Datta) and volume IX (Honorary Editor Dr. B. A. Sale-tore), continued to make satisfactory progress. Volume VI (Honorary Editor Dr. Bisheshwar Prasad) and volume XIII (Honorary Editor Dr. P. C. Gupta) were sent to the press. Textual editing of volume XV (Honorary Editors Professor C. H. Philips and Dr. B. B. Misra) and volume XVI (Honorary Editor Professor S. H. Askari) was in progress.

As to publication of records in Oriental languages the Andhra University was able to bring out the volume of *Telugu Documents* during the year. The Bharata Itihasa Samshodhaka Mandala, Poona, reported that the preparation of the summaries, notes and index of the volume of *Marathi Letters* was taken up by them; while in the case of volume I of the *Hindi Letters*, steady progress continued to be made by the Allahabad University. Editing of *Persian Akhbars* and *Tamil Letters* also continued under the auspices of the Delhi University and the Delhi Tamil Sangam respectively.

The Nagpur University informed the Department that printing of the text of *Elphinstone Correspondence* (1804-08) was nearly completed and that introduction and notes etc., of the volume would soon be seen through the press.

The Indian Archives

Volume IX, No. 2 (July-December 1955) of *The Indian Archives* was published during the year. Some of the important articles included in the issue are 'Modern Departmental Records' by J. H. Collingridge; 'Stoke's School, Mussoorie', by R. H. Phillimore and 'Henry Russell's Report on Hyderabad, 30 March 1816' by C. Collin Davies

Calendaring

Printing of volume X (1792-93) of the *Calendar of Persian Correspondence* made steady progress. Besides this, work on the compilation of volume XI (1794-95) and volume XII (1796-97) of the series was continued.

Indexing

Printing of volume I (1756-80) of the *Index to the Records of the Foreign and Political Department* was completed. In the preparation of volume II (1781-83) of the above series index entries covering the years 1781-82 were completed and those for 1783 were taken up.

Training in Archives Keeping

During the year four candidates completed their training in the One Year Diploma Course of Archives Keeping and passed the written examination. In addition to this, 16 candidates sponsored by the various Ministries of the Government of India and the State Governments also completed the Three Months' Training Course.

Exhibition

Nearly 700 persons paid a visit to the permanent exhibition of records and manuscripts of the Department. These visitors were also shown the other activities of the Department like the fumigation and air-cleaning of records, as well as the processes concerning their lamination, hand repairing, photostating and microfilming.

The Department also participated in the Parliamentary Exhibition organized by the Lok Sabha Secretariat during the last week of March 1957. The records displayed in the above exhibition mainly related to the important landmarks in the history of the Indian Parliament such as the Court of Directors' Despatch No. 44 of 1834, relating to the first legislative body for India; Government of India's Resolution in the Home Department dated 1 June 1835 relating to the creation of the first Legislative Department of India; Home Department Resolution No. 528 of 26 May 1854 regarding the abolition of the old Legislative Department and the taking over of its functions by the New Legislative Council under the Act of 1853. Other interesting documents among these exhibits were the Legislative Council Proceedings dated 20 May 1854, containing the proceedings of the first day's meeting of the new Legislative Council; Home Public Consultation Nos. 32-38 dated 21 October 1859 relating to the British Indian Association's demand for popular representation in the legislature; Sir Charles Wood's Despatch explaining the chief features of the Indian Council Act of 1861; Legislative, January, 'B' 1920 proceedings No. 56 containing the Reform Act of 1919, and the Royal Proclamation of 23 December 1919, announcing the changes introduced by the Act. Lastly, there was V. G. Patel's letter of 23 March 1920 to the Reforms Commissioner protesting against the non-representation of the Congress Nationalists on the Reforms Advisory Committee and Montague's Despatch dated 10 February 1921, relating to the executive control over the legislature at the Centre and the British Provinces under the Montford Reforms.

The Department also participated in the exhibition, organised by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, Government of India, from 21 August to 5 December to commemorate the rising of 1857. The Department's contribution to this exhibition consisted of 49 original documents and 20 maps and photographs of portraits and scenes connected with the revolt. Some of the interesting

exhibits displayed in this connection were Delhi Soldiers' Manifesto (Sec. 27 November 1857, No. 296); Proclamation sent in the name of the Hindus and Muslims of Delhi instructing that "not a cowrie must be paid to the alien exchequer" (Sec. 30 April 1858, No. 14); Proclamation issued from Azamgarh saying "Our trades and crafts must remain in our hands" (For. 8 October 1858, No. 197); Proclamation of Birjis Qadr, the Cudh leader (Sec. 25 June 1858, No. 69; Pol. 31 Dec. 1858, No. 1750); Proclamation of Nana Sahib on greased cartridges (Pub. 7 August 1857, No. 137); Tatya Tope's letter dated 2 January 1858, to the Chiefs of Central India (For. Supplement, 30 December 1859, No. 620); Orders from C. in C. Mirza Mughal enjoining the officers to respect sanctity of private property; Bahadur Shah's Proclamation prohibiting cow slaughter on the Id-ul-Zuha day (Mutiny papers 111 (C) 31 of 28 July 1857); Begam Hazrat Mahal's counter-Proclamation to Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1 November 1858; Rani Lakshmi Bai's protests against the annexation of Jhansi (For. 2 March 1855, No. 75); Lakshmi Bai dies a soldier's death (For. 31 December 1858, No. 14213); and Tatya Tope's trial (Mily. 2 September 1859, Nos. 143-145).

Photostat copies of some documents were also supplied to the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for display in an exhibition of Mutiny documents etc., organized by that Society.

Indian Historical Records Commission

On the expiry of the five year term of its members the Indian Historical Records Commission was reconstituted. Printing of the Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings. Volume XXXI, Part I was completed.

Local Records Sub-Committee—The 15th meeting of the Local Records Sub-Committee was held at New Delhi on 22 January 1957, under the Chairmanship of Shri K. G. Saiyidain, Educational Adviser to the Government of India. Among the important subjects discussed by the Committee, mention may be made of: (1) the problems relating to weeding of the Central Government records, (2) preservation of the non-current records of the different departments of the Government of India, (3) preservation of the non-current records of the Union Territories and (4) opening of Regional Archives Offices in the five regions for preserving the non-current records of the various Central Government Departments located in those regions.

National Committee of Archivists

The 7th meeting of the National Committee of Archivists was held at Madras on 23-24 July 1957, under the Chairmanship of Shri R. C. Gupta. Among the main items on which the Committee held discussion mention may be made of (1) re-constitution of the National Committee of Archivists, in the light of the re-organisation of States, (2) control of white ant menace in the Record Offices, (3) humidity control in Record Offices (4) air-conditioning of the munit rooms of the National Archives of India, and (5) binding of laminated documents.

A meeting of the Indexing Sub-Committee constituted by the National Committee of Archivists at its 6th meeting was also held at Madras on 22 July 1957 under the Chairmanship of Dr. B. S. Baliga, Curator, Madras Record Office. The purpose of this Sub-Committee was to devise uniform rules for indexing Government records. As a result of detailed discussion it was agreed that it was not possible to frame a set of rules to meet the requirements of all departments and that each department should, therefore, draw up a list of index heads and prepare adequate indexes to its records on that basis before transferring them to the record office.

Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO

The Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission, was appointed a member of the Education Sub-Committee of the reconstituted Indian National Commission for a fresh term of three years.

National Register of Records and Historical Manuscripts

In 1947 the Indian Historical Records Commission had drawn up a scheme regarding the preparation of a National Register of Records and Historical Manuscripts in India. The Government of India had accepted the recommendation of the Commission in principle, but since the project involved huge financial commitments it was ultimately decided to confine the scheme in the first instance to records and historical manuscripts in private custody only. In view of this decision all the State Governments were requested to co-operate with the National Archives of India in the collection of necessary data for the Register, while in the meantime the Department took up the compilation of lists of such of the private records and manuscripts which had been obtained by it either by purchase or gift. The list of the records in English was completed and that of the records in Persian and Urdu was making progress.

Inspection

At the request of the Kerala Government the Director of Archives inspected the state records at Trivandrum in order to advise the State Government on the preparation of a long term plan for the preservation of their records. On 28-29 October 1957, the Deputy Director of Archives inspected the Regional Office, Bhopal. At the invitation of the Rajasthan Government, the Archival Chemist was deputed to inspect a building at Bikaner, for the proposed Central Archives of Rajasthan. Volume I of the *Inspection Reports* of the Director of Archives comprising the reports of two former Directors (Dr. S. N. Sen and Dr. P. Basu) was published.

Meetings attended by the Director of Archives and other Officers of the Department

In August 1957 the Director of Archives, Government of India, attended a meeting of the Fact Finding Committee on the Rajasthan Archives held at Jaipur. The Committee was appointed by the Government of India in March 1953 in order to survey the old records, manuscripts and paintings available in the State.

Shri S. Roy, Assistant Director of Archives (Records), attended several meetings of the M. N. Roy Archives Committee to advise on the work of collecting and preserving the correspondence, manuscripts and biographical material in connection with the M. N. Roy Biography Project. The Keeper at Records, Regional Officer, Bhopal, attended a meeting of the National Committee of Archivists held at New Delhi.

Inter-University Board of India, Burma and Ceylon

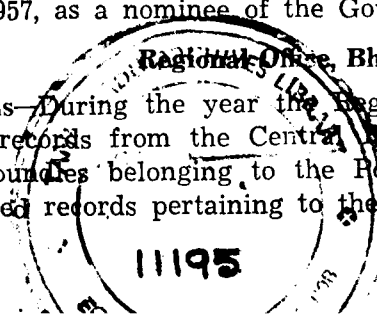
The 33rd annual meeting of the Board was held at Peradeniya (Ceylon) in December 1957. The Department submitted a resolution to the effect that edited documents when accompanied by an adequate introduction and critical apparatus, should be considered by the Universities for the award of Doctorate degree.

Indian History Congress

The Deputy Director of Archives attended the 20th Session of the Indian History Congress held at Ballabh Vidyanagar in December 1957, as a nominee of the Government of India.

Regional Office, Bhopal

Accessions—During the year the Regional Office took over 762 bundles of records from the Central Records Office, Bhopal. Of these, 570 bundles belonging to the Political Department of the State included records pertaining to the Chamber of Princes, War



Section and Index Register for the years 1922-49. The remaining 192 bundles consisted of copies of various Regulations and Acts of the Government of India and Administration Reports of the various states.

Checking and Arrangement—10,595 files and 2,652 volumes of records were checked and arranged. With the completion of the new building of the Regional Office, the entire bulk of its records was transferred from the Moti Mahal to the new building in October 1957 and in order to avoid mixing up of records at the time of shifting, the office took care to prepare lists of all these records in the order of their arrangement. Besides this 38 racks were labelled in the new building.

Reference Media—10,595 files and 987 volumes of records were listed during the year (Appendix V). Volume I of the *Hand-List of Mutiny Papers* was revised for the press and descriptive lists of 691 additional letters were prepared for being included in volume II of the *Hand-List of Mutiny Papers*.

Research—Two scholars conducted research among the records available in the Regional Office. 93 requisitions for records were attended to and 156 pages of excerpts were released.

Care of Records—In addition to the daily dusting of records 10,595 files and 987 volumes were taken out of their *bastas* (wrapping cloth) and cleaned thoroughly with the help of the vacuum cleaner. Special dusting of 710 shelves containing 70,662 volumes and bundles and 9,646 files was also completed during the year under review. As the *bastas* in which the records were received from the State Government were either worn out or very dirty, it was decided to do away with them. According to this programme wrapping cloths of nearly 8,400 *bastas* were removed. Naphthalene bricks were kept on all the racks.

Preservation—The repair and rehabilitation of the records of *Daftar-Insha* was continued during the year and docketing of records of *Daftar-Vakalat* was also undertaken. On the whole 1,06,034 pages of records were paginated, 53,017 sheets were flattened, 45,092 sheets were guarded, repaired and gathered, while 3,360 sheets were repaired with cellulose acetate foil and tissue paper in addition to another 4,021 sheets repaired with tissue paper. Besides the above, 1,076 files were docketed and stitched, and the same number were sorted and checked. Docketing of loose papers, letters etc., of another 3,038 files was also completed.

447 volumes were cleaned, repaired and bound, 6,733 gathers were stitched, 1,473 volumes were treated with leather preservative

mixture, 4,184 volumes were fumigated with paradichlorobenzene, 7 registers and 4 file books were bound and 2 maps were mounted.

At the request of the Archaeological Department, Temple Survey Project, Bhopal, one book entitled *Memoirs of Archaeological Survey* No. 25 Bas-relief of Badami by R. D. Banerji was repaired and bound.

The Preservation Superintendent of the office delivered a lecture to the students of the S.V.B. Polytechnic, Bhopal, on the preservation of records.

Exhibition—An exhibition of historical records and facsimiles of old seals of the rulers of Bhopal was arranged.

Visitors—Among the important persons who visited the Regional Office, mention may be made of Mr. E. W. Franklin, Director of Education, Madhya Pradesh; Dr. G. N. Saletore, Keeper of Records, U.P. Government; Mr. P. N. Kaul, Sub-Editor, All India Radio, New Delhi; Mr. Bezerian, First Secretary, Rumanian Embassy; Mr. Baikoy J. P., U.S.S.R. Embassy, and the Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, Government of India.

APPENDIX III
REQUISITIONS FOR RECORDS ETC. ATTENDED TO BY THE DEPARTMENT
DURING 1957

S. No.	Name of Ministry/Department/State etc.	Number of Requisitions
1	Ministry of Commerce	12
2	Ministry of Education & Scientific Research	209
3	Ministry of External Affairs	530
4	Ministry of Finance	720
5	Ministry of Food & Agriculture	85
6	Ministry of Health	43
7	Ministry of Home Affairs	1,029
8	Ministry of Irrigation & Power	87
9	Ministry of Labour	3
10	Ministry of Law	152
11	Ministry of Railways	1,888
12	Ministry of Transport	133
13	Ministry of Works, Housing & Supply	5
14	Central Board of Revenue	1,200
15	Office of the Director General of Health Services	209
16	Office of the Director General, Posts & Telegraphs	17
17	Indian Council of Agricultural Research	66
18	Office of the Salt Commissioner	44
19	Medical Directorate	15
20	Accountant General of Central Revenues	1
21	Ministry of External Affairs (Goa Research Unit)	40
22	State Governments etc.	16
23	National Archives of India (Research Scholars)	21,498
24	National Archives of India (Staff)	22,670

APPENDIX IV(A)
ENQUIRIES DEALT WITH BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA
DURING 1957

PUBLIC AGENCIES

1	Ministry of Home Affairs	(Eleven enquiries)
2	Ministry of Education & Scientific Research	(Ten enquiries)
3	Ministry of External Affairs	(Five enquiries)
4	Ministry of Defence	(Four enquiries)
5	Ministry of Works, Housing & Supply	(One enquiry)
6	Ministry of Transport	(One enquiry)
7	Ministry of Law	(One enquiry)
8	Ministry of Irrigation & Power	(One enquiry)
9	Lok Sabha Secretariat	(One enquiry)
10	Directorate General of Health Services, New Delhi	(One enquiry)
11	Director General, Posts & Telegraphs	(One enquiry)
12	Director General, All India Radio, New Delhi	(One enquiry)
13	Director General of Archaeology	(One enquiry)
14	Comptroller and Auditor General of India	(Two enquiries)
15	Director of Medical Services, Army Headquarters, New Delhi	(One enquiry)
16	Army Headquarters, Adjutant General's Branch D.H.Q., New Delhi	(One enquiry)
17	National Library, Calcutta	(One enquiry)
18	Curator, Orissa State Archives	(One enquiry)
19	Government of Bihar, Revenue Department	(One enquiry)
20	Director of Records, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar	(Two enquiries)
21	Director of Archives, Government of Bombay	(Two enquiries)
22	Keeper of Records, U.P., Allahabad	(One enquiry)
23	Government of Mysore	(One enquiry)
24	Census Commissioner for Mysore	(One enquiry)
25	Deputy Commissioner, Hardoi	(One enquiry)

APPENDIX IV(B)
ENQUIRIES DEALT WITH BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA
DURING 1957

PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS

- 1 Mr. S.W. Davidson . . . Antecedents of Capt. Peter Dillon.
- 2 Dr. R. M. Sinha . . . Ochterlony papers in the Department.
- 3 Mr. S. M. Pandya . . . Part played by the early Indians in the history of East Africa.
- 4 Mr. M. P. Jain . . . The origin of the word "Calicut".
- 5 Mr. M. A. Gafoor . . . Endowment papers pertaining to the *Sarai* attached with a mosque in Bezwada District.
- 6 Mr. P. R. Kirby . . . History of the "Peacock Throne".
- 7 Burmese Embassy . . . King Mindon's army.
- 8 Mr. M. A. Saha . . . Nature of records available here on J.E.D. Bethune.
- 9 Dr. R. C. Majumdar . . . Letters of the rebel leaders of 1857.
- 10 Mr. Pratap Singh Sechi . . . History of Maharaja Dalip Singh.
- 11 Mr. H. G. Wegulien . . . Career of Maj. Gen. T. M. Wegulien in India.
- 12 Archbishop of Delhi & Simla . . . Whereabouts of William Johnson Bowes, a passenger on the H. M. S. *Blenheim*.
- 13 Mr. K. R. Mahishi . . . A note on Sir Edwin Arnold's correspondence with the Viceroy and Secretaries of State for India.
- 14 Mrs. Ansell . . . A short note on the location of Richard Cardwell's memorial.
- 15 Mr. C. L. Chandrakar . . . A list of documents of the mutiny of 1857.
- 16 Miss Marbar . . . A review of the Article "When Nizam's Brother was Imprisoned at Golconda."
- 17 Mr. J. L. Suiz . . . Documents available in the Department on 1857 rising.
- 18 President, Delhi Municipal Committee, Delhi . . . History of Delhi.
- 19 Mr. S. M. Ghosh . . . Statement made by Babu Sitaram to H.V. Davenex, Judicial Commissioner, Mysore and Capt. J. L. Pearse regarding the causes of 1857 mutiny.
- 20 Mr. G. D. Saklani . . . Decision of the Political Agent, Simla, regarding the merging of Saklani *muafi*.
- 21 Mr. S. Fida Husain Khan . . . Letter No. 173 dated 12 January 1861 from W. Gray, Offg. Secretary to Government of India to Mr. C. I. Wingfield regarding restoration and confiscation of *jagirs*.
- 22 General Secretary, Asiatic Society, Calcutta . . . Translation of a proclamation issued by the rebels of 1857 mutiny.
- 23 Mr. R. F. Stoney . . . Whereabouts of W.J. Bowes, a passenger of H.M.S. *Blenheim*.
- 24 Mr. V. R. Parameswaran . . . A short history of Rani of Jhansi.
- 25 Mr. G. F. Harvey . . . A note on the pass leading from Launghee Westwards over the China hills into Arakan known as Buyurtmañyo Pass, also as the Sawbas Road and an Intelligence Bureau Officer who was supposed to have traversed that route.
- 26 Mr. D. Krishnayya . . . Papers on South Kanara insurrection, 1837 and the old Coorg Rajas.
- 27 Mr. A. S. Nimbalkar . . . Copies of the documents embodying the decision dated 4-5-1923 of Resident of Kolhapur.

- 28 Mr. R. S. Singh . . . Documents on Manipur.
- 29 Mr. C. W. Vennell . . . A note on the brig named the *Venus*.
- 30 Miss Rosa Riedel . . . Whereabouts of Testament of John White.
- 31 Dr. H. K. Barpujari . . . Documents on Assam.
- 32 Mr. Kalika Singh . . . Materials on ancient Indian history.
- 33 Dr. M. L. Sharma . . . Treaty between East India Company and Raja of Bharatpur.
- 34 Mr. B. L. Mungar . . . History of *Salim Sahi Coins*.
- 35 Mr. S. K. Bhuyan . . . Sepoy mutiny in Assam.
- 36 Mr. John Earashaw . . . Career of Mr. John Lang in India.
- 37 Mr. Zafur-ul-Islam . . . Bibliographical information regarding Mughal *Farmans, Sanads*, pertaining to the concessions granted to foreign commercial concerns.
- 38 Mr. Ram Singh . . . Land settlement records for the years 1803 and 1836 of *mausa* Rathdhana Patni in Rohtak District.
- 39 Mr. N. C. Zamindar . . . Correspondence of the Agent to the Governor General of the ex-Holkar State and first map Indore Residency building.
- 40 Mr. Madan Gopal Vaid . . . A note on Partit Roy Saksena (Shamsabad), a minister when Shamsuddin Iltutmish conquered that place.
- 41 Mr. B. Kishore . . . Photostat copies of full signature and few lines of hand writing of Mark Wilks, Resident of Mysore, 1806.
- 42 Mr. E. Wodak . . . History of the East India Company's coinage.
- 43 Mr. G. L. Milne . . . Will of Capt. J. Rotton who was in the military service of the East India Company in 1795.
- 44 Mr. N. Yawalkar . . . Tarya Tope's photograph.
- 45 Mr. S. G. Jackson . . . A note on Taj Mahal.
- 46 Mr. H. C. Jain . . . Materials on the poetry of A.C. Swinburne.

APPENDIX V
RECORDS LISTED BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA, REGIONAL
OFFICE, BHOPAL.

S. No.	Name of Department/Collection etc.	Years	Files/Volumes
1	Chief Secretariat	1908-14	8,048 files
2	Private Secretariat	1912-14	300 „
3	Acts and Rules of the British Government	1908-14	122 volumes
4	<i>Kutab Had Bast Dehat</i> (Village Boundaries)	1845-60	30 „
5	Acts and Rules of the Bhopal Government	1810-14	268 „
6	Volumes giving names of bazars and <i>mohallas</i> etc.	1850-87	33 „
7	Volumes giving details of marriage of Nawab Sultan Jahan Begam etc.	1851-1914	47 files and 30 volumes
8	Volumes describing events relating to mutiny	1856-59	90 volumes
9	Miscellaneous volumes	1846-81	84 „
10	<i>Daftar Mo'in-ul-Muhami</i> (Revenue Secretariat)	1889-1913	2,200 files and 10 volumes

V2:882 & N57

N57

