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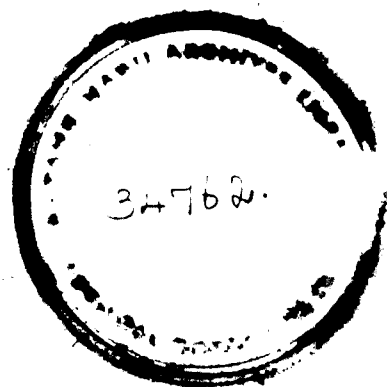


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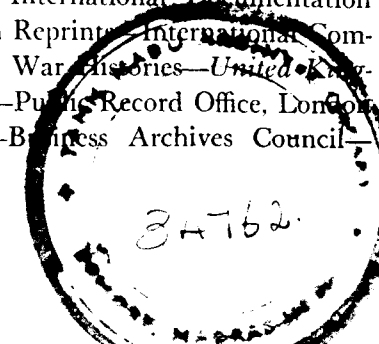
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THE INDIAN ARCHIVES

Volume XII

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PUBLIC RECORDS: THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS IN ENGLAND*

THE Report of the Committee on Departmental Records (the ‘Grigg Committee’) was presented to Parliament in July 1954, and the decision of the United Kingdom Government to accept its recommendations was announced in July 1955. Since then steps have been taken to put them into force, culminating in the introduction of a ‘Public Records Bill’ towards the end of 1957, which was passed, with amendments on points of detail only, during the last Parliamentary Session, and became operative on 1 January 1959.

The Grigg Committee recognised that the more regular and at the same time more flexible arrangements which they advocated must be supported by stronger sanctions than the old system afforded. The national archives organisation must, they said, in its relations with Government Departments be able to make use of the full resources of ministerial machinery. The Public Records Act, 1958, therefore in its opening section transferred the direction of the Public Record Office from the Master of the Rolls to a Cabinet Minister—the Lord Chancellor—who is given a general responsibility for the execution of the Act and for the safe keeping of public records. He has an Advisory Council of which the Master of the Rolls is *ex-officio* Chairman (thus preserving the ancient connection between the office of Master of the Rolls and the records of state), the other members being appointed by the Lord Chancellor. A Keeper of Public Records, appointed by the Lord Chancellor, is responsible to him

* A note by the Keeper of Public Records:—I commend this article to the readers of *The Indian Archives*. It is by way of being a sequel to Mr. Collingridge’s article on “Modern Departmental Records” published in *The Indian Archives* in 1955. Since then Mr. Collingridge has been appointed Records Administration Officer, in charge of the new Records Administration Division. We are now in the second half of the transition period of five years during which the Departmental Record Officers with the cooperation of Mr. Collingridge’s Inspecting Officers hope to clear off arrears of weeding out the ephemeral papers and plan the new procedure referred to in these pages; and I venture to think that we are ahead of schedule!—DAVID L. EVANS.

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for the administration of the Public Record Office. The first Keeper is Sir David Evans, who was Deputy Keeper under the old organisation. He has also been appointed a member of the Advisory Council, the other members being: two historians and a lawyer, all of whom served on the Grigg Committee; two Members of Parliament, of whom one was formerly Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Education and the other took a prominent part in the passing of the new Act; and a public servant who is also Chairman of the Council of the British Records Association. Every care has thus been taken to secure not only that the new control will have the strength and influence envisaged for it, but that there will be no breach with the experience of the past.

The provisions laying down the duties and powers of the Keeper with respect to records in his charge include one or two specific powers not possessed by the head of the Office under the old legislation. He may make arrangements for the storage of records requiring to be kept under special conditions; (this will enable him to use the National Film Archive as his agent for the keeping of records in the form of cinematograph film, as recommended by the Grigg Report). He may also now lend records for commemorative exhibitions and the like subject to the Lord Chancellor's approval.

A section of the Act concerning the selection and transfer of records for permanent preservation provides legal authority for carrying out the Grigg Committee's recommendations for a new reviewing procedure. A duty is imposed on all departments and other authorities covered by the Act to make arrangements for selecting those records which ought to be permanently preserved, and for their safe-keeping; and they are required to perform this duty 'under the guidance of the Keeper of Public Records', who is to be 'responsible for coordinating and supervising all action taken under this section'. All records selected for preservation must be transferred not later than thirty years after their creation to the Public Record Office (or such other place of deposit as the Lord Chancellor may appoint); provided that departments may obtain the Lord Chancellor's approval to their retaining for a further period any which they still wish to hold for administrative purposes or any other special reason.

It will be noted that there is no longer any specific procedure laid down for authorising elimination of valueless documents. The statutory requirement, in force since 1877, that they shall be listed in a formal schedule to be laid before Parliament is repealed; and no statement in legal form of the reviewing arrangements prescribed by the Grigg Report has been substituted for it. Indeed, since the new procedure is intended to be as informal and flexible as possible, its operation might be hampered

by a too precise statutory definition. It is therefore operated by 'administrative action' authorised by the Lord Chancellor. The statutory safeguards against failure to carry it out are the obligations (1) to segregate those records which are worthy of preservation and (2) to transfer them to the Record Office within a specified time. The guarantee that the needs of research will be properly considered lies in the obligation to follow the guidance of the Public Record Office. The great difference between the new dispensation and the old is that formerly departments were under no legal obligation to take any action at all to dispose of their records and the Public Record Office's part in any action they might take was confined to agreeing a schedule defining the limits of destruction; now, on the other hand, departments have a positive duty to make selection arrangements, and the Public Record Office a parallel duty to supervise both the making and the execution of the arrangements. A positive emphasis on selection, aimed at regular appraisal and disposal of all records, thus replaces the old negative emphasis on checking indiscriminate destruction and preventing the archives from being encumbered with rubbish.

One of the unsatisfactory features of the old statutory arrangements was that they did not clearly define the records to which they applied. The Public Record Office Act, 1838, specifically named what were for its purposes to be regarded as 'public records'—the documents only of certain courts and legal departments. But it provided also for additions to the list to be made by Order in Council; and in 1852 an Order was made extending it to 'public records belonging to Her Majesty in any Office, court, place, or custody other than those . . . mentioned in the . . . Act'. The wide and vague definition thus laid down gave rise to uncertainty and controversy, solved only by the Law Officers, on several occasions. It was also not entirely clear, in the view of the Grigg Committee, whether such modern types of documents as photographs, films and sound recordings were in fact covered, as was claimed, by the 'interpretation clause' in the 1838 Act. The new Act therefore declares that 'public records', as defined in a schedule to the Act, covers not only written records but records conveying information by any other means whatsoever. The schedule declares that administrative and departmental records of departments and other establishments under the Government of the United Kingdom are public records; and in addition lists courts, organisations of doubtful status, local agencies and other bodies which are to be within the definition. Among the courts specified are those of Quarter Sessions, Magistrates and Coroners, which have generally, but not with certainty, been regarded in the past as public records. The lists include a few non-Government

organisations which desire their records to be subject to the Act; and on the other hand name a few categories of records which are to be excluded. There is power to bring other records within the definition by Order in Council; and the Lord Chancellor is empowered to adjudicate in cases of doubt.

The old legislation included no provision for preservation of records elsewhere than in the Public Record Office; indeed, the declared purpose of the 1838 Act was to concentrate 'in one place and a better custody' the limited group of records to which it originally applied. The new Act recognises that some classes of what are now defined as 'public records' would, because of their special local or technical interest, more appropriately be housed elsewhere than in the Public Record Office; and it empowers the Lord Chancellor to direct their deposit in suitable places. Provisions are included to ensure that such directions are not given without the concurrence of the authority responsible for the place chosen; and that there are adequate facilities for inspection by the public.

The feature of the new Act which has perhaps attracted most popular interest is the section relating to public inspection of records. The withholding of papers in national institutions from access by scholars, for any reason however good, has from time to time been publicly criticised, and it was one of the points most debated when the Public Records Bill was before Parliament. Hitherto the regulations governing access to records of individual departments in the Public Record Office were entirely a matter for each department's discretion, though the Office strove, with partial success, to secure the opening of records down to a common fixed date (from just after the war until the present time it was 1902). The change effected by the Act is that transferred records (other than those to which the public had access before transfer) will be automatically opened to inspection when fifty years old. But departments have the right to opt out of this arrangement, with the Lord Chancellor's agreement, and fix a different opening date; they also have the right, with his agreement, to impose special restrictions on access to records containing information obtained from the public under conditions of confidentiality. At the same time it is made clear that departments may give special permission for individual searchers to inspect records in the Public Record Office closed to the general public.

The major departments' policy on public access to their records must of course depend on, and be in line with, the accessibility of Cabinet records. The Government, when they decided to adopt the Grigg Committee's recommendations generally, reserved for further consideration the proposal that the Cabinet Office records should be transferred to the

Public Record Office and opened to inspection; and there was no specific reference to them in the Public Records Act. The acceptance of the proposal was recently announced by the Prime Minister: Cabinet records will be opened to inspection in the Public Record Office when fifty years old unless there is a strong objection in any particular case. An intimation of the Government's view as to the categories of documents which departments would properly withhold from inspection for a longer period, such as papers still 'security-classified' or affecting the interests of private individuals, was at the same time given. A number of departments have already obtained the Lord Chancellor's agreement to access being withheld from certain classes of papers—'sensitive' from the departmental point of view or as regards the feelings of private people (for example, records of criminals)—until they reach the age of a hundred years.

Some assessment of the effectiveness of the new arrangements is already possible so far as the selection of records is concerned. The Grigg Committee regarded the reform of the elimination procedure as urgent; and in accordance with their advice staff were appointed in advance of legislation—Departmental Record Officers in the departments and a Records Administration Officer and four Inspecting Officers in the Public Record Office—to clear off arrears of weeding and plan the introduction of the new procedure. For this preparatory work, begun in the autumn of 1956, a transitional period of five years was allowed. In most departments it should be completed well within the allotted time; in one or two, indeed the new reviewing procedure is already in full operation, and several others have it partially working. The chief obstacle encountered has been the difficulty of finding staff: a small number of departments (including happily only very few of any size) have for this reason achieved little or no progress. The issue of *A Guide for Departmental Record Officers (Provisional)*—provisional only, because it caters for the special needs of the transitional period—has proved most valuable in establishing a standard of practice; and it is hoped to produce a definitive edition in the near future. Looking at this work from the departmental angle, the emphasis placed by the Grigg Report on flexibility has been fully justified by experience so far. Hardly two departments find precisely the same procedure exactly suited to their needs. On the other hand the Public Record Office finds that in every case arrangements can be agreed which will adequately secure the segregation of all that should be preserved for research purposes. There are also indications that the 'double review' system will, when it comes to be generally operated, fulfil the Grigg Committee's expectation that only a small percentage of files will survive the 'first review'; and furthermore that the 'second review', jointly carried

out by the department and the Inspecting Officer will result in the selection of an appreciably smaller quantity than was the case when the department had to bear the whole responsibility of deciding what ought to be preserved in the Public Record Office.

J. H. COLLINGRIDGE

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF A GERMAN "NABOB": WILLIAM BOLTS IN THE SWEDISH ARCHIVES

MANUSCRIPTS concerning modern India are understandably few in the national archives of Sweden. The Scotsmen and Swedes who formed the Swedish East India Company at Gothenburg in the early eighteenth century destroyed the bulk of their papers, and nearly all their trading ventures had to do only with China and the China seas. Among the documents that remain, perhaps the most fascinating relate to what were probably the last attempts of William Bolts, a European adventurer *par excellence* of the mid-eighteenth century in Bihar and Bengal, to make what Americans would call a "come-back" and become a wealthy nabob again. Although he failed and this is a tale of "history which did not happen," it is nevertheless worth telling because it reveals so vividly the nature of the eighteenth century European adventurer in India—nearly everything that made him what he was—an unscrupulous entrepreneur with an unquenchable faith that there were always more pagodas on the pagoda-tree even though most of its golden fruit might have slipped through his fingers.¹

Of Bolts himself a clearer picture emerges from these papers which extend our knowledge of him into the French Revolutionary era. Although his importance in Bengal politics of the 1760's and his authorship of *Considerations on India Affairs*,² a book which greatly influenced Burke, have long since won him a biographer, his biographer thought of him as a Dutchman in the English East India Company's service and

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, this paper is entirely based on the documents concerning "W. Bolts' forslag till kolonisation af en ö (Boltsholm) belagen näzon stades 15°-30° s.br. och 55-95° v.lgd. samt till ett faktori i Scindy, Malabar 1786-90", Stockholm, Rigsarkivet: Handel och Sjöfart, 193. Most of these documents are in French; statements quoted are translated from the original French. In the above title "v.lgd." seems to be a copyist's mistake for "ö.lgd." as the island is clearly described in the documents as "à l'est du meridien de Londres." Research in Stockholm was done with the support of a grant from the Penrose Fund of the American Philosophical Society.

² William Bolts, *Considerations on India Affairs, particularly respecting the present state of Bengal and its Dependencies with a map of those Countries, chiefly from actual surveys* (London, J. Almon, 1772). This volume was followed in 1775 by two more, called "Part II, Vol. II" and "Part II, Vol. III"; the former contained Bolts' vindication against Governor Verelst's charges, and the latter, a large collection of relevant documents. A French translation of the first volume was published in Maastricht in 1778. This translation, revised and re-edited anonymously, was reprinted in Paris by Michel Lévy, Frères, early in 1858. In his preface, the anonymous editor says that the occasion for this publication is the "insurrection" against British rule in India. He prophesies the dire consequences which England may expect, excoriates the London *Times* for condoning atrocities, and attacks certain French newspapers as being in English pay. Oddly enough, his prescription for bringing "civilization" to India is the placing of European immigrants, drawn from several European countries other than Britain, in India's "centers of population."

depended entirely on the records available forty years ago in the India Office archives.³

A new venture in Bolts' colourful career began with his arrival in Stockholm on October 3, 1786. The bankruptcy of the Comte de Proli and the Imperial East India Company of Trieste in the winter of 1784-85 had cast him adrift.⁴ After fruitless attempts to interest Louis XVI's ministers in his schemes during the following year, he set out for Sweden with the encouragement of Gustavus III's ambassador in Paris, Baron Staël von Holstein.⁵ On arrival, he laid before that monarch through the finance minister, Liljencrantz⁶ and his associate, Lindeman, a new scheme. This was a plan in two parts: one, the settlement of a previously uninhabited island as an entrepôt of trade in the Eastern seas; two, the establishment of a Swedish trading factory on the coast of Sind.

Bolts' plans for the island were grandiose and couched in mysterious terms. He refused to reveal its location, would say no more than that it was between 15°-30°S. and 55°-95°E., was first seen two centuries before, and had occasionally been visited by "obscure persons." Information coming from trustworthy friends of his who had actually landed there described it as bigger than the Isle of France (Mauritius) and Bourbon (Réunion) together, and a perfect paradise—well wooded and watered, abounding in lush pastures, fruit trees, and game, and affording a safe harbour. It was ideally situated *vis-à-vis* the new lands discovered by Captain Cook, could serve as a way-station en route to Manila for the new Philippine Company which expected to operate via the Cape of Good Hope. It could produce cotton, sugar, and silk. In the possession of Sweden, it could serve as a free port, and, especially in times of war between the great European powers, could be an Oriental St. Eustatia where the local merchants could sell Swedish naval and military stores to all comers.⁷

Bolts' ideas as to its colonization and administration left nothing to

³ Norman Leslie Hallward, *William Bolts, Dutch Adventurer in the Service of the Honourable East India Company* (London, 1920). Bolts' Christian name was Wilhelm, but because of his publications and the numerous references to him as William, he became generally known as William Bolts. Regarding his German origin, see note 18 below.

⁴ Holden Furber, *John Company at Work* (Cambridge, Mass., 1948), pp. 136-38.

⁵ Eric Magnus, Baron Staël von Holstein, 1749-1802, husband of the celebrated Madame de Staël. He appears to have become interested in Bolts' schemes in April 1786, three months after his marriage to the twenty-year old daughter of Louis XVI's finance minister, Necker. For a brief account of Baron de Staël's career, see *Monsieur de Staël* by Countess Jean de Pange (Paris, 1931).

⁶ Jean, Comte de Liljencrantz, 1730-1815, born in humble circumstances, family name, Westerman. Because of his unusual financial ability, he was promoted to head the finance ministry by Gustavus III and given the title of count. He travelled widely on the continent.

⁷ The only islands within the area given, which fit this description, are Mauritius, Réunion, and Rodriguez themselves, all of which were well known at the time. Nevertheless, the island was probably one which Bolts believed to exist, and was not a mere figment of his imagination; see note 21 below.

the imagination. He wanted it to be named after him Boltsholm.⁸ He was to be governor with full authority. The expedition would require two ships, with English captains and Swedish crews, provisioned for eighteen months ready to sail from Gothenburg in August 1787, bringing thirty soldiers and an appropriate number of artisans, including sawyers, with all necessary supplies and tools. Bolts was to command the whole enterprise equipped with letters of credit from the Swedish King and full authority to buy slaves and supplies at the Cape and Mauritius. A botanist and metallurgist were to accompany him. All religions must be tolerated so that Indians and Chinese might be attracted to the island. The Swedes must not follow the example of the Portuguese who "ruined themselves in India because of their intolerance while the English maintain themselves there through their tolerance." Bolts asked for a life-appointment as governor "during good behaviour" with seignorial dues of ten stivers on every *tunnland*⁹ occupied by settlers and two and one-half percent on all minerals and precious stones. If, for reasons of health, Bolts were obliged to retire to Europe, the King of Sweden should agree to employ him in the southernmost countries of Europe. "Having been accustomed from his early childhood to hot climates, cold countries are hostile to him, it is for this reason that he makes bold to submit this condition to His Majesty's gracious consideration that he may have the expectation of ending his days with honour in blessing the welfare of His Majesty in a climate which is kind to him."¹⁰

As might have been expected, Baron de Liljencrantz did not swallow this bait all at once. Bolts proceeded to Karlskrona to give the King and his entourage "clarifications," notes, and observations, reminding the Swedish ministers that he had also presented to Baron de Staël a plan for a Swedish factory in Sind. From these papers, it is clear that Bolts made few concessions, apart from agreeing that the captain of the second of the two ships might be a Swede. Nevertheless, the Swede must have an Englishman as first officer, and Bolts himself is to command the other ship with an English first officer. The Swedes' suggestion of employing French officers was rejected on the ground that French sea-captains "are always more haughty and less amenable to subordination" than English. Bolts also agreed that the King should frame regulations for the government of the island, which Bolts, as governor, would be bound to obey.

Bolts defined his own privileges with greater precision. He wanted the seignorial rights for fifty years with a provision that after his death

⁸ Holm, the Swedish word meaning "island".

⁹ One Swedish *tunnland* contains 5904½ sq. yds., a little more than an English acre (4840 sq. yds.).

¹⁰ Rigsarkivet: Handel och Sjöfact 193. Bolts' proposals of October 13, 1786.

this income should be used to found an institution dedicated in his memory to the welfare of the settlers on the island. In case of enforced retirement for reasons of health, the type of post Bolts expected from the King was that of consul-general or other royal envoy in which his knowledge of languages—French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and two oriental tongues—might be useful. He felt that slaves would be essential to sugar and cassava culture on the island, but he was much more interested in developing its harbour as an entrepôt of country-trade. He wished to be free to naturalise any merchant or mariner and to issue “passes” in the King of Sweden’s name to any ship. His remarks on these points make it clear that his island was within easy distance of Australia and thus able to take advantage of the opening of the Pacific. As soon as Boltsholm was settled, the Swedish East India Company’s ships which had been sailing for China almost empty of goods would be able to carry substantial cargoes other than those made up chiefly of silver and iron. The Swedish King should think in terms of an investment of 40 or 50 thousand rix-dollars annually plus the cost of the initial expedition.¹¹ Within five years, the revenues would much exceed the expenditures.

Bolts’ proposals for a Swedish trading factory in Sind show his complete grasp of everything essential to the operation of such an enterprise. He chose the delta of the Indus, a region where no European nation was firmly established and one which was certain to develop as its hinterland became better known. Uppermost in his mind was the necessity of issuing country-trade passes and using the revenue from them to arm and equip enough ships to make the Swedish flag respected in the Arabian Sea. The factory must begin with a capital of not less than two lakhs of rupees. No European establishment in Sind could succeed on less, but Gustavus III should not worry; Englishmen in Surat and Bombay anxious to remit their fortunes home secretly would readily supply funds in return for bills of exchange on Stockholm. The King should be generous with both salaries and pensions, remembering that the usual mortality among Europeans in India halves the expense. The chief of the factory should have an annual salary of 4000 rupees, the “second” 3000, and the inspector of saltpetre 2000; the rates proposed for the Persian secretary 200, the “banian” 300, and the six other Indians, 84 each, are an interesting indication of the salary differential as between Indians and Europeans. As for the outward cargoes from Europe, the Sind factory should be the outlet for Swedish iron and steel; every effort should be made to avoid shipping silver thither. In Bolts’ opinion, “China” profits would markedly drop

¹¹ One Swedish rix-dollar was reckoned as the equivalent of two rupees throughout these negotiations.

within two years. The King would be able, on very advantageous terms, to transfer this factory to the Swedish East India Company. Bolts cited, in this connection, his own profits on the voyage of the *Grand Duc de Toscane* which he freighted from Bengal to Mauritius in 1780. He had sold her cargo for 3,300,000 *livres* or approximately 142,000 pounds sterling.¹² It would be soon apparent that an India cargo would realize more profits to the Swedish Company than a China cargo.

Bolts was anxious that the factory should be a model of its kind. He would set it up himself; he must go equipped with letters from Gustavus III to the Nawab of Sind, Nana Farnavis at Poona, Tipu in Mysore, and the Sultans of Muscat and Mocha. The presents should by no means be confined to the usual ones sent by European monarchs to oriental princes; the latest novelties must be included such as the new “electric” machine, and the magic lantern with many “figures.” Knowledge of Persian by two of the European staff was absolutely essential; they must study it on the voyage out and be perfectly fluent in it after two months in Sind. All they need is Bolts’ help with pronunciation and four books: William Jones’ *Persian Grammar*, Richardson’s *Persian-English Dictionary* in its two large folio volumes, Major Davy’s *Institutes of Timour* in Persian and English, and Richardson’s *Arabic Grammar*.¹³ When buying these and other necessities like navigating instruments in London, the Swedish consul should be careful never to mention Bolts’ name.

A fortnight of negotiation sufficed to convince the Swedish court. A “convention”, drawn up on parchment, signed by Liljencrantz as minister for commerce and finance and by Bolts, received the royal approval at Upsala on November 2, 1786. This shows that the Swedes agreed to the whole scheme, including the seignorial rights. Bolts was to be paid 3000 rix-dollars a year, and be reimbursed for his table-expenses. In addition, he was to get a pension of £500 sterling a year from the day the Swedish flag was raised on the Sind factory. The King was to equip two

¹² This is probably the ship owned by Calcutta merchants and sold through Captain Falkner to Bolts in 1779 at Bombay. Bolts was certainly at Mauritius in June 1780. The *Grand Duc de Toscane* was seized by the French, with Dutch connivance, at the Cape of Good Hope in April 1781. See Hallward, *William Bolts*, pp. 185, 193, 198; and Franz von Pollack-Parnau, “Eine österreichischostindische Handelskumpagnie 1775-1785,” *Vierteljahrsschrift für Sozial und Wirtschafts-geschichte*, Beiheft XII (Stuttgart, 1927), p. 50. It seems clear from a comparison of these two accounts that this ship was bought at Bombay, carried cotton to Calcutta, was there freighted for Mauritius via Madras where she picked up “Coast” piece-goods. She then returned to Calcutta whence Bolts freighted her direct to Europe in the following season. For her capture en route, Bolts ultimately received damages from the French Government, most of which went to his creditors.

¹³ John Richardson, Scottish orientalist, 1741-1811. His Arabic grammar was quickly superseded, but his dictionary of Persian, Arabic, and English, first published in 1777, is still of value. Major William Davy, intimate friend of Warren Hastings, held the post of “Persian Secretary” in the Bengal Government. In 1783, he published with an English translation, Abu Taulib al-Husseini’s Persian version of *Institutes political and military written originally in the Mogul Language by the Great Timour improperly called Tamerlane*.

frigates and one merchant ship for the expedition. Bolts and the Englishmen to be employed in the scheme would become naturalised Swedes and swear allegiance in the following June when the vessels would be ready to sail.

Before setting off for Germany and the Austrian Netherlands to make preparations for the expedition, Bolts spent a week going over his plans and perfecting arrangements to keep his correspondence with the Swedish ministry secret. The expedition was to consist of "Frigate A": 24 guns, 120 seamen, 30 prospective colonists; "Frigate B": 18 guns, 90 seamen, 20 prospective colonists; and the small merchantman C: 150 tons, 24 seamen. The fifty colonists, whose families were to follow them in the next season, were to be carefully picked artisans, especially men who knew how to build and run grist and oil mills. Experience was to determine whether power for the mills was to come from wind, water, or bullocks. The botanist was to have all he needed to make a public garden, and the metallurgist was to be equipped for the search for minerals. The island should be defended by an old Swedish warship, to be sent out next season as a floating fortress with guns mounted on "swing-ladders" as recommended by Vice-Admiral Chapman.¹⁴ No currency should circulate except copper coins with a face-value thirty percent above their real value in Sweden stamped "*in usum Coloniae Boltsholmiensis*"; gold and silver from all foreign sources, whether coined or not, must be regarded as an article of commerce. Bolts outlined a system of government-stores to sell goods to the colonists at prices thirty percent above the prices of the same articles in Europe—these goods to be paid for in instalments by the proceeds of the produce of the island. He reckoned the cultivable land at 15 leagues square, or approximately a million and a quarter Swedish *tunnlands*, yielding him an annual quitrent of 270,142 rix-dollars. He made up a sample salary budget of his government which allowed for an annual expenditure of 15,360 rix-dollars.

On November 9, 1786, Bolts wrote the Chevalier Lindeman that there was one indulgence he must insist upon. There must be adequate accommodation on Frigate A for his library "without which he will be but a body without a soul". Hence he enclosed an elaborate sketch of the necessary *cabinet d'étude* worked out to the last detail even including specifications as to shelves adjusted to the varying sizes of his books. This study was to occupy one-third of the ship's poop and have two windows to ensure sufficient light for reading. The next day, Bolts was off on his travels, having arranged for the secrecy of his correspondence and urged the King,

¹⁴ Frederic Henric af Chapman, 1721-1808, distinguished Swedish admiral and authority on naval architecture; author of *Traité de la construction des vaisseaux* (Paris, 1779).

in selecting Swedish personnel for the project "to give preference to a peasant's son with talent and worth over a noble's son who will never have either".

Bolts realized that the project would ultimately excite comment. His prescription for throwing the British and other foreign envoys off the scent was to give it out that Gustavus III was emulating his fellow monarchs in sponsoring a voyage of discovery like those of Cook and Lapeyrouse. The security of correspondence was to be guaranteed by a most extraordinary cypher in which Indian places and persons were to appear in American and West Indian guise. For example, Bengal was to be Baltimore; Madras, Annapolis; Bombay, St. Augustine; Surat, Virginia; the Malabar coast, the American coast; "Boltsholm," San Domingo; the new factory in Sind, Port-au-Prince; and Tipu Sultan was to be, strange to relate, the "American Congress". To make assurance doubly sure, a cypher alphabet was provided to conceal the identity of any other place or person.

Letters in this strange jargon soon began to arrive in Stockholm. On January 23, 1787, Bolts under his code name, J. Purry, wrote from Antwerp to Lindeman whose alias was Chevalier de Franc. He enclosed extracts from the *Courier du Bas-Rhin* of December 2 and December 23, 1786 referring to "Mr. Barretto" (the alias Bolts used in Sweden). One said that Barretto had been in Karlskrona negotiating to buy ships, the other, that Barretto was not of Portuguese but of English birth and was really the "Mr. Bolts" who fled from Brussels on the failure of Proli and was now gone to Holland after submitting financial schemes to the Swedish government. Although there was no disclosure of the nature of the schemes, Bolts was much disturbed. Instead of getting in touch at once with an agent in London named Grill, he left for Vienna.

From Vienna, Bolts, after receiving £250 secretly from the Swedish minister in early March 1787, went to Amsterdam where the news caught up with him that Gustavus III, worried by the deterioration of the international situation, had postponed the project for a year. At first, Bolts was cast down, but he soon revived. On April 1, he wrote to Lindeman that he must use the year to make the affair more perfect. Lindeman was reminded that great plans for Australia and the Pacific were afoot in England. Delay would cause the disclosures in the European gazettes to be forgotten. Nevertheless, Lindeman must have the second draft for £250, which the King was sending to console Bolts, cashed by the Swedish envoy. Bolts must not be seen cashing it himself in Amsterdam.

Bolts is next heard of in Trieste in June. Unfortunately, the personal names in his letter are undecipherable even with the aid of the key. His

chief concern was to get Lindeman's authorization to employ as chief assistant a Catholic who had served as inspector and director of Bolts' saltpetre factory in India in the 1760's.¹⁵ This man, born on the Adriatic coast about 1742, had returned to become a merchant in his native country. He was versed in five languages—Italian, English, Persian, Hindustani, and his mother tongue. Bolts wanted to engage him for six years, give him his fare to Gothenburg, his expenses on the voyage to Sind, five percent commission on sales at the factory without any privilege of "private trade", a salary of 200 German florins a month, 900 florins towards his return fare, and a 20,000 florin cash settlement in lieu of a pension. Bolts was also preparing his own library and mathematical instruments for shipment from Trieste to Gothenburg.

Six months later, on January 11, 1788, Bolts was still at Trieste, very worried at not having had a reply to his June letter. Half his effects have gone to Gothenburg, and the rest have likewise sailed. He himself expected to leave for Amsterdam and The Hague in mid-February. However, four days later, royal letters were prepared in Stockholm indefinitely postponing the project, releasing Bolts from his obligations, sending him another £250 as a token of the King's regard and recognition of Bolts' "genius, enlightenment, distinguished talents" and of those "enlarged views" enshrined in his plans. His Swedish Majesty represented himself as regrettably forced to disappoint Bolts' hopes because of the international crisis occasioned by the quarrel between Prussia and Holland, which was expected to provoke a general war.

This is not quite the end of the story. Nearly two years later, in December 1789, Bolts, back in Paris, was writing to Baron de Staël hoping to revive this same scheme by bringing the King of Sardinia into it. He reminded Staël that, after he re-established the Imperial trade from Trieste, he had himself opened the Tuscan trade to the East Indies. He likewise referred to voyages from Italian ports under Sardinian colours.¹⁶

¹⁵ This refers to Bolts' notorious activities at Banaras where he is said to have engrossed the whole saltpetre trade through his Armenian agents so thoroughly that the Nawab Vazir of Oudh claimed he could get none for his own use. See documents in Box 73 of the Clive Papers deposited in the India Office Library.

¹⁶ The *Grand Duc de Toscane* was certainly flying the Tuscan flag when captured by the French at the Cape in April 1781. In all probability, Bolts resorted to this flag even earlier for two reasons, first because it was absolutely certain to remain neutral as the American revolutionary war expanded into a general European war after 1778, and secondly, because it distinguished ventures which were purely his own from those in which he was involved with associates whom he distrusted. On May 29, 1781, he secured from the Emperor Joseph II's brother, Leopold, Grand Duke of Tuscany, a charter giving him exclusive trading rights beyond the Cape Verde Islands. Under this charter, Bolts could use Tuscan or Imperial colours as he saw fit. Sardinian colours seem to have been first used for an East India voyage by the *Victor-Amé* which sailed from Villefranche (Nice) on September 2, 1782. This venture was financed by the Geneva merchant, Paul Moulton, the friend of Rousseau, Voltaire, and Necker. It was unsuccessful, primarily because the ship arrived in India after the news of the cessation of Anglo-French hostilities in Europe.

Under the revised plan, their Swedish and Sardinian Majesties, like the two kings in the Gilbert and Sullivan opera, *The Gondoliers*, would jointly rule Boltsholm and each would supply 20,000 *louis d'or* to found their new island-kingdom. Realizing that the continuing Russo-Swedish war had become the chief obstacle to the scheme in Gustavus III's opinion, Bolts proposed that the two frigates should both sail under Sardinian colours if the war were still going on at the time of the suggested date of their departure, May 1790. Otherwise, one could fly the Swedish flag and the other the Sardinian. Such ships could be bought cheaply in Ostend. Half the island could be under Swedish sovereignty; half, Sardinian. The two kings would ensure its neutrality, make it a free port under Bolts as governor-general assisted by a council of twelve—six Sardinians and six Swedes. The copper coins of Boltsholm would have the effigy of one king on one side and the other king on the other. Otherwise, the scheme would be essentially the same as when outlined to Gustavus III in 1786. Bolts, however, would be content with a ten-year appointment with expenses, a suite of two secretaries, a salary of five hundred *louis d'or* a year, and a pension (retroactive to the date of the island's annexation) of 24,000 *livres Tournois*, payable in Paris and chargeable on both sovereigns half and half. After making this proposal, Bolts told Baron de Staël that exactly what he predicted to the Swedish ministers regarding Australia and the Pacific in the autumn of 1786 was coming true. The British had founded at Botany Bay "an establishment which in time will become of the greatest importance to the commerce of the globe". Apart from a letter from Lindeman of March 19, 1790, postponing the whole project until the "war's outcome", this is the last we know of Bolts except for a vague report of his death in Paris in great poverty in 1808.¹⁷

The significance of this strange story lies primarily in its revelation of Bolts' mind. Here was a man who, whatever his moral character may have been, saw more clearly than most of his contemporaries what was really going on in the Indian, "China", and "south" seas at this time—the break-down of the old monopoly system, the rapid expansion of the East India country-trade, the beginnings of the commercial exploitation of the Pacific as it ceased to be a "Spanish lake". Clearly, what most fired his imagination was the opening of the great South Sea. Whatever his island may have been—and he probably honestly believed in its existence—it was clearly chosen because of its proximity to future Pacific trade and whaling routes. Bolts came to Stockholm after failing to interest the

See Louis Jounod, "Paul Moulton et ses affaires avec les Indes orientales", *Schweizer Beiträge zur Allgemeinen Geschichte*, Band 6 (1948), 118-41.

¹⁷ April 28, 1808, according to the *Biographie Universelle*, X, 649.

French ministers, Castries and Vergennes, in such matters. The fate of the Imperial East India Company of Trieste was no sooner sealed than he was in Paris introducing himself to Castries with a sketch of his career which refers to his German origin and is almost entirely taken up with his endeavours to profit by Cook's discoveries.¹⁸

For at least four years, he had pursued this dream. In November 1781, he had bought maps, engaged four of Cook's officers, fitted a 600-ton British ship for a Pacific voyage, renamed her the *Cobenzl*, and brought her to Leghorn.¹⁹ He had also sent five of the Trieste Company's homeward bound ships on a wide sweep into the Pacific to search for whales. One of these had succeeded in bringing back sperm oil. As his financial difficulties and his quarrels with Count de Proli's group of Antwerp promoters increased, the Pacific project became less and less possible. His creditors forced him to divert the *Cobenzl* to an India and China voyage for the trading season of 1783-84, but he still hoped. We learn from the letters of Nathaniel Green, British consul at Trieste, that the four former members of Cook's crew were getting restive in the late summer of 1783 and quarrelling with Bolts because Bolts preferred a route round Cape Horn to one via the Cape of Good Hope. Green regarded this as Bolts' favourite project and was convinced that money illicitly remitted from India by British subjects was behind it. When the *Cobenzl* finally sailed on her East India voyage on behalf of Bolts' creditors, she

¹⁸ Rigsarkivet, Handel och Sjöfart, 193, Bolts to Castries, January 25, 1785. Bolts here introduces himself as "d'origine Allemand". There seems to be no certainty that Bolts regarded himself as a Dutchman or used "Willem," the Dutch form of his Christian name. Dutch nationality was attributed to him, primarily because of the short biographical notice under the heading Willem Bolts in the *Biographisch Woordenboek der Nederlanden* (Haarlem, 1854), edited by A. J. van der Aa. Thus Hallward was misled by Bolts' birth in Amsterdam and the absence of reference to his German origin in the India Office Records. Sir Richard Temple, who published documents from those records on "Austria's Commercial Venture in India in the Eighteenth Century" in the *Indian Antiquary*, XLVI (1917), 277-86, and XLVII (1918), 1-15, 29-34, 57-69, 85-93, also thought of Bolts as a Dutchman. Bolts' German origin seems to have been first noticed by Franz von Pollack-Parnau. He accepts Van der Aa's date, 1740, for Bolts' birth in Amsterdam, but states, from evidence in the Vienna archives, that Bolts' father was from Heidelberg (Parnau, *op. cit.*, p. 17). This is confirmed by even more conclusive evidence in Box XII of the General's information filed against him in the Exchequer (Trinity Term, 1771), Bolts claimed he was a subject of the Elector Palatine. On February 18, 1772, he calls himself "son of William Bolts, deceased, who was, as he believes, a native of Heidelberg in Germany and as a 'freeman and loyal subject of Great Britain' in his petition to the Calcutta Grand Jury against his forcible deportation from Bengal, May 27, 1768, printed in full by Hallward, pp. 203-05.

¹⁹ Pollack-Parnau, *op. cit.*, p. 77; Temple, *op. cit.*, *Indian Antiquary*, XLVII, 90. The four men from Cook's vessels were Gilpin, the astronomer on Cook's second voyage, G. Dixon, armourer, William Walker, joiner's mate, and H. Zimmerman, mariner on Cook's last voyage. Zimmerman apparently employed his leisure at Leghorn and Trieste in translating Cook's narrative into German. His book was published in Göttingen in 1781 (2nd edition, Mannheim, 1782).

had a Hungarian captain but her first, second, and third mates were Messrs Lindsay, Moore, and Smith.²⁰

Fresh news of the great success of fur-trading ventures between the north-west coast of America and Canton naturally did nothing to dampen Bolt's enthusiasm. In the spring of 1785, Castries was treated to glowing accounts of this traffic and its astronomical profits—stories of common sailors who had sold the nails and lock of one sea chest for skins which realized 800 Spanish dollars in China, stories of furs sold at 100 percent profit by Chinese in Japan, warnings that English and Americans would soon swarm into the trade to displace the inefficient Russians who were operating out of Kamchatka with very poor boats and equipment. All this was intended to persuade the French Government to use the supplies Bolts had idle at Trieste, including a "Bermudian" cutter, for a voyage round Cape Horn to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), Nootka Sound, and China. From reading William Coxe's *Russian Discoveries* (London, 1780) and G. S. Muller's *Voyages et Découvertes faites par les Russes* (Amsterdam, 1766), Bolts had evolved a scheme for marketing furs in Japan through the Kurile Islands. The plan required a "floating factory" off Nootka (British Columbia), two courageous Frenchmen willing to be left in the Kuriles to learn Japanese and adopt the dress and ways of the inhabitants, and at least two large ships to maintain communication with Europe via both the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn. The "Bermudian" cutter was to be shipped out on one of the larger ships and launched in the Sandwich Islands. A botanist, metallurgist and astronomer were to be employed. The island discovered by La Roché in 1675 at 45° S. and mentioned by Alexander Dalrymple to Lord North on July 18, 1772 was to be annexed by France. This island was depicted as having all the advantages later ascribed to Boltsholm, but we notice that its latitude is far below 30° S.²¹

²⁰ Temple, *op. cit.*, *Indian Antiquary*, XLVII, 90-93. Nathaniel Green to Charles James Fox, May 9, August 18, and September 29, 1783.

²¹ Cf. Alexander Dalrymple, *A Collection of Voyages, Chiefly in the Southern Atlantick Ocean* (London, 1775). The letter to Lord North of July 18, 1772, mentioned in Bolts' letter to Castries of April 9, 1785, is printed in full, pp. 2-4. The island supposedly discovered by La Roché is described on p. 5. Bolts is therefore drawing his information from this book. However, the reported position of the island (see pp. 28-29) is 43°12' S., 49°32' W. Consultation of Dalrymple's *Historical Collection of the Several Voyages and Discoveries in the South Pacific Ocean* (London, 1770), and of his *Collection of Charts and Memoirs* (London, 1772) does not help to solve the mystery; though the "Isla Grande" mentioned in the "Mémorial of the Chart of the Southern Ocean" is this island of La Roché. There is no island between Bolts' stated limits of 15°-30° S. and 55°-95° E. which fits Boltsholm. Christmas Island, 190 miles south of Java in 10°25' S., 105°42' E., probably the only tropical island never inhabited by man before the European settlement, seems the best conjecture. Its discoverer is unknown; its first appearance is on a Dutch chart of 1666; it was first visited by Dampier in 1688, and was presumably left undisturbed until 1886. The first settlement was made in 1897. There seem to be two possibilities: either Bolts imagined Boltsholm or he believed it to exist on the basis of reports, similar

Bolts' Swedish scheme was therefore certainly a variant of the French. Balked at Versailles, he turned to Stockholm, his hopes still high of realizing the assets left at Trieste. In taking leave of him, let us hope that he was never deprived of his library and could have most of it beside him, looking out at the Seine while letting his mind range over his past, mingling the real with the unreal—the Rhineland, Banaras, Patna, Calcutta, London, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Trieste, Stockholm, Isle de France, Botany Bay, Nootka, Canton, Sind, and Boltsholm.

HOLDEN FURBER

RECORDS RELATING TO INDIA IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY

A MODERN American authority on Christian missions has stated that in the nineteenth century "no other non-Roman Catholic communion covered so much of India as did the Anglicans. None had nearly so large a missionary staff or so numerous a following among the Indians".¹ The Church Missionary Society played a leading role amongst the Anglican societies which were working in India at that time. It is the purpose of this article to outline briefly the scope of the Society's work in India and to describe the surviving records relating to that work.

The name adopted by the Society upon its foundation in 1799, "The Society for Missions in Africa and the East", is an indication of the direction in which the interests of its founders lay. At this time, Anglican support for missions in India was largely confined to the financial help which the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge gave to the Danish-German missions on the south-east coast of the continent. There were also Anglican chaplains stationed at the chief British centres, who ministered to the merchants and troops of the East India Company.

It was certain of these chaplains who first effectively attracted the Society's attention to India. In 1807, they appealed to the C.M.S. for financial assistance in order that they might make translations of the Christian Scriptures into the Indian languages and also employ Indian Christians as readers of the Scriptures. The Society responded with a grant of £200,² and the chaplains set up a 'Corresponding Committee' in Calcutta to maintain close contact with the C.M.S. By 1810, Henry Martyn had translated the New Testament into Urdu, and, in 1813, the first Indian reader, Abdul Masih, was appointed and he took up his work in Agra.

In England, members of the Society, led by Charles Grant, a Director of the East India Company, were working for a revision of the Company's charter which was due for renewal in 1813. Up to this time the Company had refused to allow missionaries to take passage in its ships and had forbidden them to work in its territories. The new charter of 1813 removed both of these restrictions and it also provided that the church in British possessions in India should be placed under a bishop at Calcutta, with archdeacons at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

In January 1814 the first four C.M.S. missionaries sailed for India,

to those regarding La Roché's island, many of which were current at the time. On the basis of the evidence, it seems more logical to think that he did believe there was such an island. Whether his island was real, Christmas or another, must remain uncertain until further evidence comes to light.

¹ K. S. Latourette, *A History of the Expansion of Christianity* (London, 1947), Vol. VI, p. 144.

² A letter of thanks for this grant, signed by the chaplains David Brown, Claudius Buchanan, Henry Martyn and George Udny, survives in the C.M.S. Archives. There are also a few of Henry Martyn's letters written from India between 1810 and 1811.

and in the following ten years twenty-six missionaries were sent out, fourteen of whom went to the Ganges valley and other parts of Bengal and the remainder to South India. Missions were founded in Madras and Tranquebar (to minister to converts of the Danish-Halle mission) in 1814, in Cochin and Travancore (to work with the ancient Syrian Church) in 1816, and in Bombay and Tinnevely in 1820.

Corresponding Committees were established at Madras and Bombay, in addition to that already existing at Calcutta. These committees were composed of chaplains and East India Company officials, with a clergyman as secretary who was employed by the C.M.S. The supervision of the work of the missions, their expenditure and the location of missionaries were in the hands of the Corresponding Committees, but major decisions as to the starting of missions and the voting of funds were made by the C.M.S. Committees in London.

In the early days, the Society's work was carried out largely by means of the establishment of printing presses and schools. "Christian Institutions" were set up, as at Calcutta, consisting of a church, a seminary for the training of Indian teachers, a mission house and a printing office. Schools were founded at Madras (in 1819) and Calcutta (for girls, in 1822) and in 1819 the C.M.S., the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge each contributed £5,000 towards the founding of Bishop's College at Calcutta.

Close relations were maintained between the missions and the new Indian bishoprics and the bishop was usually a patron or vice-president of the Corresponding Committee in his diocese. Reginald Heber, bishop of Calcutta between 1823 and 1826, was a strong supporter of all the three Anglican missionary societies, and some of his papers survive amongst the C.M.S. Archives.³

C.M.S. missions continued to expand in the 1830s and 1840s, although at a lesser rate than that of the previous decade. New missions were founded at Nasik (1832) and amongst the Telugus (1841), whilst in the 1840s British residents at Simla organised a Himalaya Mission which the Society adopted, and a mission station was maintained at Kotgur for a few years.

The British annexation of the Punjab in 1849 was followed by a further expansion of missionary activity. Civil and military officials appealed to the Society to open stations in the new province, and this the Society did as, for example, at Amritsar (1853) and at Peshawar (1854). Prominent

³ Including a holograph MS. of Heber's hymn "From Greenland's Icy Mountains", Relations between the bishops and the missions are described in, H. Cnattingius, *Bishops and Societies . . . 1698-1850* (London, 1952), which makes use of certain C.M.S. records.

officials, such as John and Henry Lawrence and Sir Robert Montgomery, helped to promote the work of these missions, and some of their letters survive in the Society's Archives. In the 1850s, missions were also sent to the Gonds (in the neighbourhood of Nagpur) and to the Santals of North Bengal. St. John's College, Agra, was founded in 1851 and became one of the most important Christian educational establishments in India.

The "Frontier Mission" on the borders of Afghanistan was begun in 1861 by the C.M.S. missionary, Robert Clark. This mission was notable for its medical work, the first qualified C.M.S. medical missionary to India going there in 1865. An important expansion of medical work occurred with the opening of the C.M.S. Hospital at Amritsar in 1882. The Society also established industrial schools for the training of craftsmen at Lahore and Sharanpur (Nasik).

As new dioceses and missions were founded, new Corresponding Committees were formed to supervise the mission work in those areas, and civil and military officers continued to serve on these committees.

The Society has continued its work in most of these missions until the present time, but their management has increasingly devolved upon Indian Diocesan Church Councils, and the Indian clergy has played an increasingly important part in their affairs. The greater part of the missionaries are now engaged in higher educational work.

Main Classes of Records

(1) The Committee Minutes, 1799 to date.

These are the minutes of the Society's home committees. The first of these was the General Committee whose functions were, from the earliest days of the Society onwards, "to appoint the places where Missions shall be attempted and direct the scale upon which they shall be conducted". Next in importance was the Committee of Correspondence (see below, section 2), and there was also a Finance Committee and other committees largely concerned with home affairs. The minutes were entered in chronological order in the "Committee Minutes Books" (105 large folio vols. to 1950). They are summary in form and do not record discussions in committee.

(2) The Records of the Committee of Correspondence, 1799 to 1880.

This Committee, when set up in 1799, was instructed to "seek for proper Missionaries, to superintend their instruction and to correspond with them when sent out". The Committee, in fact, was responsible for supervising the whole of the Society's overseas work, until 1880. The bulk

of the Society's records for this period are, therefore, comprised in this class. They are subdivided into "Home" and "Foreign" (mission) records. The "Home" records consist chiefly of in-letters which have been largely preserved up to 1850, but mostly destroyed after that date. The letters contain important information with regard to early missionary candidates.

The "Foreign" records consist mainly of correspondence between the Secretaries at C.M.S. House and the missions. In the case of the Indian missions this correspondence has been preserved virtually intact. Up to 1820 the in- and out-letters are kept together chronologically in "mission files". After 1820 copies of the Secretaries' out-letters are to be found in series of Letter Books for each mission. The in-letters and papers after 1820 comprise, for each Indian mission, separate files of: Corresponding Committee Minutes; letters from the Corresponding Committee Secretaries; and the letters and journals of individual missionaries with enclosed papers (pamphlets, newspaper cuttings, maps and plans etc.). In the early years, European and Indian missionaries and catechists were instructed to send to the Society, quarterly journals which were to contain a day-to-day account of their activities, together with their observations on the social and political conditions of the people amongst whom they were working. Not surprisingly, therefore, these journals bulk very large amongst the early records. In the 1860s, the journals were gradually superseded by much shorter "Annual Letters", such as the missionaries still write to the Society today. The Indian in-letters and papers up to 1880 are contained in some 100 folio size boxes.

(3) The Group Committee Records.

In 1880, the headquarters system of mission supervision was revised. The mission field was divided into three areas (Africa, East Asia and West Asia which included India), each supervised by a Home Group Committee and Group Secretary. The "Foreign" records from 1880 to the present fall into these Group divisions. The "Letter Books" (outgoing) continue until 1935. Under the new system, precis were made of all in-letters and papers, and these precis were printed and circulated to Committee members for their information. The precis were then made up into "Precis Books" which also contain the Committee's decisions on matters arising from the letters. The "Precis Books" constitute, in effect, "descriptive lists" of all the "Foreign" in-letters and papers between 1880 and 1935.

Since 1935 the in- and out-letters have been filed by missions and subdivided under ten subject headings, e.g. "Education", "Finance" etc. The letters are no longer precis. The Indian in-letters and papers for 1880-1935 are contained in 140 folio size boxes.

(4) The Honorary and General Secretaries' Papers.

The office of Honorary Secretary was created by Henry Venn (Secretary, 1841-73), who made it the most important office in the Society's executive. The Honorary Secretary conducted the most important part of the Society's correspondence, and negotiated with ecclesiastical and civil authorities. Since 1920 this work has been performed by the General Secretary. There is a separate file of papers for each question dealt with by the Secretary, and many of these relate to India.

(5) Private Papers.

A few collections of private papers have been deposited with the Society including some of Indian interest, such as letters of Rev. J. Tucker of Madras and Dr. Pennell of the Punjab.

Facilities for Research in the Archives

The Archives are housed at the C.M.S. headquarters in London. They are administered on a voluntary basis, but every effort is made to assist searchers. A large proportion of the records has already been sorted and boxed, and detailed lists thereof are in course of preparation. There is unrestricted access to the records up to 1914 for *bona fide* searchers. Prospective searchers should write to the Assistant Archivist, Church Missionary Society, 6 Salisbury Square, London E.C.4. Searchers are required to give a reference such as a connection with a university or comparable institution. The Society does not possess microfilm or other photographic facilities, but searchers may, subject to the Society's permission, commission a commercial firm to photograph records at C.M.S. headquarters. The C.M.S. Library of some 25,000 volumes (including scarce missionary periodicals and the Society's printed reports), may also be used by searchers.

Whilst certain sections of the C.M.S. Archives have already been extensively used by research workers, such as the records relating to Africa, Canada and New Zealand, the records relating to India are as yet almost untouched. Only the specialist researcher can fully judge the historical value of these records, but in view of the widespread and varied work of the C.M.S. in India it seems probable that the records will prove of considerable interest to historians of India.

HENRY S. COBB

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF GHANA

THE National Archives of Ghana, like most archival institutions, started the hard way. There was neither suitable accommodation to house the records which the Government had decided to rescue from the serious risk of loss, damage and confusion to which they were then exposed, nor any legislation to establish an office and to provide for their preservation. It is not surprising, therefore, that the National Archives of Ghana was, at its inception, a little more than a glorified departmental record room.

The story of the National Archives of Ghana began with the appointment of Miss Marjorie Harris as Archivist in 1946, when the Government was faced with the task of safeguarding the large mass of existing records, which was likely to accumulate yet more, following the introduction of a new constitution in that year. By this constitution—popularly called the Burns' Constitution after Sir Alan Burns, the Governor who introduced it—the official majority on the then Legislative Council was for the first time replaced by an elected majority, thus making the Council a representative legislature. What is more, the Council became a legislature for both Southern Ghana (formerly Gold Coast Colony) and Ashanti. And so Miss Harris was charged with the task of organizing and reducing to some order the large amount of apparently unrelated and unwanted records of the Government. The period between her appointment and her departure in July 1947 could be described as the first phase of archive development in Ghana. It was during this period that the preliminary work of accessioning the contents of the record rooms of the Central Secretariat of the Government was undertaken, and the stage was set for further development.

The writer was appointed Archivist in November 1949 in succession to Miss Harris, and took up from where she left off. Classified lists of existing records were then prepared, and a suitable document rehabilitation service to cater for the large amount of records, which were in a state of disrepair, was begun. This involved the recruiting of staff and the giving of the necessary technical training. But as mere preservation of archives is only a negative virtue, it was at the same time considered necessary to make the records already assembled available for research under certain conditions for administrative and educational purposes. It is interesting to note that the policy of establishing a Search Department at the start proved very rewarding and encouraging. For in 1955 a total of 587 searchers passed through the Search Room, as against 92 searchers who used it in 1950, an indication of the growing public awareness in the

country of the usefulness of archives as the life-blood of historical research. During this period every effort was made to "sell" archives to the public, to dispel the "dead office paper" fallacy from their minds. These efforts included the organizing of public exhibitions of documents, the first of which arranged in March 1954 was a notable success. And so the period 1949-55, when the National Archives of Ghana was legally established, marked the second epoch in the history of the office—an epoch of serious and sustained development.

Before I describe in some detail the classes of records that are available for research, it would be as well to mention the efforts made during these years to trace records relating to the country preserved in European archive repositories. These efforts were prompted by the fact that the association of Ghana (Gold Coast, as it then was) with the Western World did not begin abruptly in the 19th century with the assumption of direct control, in 1843, by the British Government. Long before this date Ghana had been a scene of much activity, of great commercial rivalry: for the Portuguese first landed at Elmina in 1482. The English followed in 1482; but it was not until 1631 that they gained some foothold on the Coast. Besides these two nations, the Dutch in 1595, the Swedes in 1645, the Danes in 1657, and the Brandenburgers in 1682 had all had transactions with the country. Hence, in Copenhagen, the records relating to Ghana cover the period 1671-1859; in Stockholm 1652-1718; in The Hague 1634-1872; and in London from 1660. In the case of Portugal it has not been possible for the Chief Archivist of the Royal Archives to supply any lists; but it is understood that the records in Lisbon relating to Ghana go back to 1504. Then there are the records of the various Missionary Societies that operated in Ghana in the 18th and 19th centuries, and helped to shape the country's destiny, namely, the Moravian Missionary Society from 1736; the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel from 1752; the Basel Missionary Society from 1835; and the Bremen Missionary Society from 1854. As so much importance is attached to this material in the study of the history of Ghana, it has been decided to ascertain the extent of this material, to microfilm them and to prepare guides to them.

Although these overseas archives represent no small break in the records assembled here, the records assembled in the National Archives during the second phase of its development have been considerable. These have been classified into more than 250 record groups, and have all been acquired from one source, i.e. the Administration. A summary of these records includes Letter Books of the African Company of Merchants covering the period 1775-1820; original correspondence comprising Despatches to and from the Secretary of State for the Colonies dating

from 1843; Duplicate Letter Books from 1844; Minute Papers from 1849; and the records (including Court Record Books dating from 1840) of the various District Offices and Regional Administration Headquarters scattered over the length and breadth of the country. Of the Legislative and Executive Council record groups, suffice it to mention that the first Minute Book of the Legislative Council which was constituted by Letters Patent on 30 April, 1850, is extant. The very important records of the office of the Secretary for Native Affairs, which is now defunct, also exist. Then there are the various Ordinances enacted from 1843; Blue Books of Statistics and Trade from 1850; Government Gazettes from 1872; Maps and Plans from 1650; and printed copies of the Treaties concluded between European Powers and native rulers from as far back as 1642.

But no archives office will be worth its name if its holdings consist entirely of records of the central government. Hence the National Archives launched a country-wide appeal to owners of private archives to come forward and deposit their papers with the Archivist. It is gratifying to mention that despite practical difficulties, such as suspicion, considerable progress has been made in the acquisition of the private archives of well-known personalities of Ghana, who figured in the 19th century. These include the papers of James Bannerman (1790-1858), a mulatto of Scottish and African descent, who was a founder and official member of the Legislative Council when it met in 1850, and who acted as Governor from December 1850 to October 1851, and of George Blankson (1809-98), the first full-blooded African unofficial member of the Legislative Council in 1861.

In the technical sphere, facilities for the rehabilitation of records and for the reproduction of records required by searchers were provided as part of the function of the National Archives of Ghana in May 1952 and June 1955, respectively. Considerable progress has been made in the work of rehabilitation, and the Photographic Laboratory has proved to be the number one revenue earner for the Department.

All this development has taken place in spite of the fact that the archives are housed in temporary premises where storage conditions are not ideal. To improve upon these conditions Biddle Dehumidifiers have been installed, and the results of the experiment are very encouraging. In this matter of accommodation too, the second phase in the development of archives in Ghana has an achievement to record; for it saw the acquisition of a site for the proposed permanent building of the National Archives of Ghana for which financial provision is being made in the Government's Second Development Plan.

In November 1955 the Public Archives Ordinance was passed and

the National Archives of Ghana entered into the third stage of its development. And not only did the Ordinance consolidate and regularize what had so far been achieved, but it also made the National Archives of Ghana the central depository of all public records of the Government which have enduring or permanent value. Besides, it crystallized the public awareness of the usefulness and value of archives for literary purposes. Unlike the practice in some other countries the Ordinance provides for the appointment of a permanent Committee on Public Archives (consisting of the Archivist as Chairman, three other persons to represent the Attorney General, the Auditor General and the senate of the University College of Ghana, and two other persons appointed by the Minister of the Interior, whose portfolio includes the National Archives) to consider Disposal Schedules of public archives submitted to it and to make orders for their destruction, temporary or permanent retention, transfer to the National Archives, or other disposition. These include public archives which are at least fifteen years old and are no longer required for official purposes.

It is therefore proposed, in order to avoid congestion at the central depository at Accra, to establish record centres in each of the five administrative regions of the country. The first of such centres will be built at Kumasi, headquarters of the Ashanti Region. These record centres, apart from relieving congestion, will provide storage space for disposable public records which are to be destroyed at some definite time in the future and will then eliminate their uncontrolled storage in unsuitable departmental store-room. In other words, they will afford adequate protection to these records while awaiting transfer to the National Archives at Accra for permanent preservation or destruction as the case may be.

There is no doubt that the years that lie ahead are full of promise for the public archives in Ghana, for the foundations have been laid, and, if funds are forthcoming, the National Archives of Ghana can provide a service directed primarily towards preservation of records and secondarily towards promotion of historical research.

J. M. AKITA

CORRESPONDENCE OF HENRY RUSSELL WITH MAJOR
ROBERT PITMAN COMMANDING THE BERAR
DIVISION OF THE NIZAM'S ARMY

- (1) *Henry Russell to Major Robert Pitman, Commanding His Highness the Nizam's Regular and Reformed Troops north of the Godavery. Hyderabad, 4 February, 1819.*

[Congratulates him on the result of the operations against the Fort of Nowah.]

- (2) *Henry Russell to Robert Pitman. Hyderabad, 22 March, 1819.*

[Conveys the congratulations of the Governor General and Council on the capture of the Fort of Nowah.]

- (3) *Henry Russell to Robert Pitman. Hyderabad, 5 April, 1819.*

[Notes with satisfaction that his troops have restored order in a part of the Nizam's territories where there have been rebellions for the past twenty years.]

- (4) *Henry Russell to Robert Pitman. Hyderabad, 1 December, 1820.*

"Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you, that I have this day delivered over charge of the Residency to Mr. Metcalfe.

I have always considered the formation of the Nizam's Establishment of regular Troops as a Measure of great advantage to our publick Interests; and I cannot look back to the Services they have performed, without recognising how large a Portion of their efficiency and Success they owe to your personal Exertions and Example. Your claim to distinction on this account has already been acknowledged by the highest Authority; but you will not therefore be insensible to a humbler though not less cordial Testimony, in which my Duty as a publick Officer is blended with my attachment as a private Friend.

I beg the favour of you, to convey to all the officers, and men of your Division my cordial Thanks for their Zeal, Activity, and Exertions; and my earnest wishes for their welfare and Prosperity.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant
H. Russell
Resd."

- (5) *Memorandum, December, 1820. Handed to Colonel Pitman by Henry Russell before he embarked for England from Masulipatam.*

"Some time in the latter End of 1811 Mr. S. H. Russell Known at Hyderabad by the name of the Engineer who was then living with me at the Residency communicated to me for my Opinion and Advice a Proposal he had received from Mr. Palmer suggesting a Method in which he might lay out his Money to Advantage. It consisted principally, indeed as far as I recollect entirely, in the discounting of good Native Bills. The Plan had no Reference to any Species of Traffick in our own Govt. Bills and if as I have heard it alleged the Engineer made any of his Money in such a Traffick it must have been before my Appointment to the Residency. Mr. Palmer's Proposal did not embrace the Formation of any thing like a regular House of Business and the Project in the Shape which it then wore appearing to be perfectly unobjectionable I advised the Engineer to embrace it. As he had previously with the Intention of going Home himself, committed the whole of his own Money to England I lent him some of my Money I think about a Lack but I do not actually remember the first Amount to set out with. He was to pay me as soon as he could draw upon his own Funds and he promised still to keep charge of my Money and employ it for my Advantage under Circumstances in which I conceive one Friend was perfectly at Liberty to avail himself of the Services of another, This he accordingly did Keeping a separate Account with me of the Accumulation of my Portion and in the Course of a few Months after he had repaid my Advance to him, one Half of the Money which was then in his Hands belonged to him and the other half to me. Early in 1813 I transferred to Mr. Palmer on Loan a Part of my Money in the Engineer's Charge for which he gave me his Note of Hand bearing Interest at 12 per Cent. In Progress of Time however the original Project gradually increased in its Extent until it had entirely changed its Form and Character and in the latter End of 1813 a Discussion having arisen out of an Arbitration which had been referred to Mr. Palmer I told the Engineer that it appeared to me their Transactions had by imperceptible Degrees grown into what was in fact a regular Commercial Establishment in which it was improper for me to have any Concern and in which I never could have put myself in the Way [of] any Concern if I could have anticipated that such would ever be the Case. I therefore withdrew my Money out of the Engineer's Hands although the repayment was not completed for a considerable time afterwards. Mr. Palmer did not complete the Repayment of my Loan to him until the Year 1815. The Commercial House of Palmer and Co. as it now exists at Hyderabad was first established I believe about August 1814 several Months after

feeling for them beyond that of general kindness and civility. Lamb proposed lately that a Native Address to you should be got up in the City, Palmer thinking it would be signed by all the principal people. This would have been very desirable had it originated with the Natives themselves, but as M. and all here would have considered it as the act of the house, I thought it best that nothing of the kind should be done.

We have heard no more about the Treaty, but imagine final instructions will soon arrive. The first time Sotheby was sent to the Minister the wish of our Govt. to have the 16 lacks was intimated and agreed to without any resistance, as you and I expected would be the case. It is however put by your Successor in such a manner to our Govt. that after all his Lordship may find himself unable to take it, and from all I could gather from M. on the subject, the terms of the Treaty are likely to be more favourable to the Nizam than you expected. The Nizam is said to be in high good humour with Metcalfe and with Chandu Loll; and no intrigue on the part of Mooneer ool Moolk has yet reached the new Resident. All the people of the City I am told regret your departure and have a great dread of Metcalfe, from a motive generally prevalent that he hates natives and keeps as much aloof [from] them as he can. They are right in their conjectures, but when they know more of him they will I am sure like him better than they do at present. The question of the Delhi Residency has not yet been settled. If Monckton goes home, it will certainly be offered to Metcalfe, but I have no idea he would accept it, altho' to refuse his old home would annoy him a great deal. He talks of setting to at once to make a regular settlement of the Country on the village system I believe established in the Delhi Districts, and if he can bring this about, we may yet live to see the Nizam's Country better regulated and more flourishing than even that of the Company.

I have now I believe touched on all the subjects most interesting to you, but will keep my letter open a few days, to add anything else that may occur to me.

3d. February

On the day on which you left Masulipatan I wrote as you desired to Brownrigg and thinking he would like to hear the particulars of the affair of the two robbers, I sent him a brief sketch of it taken from the Statement you sent to Mr. Orme, but not so full and explanatory. I have just received a letter in reply in which B. mentions that the decision of Govt. in your favour was not unanimous and that Dowdeswell entered a Minute against it. It is likely therefore that his view of the subject has been

adopted by the Court, and as with all the papers before it, your removal only has been ordered, it is to be inferred that nothing more is intended. In this case all that will probably be necessary for you to do, will be to state to the Court the motives by which you were actuated and shew the injustice of their proceeding. But on this point your father and friends at home will be the most competent judges. I had almost forgotten to mention that your recall is not generally known at Hyderabad. The Holroyds, Dovetons, Metcalfe and the Members of Palmer's house are of course unacquainted with it.

As I do not feel that I can do any good by remaining here any longer, I intend to return to Aurungabad in a few days. I shall no doubt sometimes hear from Metcalfe of the progress of affairs at Hyderabad. You must therefore look to Holroyd for all the Residency politicks. . ."

(7) *Robert Pitman to Henry Russell. Aurungabad, 18 April, 1821.*

". . . The Minister is I fear playing a foolish game and if he does not mind what he is about, he may find out his error, when it is too late. He will however have only himself to blame, for I am sure you warned him strongly enough to act as he ought to do. Holroyd seems to think the house has more to say to him than ever and that he is now throwing obstacles in the way of reform at their instigation. There is some notion of getting our Govt. to sanction a loan on more favourable terms for Chundoo Loll, to enable him to pay off at once that from the house. This must necessarily give umbrage to the Firm, but whilst Ld. Hastings is at the head of affairs, I think they may rest satisfied that their interests will not easily be set aside. If indeed as is probable the Court of Directors take up the business I should not be surprised to hear of his Lordship's recall and this would be a death blow to the establishment. . ."

(8) *Robert Pitman to Henry Russell. Aurungabad, 19 July, 1821.*

". . . Metcalfe in speaking of Chundoo Loll said he found him continually, in an underhand manner, endeavouring to counteract measures of which he outwardly expressed his approbation. This M. observed would make no alteration in his conduct towards him, as he considered he had, with all his faults, some claim to our support. But said he I know he will go [on] in this manner, and I shall go on in my own way, thus counteracting each other, till I find any serious impediment on his part, when he must take the consequences. . ."

(9) *Robert Pitman to Henry Russell. Aurungabad, 15 August, 1821.*

". . . Sir John Malcolm took his departure on the 5th Inst. I suspect

one of his objects in coming here was to persuade Metcalfe to succeed him in Malwa, but if so, he has entirely failed. Some how or other he seems to have convinced Government, that it is of the utmost importance to carry on matters in Malwa according to the plan he has laid down and it would have been most gratifying to his vanity, as well as given some colour to his statements, to have got such a man as M. appointed his successor. Metcalfe himself had some fear that Ld. Hastings might propose to remove him there, but was fully determined not to go, and a few days back he told me he had ascertained that there were now no thoughts of sending him from us. If therefore, his health continues as good as it has hitherto been, he will probably remain at Hyderabad some years. He does not like the situation of the Residency and if he expected to be stationary, would build a house a few miles distant from it, but he finds he is doing so much good by moving about the country, that he is inclined to continue that mode of life, in preference to remaining at one place. . . In a former letter I mentioned that Ld. H's favourite object of the 16 Lacks for improving Calcutta had been obtained and made a part of the new Treaty, but just as it reached Calcutta an Order from the Court of Directors arrived putting an entire stop to all his Lordship's fine plans of Cathedrals etc. etc. . ."

(10) *Robert Pitman to Henry Russell. Aurungabad, 17 September, 1821.*

"... Metcalfe is still here and nothing particular has occurred since my last, excepting a report that the proposed loan to pay off the debts of the Nizam's Government is likely after all to be sanctioned by Ld. H. It is said that he is very angry with the house for concealing from him the bonus of eight Lacks which they got from Chundoo Loll when their loan of sixty Lacks was negotiated, and he may perhaps be fearful that all the world may not give him credit for mere ignorance on such an occasion. Indeed the whole transaction the more I hear of it the more I abominate the men who could thus deceive their best friends into the act of supporting and sanctioning so foul a job. I always understood that the Minister was not to pay more than 18 Pr. Cent. for the 60 Lacks and that the great object of the house was to get their old debt secured to them by the sanction of our Government. Even this was considered by many, more than they had any right to expect, and if Ld. H. had not been at the head of the Govt. the intrigue which brought about this Loan could never have been attempted. Not satisfied with such an advantage, their private agreement with the Minister, which seems to have been kept secret from both Ld. H. and yourself, allows the house not only to place their old debt of 30 Lacks upon the new loan, but also a bonus of 8 Lacks so that

they had only 22 Lacks to pay to complete the loan of 60 Lacks, for which they were to receive 18 Pr. Cent. Pr. Annum under sanction of our Government!!! The wretch of a Minister who could consent to give 30 lacks of the publick money to receive only 22 lacks is nearly as much to blame as the Jews who could have the conscience to demand so enormous a sacrifice, and I think it not unlikely that this single transaction may eventually cause his removal from power, as well as the destruction of the house that led him into this error. Not content with leaving the 8 lacks on their books as part of the Minister's Debt to the House I hear these worthies have actually raised that sum upon it and divided it among the partners. I am no longer surprised at the eagerness with which the measure was carried through all its stages at the evident risk (as I then thought) of the House itself, since each partner was immediately to pocket at least twenty thousand pounds sterling, and to get their old debt, which in all probability had accumulated by means equally nefarious, firmly secured to them. Thank God, my good friend, that you have got away from these people, and if Ld. H. acts up to what I think he ought to do on this occasion, by ordering the 8 lacks to be struck off the Debt of the Minister, they may yet find that they have overreached themselves. . ."

(11) *Henry Russell to Lt. Col. Pitman. Paris, 8 April, 1822.*

"... I am just as much surprised as you can have been at the terms of the Hyderabad Loan. Your letter contains the first, and only information that ever reached me on the subject. The public papers which passed through me did not describe the terms; and I was unwilling to know privately anything more than I was to know and use officially. From all that I did know, I inferred that the rate of interest was to be the same as that on all former advances made by the House, under the original sanction given by Government to their transactions. I heard that there was to be a Bonus, as there is in Loans negotiated by Government in England, but I did not hear to what extent, and I understood it was to be in part payment of the interest for the purpose of making an ostensible reduction of the rate. I had no conception that the actual charge to the Minister, including the Bonus, was to exceed the usual scale on the whole transaction; the impression of my mind being that the advantage of the House consisted in the security derived by them from the sanction of Government, and an improvement in the method of renting the districts, on which their assignments were to be granted. So firm indeed was my conviction on this point, that when I objected, as you know I did, in the first instance, to forward the proposal to Government, my objection arose, not from any doubt of the terms of the new loan being similar to those

of all previous transactions, but from a belief that Government would not consent to give the Sanction which was required of them. This objection was communicated to Lord Hastings; and it was by his desire to have the papers submitted to Government, that I ultimately forwarded them. I regarded a written intimation from the Governor General in the same light as an official order, and I conceived that the granting or refusing the sanction was a point for his, and not for my decision. . ."

(12) *Robert Pitman to Henry Russell. Cape of Good Hope, 28 February, 1823.*

[Brownrigg and his wife have arrived. They have been discussing the transactions at Hyderabad.]

"... Brownrigg will tell you the particulars of M's battles with Ld. H. about affairs at Hyderabad, but there is one point with which you should be made acquainted without any delay. In the discussion regarding the Hydd. Loan an impression seems to have arisen in the mind of Metcalfe that "the House" had been at all times supported, more by the influence of the Residency than by its Mercantile concerns and that without such influence it never could have attained its present power and consequence. In his confidential correspondence with Adam, Metcalfe stated the grounds of his belief of this influence and thus your name was brought in as having had some interest in the concern, and those of Sotheby and Currie as actual Partners. When the dispute was at the highest between M. and Ld. H., Adam in vindication of M's conduct regarding the House, shewed the above communication in confidence to his Lordship and the latter the first opportunity that occurred asked Sotheby if it was true that he had been a Partner and being answered in the affirmative he said "I am glad Sir you did not deny it" and dismissed him without any further remark. When Brownrigg mentioned to me this circumstance I was as much annoyed as he says he was himself when he first heard it. He it seems wrote to Metcalfe strongly calling in question the necessity and propriety of his having made such a communication, and I told M. I had a paper in my possession which would prove M. wrong in point of fact. The paper however which you may recollect you wrote for me on our way to Masulipatam, on being read by M., confirmed him in the opinion that you had an interest in the early part of the concern and this he said would be the opinion of all important persons who read that paper. Talking over the arguments on both sides I cannot help thinking he is right, for however inclined we may be to give due credit to your motives in lending the Sum you did to the Engineer, yet the share this gave you for the time in the profits arising from the concern, would in the opinion

of Mercantile men make you virtually a Partner in it. I therefore by Brownrigg's advice shall not shew the paper to any one but to Metcalfe when we meet, who from not knowing the real state of the case may have a notion that your interest in the early part of the concern was greater than it really was... Ld. H. arrived here on the 21st Inst. and will sail again, as I am told, for Gibraltar tomorrow. Having no wish to see him I have declined an invitation to dine at the Govt. House under plea of ill health. B. however who was anxious to learn how matters had been finally settled between him and Metcalfe will tell you of a conversation he had with his Lordship which will amuse you very much. He is outrageous against M. Says he has written to the Chairman of the Court of Directors deprecating M's measures at Hydd. which he says were in opposition to his instructions and at variance with the policy we ought to adopt towards the Nizam. In short had his power been independent of the Council he no doubt would have removed M. from Hydd. and have given the management of the Country into the hands of Chundoo Loll and the House. And all this is after his violent abuse of Chundoo Loll in his parting Letter to you. So much for the uprightness and consistency of this highly extolled Political character!! At the moment he was running on in this violent manner to B. he was taking credit to himself with Low (the Agent with Bajee Row) for liberality in having advanced the Nizam a Crore of Rupees at 6 Pr. Cent. or in other words to support the very measures of Metcalfe which most annoyed him. I conclude therefore that M. has carried his point and got our Govt. to pay off W. P's loan, altho' I have heard nothing of it from Brownrigg. . ."

(13) *Henry Russell to Lt. Col. Pitman. 24 July, 1823.*

"... It was not until after I had seen Brownrigg that I received your letter, describing the conversation you had had with him. By what I wrote to you before, you will have seen that I was aware of some disclosure having been made respecting the persons who had been connected with Palmer's house; although I did not at all know, until I heard the particulars from Brownrigg, what the Nature of the disclosure was, or under what circumstances it had taken place. I am not disposed to find any fault with the step taken by Metcalfe, be the Consequence to me what they may. Not only he was justified in doing, but it was his duty to do, whatever he thought the public service required. I differ from him however in Opinion as to the ground on which he acted. It appears to have been his object to shew that the house derived its power and Consequence, not from its mercantile Concerns, but from the influence of the Residency. To my Conviction, the house did not derive its weight from either, but

from the support it was known to receive from Lord Hastings, and from a persuasion in the mind of the Minister, that the house answered the purpose of advocating his political interests with the head of our Government. Not only did the house rise to the position, from which Metcalfe thought it necessary to reduce it, without any assistance from me, but it rose in spite of my positive and notorious opposition. One of my first acts at Hyderabad, before I had had charge of the Residency a week, was to prohibit Palmer from holding any Communication with the Minister, except upon points arising out of the military employment then held by him; and this prohibition was made known to the Minister at the time. When I placed my Money in the Engineer's hands, I considered that he was to employ it for me, as one private friend does for another. I did not contemplate the formation of any house at all, much less of one that was to grow into any power or influence, and you, as well as everybody that knows me well, will I think be satisfied, that my consenting so to place my Money with him, was the best proof that I did not think there was any thing wrong in the transaction as it then stood. If a Resident at Hyderabad wanted to make Money, and was not scrupulous as to the means of making it, he need hardly have recourse to the establishment of a house of business, or to the assistance of persons in the situation of Palmer or the Engineer. And when I afterwards saw to what their Concerns were tending, and resolved to draw my Money, as from a transaction in which it had become improper for me to participate my doing it in so abrupt and peremptory a manner as I did, occasioned a breach not only between me and Palmer, but also between me and the Engineer, with whom I had for years been in habits of the strictest intimacy. The Engineer quitted India in open hostility with me, and Palmer and I held no personal Interchange with one another. Our breach was a Matter of general Notoriety, and was as well known to the Minister as to every body else. The Minister frequently spoke of it to me, and could not possibly have imagined that the support of my influence was in any degree enjoyed by a Man whom he knew to be at enmity with me. So far also was Palmer himself from supposing that he derived any influence from me, that he was in the habit of complaining openly of my counteraction, and of the danger he professed to think he was in of being ruined by me. His letters to John Palmer, I understood, were full of Complaints of the Opposition he had to struggle against; and it was to counterbalance that opposition, and to obtain a support which would be not only independent of my influence, but Superior to it, that when Palmer first entered on the regular establishment of a house in 1814, Sir W. Rumbold was procured to join him. The political weight of the house, and in fact its whole power of

every description, were derived solely and exclusively from Sir W. Rumbold's Connexion with Lord Hastings. I had nothing to do with the origin or progress of its power. I was thought indeed to regard it with a jealous eye, as possessing an influence above my reach; and for some time a Notion prevailed as I understand has since been the Case in Metcalfe's time, that Lord Hastings might possibly be prevailed upon by the influence of the house to remove me from the Residency. Under these Circumstances, how can it possibly be alleged that the house derived any portion of its weight or consequence from me? The mischief however is, that people in viewing the Subject now, will view it only in its present Shape, and without any reference to past Circumstances. Dissimilar as the two Cases are, it will be assumed, that because I once had Money in Palmer's hands, I was therefore party to all his Subsequent transactions; and by my Connexion with the Engineer, unlike as it was in its original Character to all that has since occurred, I shall be regarded as the founder and supporter of an establishment, of which I never would have contemplated the growth, and which, if I possibly could have foreseen what it was to become, I certainly should have suppressed in its origin. Lord Hastings is now in England. What reception he has met with from the Directors I have not heard; but although it may have been outwardly civil, it cannot have had any real cordiality in it. The Directors are seldom on good terms with the Governors who leave their Service; however kindly they may meet at the origin of their Connexion, they rarely part friends at the close of it; and I suspect that Lord Hastings is quite as much in their ill graces as any of his predecessors. To his Measures at Hyderabad the worst motives are imputed, and there has been a vague talk of even impeaching him, on the alleged ground of his having either had a share in the house, or received Money from it. Both these suspicions, must, I am satisfied, be utterly confounded, though I heard a few days ago that a Sum of two Lacs of Rupees was charged to the Minister in his account with the house, of the appropriation of which Palmer had declined to state the particulars. It is probable that this money will be suspected, by people who are ready to suspect anything, of having been given to Lord H., and if Mr. Stuart were still in Council, he would probably do me the honour of supposing that a part of it, at least, had found its way into my pocket. I am looking anxiously for further Accounts, and particularly to hear from you after your return to India, on the Subject of Hyderabad affairs generally. Any thing that may transpire here I shall of course communicate to you without delay; although it is very difficult to ascertain the real truth of what is going on at the India House, or with the Board of Controul. . ."

(14) *Robert Pitman to Henry Russell. Cape Town, 15 May, 1824.*

"... Whatever may have been the opinion formed by those who judge merely from rumour and report, it must be evident to all who have had proper means of estimating the question, that the support given to the house by Lord Hastings, was of itself quite sufficient, to extend its influence to the utmost, without any assistance from the Resident or any other person. And however desirous his Lordship may be, to throw from his own shoulders on those of the Resident, the odium of having induced the Bengal Government to sanction the Hyderabad Loan, which seems now to be reprobated by everybody, it is to be hoped he will entirely fail; and that the blame on account of it, may attach to him with whom the measure originated and by the exertion of whose influence alone it was carried into effect. I perceive in a late English paper a Debate at the India House, in which some reference was made to Ld. H's connexion with the Hyd. Firm. The Chairman seems to have evaded the question put to him by one of the Proprietors, but Mr. Elphinstone spoke warmly in his Lordship's defence. Whatever may be the ultimate decision of the Court, the mere agitation of such a calumny, cannot fail materially to injure Lord H. in the minds of the generality of people, and it perhaps may be the means of preventing any additional grant to him. Sooner or later therefore he will have cause to regret, the blindness and weakness, which permitted him, to become a tool in the hands of the Firm. . ."

(15) *Henry Russell to Robert Pitman. Worthing, 26 July, 1824.*

"... You will have seen in the papers the debates that took place at the India House about Lord Hastings and Palmer's house. All the correspondence is to be printed. That respecting Hyderabad alone will fill a folio Volume of 800 pages. The papers relative to the Nipaul and Pindarry Wars and to Finance are to be in separate Volumes. They have been in the press since the beginning of March. Some additional papers have lately been moved for respecting our measures at Lucknow and the discussions which took place in Council in the early years of Lord Hastings' administration on the general condition of our interests in India. These papers or the greater number of them are with the Secret Committee and it rests therefore with the Board of Controul to grant or withhold them. If they are granted it will still be some months before the whole Collection which will then probably consist of four or five folio Volumes can be ready for publication. If they are withheld as they probably will be the Board of Controul being anxious to narrow the ground of public discussion as much as they can the papers which were formerly voted will probably

appear in the course of a month. Indian subjects in general excite but little interest in England and these papers are so voluminous that few persons I apprehend beyond those connected with India will take the trouble to read them. As they will come out however when Parliament is not sitting and the Editors are at a loss for matter to fill their columns they will probably feed the public appetite for slander by selecting and inserting in their daily papers those passages which contain the strongest personal invective and I do not know whether you will be surprised or not to hear that most of those passages are to be found in Metcalfe's dispatches respecting me and Charles. Men of liberal minds are generally reluctant to build up their own fame by destroying that of their predecessors and I do not think that many are to be found who would have acted as Metcalfe has done. If he had found it to be his duty voluntarily to come forward as my accuser or if he had been driven to that office by the commands of his Superiors it was undoubtedly competent to him to do so but even then he should have been sure that what he alleged was true and he should have advanced his allegations in an open manly way. He should not have stabbed me in the dark and behind my back. He should either directly from himself or through some common friend have told me what he had done. But the thing he has done is not more ungenerous and illiberal in its self than the way in which he has done it is base and treacherous. He first writes what he calls a confidential letter to Adam to be communicated to the Gov. Gen. in which he alleges that I had been a partner in the house and that it had derived all its influence from me; but when he finds that Adam like a man of honor preserves the confidence that has been imposed upon him and that no public use is made of his accusation, he introduces the subject into his public Dispatches insinuating charges against persons who are absent but treacherously expressing a hope that he shall not be called upon to explain what he means. In this manner he compels the Govt. to call upon him for an explanation and then with the basest cant and hypocrisy he whines out his grief at being obliged to slur my reputation calling me in the same breath his friend and connexion endeared by recent calamity: he says that he cannot prove what he asserts having derived his information from the 'carelessness or confidence of friendly intercourse,' and he then goes on charging me in the most virulent and exaggerated terms besmearing me at the same time with his loathsome and disgusting praise and of Charles he roundly affirms that he was a partner in the house and continued so until the days of his leaving India. This as you know is *totally false* and in such a case it is not enough for a man who comes forward publicly to accuse another to say that he did not know the accusations to be false; to vindicate himself

Knowing the many excellent qualities of both my friends, I was in hopes that time and explanation would bring you to a proper understanding but after all that has passed on the subject of your differences in India as well as in England I begin to despair of so desirable result. Still it is a duty I owe you both to assure you that Russell's notions of the transactions of W. P. and Co. and of the character of Chundoo Loll have never varied. In the frequent conversations I had with him long before you went to Hyderabad he always spoke of them in the way he has done in his speech and letter, and altho' his opinion differs from yours and my own, and may be erroneous he is at all events entitled to the credit of consistency, and to the belief that he has acted upon a principle which he considers right'. . ."

C. COLLIN DAVIES

A PEEP INTO THE DARBHANGA RAJ ARCHIVES

AS a member of the Bihar State Regional Records Survey Committee I visited the Darbhanga Raj Records Office sometime ago with a view to making a preliminary survey of the records there. Since it is a repository of a continuous series of official and semi-official records relating to a famous and illustrious house, whose beginnings go back to the early Mughal period, its value to the historian of North Bihar is obvious and hardly needs any elaboration. These records, in English and Persian, are kept in two separate rooms. The series of English records begins from 1860, the year in which the Raj came under the Court of Wards and English was introduced as the official language of the estate. Prior to that year the records were maintained in Persian. The English records are more scientifically arranged and are in a better state of preservation.

Persian Records

The Persian records were, at one time, all heaped up in a corner of the Anandbagh Palace. It was in 1932 that steps were taken for their reorganisation and better preservation. They are at present kept in the main building of the Raj Secretariat, and are arranged *pargana*-wise. Miscellaneous records are kept under the head "Goswara". A descriptive list of these records is under preparation in Kaithi script. Among the Persian records there is a large number of *farmans* and *sanads* of Mughal emperors (from Akbar onward) and *subadars* of Bihar making grants of different kinds to the ancestors of the present family. These documents give us new and important information regarding the origin and development of the Raj, its exact constitutional position *vis-a-vis* the Central Government. They also furnish information about the various local officers and personalities of Bihar during the Mughal period.

The earliest extant *farman* is that of Akbar, dated 983 A.H. (1575-76 A.D.), in the name of Gopal Thakur, son of M. M. Mahesh Thakur, the founder of the family.¹ It says that "Achyuta Thakur, brother of Gopal Das (Thakur) came to the emperor's Court and was granted an audience; that *kanungoshi* and *chaudhriship* of the entire *sarkar* Tirhut is entrusted to Gopal Thakur who has ever been making excellent endeavours for the existence of the imperial state . . . and prosperity of the ryots, and that Gopal Thakur is not willing to continue to assume the dignity without the royal confirmation. The emperor therefore issues

¹ The original *farman* of Akbar in the name of M. M. Mahesh Thakur is not available in the Raj Record Room, but its contents are referred to in a *mahzarnama* of Sundar Thakur, dated 1066 A.H. (1655-56 A.D.).

he must be able to prove that it is true. Metcalfe appears to me to have had three objects in view ; first he wanted to show that every thing which had been done before he came to Hyderabad was wrong and that the merit of setting it all right was reserved for him alone ; secondly, he wanted to get rid of every body who stood in the way of his [success?]; and, thirdly, he wanted to satisfy his hatred of the house, Ld. Hastings and Chundoo Loll. In pursuit of his first object he does not confine himself to me. Everything that had been done by any body before he set to work was wrong. . . Who were the friends of whose carelessness he is not ashamed to avow that he took advantage and whose confidence he violated in the allegations he has made against me he does not state. Is it possible that he can allude to the conversation you wrote me word you had had with him on Your return to Hyderabad after leaving me at Masulipatam? The first thing to be done for his second purpose, was to remove Sotheby. He had heard somewhere that the deed of release from the house to Currie had been signed by Sotheby as a partner, and that the deed was in Holroyd's possession. But how to get sight of it was the question. To effect this, Barnett calls on Holroyd, and fictitiously introduces a conversation about Currie's leaving the house, mentioning, as the time of his having done so, what he knew was not the right time. Holroyd mentions the right time, which Barnett pretends to deny, until Holroyd, to settle the dispute, goes to his Table, like a dupe and fool as he was, and takes out the deed to see the date. While he is doing this, Barnett looks over his shoulder, and seeing Sotheby's Signature with his own eyes, his end was of course attained. And of this information, procured by these means of unparalleled baseness Metcalfe is not ashamed to make a public use. Sotheby of course is got rid of ; but Ld. Hastings having appointed O'Brien to succeed him, he also must be put out of the way. This, with Adam's assistance, is accomplished. . . As to the third point, Metcalfe set out full of promise for the house: much good, he says, had been effected by their loan ; their enterprise was calculated to be beneficial to the Nizam's Govt. and Country ; and there was nothing in their proceedings requiring restraint. By degrees, however he gets angry with them ; he quarrels with Lord Hastings because his projects are not instantly adopted, and with Chundoo Loll because he does not in every instance do implicitly what he is bid ; and then, when Chundoo Loll's complaint against him has been forwarded to Lord Hastings, he becomes outrageous. The atmosphere then is tainted, he says, with the unnatural influence of the house ; lying, cheating, and thieving are roundly charged against them ; and he coolly requests that Choundoo Loll may be satisfied, whether the Rest. or the house is the real representative of the British Govt. Charles

and I are preparing to vindicate ourselves in a letter to the C. of Directors, which we shall publish as soon as the printed papers are out. It will, I hope, be temporate . . . and I am satisfied, that with every dispassionate person who reads it, it will effectually clear our character from every stain of moral turpitude. What I have done I am always ready openly to avow and maintain ; and no violation can be alleged against me, beyond that of technical and arbitrary rule. I now discover from these papers, why it was that you asked me whether I knew of there being any bonus in the loan. While the house and the Minister were preparing the terms, I understood that a bonus was proposed ; but I never knew or suspected that there was to be any bonus or compensation of any kind in the shape of deduction from the 60 lacs. The whole compensation to the house, of every description, I concluded was comprehended in the six annual payments of *sixteen* lacs each. I never calculated what rate of interest those payments would give, but I took it for granted that it would be somewhere about 18 per Cent., the ordinary rate charged by the house. A previous debt of 20 odd lacs I knew was to be included, but I conceived that the remaining 30 odd lacs were to be paid in Cash by the House to the Minister. I now find that the bonus consisted of 8 Lacs to be deducted from the nominal Amount of 60, and that it is alleged that the whole of the remaining 52 lacs was made up by a transfer of old balances. If these allegations be true, it is, I hope, quite unnecessary for me to assure you, that they were both of them not only utterly unknown but utterly unsuspected by me. This declaration I shall of course make in the letter which I am going to print ; but what I write confidentially to you, you will see the necessity of not incautiously repeating. One must be upon one's Guard with a man, like Sir C. Metcalfe, who is not ashamed to avow, when he has an end to compass, he is equally ready to take advantage of the carelessness, and to violate the confidence of private friendship . . ."

(16) *Colonel Pitman to Henry Russell. Paris, 4 March, 1826.*

" . . . I have received a letter from Metcalfe dated so far back as the 25 July, but written after he had read your speech and letter. He says 'they are both highly talented productions, as anything from him will always be' but, as was to be expected, he disapproves of your defence of Chundoo Loll and the house and writes under feelings of increased irritation. It distresses me to add that he considers the alienation between him and you to be 'for the rest of your lives'. My reply was briefly as follows: 'I lament exceedingly the alteration that has taken place in your views regarding Russell. Would to God that I could induce you to think differently, but that is not to be expected thro' the medium of a letter.

this imperial mandate which, he says, is as irresistible as Destiny and commands that the *kanungoshi* and the *chaudhriship* of the entire *sarkar* Tirhut be, according to the usage, entrusted to Gopal Thakur who will, it is expected from his loyalty and good administration, try for the preservation of the imperial state and render the life and person of the ryots and cultivators safe and comfortable so that the country may become populous and the tenants be grateful, and that Gopal Thakur shall realise from the ryots the *rasum* of *kanungoshi* and *chaudhriship* at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ *tanka* per *bigha* and 1 *tanka* per *bigha* respectively (total $1\frac{1}{4}$ *tankas* per *bigha*) for the management of these affairs and for his private subsistence. The emperor further enjoins upon all the inhabitants of the *sarkar* to obey Gopal Thakur's orders in all matters relating to the well-being of the ryots and to consider him as absolute in his authority, being equalled by none.

This *farman* is issued in the presence of state ministers and friends of Akbar: Mubarizuddin, Khan Jahan, Qazi Nizamuddin and Raja Bhagwan Das of Jaipur."

The second important *farman* is that of Aurangzeb, dated 9 *Julus* (1666-67 A.D.), making an extensive grant of the *zamindari* of 107 *parganas* in Bihar and Bengal to Mahinath Thakur and his brother Narpatt Thakur as a reward for meritorious services rendered by them in reducing the chiefs of Palamau and Morang. The two brothers were at the same time appointed *Kanungo* and *Muqaddam* of *sarkar* Tirhut. This *farman* mentions, in detail, the duties and functions of *Kanungos* and their perquisites, etc.

Yet another interesting *farman* is that of Shah Alam II, issued in the 42nd year of his reign. It confirms on Raja Madhava Singh the ancient hereditary grant of *sarkar* Tirhut and *pargana* Dharampur of *sarkar* Monghyr. We know that Raja Madhava Singh had refused, in the beginning, to agree to a permanent settlement of his *zamindari* on the terms and conditions of the Company's Government. Finding the attitude of the Company's Government not favourable he made a petition to the Mughal emperor at Delhi for the confirmation of his hereditary *zamindari*. This petition was received and entered in the imperial office on the 22nd March, 1800. The *farman* confirming the *zamindari* was dispatched to the Raja on the 10th April, 1800. But before it was received by him, the Company had succeeded in compelling him to make a formal application for the permanent settlement of a part of his *zamindari* in *sarkar* Tirhut on the 7th April, 1800, and on that very date the Company issued an *amal-dastak* settling certain villages permanently upon the Raja.

There is also a large number of *sanads* by Abdullah Firoz Jang,

Ihtisham-bin-Masum, Sarmast Khan, Alivardi Khan, Raja Ram Narain, Mir Qasim and others. There are some *sanads* by the Rajas of Darbhanga themselves, making rent-free grants to individuals, which were later confirmed by the reigning emperors. Thus Alamgir II confirms the *minhai* rent-free hereditary grant of the villages of Bewan and Bishunpatti in *pargana* Malhni-Gopal (District Bhagalpur) made by Raja Narendra Singh (1743-60) to the mother of Babu Pratap Singh for her maintenance. This grant was made in 1759. A similar rent-free grant of *brahmottar* lands in villages Sarson and Itorapahi, *pargana* Bhour, by Raja Pratap Singh to one Brahmaddutt Jha is confirmed by emperor Shah Alam II. Some of these *sanads* are in Sanskrit and Maithili also. One such *bishunpriti* grant is made by Raja Pratap Singh Bahadur to one Shri Bhawaninath Sharma for "teaching and supporting students." All these *sanads* bear the fish insignia of the Raj.²

Another very rare and important document is a letter from Aurangzeb, dated 1st Rajab, 1077 A.H. (28th December, 1666 A.D.) to the then *Subadar* of Bihar, Lashkar Khan. This letter relates to the punitive expeditions against the chiefs of Palamau and Morang, and conveys the news of the conferment of suitable awards by the emperor on the different officers in Bihar who took part therein. Chief among those officers were: Daud Khan, the previous *Subadar* of Bihar whose services and good administration were regarded by the emperor as being responsible for satisfactory state of affairs in Bihar; Mirza Khan, the *Faujdar* of Darbhanga who died in Morang and his brother Masum Khan, the succeeding *Faujdar* of Darbhanga; and Mahinath Thakur and Narpatt Thakur who were honoured with the *zamindari* mentioned above.

Then there are copies of court proceedings of civil suits, which incidentally refer to certain events of historical importance and give some information about the families which at one time exercised political authority. Thus in the proceedings of the case, Shah Muhammad Ali *vs.* Raja Madhava Singh, we get the genealogical tables of Shamsheer Khan and Sardar Khan, the famous Pathan chiefs of Darbhanga in the 18th century, who sacked Patna and murdered the *Subadar* of Bihar, Haibat Jang. Sardar Khan had married the sister of Shamsheer Khan, and Murad Sher Khan, the actual murderer of Haibat Jang, was the son of the former.

² Along with the grant of *sarkar* Tirhut the family of Mahesh Thakur was allowed to have the insignia of "fish" which, according to *Siyar-ul-Mutakhkherin*, was introduced into India by the Mughals as the highest military decoration that could be conferred. It was the emblem of sovereignty or high nobility.

English Records

We have already observed that the series of English records starts from 1860. During the Court of Wards period (1860-78), the records were kept according to their subjects. The General Department had 36 heads,³ and its records were arranged according to these heads. After the Court of Wards period the functions of the Raj were divided into four departments, viz., General, Revenue, Law and Accounts. Each of these departments had a number of subjects to deal with, and their papers were arranged department-wise and, among the departmental records, according to their sub-heads. In 1932-33, a new system of arrangement was introduced. It was circle-wise, department-wise and agency-wise. There were 17 revenue circles and 9 agents' offices.⁴ It is from the records of the General and Revenue Departments that we get information of historical importance. From the educational papers we get an idea of the state of education among the ryots and the efforts made, from time to time, by the Raj for spreading education among them.⁵ Returns, reports, diaries of Raj officers and miscellaneous papers also furnish us with information about the condition of people and crops and the state of collections. From the thirties of the present century the circle managers were required to submit periodical reports, which also contained information about the political consciousness of the people in their respective jurisdictions.⁶

The records of the Private Secretary's Office are kept separately, and it is believed that they deal with important matters of political nature.

From the revenue papers we get an idea of the land revenue administration of the Raj. For the purpose of collecting revenues the Raj was divided into 17 circles, and in each circle there were, besides the manager, a large number of *tahsildars*, *tokdars*, *jeth-raiats*, *patwaris* and *goraits* according to the size of the circle. But later on it was found that the circles were too large for one man, and about the year 1875 a new system (designed by Major Money) was adopted, according to which sub-managers

³ The following were the heads of subjects: (1) Accounts, (2) *Bedakhali*, (3) *Brahmottar*, (4) *Bunds*, (5) Cess, (6) Diary, (7) Education, (8) Establishment, (9) Engineering, (10) Famine, (11) Furniture, (12) Garden, (13) Hospital, (14) Inspection, (15) Irrigation, (16) *Jamabandi*, (17) *Jeth-raiats*, (18) Lease, (19) Leave, (20) Loan, (21) Library, (22) Management, (23) Miscellaneous, (24) Palace, (25) Purchase, (26) *Patwari*, (27) Remission, (28) Rent collection, (29) Returns and Reports, (30) Roads, (31) Settlement, (32) Stable, (33) Stationery and Forms, (34) Suits, (35) Tanks and Wells, (36) *Jirat*.

⁴ The number of agents' offices increased later on, and it finally rose to 17 or 18. These offices were created to look after the Raj property in various large towns and cities.

⁵ My article entitled "The Darbhanga Raj Records Office with a particular reference to the Educational Records", based upon a study of these papers, has already been published in the *Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings*, vol. XXXIV, part II, pp. 33-41.

⁶ A department was set up in the forties of the present century to collect information, through secret agencies, regarding the activities of the various political parties and their attitude towards the Raj. Almost all the records of this department have been destroyed.

were appointed in each circle to "go into the details of business of every kind connected with estate management with the *jeth-raiats*, *putwaris* and ryots of their circle in a manner which it would be impossible for the manager to do", while all important matters were to be sent up for the manager's orders. Other important features of the system were periodical reports from the revenue officials and maintaining of diaries by them, frequent realization of rents from *patwaris* and *jeth-raiats* and periodical remittance thereof to the headquarters. It was hoped that this system would eradicate many of the abuses practised by the *jeth-raiats* and *patwaris* on the ryots. The reduction in the number of *jeth-raiats* had also been envisaged, but it was not immediately attempted. Some caution was necessary. Some of these *jeth-raiats* were influential men and might have created difficulties and trouble in the estate. Moreover, they were holding lands at favourable rates, and enforcement of the scheme would have reduced them to the position of ordinary ryots, which they would have resented. The Secretary to the Board of Revenue in a letter to the Government in the Revenue Department, dated the 31st August, 1878, reported, "Little has been done as yet, but so far it is stated that the *jeth-raiats* appear to have accepted the change, and to have agreed to pay full rates, but it is not yet certain that they will do so when it comes to the time for actual payment, or whether they will refrain from mischief even if they do pay the full rates." He advised "caution and watchfulness" in the matter.

The Raj had its own Public Works Department. Early in 1866 it was proposed to appoint a Civil Engineer, on a sufficient salary, "to plan and conduct works of improvement on the estate." The Board had also agreed to the proposal that "the profits of estate should be expended in the construction of roads, bridges and reservoirs and other such works for the improvement of the estate and benefit of the tenantry. . ." Kharagpur irrigation work was completed in 1877. This prevented a local famine in 1878.

Besides, there are Annual Administrative Reports (from 1866 onwards) throwing considerable light on all aspects of the Raj administration, Survey Reports, and papers regarding the various indigo concerns on the estate. There are also some private letters from Mr. A. O. Hume to Maharaja Lakshmishwar Singh Bahadur. They very clearly reflect the financial difficulties of the Indian National Congress during the early years of its existence and the Maharaja's "princely subscriptions" but for which this young organisation would have surely met a premature end. Incidentally these letters refer to other important events also. Thus we get Mr. Hume's impression of the 1891 session of the Congress from

fastened at the pole on the east end of the *prāchī* to the pole on its west end and *vice versa*), and fix the two *aṃsas* ('shoulders' of the *vedi*, i.e., the south east corner and the north east corner). This is done by stretching the cord towards the south having taken it by the mark at fifteen and by fixing a pole on the spot reached by the mark at twelve ; and by repeating the same operation on the northern side. The result are the two *aṃsas*. This is the measurement of the *vedi* by means of one cord (the measurements described further on require two cords each)".¹

This eastern orientation conception of all survey work and representation of earth, uninterruptedly passed on to the era of the *Purānas* without any modification. The *Kūrma-niveśa* section makes configuration of India conform to the shape of a tortoise "lying outspread and facing eastwards".² "Facing eastwards" clearly points to the notion and practice of eastern orientation. This method was adopted in ancient times because, in those days when compass was perhaps not invented, quarters were determined from the sun, and here east played the initial and most important role.

That Maratha cartography followed this very ancient practice is further proved by the *aṣṭadīśa*, or eight compass directions, given on the Maratha maps. On modern maps generally the north-south line is shown, if shown at all, and other directions are left without any indication. The concept, determination and representation of eight compass directions come down to us from the most ancient times of the *Vedas*, *Sulvasūtras* (as can be seen in the above quotation) and *Manusmṛiti*. This practice also, therefore, is perfectly in keeping with the ancient Indian Aryan method.

In following the above two most ancient traditions the Maratha cartographers did not pay any attention to the use or convenience of the north-south line obtained very easily from the compass as they were accustomed to the long standing ancient practice of orientation of east-west line. It is immaterial whether they knew compass or not, but they must have been acquainted with it in the 17th or 18th century at least. In this connection the following quotation, referring to the 18th century, would be read with interest :

"The indigenous method of land-measurement by simple geometry is commented on by Macrabie, brother-in-law and private secretary to Philip Francis ;

'We drove out again to the Gardens. I have been stalking all round and showing the Boundaries to a Black Surveyor. How the plague these people measure land I cannot conceive. They neither use the compass

nor take sights as our people do, and yet they get the contents of ground with tolerable accuracy. It is by a means of Squares, I believe'.³ 'Means of Squares' must definitely be a relic of the *Sulvasūtras*.

In this indigenous technique the *prīṣṭhyā* or *prāchī* line must have been the only convenient method of determining directions : rather the whole procedure follows the rules of the *Sulvasūtras*.

Then there can be a religious reason also. The eastern quarter is deemed from the very days of yore more auspicious than the northern quarter.

MAYA PRASAD TRIPATHI

¹ *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, vol. XLIV, 1875, pp. 235-36.

² *Markandeya-puranam*, H. C. Raychaudhari, *Studies in Indian Antiquities*, p. 84.

³ *Historical records of the Survey of India*, vol. I, p. 134.

his letter to Maharaja Lakshmishwar Singh, dated the 2nd January, 1892. Mr. Hume wrote:

"The Congress went off famously. I think it was the best Congress we have had, on the whole—only 812 delegates but almost all representative men and from all Provinces, tho' the Punjab was badly represented. All these men paid all their own travelling allowances or I should say expenses, their delegate's fees (Rs. 10 each) and for all their food and I see a growing earnestness which is cheering. The drawback is that altho' there are 20 millions of Congress men there are only about (. . .) 000, sufficiently in earnest about it to make real sacrifices and face official disapprobation for its sake. Here the officials are not opposed to it. The pavillion only 180' x 120' and holding just 4600 chairs, was by far the prettiest we have had and it was crammed throughout and more than Rs. 6000 were paid by Visitors. For the delegates too regular symmetrical barracks were built all round the large Compound in the centre of which stood the pavillion. Great enthusiasm prevailed. I am quite satisfied with my child. Both the British Committee and myself had recommended a temporary intermission of the annual Congress, which do entail a great strain on the country, but they would not hear of it. On the contrary they determined to hold the congress annually until all necessary Reforms have been conceded. I shall not come out for the next Congress and I am well assured that it will be second to none that we have yet had."

The above is, however, just the fringe of a vast collection, which I could examine during my brief visit to the Darbhanga Raj Records Office. But I am confident that a closer study of the Raj archives would be productive of highly satisfactory results, and bring to light some hitherto unknown facts of the mediaeval and modern history of Bihar.

JATA SHANKAR JHA

SOLUTION OF A RIDDLE OF MARATHA MAPS

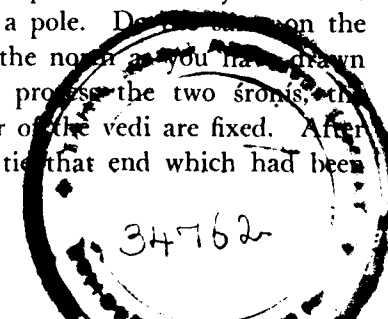
WRITING "A Note on Maratha Cartography" in *The Indian Archives* (July-December 1953 issue,) Prof. C. D. Deshpande of Karnatak College, Dharwar posed a very fascinating question regarding Maratha maps as to why they were oriented to the east contrary to the conventional modern practice of northern orientation.

Here are some very cogent reasons for this practice of Maratha cartography. The writer of the present article discovered them in the course of his research on development of geographical knowledge in India from Vedic times to modern era, the object of which has been to trace the evolution of Indian cartography in its widest connotation and denotation.

The eastern setting of all construction, survey and drawing work on the ground or a plate or anything else is totally of indigenous origin. Its antiquity can safely and most logically be traced as far back as the period of the *Śulvasūtras*. Anterior to and during the period of the *Śulvasūtras*, before surveying the ground and constructing the *vedi*, an east-west line *prīṣṭhyā* (eastern orientation) was invariably fixed as is done in all survey and map-making work in fixing the north-south line by compasses in modern times. The following excerpt from Dr. Thibaut's article "On the *Śulvasūtras*" fully corroborates this assertion:

"Add to the length of thirty-six (*i.e.*, to a cord of the length of thirty-six either padas or prakramas) eighteen (the whole length of the cord is then 54), and make two marks on the cord, one at twelve, the other at fifteen, beginning from the western end; tie the ends of the cord to the ends of the *prīṣṭhyā* line (the *prīṣṭhyā* is the same as the *prāchī*, the line directed exactly towards the east and west points, and going through the centre of the *vedi*. The fixing of the *prāchī* was the first thing to be done when any altar had to be measured out. The methods devised for this end will not be discussed here, as they are based on astronomical observations; for our purpose it is sufficient to know that a line of 36 padas length and running from the east towards the west had been drawn on the ground. On both ends of this line a pole was fixed and the ends of the cord of 54 padas length tied to these poles) and taking it by the sign at fifteen, draw it towards the south: (at the place reached by the mark, after the cord has been well stretched) fix a pole. Do the same on the northern side (*i.e.*, draw the cord towards the north as you have drawn it just now towards the south). By this process the two *śronis*, the south west corner and the south east corner of the *vedi* are fixed. After that exchange (the ends of the cord; *i.e.*, tie that end which had been

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The above style was continued without any marked change till 1834, when as a result of the Charter Act of 1833 the "Governor General at Fort William in Bengal" came to be styled as "Governor General of India", and the letters addressed to him from May 1834 onwards bear the following superscription and subscription:

"Our Governor General of India in Council.

We are,
Your affectionate friends,"¹¹

We come across the last significant change in this respect in the year 1858. The Government of India Act of 1858 had transferred the control of our country from the Company to the British Crown and created the office of the Secretary of State for India to whom were transferred the powers formerly exercised by the Board of Control and the Court of Directors. The Secretary of State for India was to be assisted by a council of 15 members called the "Council of India." Thenceforward the correspondence between the Secretary of State for India and the Governor General of India was influenced by official formalities and the former's letters to the latter were addressed thus:

"My Lord,

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's Most Obedient and
humble Servant,¹²
Stanley.

The Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council."

Letters to Court.—Like letters from Court, the letters addressed to the Court of Directors also underwent changes in their style of address. Before 22 July 1702¹³ when the old and the new Companies became

¹¹ Public Letter No. 34, dated 14 May 1834.

¹² Public Letter, dated 8 September 1858.

¹³ By the Public Despatch from London, dated 31 July 1702, the old Company informed their establishments in India about the above decision and of the constitution of a joint "Court of 24 Managers".—Forrest, *op. cit.*, vol. II.

united, the Chiefs and Councils of the various factories in Bengal used to write to the old Company as follows:

"The Hon'ble Governor Deputy Committees of the Rt. Hon'ble English East India Company.

Rt. Hon'ble,
Your Honour's Most humble and
obedient servants,"¹⁴

After the union of the two Companies the following style was adopted:

"To

The Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it Please Your Honours,

May it Please Your Honours,
Your Most faithful & Most
obedient humble servants,"¹⁵

With the setting up of the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, the Board at Fort William started writing separate letters to that Committee as under:

"To

The Hon'able the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'able the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'able Sirs,

and remain with greatest respect,
Hon'able Sirs,
Your most faithful and most
obedient humble servants,"¹⁶

Departure from the above style, however, is noticeable here and there. For instance, in their letter dated 23 January 1758, the Bengal Council addressed the Secret Committee by a shorter name, *viz.*, "The

¹⁴ Letter, dated 16 December 1694, of Job Charnock.

¹⁵ Letters from Coast and Bay, vol. 13, dated 10 January 1747/48.

¹⁶ Letter to Court, dated 8 January 1757.

CHANGING STYLE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE INDIA HOUSE & FORT WILLIAM AUTHORITIES

ANY one who happens to go through the voluminous correspondence which passed between the Court of Directors of the English East India Company and, afterwards, the Secretary of State for India in London, on the one hand, and their subordinates in India on the other, is sure to be struck by the manifold changes which occurred from time to time in the style of this correspondence. Important among these changes relate to (i) the form of address, (ii) the arrangement of subject-matter, (iii) referencing of letters, and (iv) 'tone' of the letters, particularly those written by the Home Authorities. These variations are indicative not only of the changing literary tastes of those times, but also of the process of constitutional evolution which the Company underwent as a natural consequence of its transformation from a commercial concern to a ruling power in India.

For two reasons the present study has been restricted to the letters that passed between the Court of Directors in London and the Fort William Council in Calcutta: firstly, for the sake of brevity and, secondly, because by the Regulating Act of 1773 the Company's administration at Fort William came to have authority over other Presidencies in the country, and consequently became the chief link between India and London.

It will not be out of place to state here that, up to 1653, all the Company's settlements in India were supervised and controlled by the President and Council at Surat. In 1653, Fort St. George was raised to the position of a Presidency with powers to supervise and control the Company's settlements in Bengal, etc.¹ In 1675,² however, the subordinate factories in Bengal were given the power to correspond directly with the Court of Directors. In 1681, the Company raised the status of the factory at the Bay of Bengal by appointing William Hodges as their Agent and Governor for that Settlement and giving him supervisory authority over all other settlements in Bengal,³ while, in 1715,⁴ Fort William itself was made a Presidency independent of the control of Fort St. George.

Another point that may need mention in this context is that the letters addressed by the Fort William authorities to the Court of Directors in London can be divided into three distinct groups: (i) those which

were addressed to the old Company called "The London East India Company" or "The Governor and Merchants of London Trading into the East Indies"; (ii) those addressed, from 1702 onwards, to "The Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies"; and (iii) those which were addressed to the Company under its shorter name, "The East India Company", which was legalised by the Act of 1833.⁶ With this background we may now revert to our main thesis.

I

Form of Address

For the sake of convenience we may divide this topic into two parts, one dealing with letters from the Court of Directors and the other with those addressed from India to the Home Authorities.

Letters from Court.—In these letters we usually come across six distinct styles of address, each denoting a significant change in the constitutional position of the Company. As a result of the Court of Directors' order of 1675, regular correspondence between the Court and their various factories in Bengal and Bihar, such as those at Hooghly, Bay of Bengal, Cossimbazar, Patna etc., started, and the letters addressed by the former to the latter were superscribed "Our Chief and Council at . . ." and subscribed "Your loving friends. . .".⁷ But from 1698 onwards, when the status of Fort William was raised to that of the Chief Settlement of the Company in Bengal, the Directors began to address their chief in Bengal as "Our Agent and Council of Bengal",⁸ and subsequently changed this superscription to "Our President and Council at Fort William in Bengal".⁹

The Company's position in Bengal changed significantly as a result of its victory at Plassey in 1757. Other events followed in quick succession, which ultimately made this commercial concern a ruling power in the *suba* of Bengal. With the passing of the Regulating Act in 1773 the "President" at Fort William came to be styled as "Governor General," and from 30 March 1774 onwards we find the Court's letters addressed to him with the following superscription and subscription:

"Our Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,"¹⁰

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 359.

² Foster, *Guide to India Office Records*, p. 1.

³ Company's General Letter to Hooghly, dated 7 September 1677; Forrester, *op. cit.*, vol. I.

⁴ Forrester, *op. cit.*, vol. II.

⁵ Public Letter dated 23 January 1753.

⁶ Public General Letter from Court, dated 30 March 1774.

¹ Peter Auber, *Analysis of the Constitution of the East India Company*, p. 379.

² General Letter from England to Fort St. George, dated 24 December 1675; G. W. Forrest (ed.), *Bengal and Madras Papers, 1671-1785*, vol. I.

³ Forrester, *ibid.*, p. 282.

⁴ Peter Auber, *op. cit.*, p. 360.

Hon'ble the Secret Committee of the Hon'ble the East India Company." In another stray case the Council at Fort William subscribed their letter, dated 29 December 1759, in a style not altogether formal, the words "May it Please your Honours" being followed by the signatures of the members.

The next important change in the style of letters to the Court of Directors appears to have been adopted first casually in 1785¹⁷ and then as a regular feature from 1788 onwards when the letters to Court bore the shorter superscription "The Hon'ble the Court of Directors".¹⁸

The above style was adhered to, more or less rigidly, till the close of 1858, when the Governor General's letters to the Secretary of State for India began to be written in the usual official style as may be seen from the following instance:

"To,
The Right Honourable Lord Stanley, M. P.,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.
My Lord,

I have, etc.
(Sd) Canning."¹⁹

II

Arrangement of Subject-matter

Throughout the 17th century the letters under consideration were written without regard to any particular pattern. They dealt with subjects as they arose, and were described as General Letters. But as the Company's administration became more complex, the Court of Directors in their letter, dated 20 November 1700, addressed to Madras, set the first example of arranging the matter subjectwise, and ordered that the same arrangement should be followed in letters addressed to them. From that time onwards matter in the General Letters to and from Court was given subjectwise under the following sub-heads: (i) shipping, (ii) goods sent from Europe, (iii) investments, (iv) matters concerning the trade in India and transactions with the country governments, (v) fortifications, buildings

¹⁷ Foreign General Letter dated 25 October 1785.

¹⁸ Public Letter dated 22 December 1788.

¹⁹ This seems to be the first letter addressed by Lord Canning to Lord Stanley after the change made by the Act of 1858. The G.G. was then on tour at Allahabad.--Home (Up Country) Public Letter dated 16 January 1859.

and revenues, (vi) factors and writers, officers and soldiers, and their accounts. Sometimes further sub-heads were introduced as the occasion demanded, such as "Separate Stock Ships" and "Old & New Company's Letters".²⁰ It may, however, be pointed out that in the case of long letters the abovementioned sub-headings were invariably given, but in the case of comparatively short letters these were not given although their subject-matter was generally arranged according to the above pattern.

With the passage of time, the steadily increasing responsibilities of the Company necessitated the division of administration into separate departments. As soon as these departments came into being the practice of dealing with all subjects, in one General Letter, was given up. For example, in 1756, when Nawab Sirajud-Daulah expelled the British from Calcutta and the Company's President and Council at Fort William retired to Falta, the latter set up there a Secret Committee of the Council to deal with all secret matters concerning political and military affairs. This Committee was shortly afterwards replaced by a Select Committee which was appointed by the Court of Directors and which consisted of the President and three members of the Council. The Secret Letters as a series distinct from the General Letters was thus started in 1763. However, the Fort William Council finally decided to divide their administration into two separate departments called Public and Secret.²¹ From that year all affairs relative to shipping, revenues, accounts, fortifications and appointments began to be dealt with in the Public Department, while all matters of political nature were dealt with in the Secret Department. In course of time more departments were created for efficient working of the Company's administration, which ultimately led Lord Ellenborough, then President of the Board of Control, to order in his Public Despatch to Bengal, dated 10 February 1830, that thenceforward all correspondence between the Court of Directors and the Fort William Authorities should be made departmentwise.²²

III

Referencing of Letters

The system of referencing the letters also underwent a gradual but significant change. Up to 1788, the date of issue of a letter and the name

²⁰ Public General Letter to Court, dated 16 October 1710. Also see General Letters from Court, vol. I, 1755-58, pp. 1-51. From the middle of the 18th century the wording of the sub-heads became more or less uniform. See Foster, *op. cit.*, p. 11.

²¹ Foster, *op. cit.*, pp. 11 and 40; I.R.D., *A Hand-Book to the Records of the Government of India, 1748-1859*, p. 4.

²² Foster, *op. cit.*, p. 11.

of the ship by which it was despatched used to be the main references. As it was then the practice to send four or sometimes five copies of a letter, each by a different ship, the names of ships by which those copies were sent were mentioned in subsequent despatches for reference purpose. For example, in the letter to Court, dated 10 January 1747/48, reference to the Board's letter, copies of which were previously sent by four different ships, was made thus: "Our last address to your Honours bore date the 22nd February 1746/47 per *Kent*, *Montfort*, *Salisbury* and *Marlborough*." Reference to the duplicate or triplicate copy of a letter used to be made in the words, "Our last address bore date the 22nd ultimo per ship *Lapwing*, duplicate whereof is enclosed,"²³ or, "the accompanying is triplicate of our address under date the 10th August via Fort St. David which the President and Council there advised us was forwarded to your Honours on the *Chesterfield* and its duplicate on the *Royal George*."²⁴ However, with the setting up of different departments, the practice of referring to the ships by which the letters were despatched was given up, and from 1830 onwards the letters were referred to according to the serial numbers they bore in their respective departments and the dates of their issue.²⁵

IV

'Tone' of Letters

During the first phase of the Company's career (*i.e.* when it was a mere commercial concern) the tone of its letters was mainly set by its own limitations and commercial interests. For example, a great inducement, which the Company had provided for its servants to serve in its settlements in foreign lands, was the right of private trade. In course of time, this privilege began to be misused by the governors, merchants and factors of the Company, a tendency which the Directors wanted to check as far as possible. But owing to the distance between the headquarters of the Company and its establishments in India such a control was not practicable except by appealing, from time to time, to the loyalty and sense of duty of the chiefs and agents of its factories and presidencies. It is therefore that we generally find that, during the early stages, the Company's orders and admonitions were couched in a conciliatory tone as far as possible. For instance, in one of the Company's letters we find the following remarks: "... all particulars of buying and

²³ Public Letter to Court, dated 27 January 1748/49.

²⁴ Public Letter to Court, dated 13 January 1749/50.

²⁵ Foster, *op. cit.*, p. 11.

selling for the Company and generalls to the Fort and Bay are kept private and transcribed by Portuguees Lads kept by the Chiefs of Bengall, a great volume of the roguery those places and others affords to the great President of the Hono'ble Company and their servants...; their servants by these ill usage fall into dispair of even coming to any preferment, and incline to ill course of debauching themselves, nay it had been through grief the death of many as divers can witness."²⁶

In another letter, dated 5 January 1680/81, the Court of Directors wrote the following to the Chief and Council of Hooghly regarding their misuse of the privilege of private trade: "We are willing our servants should honestly get money by their own estates while we maintain them in so splendid a condition, and we are glad to hear when they thrive by any good means; but it is against reason and our intent that our indulgence to them of universall trade in India (which ye Dutch never did and wee suppose never will allow their people) should turn to our excessive hurt and damage as wee have just cause to fear it lately did..."²⁷

In yet another letter dated 16 April 1697 addressed to the President and Council of Fort St. George, we find the Directors trying, in a business-like spirit, to arouse the sense of competition of their factories, by praising the good work done by their establishment at the Bay of Bengal. They wrote, "... but in matters of merchandize relating to our investments, wee will have the Bay depend only on ourselves, and send us their books of accts. and consultations and other books directly without going for to the Fort, the good effects whereof wee found in Agent Charnock's time when our Accounts were duly sent us from Bengall to the shame of all other our Factories in India."²⁸

However, during the 18th century when the Company's position in India became stabilized, the Court of Directors seem to have adopted a rather authoritarian attitude in their correspondence with the Fort William Council. For example, finding delay in getting usual official letters from Fort William the Court, in their General Letter dated 23 January 1754, remarked: "Notwithstanding our frequent directions for your writing to us by every good Conveyance, a large packett of private letters was sent by the *Speedwell* sloop to Bussorah to be forwarded to England by the way of Aleppo, and not a single line to us; this was an almost unpardonable omission and wee must acquaint you that wee shall not easily pass over such another."

In another General Letter, dated 31 January 1755, we find strictures

²⁶ Forrest, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 25. This is only an extract of a General Letter probably of the year 1675.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 272.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. II, p. 6.

on the Governor and Council in the following words: "It is observable that although you gave publick notice for contracting for stores and materials for the service of our marine, no proposal was given in by any person but Mr. Cruttenden and he was accordingly contracted with for all the coir, cables and cordage. The reason why other persons did not offer is evident upon the face of his proposal by which it appears he had monopolized those articles under the specious pretence of fulfilling his contract during the time he had, with your connivance, forced himself into the post of Superintendant of Marine, if such methods are pursued we can expect nothing but gross impositions and if we find any future instances of the like kind we shall highly resent them."

As regards the 'tone' of letters addressed from India to the Court of Directors, it too changed with every change in the status of the Company. For example, in the earlier days these letters were marked by a particular ceremonial touch. Instead of using the term "letter" for their communication, the Board used the expression "our address", or, "this waits on Your Honours," while reference to the Court's despatches to them were signified by courteous expressions like "By the above ships we were favoured with Your Honours several commands. . ."²⁹ But from the middle of the 18th century onwards, there was a growing tendency in the Board's letters to be less ceremonious and more straightforward, and instead of the term "address" the word "letter" began to be used.³⁰ Soon after the various Acts of Parliament had invested the Fort William Authorities with the real powers of a government, 'tone' of the letters addressed to London naturally changed from one of submissiveness, courtesy and ceremony to that of assertiveness and official dignity, characterised, no doubt, by that formal respect which the superior status of the Court of Directors deserved.

M. L. AHLUWALIA

ARCHIVES IN THE SOVIET UNION*

I. ARCHIVES IN PRE-REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIA

ARCHIVES denote places for the preservation of documents, and institutions performing the task of preserving documentary materials. The term also means the sum-total of documentary materials accumulated in the course of the activity of an institution, as well as departmental papers and papers of a family or of a clan. Archives contain original historical sources which reflect the economic, social, political and ideological life of a country during an epoch, and provide the context in which one epoch in the history of a country is related to another.

Earliest notices of writings and archives in the U.S.S.R.

The oldest writings throwing light on the history of the U.S.S.R. have been found in the ancient slave-owning state of Urartu in Transcaucasia. These writings in cuneiform, inscribed on stones and such other objects as bronze cups, earthen vessels, weapons of war and clay tablets, constitute the archival remnants of the time. The discovery of cylindrical dies testifies to the fact that the early archives possessed documents in smooth materials like skin, papyrus, etc. The documents mentioned above belong to the period 8th-6th centuries B.C. During the 7th and 6th centuries B.C. the Greek influence was on the increase, and several Greek towns made their appearance on the northern coast of the Black Sea. From these towns has come down a legacy consisting of a big collection of writings on walls, columns of temples, stones of altars, sacrificial tables, etc. The contents of these writings are of a varied nature, and include peace treaties, legal texts, decisions taken at peoples' gatherings, accounts of business transactions, etc. The collective efforts of the archaeological and ethnographical societies of the Soviet South Turkmen brought to light several pieces of potsherds of big vessels bearing inscriptions belonging to the first century B.C. These documents reveal the economic condition and the nature of the government of the country. During 1948-50, the archaeological explorations under the leadership of S. P. Tolstov brought to light the archives of ancient Khoresm, a slave-owning state of Central Asia. Written in ink in the old Khoresm language on the barks of trees and skins of animals, the documents number one hundred and fifty, the earliest of them belonging to the 3rd century B.C. They include a list of Khoresm chiefs and an inventory of returns (of revenues, taxes, etc.).

* Translated by Shri P. C. Roy, Assistant Research Officer, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, from the Russian text. The article is exclusive to *The Indian Archives*. The second instalment will appear in the next issue.

²⁹ Letter dated 10 January 1747/48.

³⁰ Letter dated 23 February 1756.

which used to hang in the palaces of the rich. In 1932, within the territory of the Tadzhik Soviet Socialist Republic a shepherd, Dzur-Ali-Muhammad Ali, found a basket made of willow twigs on the hill of Mug in upper Zeravshan. In the basket were found a number of documents of the 8th century A.D. in Sogdian, written in ink on thin sheets of paper. In 1933, the archaeological expedition of the Tadzhik branch of the Academy of Sciences of U.S.S.R. discovered under the ruins of the castle of a Sogdian ruler a collection of documents, some of which belong to the first quarter of the 8th century, and contain information on the conflict of the peoples of Central Asia with the Arabs as also data relating to the economy of Sogdiana, collection of taxes from the people and organisation of the State machinery. In all, eighty-one documents, mainly written in the Sogdian language, were found. Important among the documents of the Samanid State is the one which belongs to the close of the 9th century and bears the title "The support of the realm by the Council of State." It was found in the possession of one of the leading officials of the State. Alongside of other archives, the earthen archives found their way to the collection of the Samanid State. About this time skin, bark and parchment began to be replaced by paper made in Samarkand. The private archives of the feudal lords also came into being. Avicenna has left a detailed description of the archival library owned by the Amirs of Samarkand. The historical manuscripts preserved in the Bukhara Library have acquired world-wide renown. During this period similar archives emanated from other peoples living in the U.S.S.R. To us have come down, for example, some remains of the Armenian writings which are now preserved in a special archives department in Matenaderan (Armenian S.S.R.).

*Archives in the Kiev State during the time of feudal disintegration
(9th-15th centuries)*

The beginning and development of the art of writing coincided with the birth of archives in the Kiev State. The earliest document which has survived is in the Slav language. It is written in the Cyrillic script on an earthen pot. Besides precious materials and "books", the princely courts began to accumulate and preserve the State documents mentioned in the annals (such as royal treaties with Byzantium, princely decrees, records of court decisions, etc.) and documents relating to the private rights of individuals. Princely courts apart, the Church of Sofia in the Kiev State has also preserved written materials, more or less well-known. The oldest Russian book—"Ostromirovo Evangelia" (1056-57)—has come down to us from among the archives preserved in the Kiev Sofia Church.

The principalities and feudal republics, which arose after the

dismemberment of the Kiev State during the period of feudal disintegration, brought into being a new type of documents. These are the documents embodying agreements with the western neighbours of the Smolensk principality, the Polotsk Island, Novgorod and Pskov. Conflict among the principalities brought in its wake the conclusion of agreements which were embodied in writs "kissed on the holy cross." Invitations from various foreign powers to the heads of principalities were written in the form of agreements. The powers of vicegerents were defined by written regulations. The practice of issuing writs for bestowing lands on monasteries as well as royal servants and exempting them from the payment of tributes, duties and taxes as also from general court jurisdiction widely prevailed among princes. Thus it happened that archives of the princes and the monasteries became interrelated. The archives of the Novgorod Sofia Church as well as Solovetsk and other monasteries have partly preserved early specimens of documents written on bark in the Cyrillic script. Among other significant finds reflecting the culture of the people of Novgorod, the archaeological explorations conducted under the leadership of Professor A. V. Artsikhovsk in Novgorod have (since 1951) unearthed 250 documents on birch-bark, the earliest of which belongs to the 11th century. These documents bear witness to a wide diffusion of knowledge among the population of Novgorod during the period extending from the 11th century to the 15th. Thus the archives were meant not only for the great feudal lords and merchants but for ordinary citizens as well.

We also have information about the manner of keeping documents. Thus, attached to the Pskov Trinity Cathedral was a "chest" containing documents, which gradually assumed the role of the State Archives of Pskov. It served as the depository not only of the ordinances and the edicts of the Vetche (popular assembly) of Pskov, but of the decisions of the local church councils as also other important documents. Private papers transferred to the "Chest of the Trinity Church" for retention generally consisted of wills, loan bonds, receipts for payments, etc. Prior to the middle of the 14th century the documents were written on parchment, wooden boards and birch-bark. After that they came to be written on paper. Only a negligible quantity of documents relating to the period of feudal disintegration has been preserved. The rest have perished.

*Archives during the period of centralisation of the Russian State
(15th-17th centuries)*

The unification of the Russian territories around Moscow went hand in hand with the centralisation of archives. Seizure of the Archives of

Novgorod, Tver (modern Kalinin), Pskov and other feudal principalities enabled Moscow to deprive the former of their legal claim to the ancestral estates, and made the formation of a single centralised state easier. The archives of the feudal chiefs, concentrated in Moscow, formed the "Czarist Archives," the biggest collection of the time. A part of the inventory of this collection relating to the second half of the 16th century has been preserved, and it shows 231 cases as the volume of the collection. Therein are mentioned documents of the princes of Tver, Ryasan, Smolensk, Chernigov, Yaroslav, etc. It contains also a reference to an important group of records relating to the internal affairs of the Russian State as also its external relations with the countries of the western Europe and of the east. The "Czarist Archives" was looted, a portion of it carried away by the Polish interventionists about the beginning of the 17th century. What remained became part of the archives known as the "Embassy Command".

The central administrative agencies of the Russian State during the 16th and the 17th centuries were designated as "Commands", some of which had sprung up even as early as the close of the 15th century. Towards the end of the 17th century they numbered about fifty. Each "Command" preserved its own archives. The archives were maintained in special depositories called "Kazenka", and were kept on tables and in large trunks, chests and boxes. They were in the custody of secretaries and clerks. The documents of this period were written on paper, and were for purposes of preservation glued together in long strips called columns and made into rolls. Most of the archives originated from the Embassy, the nobility and the landed gentry. The archives which came into existence in the middle of the 16th century in the "Embassy Command" deal mainly with the internal affairs of the State. They also contain materials on the diplomatic and commercial relations of Russia with the countries of the western and south-eastern Europe (Germany, England, France, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Spain, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Greece, Moldavia, etc.) and of the east (China, India, Iran, Turkey, etc.). The documents cover the period from the 15th century to 1720 A.D., when the "Embassy Command" was abolished. They embody communications between the foreign governments and great princes on the one hand and the Czar of Russia on the other, peace and trade agreements of Russia with other states, and correspondence with the Russian legations abroad. The archives of the "Embassy Command" contain, in particular, materials relating to the missions of N. Siroezi (1646) and I. Kasimov to India, despatch to India by the Czar Alexi Mikhailovich, and afterwards by Peter I, of a number of merchants with commercial goods, arrival of

Indian merchants in Astrakhan and Moscow, grant of a charter by the Indian Emperor to the Russian merchant S. Malenkom for free trade with India (1696), etc.

The archives of the "Nobility Command" were created towards the end of the 15th century when under the Boyars the warrior class firmly established their domination over the affairs of the State. The Boyars defended the south and south-western borders of the State by a series of military actions. In the Archives are to be found documents which cover the period from the middle of the 16th century to the beginning of the 18th century. These include books and lists of the Boyars, accounts of the war waged by the nobility, stock registers showing the war and peace time strength, the quantity of arms and provisions, reports from battle-fields, etc.

The archives of the "Local Command" were created in the middle of the 16th century to serve as an instrument for distribution of land to the governing class on account of services rendered during wartime. They throw light on the growth of feudal domination on the soil, as also the process of enslavement of the peasants. They contain court rolls and correspondence books drawn up for the registration of lands and people as well as the assessment of their taxes; the measurement books giving information about the fixation of boundaries of the landed property inherited by the nobility; transaction accounts of grant, sale and exchange of lands; search orders concerning fugitive peasants and serfs; registers of title-deeds relating to land and peasantry, etc.

The local administrative agencies also began to preserve the records of the district chiefs about this time. In the beginning of the 17th century the records of the provincial governors came into being and continued to be maintained by the local administrative bodies.

The monasteries of Troitsk-Sergievski, Solovetsk, Yusuf-Volkolamski and others have preserved a large collection of materials. In the 17th century there was an increase in the bulk of private archives, some of which are of special interest to students of social and economic history. The archives of A. I. Bejobrajov, B. I. Morojov, Kuitsov Stroganov, etc. are cases in point. The collections of old books, writings and annals require to be examined by anybody wanting to trace the development of education and culture in Russia. The collections of historical and artistic writings of the 16th century, which have been preserved, are those of Czar Ivan I and of princes A. M. Kurbsk and Maksim Grek. Those of the 17th century relate to Czar Alexi Mikhailovich, patriarch Nikon, state workers like A. S. Matveeva, A. L. Ordin Nashchokin, and princes V. V. Golitsin and V. N. Sobakin.

Archives of the Russian Empire in the 18th century

The reorganisation of the state machinery by Czar Peter I in the first quarter of the 18th century led to many changes in the archival affairs of the State. The new agencies—the Senate (the most important organ of the State) and the College (the central organisation in charge of the different departments of administration)—opened their own archives. The documents of the defunct agencies went partly to the new agencies and partly to the recently founded “Historical Archives”. The documents of the “Embassy Command” formed the nucleus of the first “Historical Archives” which, in 1724, was designated as “General Record Office of Old State Affairs.” Such a wealth of historical archives on foreign affairs could not be found at that time in the archives of any other country. In 1781, it was renamed as “Moscow Archives of the College of Foreign Affairs.” In terms of a general ordinance of 1720, which defined the functions of the new institution, the archives were officially distinguished from the current files of the chancelleries (departments), the time-limit and the manner in which the recorded files were to be deposited in the archives were clearly fixed, and the administrative post of “Archivarius” (Archivist) came to be created. However, contrary to the intention of the regulation, the expected concentration of the records of the Colleges in the archives did not materialise because the Colleges continued to keep their own records as before. At the same time arrangements were made in the provinces and districts for concentration and preservation, in the archives, of the documents of the defunct agencies as well as the newly created organisations.

A further development in the preservation of historical documents took place in the second half of the 18th century when, in the course of reorganisation of the State machinery, “The St. Petersburg State Record Office relating to Ancient Affairs (1780)” and “The Moscow State Archives of State Affairs” were created for the purpose of concentrating the documents of defunct Colleges, offices, departments, etc. Excepting those of the nobility and the landowners, all files which Peter I had transferred to the College were deposited in these archives together with the archives of the College. The archives of the nobility were amalgamated in 1763 with the archives of the Moscow Office of the Senate when it was abolished following reorganisation of the latter body, and came to form a single “High-rank Senate Archives” which was basically the same as Historical Archives. The documents of the Local Command together with those of the defunct Estate College formed the “Local Estate Archives.” The general land survey records

were concentrated in the archives of the Central Land Survey (later Main Land Survey).

According to the provincial reform of 1775 a complicated machinery with numerous administrative, judicial and financial organs was created locally, and many current archives came into being in the provinces.

The remarkable success, which attended the development of science, culture, literature and art in the 18th century, resulted in the creation of fresh archives in scientific and cultural organisations, e.g., the archives of the Academy of Sciences, in which the fonds of sciences were concentrated; the manuscripts division of the library of the Academy of Sciences, wherein the old manuscripts and other historical materials were collected; the manuscripts section of the library of the Hermitage Museum, which collected written materials on Russian history; the archives of the Academy of Painters; the archives of the Moscow University, etc. The development of village economy and industry reinforced by the expansion of internal and external trade of Russia resulted in the growth of private archives. The archives of mills and factories increased in number. During the period extending from the 18th century to the first half of the 19th century steps were taken to conserve a large number of private archive collections, e.g., those of Demidov, Eusupov, Sheremetev, Holitsin and Vorontsov. The private collections of historical documents pertaining to the 18th century were still more important. Well-known groups in the collections covering the last part of the 18th century and the early part of the 19th are: the archives of Count A. I. Musin-Pushkin and Chancellor Count N. P. Rumiantsev, which form valuable source materials on the early period of Russian history; the papers of the author and publicist N. I. Novikov; historians V. N. Tatischev, Prince M. M. Scherbatov and I. N. Boltin; merchants V. V. Krestinin and I. I. Holikov; official V. N. Krekshin who collected a large quantity of materials relating to Peter I and compiled a list of chronicles.

*Archives during the period of crisis of feudalism in Russia
(first half of the 19th century)*

The two processes—the creation of historical archives and the growth of current departmental archives—which began to mark archival history in the 18th century, continued unabated also in the 19th century. The formation of ministries in the beginning of the 19th century brought about the organisation of archives of the ministries. A new historical archives was created in 1834, viz., the Moscow section of the General Archives of the Inspectorate Department of the General Staff, which preserved the materials of the military institutions of the 18th century and of the army

units of the empire. In the same year another historical archives was created, viz., the State Archives attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for preserving documents concerning the Czarist family's struggle for self-preservation against the revolutionary movements. The State Archives also absorbed part of the St. Petersburg Archives of Old Affairs which was abolished in the same year. The Moscow Archives of the College of Foreign Affairs was converted into the Moscow Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Petersburg naturally the archives of current administration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs existed along with the St. Petersburg Central Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, now brought under the administrative control of the above-mentioned State Archives.

*Archives during the period of capitalist development of Russia
(second half of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th)*

In 1867, the Military Science Archives of the Chief of Staff was instituted, and it contained materials on military history. Some of these materials consisted of charts, plans and designs belonging to "His Majesty's own depot of charts" which had been created in 1797 and which had acquired the archives collection of "War-topography depot" in 1812.

Historical archives in other parts of the country came into being in the middle of the 19th century. Archives for preserving old documents were created in Kiev (1852), Vilna (1852) and Vitebsk (1863). In Kharkov the historical archives (1880) contained documentary materials on the history of the left bank of Ukraine.

In 1852, a single Moscow Archives of the Ministry of Justice was created as a result of merger of the Archives of High-rank Senate, Local Estate and Moscow Archives of Old Affairs. The historical archives were, however, subordinated to various departments and became buried under a mass of departmental records. Since the time of the provincial reform of 1775 and the decrees of 1802 and 1812 regarding the institution of ministries, which envisaged the creation of a number of archives in each ministry, there existed a multitude of archives, attached to local agencies, which, in course of a century, had absorbed an enormous mass of documentary materials. Among the archives originating from the government agencies during the 19th and 20th centuries those of the following organisations are most important: Senate, Synod founded in the 18th century, Council of State, Ministry of Agriculture and State Finance, and Ministry of the Court. They included in their collections the fonds of those organisations of the 17th and 18th centuries, which had worked under the direction of

palace officials having control of the State as also under His Majesty's chancellery. The largest of them are the archives of departments, containing in their fonds documents relating to the highest police, political enquiries in the matter of keeping watch on foreigners and printed publications, informative notes on all "that is happening in the country", etc.

The quick inflow of archives led inevitably to the weeding out of documents of no particular value: it was necessary to make room for fresh accessions. The value of documents was determined by the Ministries independently, and the selection of documents for destruction was entrusted to government officials who did not quite understand their significance. This procedure resulted in a mass destruction of documents, some of which constituted valuable historical material.

The archives of private concerns and individuals remained unaffected by the link which had been forged between historical and departmental archives. The absence of a single unified lead in the development of historical archives and the defective system of keeping departmental records led to fitful attempts at archival reform. Projects for reform were drawn up by N. V. Kalachov (1819-85), the Director of the Moscow Archives of the Ministry of Justice, and afterwards by D. Ya. Samokvasov (1843-1911) who eventually occupied the same post. Both of them suggested the institution of a State Archives to take in documents from the current record offices, the creation of a special central organ for the management of all archival affairs in Russia and the training of archives personnel. These suggestions were rejected by the government, which only agreed to open, at first, the St. Petersburg Archaeological Institute (1877) and, later, the Moscow Institute (1907). Provincial archives commissions were set up in 1884 to prevent destruction of documents in the provinces. These commissions were organisations without powers and had no access to the archives of the agencies creating records. The commissions could select historical archives only from among the documentary materials earmarked for destruction. Documents embodied in the historical archives built up by the provincial archives commissions thus eventually came to form a select collection compiled out of papers belonging to the different fonds of the provincial, administrative, district and judicial institutions. In the "Truds", edited by the provincial archives commissions, documents on the history of local regions and other matters of local importance were published. After the October Revolution the majority of the documents belonging to the local historical archives went into the collections of provincial archival fonds. They are now to be found in the regional and district state archives.

Not only the state historical and current departmental archives, but

important publications of the Archaeographical Commission are: "Juridical Documents or Collection relating to Old Methods of Government" (vol. 1, 1838), "Historical Documents" (vols. 1-5, 1841-52), "Supplements to the Historical Documents" (vols. 1-12, 1846-75), "Historical Documents in Russia, selected from the Historical Archives and Library of A. I. Turgenev" (vols. 1-2, 1841-42), "Supplements to Historical Documents in Russia" (vol. 1, 1848), "Documents relating to the History of Western Russia" (vols. 1-5, 1846-53), "Documents relating to the History of Southern and Western Russia" (vols. 1-15, 1863-92), "Documents on the Juridical Condition of Old Russia" (vols. 1-3, 1857-84), "The Official Documents relating to the Contacts of North-Western Russia with Riga and Hanseatic Towns in the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries" (1857), "Russo-Livonsk Documents" (1868), "Court Rolls of Novgorod" (vols. 1-6, 1859-1910), "Police Investigation concerning Fedor Shaklovit and its Appraisal" (vols. 1-4, 1884-93), and "Sketch-book on Siberian Conditions in 1701" (1882). From 1872 the Archaeographical Commission brought out "Russian Historical Libraries" (1872-1927), in which the accounts begin from the 17th century. The Commission placed the large collection of historical materials of Russians on a scientific basis.

A large number of historical works was published by Russian historical societies. Prior to the October Revolution, 148 volumes of source materials, covering the period from the 15th century to the 19th, were issued.

Besides these were published "Descriptions of Documents and Papers preserved in the Moscow Archives of the Ministry of Justice", "A Catalogue of the Archives of the Senate", "A Catalogue of the Archives of Military Science", "Description of the Archives of the Synod", "Lists of Papers of the Archives of the Council of State", etc., as well as guide-books like "Note-books of the Moscow Archives of the Ministry of Justice" (1890), "Archives of the Ministry of Agriculture and State Finance" (1904), "Note-books of the Archives of the Senate" (1913), etc.

The absence of central control in archival affairs had disastrous repercussions on the existing historical and departmental archives of the State. There was no adequate provision for their preservation, and necessary rules for the use of the materials were wanting. Many fonds of the archives were not at all open for research.

During the First World War the archives presented a state of unpreparedness to meet wartime conditions. Much of the material perished as a result of military activities, hasty evacuation, and occupation of territories by the enemy. The German army carried away a part of the archives beyond the frontiers of Russia. The February Bourgeois Democratic

Revolution brought no improvement in archival affairs. At the beginning of the Revolution itself the agents of the Czar burnt, destroyed and plundered many valuable documents in order to hide the traces of their criminal anti-people activity. On the eve of the October Revolution, the provisional government removed from Petrograd some archival fonds which were considered valuable in scientific and military sense, and dispersed them in various cities where a few of them perished.

Only the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which transferred the archives of the country to the people's custody and created a centralised archival system, put an end to the chaotic conditions which had characterised the archival affairs of pre-revolutionary Russia.

V. V. MAKSAKOV

(To be continued.)

the manuscript divisions of libraries, museums and scientific institutions and societies as well took a leading part in the acquisition and preservation of historical documents during the 19th century, particularly during the second half thereof. They had in their custody ancient and valuable materials not only on Russian and world history but on the history of science, literature and art as well. The manuscripts section, opened in the Petersburg Public Library (1814), acquired, for example, such ancient writings of great scientific value as "Ostromirovo Evangelia" (1056), "Selections from Shyatslov" (1076), and "Lavra List of Nestorov Manuscripts" (1377). The same section acquired a big collection of unique writings among which could be found many 18th century autographical works on the French Revolution, belonging to the collection of Dubrovsk, Secretary of the Russian Mission in Paris; musical autographies of Glink; and archives of Karamjin, G. P. Derzavin, V. A. Zukovsk, B. F. Odoevsk and others. In the last quarter of the 19th century and about the beginning of the 20th, the museums and libraries began to concentrate in their manuscript sections documentary materials of varying significance. For instance, the Russian Historical Museum acquired documents on Russian history, the Polytechnic Museum those on historical sciences and techniques, the Museum of A. A. Bakhrushin on the history of theatrical art, Pushkin's House on the history of Russian literature, and so on. It was during this period that the private museum-archives of L. N. Tolstoy, A. P. Chekhov, P. I. Chaikovsky, D. I. Mendeleev, I. I. Sechenov, M. I. Glink, M. U. Lermontov and others also came into existence.

The archives of the revolutionary and social organisations, which had to work illegally, could not possibly take shape in the pre-revolutionary Russia. Documents concerning the revolutionary organisations and parties were preserved only in the courts of enquiry and allied institutions. For instance, the documents dealing with the people's uprisings during the 17th and the 18th centuries under the leadership of S. T. Rajin, E. I. Pugachev and others were preserved in the government agencies set up for the suppression of revolts. The archives of the secret societies started in the 19th century. Those connected with the Decabrist risings did not survive. Important documents belonging to the secret societies were seized by the authorities at the time of the arrest of the Decabrists. A portion of the documents (for example, "Russian Truth" by P. I. Pestel, "Catechism" and "Constitution" by N. M. Muravcv, etc.), was preserved by the Inquest of Affairs relating to the Decabrist risings. Most of the documents were destroyed by the Decabrists themselves before their arrest, or by their relations. A portion of the documents, placed at the disposal of the Enquiry Commission, was destroyed when it was in the personal

custody of the Emperor Nicholas II. Excepting the archives of "The People's Freedom", only a portion of which has been preserved, we have no knowledge whatever of the records of any revolutionary organisations. We have no archives, for instance, of the "Soil of Freedom" or any similar body belonging to the sixties, nor of any people's organisation of the seventies and eighties. The archival materials of A. I. Gertsen and N. I. Ogarev were preserved abroad. A big collection of both written and printed materials on the history of the Communist Party was removed abroad and preserved there. In 1904, the archives of the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party was created at Geneva at the instance of V. I. Lenin who gave to the archives his manuscript works, documents and library. The significant part of the foreign archives of the Communist Party was preserved and after the October Revolution brought to the U.S.S.R., where it is now to be found in the archives of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The activity of the record offices in the pre-revolutionary Russia was limited to the preparation of lists and guide-books and the publication of documents.

The editing of historical source-materials received great impetus in Russia during the second half of the 18th century. Thus, in 1776, the Academy of Sciences edited a monumental work on the Russian feudal law under the title "Towards Russian Truth," "the chronicle of Nikonovski," etc. N. I. Novikov published a big collection of monumental works on Russian history in many volumes, viz., "Old Russian Bibliography" (1773-75) and "Sequel to Old Russian Bibliography" (1788-91). The Moscow University (founded in 1804) and the Commission for publishing State Papers and Treaties in the Moscow Archives of the College of Foreign Affairs (instituted in 1811) played a great role in giving impetus to the task of editing books on the social history of old Russia. The Archaeographical Commission, founded in 1834 with the well-known Russian archivist P. M. Storoeb at its head, and the Russian Historical Society, created in 1834, gave a significant swing to the editing and publishing of documents in Russia.

During the period from 1834 to the Great October Socialist Revolution, the Archaeographical Commission published a large number of documents collected by it. "The Documents acquired by the Libraries and Archives of the Russian Empire in the course of the Archaeographical Expeditions led by the Empire Academy of Science" was edited in four volumes (1836-38). The editing of "Complete Collection of Russian Annals" (vols. 1-24, 1841-1921) was of immense significance. Other

SOME PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE PRESERVATION OF MARATHI DOCUMENTS

IT may be claimed that research scholars, who are interested in the history of the Marathas, have already become familiar with the historical importance of the large collection of Marathi documents in the custody of the Central Records Office, Hyderabad. The *Poona Akhbars*, three volumes of which have been published till now, have presented to the public a fair sample of this collection. On glancing through the pages of this publication it will become evident that these documents have a profound bearing on the Maratha history of the post-Panipat period and on the political relations which existed between the Maratha court at Poona and the court of Nawab Nizam Ali Khan Bahadur at Hyderabad, not to mention the value of these papers for reconstructing the social history of the period and general picture of life in those days. In the present article no attempt is being made to evaluate the historical importance of these papers. The object in writing the article is only to indicate a few problems which relate purely to the preservation aspect of these documents.

It will also be seen that what is being said in this article about these documents is perhaps applicable to all Marathi documents of the period and therefore the problems indicated may be regarded as general rather than specifically relating to these documents.

The modern technique of preservation is well adapted to the preservation of records which have a large measure of uniformity in respect of many things. For instance, uniformity of size in regard to the papers used in any archive group is a definite advantage in the matter of binding them into a volume form. With the introduction of machine-made paper and printing in Europe paper came to be produced in different standard sizes. To-day the foolscap size is the greatest common measure of official records. Similarly, the practice of leaving a margin on any sheet of paper when writing on it offers certain facilities in binding a number of such sheets. In view of these advantages in regard to modern records the task of preserving them has also become relatively easier. It will be shown later that the Marathi documents do not offer such advantages.

It will also be noticed that European and American writers on the science of preservation dwell upon the technique of preservation of such rare documents as parchment or vellum. Again, a few Indian writers have included birch-bark and palm-leaf manuscripts in their treatment but no one, it may be safely asserted, has so far dealt with the repair methods relating to the Marathi type of documents. This circumstance is, therefore, pleaded as the justification for writing the present

article. The peculiar problems with which a keeper of the Marathi documents is faced may now be broadly indicated.

The paper used for the Marathi documents is of the coarse hand-made type containing impurities which give it a slightly brownish tinge. It is usually starch-sized and highly absorbent. The writing is in carbon inks based on lamp-black. A few papers show an extra glazed and supple surface. These qualities are imparted to the paper by rubbing its two surfaces with the back of a conch-shell. This process is known as *ghota*. In spite of its inferior cellulosic content, the paper is usually of a good quality, though it is not very durable. There can be little comparison between this paper and the modern high-grade hand-made paper of the Hodkinson type. The outstanding quality of this paper, however, is its ink receptivity. The carbon ink used in certain writings is viscous and takes the appearance of modern embossing inks, and the intensely brilliant colour it assumes on the absorbent paper makes a special appeal to the connoisseur of old documents.

To turn to the crux of the problem. It is the size of the paper that presents the greatest difficulty in evolving a uniform method of repairing it. In regard to European records, as has already been observed, we may notice a certain broad standardisation of their sizes. Usually, documents in a single archive group conform to a particular size. This facilitates binding such documents into a volume. There may be stray outsize documents, but these can be easily fitted into a volume as inserts. Further, the blank marginal space left almost invariably on each sheet of paper enables the binder to provide a guard for stitching purposes. Be the margin narrow in the extreme, it, nonetheless, affords room for pasting a guarding strip. But in regard to the Marathi documents the writing is from edge to edge. The indefatigable writer of these documents appears to be out to leave no spaces blank and scrawls out postscripts set in oblique lines at the top, north-eastwise and north-westwise, though any space left accidentally blank at the close of the letter or document is left uninvaded! Reverting to the size of these documents, it may be laid down as an axiomatic principle that each document has a size of its own. The paper used is usually a long strip. Its width varies from about three inches to about nine inches. No rule can be laid down in regard to the length of a document. It may be anything from two inches to about a hundred feet. There are long rolls which are made up by joining a number of long strips. One typical roll, a *mahzarnama*, preserved in the Central Records Office, Hyderabad, measures 8 inches $\times$ 120 feet. In contrast to these long rolls one comes across small slips of the size of a modern visiting card, each usually added as a postscript to some long letter.

Documents belonging to the same class are available in several record offices in our country and in many respects they compare well with the Marathi documents. But in some offices these documents are kept in docket covers. A long strip is folded into convenient panels and the top edge of the strip is stuck on to the recto of the inner side of the docket cover with the help of a guarding strip. This method, one may say, is not the ideal method of preserving this type of documents. A document so preserved cannot be freely handled as great care has to be exercised to see that it does not get released from its fixture in the docket cover. Moreover, the docket acts as an encumbrance with the result that the process of handling the document is rendered inconvenient.

Another peculiar feature of a Marathi document is that the writing on the other side of a sheet begins on that portion on which the last line of the text on the obverse side is written. This description is somewhat puzzling and needs to be explained. The reader, who has taken up a long strip to read, starts at the top and works down to the bottom. He must then turn the page in the same way as one would turn over a page from a shorthand note-book. This is a sort of boustrophedon scheme of page movement. One easily gets accustomed to it with a little practice. In consequence the pasting of one end of a strip to the inside of a docket cover interferes with the free handling of such a document. In any scheme, therefore, of providing a receptacle for a document of this type the most important point to be noted is that it may be left free from any moorings so that it may be freely handled. The method of individualising these documents, as it is practised in the Central Records Office, Hyderabad, has certain points to recommend itself. A document (we may call it a 'unit') may consist of one or more strips. Each strip in a 'unit' is folded into several conveniently sized panels. These folded strips are placed one below the other in their proper order and the entire 'unit' is slipped into a cover-band, called a *tablaq*, made usually of kraft or brown paper. The components of a 'unit' are, therefore, held together in the same way as a packet of envelopes is secured with a paper cover-band. This way of packing the 'units' makes it easy to handle them but does not afford the ideal protection which the documents ought to be given. Again, as the longer strips have to be kept folded into conveniently sized panels, they usually weaken along the line of each fold. However, this is a problem which can be overcome by physically separating the panels and joining them with muslin strips as is done in the case of folded maps.

In view of the peculiar characteristics of these documents it will be easily seen that their machine lamination also presents many difficulties. But this is an aspect which is best left to be settled by technical experts

as machine lamination has still to be widely introduced in this country. The only method to be largely employed in repairing these documents would be to cover them with Japanese tissue paper with or without cellulose acetate foil. Embrittled documents and documents on which the ink has had a corrosive action may be covered with chiffon. Cutting up a long strip into conveniently sized panels and joining these with muslin strips would facilitate covering each side of a panel with single pieces of tissue paper.

Though it has been stated above that these documents vary in size, it will still be noticed that most of them have an average width of about 7½ inches, and irrespective of their length they can be reduced to a folded size about 8 to 9 inches long. The best method of packing them seems to be to keep each individual 'unit' in a kraft paper envelope or stout manilla envelope the size of which may be standardised. In the centre of the flap of each envelope a rectangle may be printed in which the reference number of a 'unit' may be written. On the reverse side of the envelope other particulars relating to the document may be recorded. A certain number of these envelopes may be kept standing in a carton box whose size may be determined in relation to the size of the envelopes used. Trough-shaped open cardboard boxes with calico lining may be used as receptacles for accommodating these envelopes. These will be cheaper than closed carton boxes but will require periodical dusting. The envelopes may be packed loosely in the carton boxes so as to allow sufficient room for the play of fingers in picking out the required 'unit'. Such carton boxes may be kept properly arranged on open shelves. Outsize documents and long rolls may be kept separately. Shorter rolls may be reduced to folded form. When an outsize document or roll, which forms part of a series, has been separated an indication card may be left in its place in the series, showing the location to which it has been removed. But these problems do not require to be discussed at length as the trained archivist is already familiar with them and knows how to deal with them.

The object in writing this article has been just to indicate the salient features of the Marathi class of documents from the point of view of their preservation and to stimulate thought on the subject. The writer would be grateful for any suggestions from those who are interested in devising innovations in the technique of preservation to answer new problems which crop up in this field from time to time.

A. N. BAJI

NEWS NOTES

INDIA

National Archives of India

Implementation of the programme of accessioning the non-current records of the various agencies of the Government of India was continued by the National Archives of India, and in spite of acute paucity of storage space such records as could no longer be housed by the originating agencies were accessioned. Among the principal accessions during the year mention may be made of the records of the Ministry of Home Affairs, 1918-54, and of the Collector of Customs, Baroda, 1839-1942, besides 172 authenticated copies of the Bills passed by the State Legislatures and assented to by the President of India. In order to complete the series of records relating to Railways, already in its custody, the Department received from the Commonwealth Relations Office, London, 119 volumes containing copies of records covering the period 1848-1923.

The Department's collection of private papers was further enriched by the acquisition of several papers including a copy of Mountstuart Elphinstone's "Report on the Maratha States" received as a gift from Mr. E. J. Montgomery of Bristol; 23 documents, mostly complimentary letters, addressed by the various Governors General to Karimatun-Nisa Begam of Benares; 33 original letters of Mahatma Gandhi received from the Chief Editor, "Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi", New Delhi; and 10 documents, covering the period 1796-1820, relating to Robert Orme, Ramaswamy Chetty, H. Hornby, Thomas Henry, Somerset Conway and Alexander Cockburn, received from the Ministry of Finance.

Another acquisition worth a mention is the manuscript copy of the second part of Maulana Azad's autobiography which has been kept under sealed cover not to be opened before 20 February 1988, as desired by him.

With a view to advise the Department in the purchase of documents and manuscripts in private custody the Government of India appointed, in August 1958, an Archives Purchase Committee consisting of the Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Education, as Chairman, Prof. M. Mujeeb, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, Dr. P. Saran, Reader in History, Delhi University, Director of Archives and Deputy Director of Archives, Government of India, as members. Important among the six manuscripts and thirty-two documents purchased during the year are: Emperor Aurangzeb's letter, in Persian, to his son Prince Muhammad Azam showing animosity against Raja Ram, the Maratha chief; *farman*, in Turkish, of Sultan Muhammad of Turkey appointing Saiyid Qutbud-Din as *Sajjada-nashin* of the shrine of Prophet Muhammad; and two manuscripts in Persian—*Maktubat-i-Nawaban-i-Junagarh* throwing light on the history of Junagarh

(1775-1840), and *Mukhtasar Tarikh-i-Gujarat* of Qazi Saiyid Muhammad Nurud-Din Husain.

Foreign exchange difficulties continued to impede the Department's programme of acquiring from abroad microfilm copies of the records of Indian interest. However, two microfilm reels were acquired during the year, one from the New York Public Library, containing an autobiographical memoir of Lala Lajpat Rai pertaining to the period of his visit to U.S.A. and Japan (1914-17), and the other from the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, giving information about the fortresses, magazines etc. maintained by the Dutch in 1616 and the privileges enjoyed by the French East India Company (1692-1727) in regard to the sale of tea, coffee and cocoa.

4,643 books and periodicals were added to the National Archives of India Library during the year under review. These include works on modern Indian history, archive-keeping and allied subjects, besides a number of rare and out-of-print publications.

As regards the publication programme of the Department, volume I of the *Fort William—India House Correspondence* series was published and issued for sale, while the printing of volumes IX and XIII neared completion. The *Index to the Records of the Foreign and Political Department*, vol. I (1756-80) was also published, and the printing of the *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, vol. X (1792-93) made further progress.

A new Division called Educational Records Division has been created in the National Archives of India and it has been attending to the work connected with the publication of the series *Selections from Educational Records*. It may be mentioned here that the series, started in 1920, had come to an abrupt close with the publication of two volumes, covering the periods 1781-1839 and 1840-59, edited by H. Sharp and J. A. Richey respectively. The present series is to comprise such selections from the educational records in the custody of the Department as have some historical significance. The work of making selections from the relevant records has been taken up and considerable progress made therein.

The Department has in its custody a wide variety of seals impressed on or affixed to original documents. It has been decided to compile a catalogue of these seals, noting in detail their size, shape, language, legend, date and other special features.

The One-Year Diploma Course of training in Archive-Keeping commenced with seven trainees on the roll. Six of them qualified for the award of diploma at the end of the year. The Department also conducted two Short Term Courses of three months' duration each, and imparted training in the administration and preservation of archives to sixteen nominees of the Central Government agencies and State Governments.

The National Archives of India organised an Exhibition of Gandhiji's Documents at Vigyan Bhawan from 30 January to 7 February, 1958, and displayed original documents and photographs concerning Mahatma Gandhi's

life and career, procured mainly from the Rabindra Sadan, Santiniketan, and the Publications Division and Exhibition Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, besides those belonging to the Sabarmati Ashram Memorial Trust and the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, in the custody of the Department.

Indian Historical Records Commission

The Indian Historical Records Commission met twice during the year, in March and December. Its 33rd session was held at Bhubaneswar on 23 and 24 March under the auspices of the Government of Orissa. This session was, in fact, the one that was due in 1957 but could not be held during that year as the question of reconstituting the Commission was under the consideration of the Government of India. It was inaugurated by Shri Y. N. Sukhthankar, Governor of Orissa, and presided over by Dr. K. L. Shrimali, the Union Minister for Education. Reviewing the achievements of the Indian Historical Records Commission during the last thirty-nine years of its existence Dr. Shrimali in his presidential address said that though it had rendered signal service to the cause of historical research in the country, it had to shoulder a still heavier responsibility—that of developing a new vision of the course of modern history. “The future historian must break the isolation and look beyond his own country and study the strivings of the human spirit, its successes and failures in all lands and ages. Undoubtedly the Indian historian is deeply interested in studying India's past, but in order that this study may give a correct perspective it has to be integrated with the studies of other civilisations and cultures.”

The Members Meeting held on 24 March was presided over by Dr. Tara Chand in the absence of Dr. Shrimali. It began with a resolution of condolence on the death of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, President of the Commission for the past ten years, and Prof. H. G. Rawlinson, an Ordinary Member from 1930 to 1936 and Corresponding Member from 1947 to 1952. After the Secretary gave the Commission an account of the work done by the National Archives of India during 1956 and 1957, the latter passed a number of resolutions one of which recommended that “edited texts or calendars of unpublished manuscript records or documents, when accompanied by an adequate introduction and critical apparatus, should be given the same recognition as original dissertations on arts or science subjects, and should be regarded as equally worthy of consideration for the award of a Doctorate Degree.” The Commission also reiterated its previous resolutions on the question of maintenance of the integrity of records of the States affected by merger or reorganisation and recommended that “in pursuance of the accepted archival principle, all records of the defunct States should be treated as the property of the successor Governments. As regards local records like those of Districts, Divisions, Sub-Divisions, Municipalities etc., all these records, both non-current and current, should remain where they are.”

The 34th session of the Commission began at Trivandrum on 31 December. It was inaugurated by Dr. B. Ramakrishna Rao, Governor of Kerala, who in his inaugural address said that there are valuable historical materials, untapped so far, in the possession of ancient families. He hoped that the deliberations of the Indian Historical Records Commission would result in formulating policies and methods of work which would foster the spirit, even among the public, of collecting and maintaining these papers. In his presidential address, Dr. K. L. Shrimali, Minister for Education, Government of India, reviewed the various activities of the National Archives of India. Referring to the main task of a modern historian he said, “History has always some reference to contemporary problems and attempts to interpret the past events in the light of the present. The problem before the historian at present is to focus our attention to the national ideals and spiritual values of our civilisation so that we may be able to solve our social, economic and political problems in consonance with our traditions and culture.”

At the Members Meeting held on the second day of the session a condolence resolution was passed on the death of Dr. Jadunath Sarkar, the doyen of Indian historians and an old member of the Commission, Dr. B. S. Baliga, Curator, Madras Record Office and an active member of the Commission since 1937, and Prof. G. B. Pandya, an Ordinary Member since 1952. The Commission thereafter passed several other resolutions. One of them reiterated “the imperative need for early enactment of suitable archival legislation” and urged the Government of India to expedite the appointment of a “Committee of Experts to advise the Government on the form and content of such legislation.” Another resolution suggested that the Government of India should “recommend to the State Governments to appoint trained Archivists in their District Record Offices for proper preservation of the valuable collections of old records kept therein.” The Commission strongly felt the necessity of “incorporating some development schemes of the Records Offices in India under the Five-Year Plans” and therefore passed a resolution requesting the Government of India “to provide adequate funds to the National Archives of India as well as to the State Governments to enable them to undertake a programme of development for their respective collections, under the Third Five-Year Plan.” The Commission also recommended to the State Governments, particularly those by which full-fledged record offices have not yet been established, “to set up such Record Offices and to undertake a phased programme of development under the Third Five-Year Plan.” By another resolution the newly set up archives offices were advised to constitute their offices in such a way as to conform to the basic principles governing the working of an organised records repository.

Research and Publication Committee

Three meetings of the Research and Publication Committee took place during the year under review. At its 26th meeting held at Bhubaneswar on

24 March the Committee passed among others the resolution that the Government of India should set up a separate section in the National Archives of India with a responsible officer at the head for the compilation of the National Register of Records. By another resolution the Committee appointed a Sub-Committee to reassess the Twenty-Year Publication Programme of the Department and submit its report when ready.

The 27th meeting of the Research and Publication Committee was held at New Delhi on 1 September. One of the important recommendations made by it was that, in order to help the research scholars, the heads of Record Offices and the Professors of various Universities should collaborate with the National Archives of India to prepare for publication in *The Indian Archives* a list of subjects on which researches could be undertaken, together with information about the availability of materials on them. As regards information about subjects on which researches were being conducted, the National Archives of India already publishes *Bulletin of Research Theses and Dissertations* which avoids unnecessary duplication of work. It was decided to include in this bulletin information about similar work done outside India as well. Other recommendations worth a special mention were: that the Record Offices in India should compile lists of their publications and reprint such of the publications as were out of print and for which there was a demand from research students and institutions; and that the heads of the State Record Offices should be authorised by their respective Governments to release, as far as possible without scrutiny, excerpts from all the records up to 1916 to *bona fide* research students. Further the Committee resolved that for having a comprehensive picture of the Indian Freedom Struggle in its last phase, the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, be requested to collect all materials relating to the activities of the Indian National Army and its leader Shri Subhas Chandra Bose from all conceivable sources.

By several important resolutions passed at the 28th meeting held at Trivandrum on 30 December the Committee suggested among other things (i) publication by the State Governments of old unpublished records of historical interest in their archives offices, and (ii) compilation and publication by the archives offices, libraries, museums and other institutions in India of catalogues of Persian documents in their respective custody.

National Committee of Archivists

The 8th meeting of the National Committee of Archivists was held at Bhubaneswar on 22 March, and was presided over by Dr. T. Raychaudhuri, Deputy Director of Archives, Government of India. As usual, technical problems relating to the preservation of records were the main subject of discussion at the meeting. Placing before the Committee the result of the investigations made in the National Archives of India in regard to the use of Japanese tissue paper for repair of records, Dr. Raychaudhuri stated that

accelerated ageing tests had revealed that the samples of tissue paper with more oily and waxy content showed yellowing tendencies and loss of transparency. He, therefore, suggested that while laying specifications for tissue paper the limits of the oily and waxy content in it might also be specified. The Committee discussed the necessity of uniformity in the designation of the State Record Offices and their heads, and recommended that the Central Record Office of a State should be termed as State Archives of the State concerned and officer in charge of it as Director of Archives. In view of the growing collection of microfilm records in various records repositories in the country and consequent need for a set of instructions for their proper upkeep and reference, the Committee suggested that copies of the "British Standard Recommendations for Storage of Microfilms" be obtained by the Convener from the Indian Standards Institution and supplied to all the State Record Offices, since these recommendations being based on considerable research and experience were considered quite suitable for adoption in Indian conditions.

At the 9th meeting of the National Committee of Archivists held at the National Archives of India, New Delhi on 2 September with Dr. T. Raychaudhuri in the chair, the Committee discussed among other problems the suitability of the various binding materials, and recommended that the National Archives of India should collect information from various record offices in India and also from those in the Western and Eastern countries about the comparative vulnerability of leather and art canvas used for binding of volumes to insect infestation. Another important recommendation of the Committee was that all non-current Secretariat records of a State Government, which were not required by the Administration for reference purposes, and, if possible, the District records also, should be transferred to the State Record Office at regular intervals. As for a microfilming unit which would be most suitable for small record offices, it was thought that Recordak Microfilm Camera, Model 'E', would be most convenient and economical.

The 10th meeting of the Committee was held at Trivandrum on 30 December. It was presided over by Shri K. D. Bhargava, Director of Archives, Government of India. Before the agenda of the meeting was taken up for discussion, the Committee passed a condolence resolution on the death of Dr. B. S. Baliga, Curator, Madras Record Office and member of the Committee since its inception. Among the important matters discussed at the meeting mention may be made of Shri G. N. Chandra's suggestion that copies of the "Staff Manual" of the National Archives of India should be supplied to all the State Record Offices for their guidance in the preparation of their respective manuals. The Chairman pointed out that the "Staff Manual" of the National Archives of India, which was last revised and published in 1939, was out of print, and stated that before getting it reprinted he would revise it and circulate the manuscript to the members of the Committee for their comments. The Committee also discussed the necessity of reference libraries for the State Record Offices and suggested that the head of each State Record

Office should move his Government to place adequate recurring funds at the disposal of the Record Office for building up its library.

Assam

Following up the plan of survey work drawn up by the Regional Records Survey Committee Shri B. Sarma was deputed to examine the records preserved in the Record Room of Dhubri and those at the Court of Wards, Abhayapuri Estate. The records in Dhubri date back to 1793 and refer to Goalpara, Gare Mahal, Eastern Duars, Bhutan, Cooch Behar, Rangpur and Dinajpur. There is also a fair number of letters and reports exchanged between the Collectors, Commissioners and Political Agents. They give an insight into the beginning of Anglo-Assamese relations. As the records are not properly preserved either in Dhubri or Bijni, the Committee has recommended the transfer of some of the more important ones to the Secretariat Record Room at Shillong.

Bihar

As in previous years, the Bihar Regional Records Survey Committee has continued its programme of survey of records collections in private custody. At Bettiah, Dr. K. K. Datta came across in the house of late Mohammad Munis the correspondence of Mahatma Gandhi with prominent Indian personalities during his visit there in 1917. In the course of their visits to Bhagalpur and Monghyr, Prof. S. H. Askari and Mr. Qeyamuddin Ahmad brought to light a large number of inscriptions many of which have hitherto remained unknown. They also examined a large collection of private papers belonging to Shah Shaiq Saheb and Shah Fakhre Alam Saheb of Bhagalpur. These papers relate to the flourishing residential *madrassa* founded by Mulla Shahbaz in the 17th century. A preliminary survey of the Darbhanga Raj Archives and Library has revealed that it contains in almost a continuous series the papers relating to the famous Raj family whose beginnings can be traced back to the early Mughal period. There are a series of *farmans* and *sanads* of early Mughal Emperors and Governors of Bihar, issued in favour of the ancestors of the present Raj family. The earliest extant *farman* is that of Akbar, dated 1576 A.D., to Gopal Thakur, son of Mahesh Thakur, the founder of the family. Besides the well-known Persian histories, the manuscripts section of the Raj Library includes *Makhzan-i-Afaghina* by Ni'matullah prepared during the reign of Jahangir at the instance of Khan-i-Jahan Lodi. History of Sind by Muhammad Ma'sum, and Letters of Saif Khan, Governor of Bihar during the reign of Shah Jahan. The record rooms of the Collectories of Purnea and Saran were also surveyed.

Bombay

Several interesting manuscripts and documents were received by the State Board for Historical Records and Ancient Monuments as a gift from Shri C. G.

Dalal of Bombay. Special mention among these may be made of the manuscript entitled *Arjan Namavali* copied in 1757 V.S. (1700 A.D.), and a lithographed book *Chauranyashi Vaishnavas Vrat* dated Mathura, 1818. Shri D. G. Kale, co-opted member of the Board, presented a Sanskrit *pothi* of 1638 A.D. entitled *Subhashit Muktavali*. The Board prepared a photostat copy of the Shaligram manuscript of *Dnyaneshwari* dated Shaka 1337.

Jammu and Kashmir

The Central repositories of Jammu and Kashmir continued to accession the non-current files of various Secretariat offices and departments such as Fisheries, Rakhs and Farms, Revenue, Medical, Law, Food and Supplies, etc.

As a result of the efforts of the Regional Records Survey Committee, several manuscripts and documents in Sharda, Persian and Urdu scripts on subjects such as history, religion, philosophy, grammar, geography, logic and astrology were located. They pertain to the period 1400-1600 A.D. A Sub-Committee for Research and Publication was set up with the object of collecting material for the writing of modern history of Kashmir and also for conducting general research work in the State.

Kerala

The work of collecting material for the writing of the History of the Freedom Movement in Kerala was continued. The compilation of the first two volumes covering the periods 1718-1884 and 1885-1937 was completed. The first volume was translated into Malayalam as well.

There was a change in the personnel of the Committee with the appointment of two new members: Dr. V. K. Sukumaran Nayar, Reader and Head of the Department of Politics, University of Kerala, and Mr. P. C. Joseph, Principal and Senior Professor of History, C.M.S. College, Kottayam. Mr. P. S. Raghavan, Professor of History and Politics, University College, Trivandrum, however, continued to be the convener.

Madras

In the death of Dr. B. S. Baliga on 21 September 1958, the Madras Record Office has suffered an irreparable loss and India lost one of its foremost archivists. Dr. Baliga had applied himself with characteristic method and thoroughness to the theory and practice of his profession and had established an institution which rightly earned the reputation of being one of the best organised in the country.

The Secretariat records for 1954 found their way to the Madras Record Office during the year. The records created by the advisory committees constituted under the Minimum Wages Act of 1948 were also received. The new work of preparing compendiums on important subjects connected with the

administration was commenced in April 1957. The scheme consists of tracing, collecting and studying all the records bearing on a particular subject and finally preparing an exhaustive compendium for the use of the Government. The studies already completed are: "The History of the Various Irrigation Bills and the Need for an Irrigation Act"; "Temperance and Prohibition in Madras"; "History of the Handloom Industry in Madras"; and "Possibilities of starting Iron and Steel Industry in Madras State." The work of preparing District Hand-books in place of the old District Gazetteers was continued. The District Hand-books for Madurai, South Arcot and Coimbatore are in various stages of printing, while the preparation of the Salem District Hand-book made good progress. Vol. 55 of *Public Despatches from England, 1751-52* was published during the year and vol. 56 covering the period 1752-53 was sent to the press.

The proposal of the Regional Records Survey Committee to form District Committees was approved by the Government and as an experimental measure steps were taken to constitute a District Committee at Tanjore. The existence of some palm-leaf manuscripts in the rock-cut Siva temple in Tirumayam, Trichy, was brought to the notice of the Regional Records Survey Committee which took necessary steps to get them for scrutiny. Some Christian missionaries were contacted with a view to collect material on church history.

The term of the Committee expired on 4 July 1958. The Committee is expected to be reconstituted for a further period of three years.

Orissa

The Government of Orissa has published *History of the Freedom Movement in Orissa* in four volumes, based on the archives available in the State. The State Record Office has undertaken publication *in extenso* of some of its important records to be known as 'Orissa Records Series' on the lines recommended by the Indian Historical Records Commission. It has been decided to have a modern Museum at Bhubaneswar, and it is planned in such a way that one portion of it will house the records of the medieval and modern periods. It will also contain a Research Section to study and collate the records which may become available. In the new Secretariat building which is being constructed at Bhubaneswar, there is sufficient space earmarked for the State Archives. It is expected that the Archives and the Museum will be able to lodge within their precincts all those historical records which are at present scattered in the Revenue Record Rooms of the various Collectorates, Commissioners' Offices and the Board of Revenue, not to mention the records in the erstwhile districts of the neighbouring States. Steps have been taken to set up a permanent Regional Survey Committee and District Committees. Many parts of the State were surveyed during the last two years and 133 historical documents, 32 copies of documents, 63 old coins, 16 palm-leaf manuscripts and a copper-plate grant brought to light.

Uttar Pradesh

In order to avoid duplication of work, the State Government has abolished the temporary setup called the "Manuscript Section" and transferred its functions to the Central Record Office, Allahabad. Accordingly all its assets comprising manuscripts, documents, books, etc. were deposited in the Central Record Office. Another important acquisition of the office was the donation of 46 unique documents by the District Judge of Saharanpur.

The Uttar Pradesh Regional Records Survey Committee was reconstituted in June 1958 and Dr. R. P. Tripathi appointed as its Chairman. The members will hold office till 31 March 1961. At its meeting held on 20 August 1958 the Committee decided to survey the records and manuscripts in private custody in Allahabad District, to begin with. A unit of four officials headed by the Assistant Keeper of Records, contacted several owners in Sirathu Tehsil. The results achieved were indeed very satisfying inasmuch as a number of manuscripts and documents were purchased or acquired by donation from some old Muslim families of Kara. Those papers that could not be acquired by purchase or gift were listed in the register maintained for the purpose.

INTERNATIONAL

Archives Round Table

The fourth International Archives Round Table met at Wiesbaden and at Frankfurt-on-Main from 20 to 22 May 1958 with delegates from 22 countries. Under the general subject "New Fields for the Use of Archives", the discussion at the conference covered a wide range of topics such as archives and literary history, archives and geographical research, archives and services to the national economy. It recommended among other things the preparation of special guides to archives for each country; adoption of adequate measures for the preservation of private archives of literary interest; and preparation of union catalogues of collections of maps and plans for each country. The delegates took the opportunity to visit the State Archives at Marburg and the School of Archivists attached thereto.

FID Conference

The twenty-third conference of the FID was held in Paris from 16 to 21 September 1957. It was attended by over 150 delegates from 20 countries. The important matters considered by the Council of the FID were: an annual supplement to the *Manual on document reproduction and selection*; the *Index bibliographicus* to be ready by the end of 1958; the need for a manual on scientific management; the possibility of holding an international conference of editors of journals on documentation; and the preparation of a syllabus in connection with the training of documentalists.

International Council on Archives •

Consequent on the death of M. André Artoune and on the resignation of Sir Hilary Jenkinson and Mr. Lester K. Born, archivists of Bavaria, Poland and India were nominated to fill their places.

International Documentation Centre, Stockholm

The International Documentation Centre was founded in Stockholm in 1957 to promote international co-operation in the field of documentation by means of microreproduction, especially microfiche. The Centre collects and catalogues titles of all important publications reproduced on microfiche. It has at present a collection of some 30,000 microreproductions. The catalogue is expected to be published six times a year and the copies distributed to some 2,000 important libraries throughout the world.

Indo-Iranian Reprints

A series entitled *Indo-Iranian Reprints*, which will reproduce out-of-print and rare scholarly books in Indo-Iranian studies, is being issued by the publishing firm of Mouton & Co., The Hague. The first volume is a photo-mechanic reprint of *Cikshasamuccaya, a compendium of Buddhistic Teaching*, edited by C. A. Bendall, first published in 1897-1902 by the Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg in the series *Bibliotheca Buddhica*.

International Committee on Bibliography

The International Advisory Committee on Bibliography recently concluded its fourth session in Paris. It adopted resolutions on UNESCO's bibliographical publications calling for greater co-operation and co-ordination of activities on an international level; reviewed recent bibliographies prepared with financial assistance from UNESCO; examined bibliographical problems involved in the execution of UNESCO's major project for the mutual appreciation of Eastern and Western cultural values; and studied UNESCO's bibliographical programme for 1959-60.

Established in Paris in November 1950 to act as a link between all the specialised bibliographical bodies, the International Advisory Committee has a distinguished membership. M. Julien Cain, Director of the National Library in Paris, is its Chairman; Mr. F. C. Francis, Keeper of the Department of Printed Books at the British Museum, its Vice-Chairman; and Dr. L. Brummel, Director of the Royal Library, The Hague, its Secretary-General.

Official War Histories

Several countries have undertaken to publish official versions of the histories of World War II. Detailed below is the list of projected volumes in Great Britain, Commonwealth countries and America.

Great Britain.—There will be 32 military, 29 civil and 21 medical volumes of official War histories. The series is expected to be completed by 1960.

Australia.—Australia in the War of 1939-1945 is being published in five series: Army (7 volumes), Navy (2 volumes), Air (4 volumes), Civil (5 volumes), and Medical (4 volumes).

Basutoland.—Basuto Soldiers in Hitler's War.

Bechuanaland.—Ten Thousand Men in Africa: the Story of the Bechuanaland Pioneers and Gunners, 1941-46.

Canada.—Official History of the Canadian Army in the Second World War (3 volumes).

Fiji.—The History of the Fiji Military Forces, 1939-1945.

India and Pakistan.—Official History of the Indian Armed Forces in the Second World War, 1939-1945. It is to include general war administration and organisation (5 volumes), campaigns in the Eastern Theatre (5 volumes), and campaigns in the Western Theatre (5 volumes). There is also to be an introductory volume to the series, besides histories of the Royal Indian Navy, the Royal Indian Air Force and the Medical Services.

New Zealand.—Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War, 1939-1945 (11 volumes).

Southern Rhodesia.—The War History of Southern Rhodesia (2 volumes).

Union of South Africa.—The war history in 2 volumes.

United States of America.—The Army Air Forces in World War II (7 volumes), History of the U.S. Naval Operations in World War II (13 volumes), and United States Army in World War II (90 volumes in 11 sub-series).

UNITED KINGDOM

Public Records Act, 1958

The Public Records Act, 1958, came into force on 1 January 1959 superseding the earlier Public Record Office Acts of 1838 to 1898. It gives effect to the main recommendations of the Committee on Departmental Records. The direction of the Public Record Office passes from the Master of the Rolls to the Lord Chancellor who is to be generally responsible for the execution of the Act and is to supervise the care and preservation of public records. It, however, preserves the ancient responsibility of the Master of the Rolls in regard to the records of the Chancery of England. The Lord Chancellor may appoint a Keeper of Public Records whose duty it will be to take all practicable steps for the preservation of records under his charge. The Act requires the transfer to the Public Record Office of public records selected for permanent preservation before 30 years have elapsed from their creation, and simplifies the procedure under which records not thus selected can be destroyed. As a general rule, it specifies that all public records created before the year 1660 are to be included among those selected for permanent preservation, and provides that all public records shall be open to public inspection 50 years after their creation.

Public Record Office, London

After the erection of additional shelving the total accommodation available for the storage of records at the Ashridge repository amounted to 154,000 feet of which 82,160 were in occupation by the end of 1958. This includes 4,400 foot-run of records comprising 18,912 pieces received during the year. Large transfers covering wide range of classes were also made by the Admiralty, Foreign Office, Supreme Court of Judicature and the Ministry of Transport.

The total extent of the documents housed in the Intermediate Repositories of Hayes, Yeading and Leake Street was 621,000 feet. The number of Departments transferring their records to these repositories remained unchanged at 34.

Record publications issued during 1958 comprised *Acts of the Privy Council*, vol. XLIV (July 1628—April 1629) and *Calendars of Treasury Books*, vols. XXIX (Part I), XXX (Parts I & II), XXXI (Parts II & III) and XXXII (Part II). The revision of Giuseppi's *Guide to the Public Records* continued.

Records Administration Division.—69 Departmental Record Officers were appointed in the various offices and other bodies having public records. With most of them the appropriate Inspecting Officers of the Division established an active liaison. Substantial progress in the work of selection of documents for permanent retention was reported. The quantities of waste paper released during the year in the course of both the present operation and the routine elimination of valueless records amounted to 6,651 tons, representing an estimated 400,000 foot-run of documents. Introduction of the new reviewing procedure was completed in 22 Departments, and a few of them started operating it as well. *A Guide for Departmental Record Officers (Provisional)*, issued early in the year, was found very helpful in the quick disposal of the work of the Departments on records. A committee set up to determine the treatment of 'particular instance' papers reached decision on thirty classes of such papers.

British Records Association

The annual General Meeting of the British Records Association was held on 25 November 1958 with the Master of the Rolls in the chair. He referred to a scheme of co-operation between the Association and the Business Archives Council for the deposit of important business collections in repositories where historians of various interests might have access to them. A room at the Charterhouse was to be made available for the use of the Council.

Sir Hilary Jenkinson presided over the annual General Meeting of the Records Preservation Section. Initiating the discussion on "Medical Records" he referred to the Exhibition of Medical Records at the Royal College of Physicians, which showed what a wealth of knowledge could be gained from

a search of medical records including those to be found in county repositories. Dr. Richard Newman, Dean of the Post-graduate Medical School of London, then read a very interesting paper on medical records. He pointed out—and very rightly so—that, in general, medical records are made for current practical use and preserved for a variety of reasons of which historical research is usually not the most deliberate. The clinical case-notes on patients, note-books and case-books usually left by distinguished physicians and surgeons offer the best and complete source material for the histories of the introduction of all new methods of diagnosis and treatment. They are an evidence of the history of the development of scientific method, as well as a record of the progress of research. He advocated, therefore, that the destruction of clinical notes should be resisted by historians. He then went on to enumerate the other sources of documentation for the history of medicine. Dr. F. Hull of Kent spoke of the value of parish records as a source of medical material, and Mrs. J. Varley called attention to diocesan records.

In the ensuing discussion, Dr. Richard Hunter, a practising psychiatrist, particularising on Dr. Newman's general observations, remarked that the unpublished records, still largely untapped, were invaluable to the psychiatric historian as they provide essential information without which no reliable history of psychiatry can be written. Printed books of that time give only part of the story as they consist mainly of orthodoxies, systems and catalogues of old routine treatments. How physicians actually conducted their practice, what sort of insane patients they met, how they dealt with them, in other words case histories, were matters not thought worth communicating in print. Hence much of the clinical aspects of psychiatry, the most important part of its history, can only be found in contemporary records. Dr. Hunter further mentioned that since there is a close link between psychiatry and the law, an important aspect of psychiatric history was to be found in legal rather than medical documents. Miss E. D. Mercer from Middlesex elaborating on the above said that Minutes of Justices of the Peace on their county days contained much interesting material on medical matters, including reports submitted by directors and matrons of lunatic asylums.

A meeting of the Business Archives Council was arranged to discuss co-operation between the Business Archives Council and the British Records Association. Professor A. V. Judges in opening the discussion traced the history of the Business Archives Council. He stressed the point that no attempt was made to collect material or to acquire storage space but the Council tried to find suitable accommodation for records in need of care. Mr. J. Wadsworth said that the Council had compiled an index covering several hundred firms and was giving practical help to those who were trying to salvage and preserve their records. Mr. D. M. Joslin felt that the great improvement in the writing of the history of banking in England was due mostly to the Business Archives Council which had made known and brought within easy reach these archives. The Chairman, Mr. J. A. Giuseppi, in

summing up, made a plea for clear directives as to the destruction and sampling of business records.

120 years of record keeping at the Public Record Office from the Record Office Act of 1838 to the Public Records Act of 1958 was a subject of another meeting presided over by Mr. Robert Somerville and addressed by Mr. H. C. Johnson.

Business Archives Council

A journal entitled *Business History*, sponsored by the Business Archives Council, made its debut in December 1958. The main feature of the journal is that it contains articles based on research among important collections of business records.

The Council's *Quarterly News-letter* circulates information on subjects of direct or related interest to business historians and archivists.

Conference on Business Records

The second conference on Business Records was held under the auspices of the ASLIB on 10 June 1958. It was attended by about 150 people, mostly representing business firms, libraries and record offices. Mr. R. H. Ellis gave an illuminating talk on the archive organisations which were ready to help business firms to deal with the problems of preservation and destruction of their records. Mr. E. W. Ivey of the Wellcome Foundation began by saying that the first maxim was "Keep as little as possible" and went on to discuss the factors affecting departures from this principle. Professor J. W. Blake of the University College of North Staffordshire then gave the historian's point of view and his first maxim was "Keep everything"! But he recognised that different documents had different values. He gave an interesting account of work being done in England by the economic and social historians basing their observations on business records.

Commonwealth Relations Office

The Library of the Office has an active microfilm and photostatic programme by means of which it acquires copies of manuscripts in private hands. Important accessions during the year 1957-58 include Elphinstone Manuscripts (three members of the family), Elgin Manuscripts (two Governors General), some Clive letters, and a diary of the siege of Lucknow (partially printed).

John Rylands Library, Manchester

Recent additions to the Crawford Collection at the John Rylands Library include correspondence addressed to the Honourable Robert Lindsay who was in the service of the East India Company from 1772 to 1788. The Collection contains a Letter-Book (1784-6) concerning his trade enterprises in India. A smaller group contains letters from the firm of Messers Colvin,

Bazett and Co. of Calcutta, 1786-1821, which acted for him in India where he continued to own property and engage in trading. The Clinton Family Papers acquired by the Library also incorporate a small group of papers of Indian interest mainly consisting of military correspondence addressed to Henry Clinton as Adjutant General between 1803 and 1804, relating to hostilities and to the organisation, movement and equipment of troops. There are about 26 letters of Lord Lake (July 1803-November 1804) with a number of Clinton's draft replies. Among miscellaneous records are documents respecting the Horse Artillery in Bengal, arms, equipment and exercises, Minutes of Lord William Bentinck when Governor of Madras, and a paper entitled "Statements and Facts Arising out of Verbal and Written Evidences Respecting the Battle of Laswarce, 1 November 1803."

School of Oriental and African Studies

The School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, has planned to undertake a survey of all manuscripts bearing upon Southern Asia, except those in Oriental languages, which can be traced in any part of the British Isles. Manuscript material covered by the survey will include private and family papers, the archives of governments, and the records of such non-official bodies as missionary societies and trade organisations; and the area to be covered by the survey is the entire Indian sub-continent, Afghanistan and Tibet, and South-East Asia. After the survey work is over the School proposes to classify the manuscript descriptions by subject, and to publish them with an exhaustive index. This will provide a bibliographical tool of the greatest value for research in South Asian studies, showing both what manuscript material is available on particular topics and what topics are adequately documented.

Anglo-American Conference of Historians

The annual Anglo-American Conference of Historians was held from 10 to 12 July 1958. The opening session was addressed by Dr. Louis B. Wright, Director of the Folgar Library, the subject at issue being "The British tradition in America in retrospect". "The creation of a usable past," another aspect of American social history, was dealt with by Professor H. S. Commager at a subsequent general meeting. The papers read at the various section meetings of the conference covered a wide range and included among others: "The commercial factor in the planting colonies, 1696-1765", by Professor A. C. Land; "The feudal origins of the late nineteenth century political leadership in Japan," by Professor W. G. Beasley; "Enlightened despotism in Spain and Spanish America," by Dr. J. Lynch; and "Aspects of North Atlantic trade, 1815-60," by Mr. J. Potter. The exhibition of historical works, which has become a regular feature at these conferences, displayed over a thousand books published in the United Kingdom during the previous twelve months.

FRANCE

Congress of French Archivists

The sixth annual Congress of French Archivists was held in Paris from 7 to 10 November 1957. Present at the conference were Directeurs and Conservateurs of archives from the departments as well as those from the Archives nationales and big cities in France. The conference was also attended by well-known archivists from Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Denmark, Russia and Yugoslavia. The main theme of discussion was "Problems of construction and equipment of archives buildings". This provoked several interesting speeches from the delegates. A new wing of the Archives nationales, opened on the occasion, provided a practical demonstration of the ultra-modern furnishings and equipment of an archival building. These consist of not only the latest "compact" system of shelving in a fully air-conditioned and fire-proof building but also the latest lamination and microfilm apparatus.

GERMANY

A centre for unpublished scholarly manuscripts has been opened at the Deutsche Bibliothek, Frankfurt-on-Main. These manuscripts will be thrown open for research purposes and made known to public through bibliographical notices, etc. Foreign language manuscripts are also expected to be mentioned therein. At present these manuscripts are listed in the Library's weekly list, but later there will be a separate bibliography which will appear regularly. The Government took steps in time to prevent the break-up by auction of a collection of 8000 letters and notes, several among them from Napoleon Bonaparte to his second wife, the Empress Marie-Louise.

ITALY

The Italian Government has decided to publish the original correspondence of Cavour and Garibaldi through the agency of two national commissions appointed for this purpose. All the unpublished letters to and from Cavour and Garibaldi available in foreign countries are also being collected for use by these commissions.

A new organisation of Ecclesiastical Archivists has been established with its headquarters in the Vatican City, Rome. The purpose of the new association is "to contribute, under the inspiration of the directives of the Holy See, to the careful preservation and study of the archives which are of interest for the history of the Church; and to promote by every possible means the greater scientific and technical proficiency of its members in relation to such archives."

The first convention of the organisation was held in Rome from 5 to 8 November 1957 with Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, who has succeeded the late Giovanni Cardinal Mercati as Librarian and Archivist at the Vatican, in the chair. Papers on subjects like "The Tasks and Responsibility of the Archivist," "Problems of Arrangement and Preservation" and "Archives and Historical Research" were read and discussed. The organisation plans to bring out a journal in the near future.

EGYPT

Institute of Arab Manuscripts

The Institute was created in April 1946 by the Arab League at its headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, with a view to make known its over three million volumes scattered in public and private libraries throughout the world. It is achieving its aim by reproducing the most valuable and rare Arab manuscripts and making them available for research in microfilm or photostat form in the Institute premises. It has published two volumes of catalogues listing manuscripts microfilmed up to 1957. The Institute has so far sent out missions to Egypt, India, Jerusalem, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey, which have yielded satisfactory results. Microfilms of manuscripts in Paris, Iran, Milan, Leyden, Cambridge and London have also been made. Its Journal *Revue de l'Institut des manuscrits arabes* acts as a link between Islamic scholars throughout the world.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

National Archives and Records Service

World War II Records Division has been set up within the National Archives. Its holdings consist of the records of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force from 1939 to 1951. Most of these records were formerly housed in the Adjutant General's Office. Among the recent accessions are the records of the Department of Labour, 1884-1913; general correspondence of the office of the Secretary of Commerce, 1903-50; and records of the United States Circuit Court, 1803-1904. The holdings of the records centres in December 1957 reached a new peak of 37,95,000 cubic feet. The inventory programme of the National Archives and Records Service made great progress during the year. Inventories Nos. 100-109 were issued.

In order to facilitate the use of War records in its custody, the National Archives has published general guides prepared by the American Historical Association's Committee. The first of these, the *Index of Microfilmed Records of the German Foreign Ministry and the Reich's Chancellery covering the Weimar Period* lists microfilm copies of seized documents of the German

Foreign Ministry, acquired by the National Archives from the Department of State. Other guides to German records so far published are: No. 1, *Records of the Reich Ministry of Economics*; No. 2, *Records of the Office of the Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of Germandom*; No. 3, *Records of the National Socialist German Labour Party*; and No. 4, *Records of the Organization Todt*.

Waldo Gifford Leland was honoured on 24 October 1957 when his portrait was unveiled in the Conference Room of the National Archives Building. Dr. Wayne C. Grover spoke briefly of Dr. Leland's contribution to the development of the archival profession. Dr. Solon J. Buck delivering the main address said that Dr. Leland along with Claude H. Van Tyne made the first comprehensive survey of the archives of the Government of the United States in Washington and compiled the first *Guide* to them. Thereafter, as head of the Carnegie Institution's project to prepare guides to materials for American history in the libraries and archives of Paris, as a member of the American Historical Association's Public Archives Commission and of its Committee on National Archives, and as a moving spirit in the organisation of the Society of Archivists, Dr. Leland was always in the forefront of efforts to improve the archival situation in the country.

Federal Register Division.—The Federal Register Division of the National Archives and Records Service has undertaken the publication of a series of annual volumes entitled *Public Papers of the President of the United States*. The first volume *Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1957*, was presented formally to President Eisenhower by the Administrator of General Services, Mr. Franklin Floete and the United States Archivist, Dr. Wayne C. Grover. The volume contains the President's messages to Congress, his important speeches and statements, his press conferences, etc. This new series is a revivification of the old series *Messages and Papers of the Presidents*, the last volume of which, Richardson's *Messages* etc., was published in 1899. The series is designed to make public papers of the Presidents as readily accessible as proceedings of the Congress and the Supreme Court.

On the subject of Federal Regulations three volumes have so far been published. The latest volume entitled *Title 3, 1949-1953 Compilation, of the Code of Federal Regulations* contains the full text of Presidential documents published in the *Federal Register* from 1 January 1949 to 31 December 1953. The documents refer to proclamations, executive orders, reorganisation plans and administrative orders.

American Historical Association

The American Historical Association is preparing a *Guide to Photocopied Historical Materials in the United States and Canada*. It will list and locate photocopied holdings of historical manuscripts according to traditional subject and period fields of history.

National Historical Publications Commission

The Ford Foundation has made a grant to the Commission for the purpose of preparing a documentary history of the ratification of the constitution and the first ten amendments. The project is expected to be completed in about five years. Robert E. Cushman, former President of the American Political Science Association has been appointed editor-in-charge.

Library of Congress

The number of manuscripts in the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress is now estimated to be about 15½ million. Mrs Woodrow Wilson has augmented the Wilson Papers by transferring selections from her own correspondence of the period 1893-1924 and by letters and dispatches received at the White House on the eve of war with Germany. Other acquisitions include about 6,000 personal papers of Alton B. Parker, New York State Judge from 1886 to 1904 and presidential candidate of the Democratic Party in 1904; first instalment of the papers of Theodore Roosevelt Jr., including over 200 letters, 1890-1918, from his father; three Lincoln manuscripts and 47 autograph letters and a signed tribute to Lincoln; papers of Robert H. Terrell relating to the history of the negroes in America; and personal papers, about 2,500, concerning the career of Donald R. Richberg at the bar and in the Federal service during President Roosevelt's administration.

The Library now has about 2,700,000 documents of former Presidents. According to the recent directive, these papers are to be indexed, arranged and microfilmed. Five of its collections of papers of Jefferson, Madison, Van Buren, Polk and Lincoln have been reproduced on microfilm. An edition of the *Library of Congress Catalog of Books*, reproducing nearly 2 million catalogue cards printed by the Library between 1898-1942, is being issued.

The microfilm collection of the Library saw an increase of over 80 rolls of materials of American interest microfilmed at the Public Record Office in London and the National Register Office in Edinburgh. A joint programme of the Library and the Committee on Documentary Reproduction of the American Historical Association financed by Ford Foundation grant has resulted in the microfilming of foreign documentary material of American interest in the libraries and archives of France, Italy, Austria and the Netherlands.

Among the publications of the Library during the year mention may be made of a collotype facsimile of Lincoln's scrap-book of the Lincoln-Douglas debates entitled *The Illinois Political Campaign of 1858*, and a guide *Booker T. Washington; a Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress*.

Harry S. Truman Library Institute

The grant of \$48,700 by the Rockefeller Foundation is expected to help substantially the publication programme and the collection of reference

materials pertaining to the former President in the Truman Library. Among other materials, the Library will purchase a complete set of the National Archives microfilm publications on foreign relations (1789-1906) and a micro-filmed set of the documents of the United Nations (1945-53).

The acquisitions during the year include a copy of microfilm edition of the Adam Papers presented by the Democratic National Committee.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

The Library has brought out a two-volume publication entitled *Franklin D. Roosevelt and Conservation, 1911-1945*. It contains about 1200 letters, memoranda, press conference discussions and speeches of Roosevelt on conservation. Another publication worth a mention in microfilm is the stenographic transcript of Roosevelt's press conferences, comprising a total of about 13,000 typewritten pages.

Important acquisitions of the Library include papers of Wayne Coy, John M. Carmody, William D. Hassett and Harley M. Kilgore.

PUERTO RICO

General Archives

The development programme of the last decade has resulted in an impressive progress in all the phases of Puerto-Rican life. This coupled with expansion of governmental services has resulted in notable increases in the creation of public records. In 1955 an Act was approved by the Legislature of Puerto Rico creating Public Documents Administration Program and the General Archives of Puerto Rico. Briefly this programme provides the legal basis for the administration of documents in three governmental branches. A record administrator was created for each branch, and it is his responsibility to see that all documents of historical, legal, administrative, or informational value are transferred to the General Archives and the rest destroyed. This is achieved by submitting to the Archivist General lists of disposition of documents.

Originally the Archives was created as an administrative unit within the University of Puerto Rico. After the creation of the Institute of Puerto-Rican Culture the management of the General Archives was transferred to the Institute, of which it is now an administrative unit.

The papers so far transferred date back to early 19th century. Of special interest are the documents relating to the Real Audiencia (Supreme Court) from 1832 to 1898, as well as those of the Demographic Registry from 1885 to 1931.

MICROFILMING AND PHOTODUPLICATION

Microbox

Microbox is the latest in multipurpose machines designed by Microbox Apparatebau, Offenbach-am-main, West Germany. It is an inexpensive and easy to handle microfilm apparatus of manageable size which can be used to make microfilm negatives and, by means of a number of extra appliances, can be turned quickly into a film developer or a reader. It consists of an exposure apparatus which can take single sheets or books up to a maximum size of 22×33 cm.; a camera adapter which can take 35 mm. perforated film up to 30 metres in length; and a developer composed of developing, washing and drying sections where the film is developed and fixed at the same time. The camera adapter can be replaced by a reading device.

French Microfilm Reader

The AUDomatic is a new microfilm reader designed for the projection of microfilm of newspapers, journals, etc., recorded on long lengths of 35 mm. unperforated and perforated film, 16 mm. film, etc. It can take lengths of film up to 1,000 feet, which are permanently enclosed in chargers, and labelled and shelved like a book. It can also project filmstrips, diapositives, etc. The AUDomatic has been devised and built in collaboration with the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, for use in its newspaper reading room.

The "Dagmar" Microfilm Reader

"Dagmar" is a cheap portable microfiche-microfilm reader produced in Holland. It is of the "mirror to table top" type. The image is thrown on to a sheet of white paper or card and as the mirror can be raised on its rods, quite an increase in magnification is obtained. The lighting arrangement is so good that no curtains or screens are needed in a normally-lit room.

Copyflo

The xerographic "Copyflo" continuous printer makes enlarged paper copies from microfilm at high speed and gives very clear and clean images. This equipment is operated by Rank Xerox. Any size of magnification of the original can be achieved, and the paper shows no tendency to curl as does normal photographic paper.

BOOK REVIEWS

Hundred Years of the University of Calcutta (Calcutta, 1957; pp. xxi+539; price Rs. 25).

HUNDRED Years of the University of Calcutta, as the title itself shows, is a record of the establishment and development of the University of Calcutta in the last hundred years. Issued on the occasion of its centenary celebrations, it was compiled by a distinguished Board of Editors under the chairmanship of Professor Pramathanath Banerjee. He and his colleagues deserve to be congratulated for the very interesting and on the whole objective description of the way in which the University has developed in the last hundred years. They have used source material wherever possible and discussed the growth of the University in the wider context of India's educational changes, so that the book is not an account of one University alone but a history of the growth of higher education in India.

This should not surprise those who are familiar with the growth of modern Western education in the country. It is not always remembered that, in the earlier days, the University of Calcutta catered to the educational needs of the whole of India excepting only the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay. Till 1882 when the University of Punjab was established, its jurisdiction extended right up to the North West Frontier of India and in the east, Burma was for a long time within its domain. The establishment of new universities reduced its territorial jurisdiction, but for many decades it continued to be the main source of supply of teachers and other staff for the newer universities.

It was, however, not only its territorial jurisdiction or its contribution to the staffs of other universities which marks out the Calcutta University as perhaps the most important single instrument for the introduction of Western ideas into India. For long, Calcutta was the political capital of India and attracted some of the best brains from all over the country. Even when the political capital shifted to Delhi, the Calcutta University remained a centre of intellectual activities. In fact, some of its most remarkable developments were initiated in the decade immediately following the transfer of the capital. We thus find that many of the pioneering activities in the field of scientific and technical education in the country originated there. It was also the pioneer in the study of Indian history and culture and established its reputation as a centre for the dissemination of knowledge and the development of new and creative ideas. Its alumni spread throughout India and brought new standards of intellectual attainment and social behaviour wherever they went. One may add that it was this University which first attracted large scale endowments and donations from non-official sources and thus acquired a national character which it retained in spite of the pressure from the administrations of the day.

It has often attracted the notice of students of public affairs that in the latter half of the nineteenth century and in the first few decades of the

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பக நூலகம்,
எழும்பூர், சென்னை-600 008.

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