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P. N. Kirpal.

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by *Dietmar Rothermund.*

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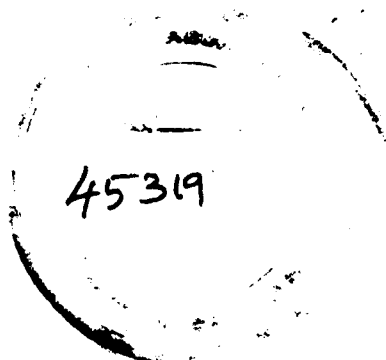
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THE INDIAN ARCHIVES

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FOUR PATH-FINDERS : A TRIBUTE TO FLOWER, JENKINSON, BUCK AND SEN

S. Roy

DEATH does not cease its cruel mowing in our ranks. Only the other day, on 5 March 1961, there was wrested from us, at the height of his power, one whose name has been "a household word among all who are concerned with archives", namely, Charles Hilary Jenkinson. Since then in quick succession the same tragedy has overtaken three more pivotal figures in the archival world, Cyril Thomas Flower, Solon Justus Buck, and Surendranath Sen, plunging us again and again in deep and inconsolable grief. All four had struggled hard to elevate the study of archives to a scientific discipline, and to win for the till then neglected record-keeper's craft the dignity of a profession. The far-reaching changes that have recently taken place in the very conception of archives and archive-keeping would not have been possible but for the labour, devotion, enthusiasm and scholarship which these four great path-finders had brought to bear on their task. They will be deeply mourned by archivists and archive-users all over the world. But to the Indian Historical Records Commission, with which their association was a long and intimate one and which owes them a deep debt of gratitude for the many fruitful ways in which they helped it to function, the loss seems irreparable.

Cyril Thomas Flower (1879-1961)

Of the four luminaries, Flower was the seniormost and also, chronologically, the first to shed lustre on the profession which owes so much to him. Having joined in 1903 the Public Record Office, London, the premier archives repository of the world, as a First Divisional Clerk he gradually rose to be an Assistant Keeper and became Secretary in 1926. He assumed the charge of the Office in March 1938 as Deputy Keeper, retiring 9 years later in April 1947.

These long years which were among the most momentous in the annals of British archives witnessed sweeping changes not only in the teaching and writing of history but in the entire approach towards the



Dr. S. N. Sen (1890-1962)

handling and interpretation of records. This was largely due to the efforts of eminent historians like Tout at Manchester, Pollard at London, Poole at Oxford and Maitland at Cambridge, who broke new ground by bringing university teaching in closer relations with research among primary sources. A new horizon was thus opened up for the historical worker, and larger and larger number began to flock to the archives, waking up, as a result, to the advantage which could be obtained from experience of records in bulk as opposed to mere isolated pieces violently torn out of their context. In the changed situation record-keeping came to acquire a new significance, greater emphasis commencing to be placed on conserving archives in their original and natural order which made them easily accessible, than on artificially breaking them up or 'methodising' them to suit the ever-elusive academic mood of the moment. Simultaneously, there was in evidence a keener realisation that the first task of the archivist was to render his materials readily available to their users, leading to a radical expansion in the publication programme of the Record Office in which listing and calendaring came to play an increasingly important part.

Flower was early caught up in this new movement, and his own contribution to it was incalculably more than a mere list of his published works can possibly convey. Yet his editorial work was by no means negligible. A profound scholar of medieval Latin and legal history, he directed his attention specially to the Curia Regis Rolls, of which he himself copied out and edited no less than 13 volumes, each serving as an excellent example of thorough and meticulous textual editing. Equally memorable are his *Public Works in Medieval Law*, which he edited for the Selden Society, and his magnificent *Introduction to the Curia Regis Rolls*, also written for the same society. Both were based upon a deep and extensive knowledge of medieval documents combined with a penetrating insight into the subtle complexities of medieval administrative and legal institutions. We also owe to him a scholarly edition of *Registrum Simonis de Gandavo*, which he brought out, in collaboration with M.C.B. Dawes, for the Canterbury and York Society. These editorial enterprises, reinforced by those of several among his colleagues, provided the foundation on which long-range and comprehensive studies of Medieval England could be firmly and securely based. On the purely technical side, apart from the improvements he effected in textual editing, Flower was responsible for the development of a new approach in documentary indexing, an approach which is vividly mirrored in his *Analytical Index of the Acts and Ordinances of the Commonwealth*. His ideas on the subject can perhaps be best gathered from the article on indexing medieval records, which he contributed to the Cuvelier number of this journal.

The changed outlook necessitated a change in the character of the staff which was to serve the Archives. The Civil Service Examination which had so long been the only source of recruitment proved now to be inadequate, and it seemed imperative to find candidates who had the necessary academic background for being qualified for the work. The solution was ultimately found in 1929, chiefly through the efforts of Flower, then still Secretary, in an altered procedure under which vacancies were to be filled by a Selection Board with power to hold a competitive examination strictly on the basis of the academic qualifications of the candidates and their special fitness for archival work. The new system, which came to be combined with a better organised method of training, was the necessary first step towards the evolution of a genuine archival profession. The task begun was furthered by forging new links between archival workers on the one hand and their colleagues in the historical field on the other. Already the Record Office had been working in close collaboration with learned bodies like the Royal Historical Society, the Society of Antiquarians, and the Pipe Roll Society. Association with such bodies on the part of the employees of the P.R.O. was encouraged as a matter of policy. Flower himself was an active member of all the three bodies named above, besides being associated with a host of others, including the Canterbury and York Society, the Wiltshire Archaeological Society, the Friends of the National Libraries, and the Selden Society. For the last he was long an editor, and having been a member of its Council became at length its President. Such collaborations came to be placed on a more systematic basis with the founding of the Institute of Historical Research in London University, which enabled the members of the P.R.O. to form closer ties with historical workers, thus making possible a salutary change in their academic outlook. Flower was the Director of the Institute from 1939 to 1944, and had a large share in formulating its policies and guiding its activities.

Another organisation of great importance, in the formation of which Flower lent his hand, was the British Records Association, whose chief objects were to arouse public interest in, and to create a sound public opinion on, matters affecting records; to ensure the co-operation, to these ends, of all institutions and persons interested in archives; and to provide a forum for exchange of opinion among such persons and institutions. Flower was for many years a member of its Council and also acted as its Chairman during the whole period of his Deputy-Keepership. Together with its leading members he had a large share in organising a salvage drive to prevent the destruction of historical documents. As Chairman of the Master of the Rolls' Committee on Archives, set up in 1944, Flower took a leading part in

mooting a proposal for a National Register of Archives which has since been largely implemented.

His services met with official recognition in 1946, when he was rewarded with the honour of knighthood. Academic recognition came with his appointment as a fellow of the British Academy, which he himself regarded as an appreciation of the work he had done as editor of the 13 volumes of *Curia Regis Rolls*. Indeed, these volumes have a value far surpassing that of most of the secondary works which have liberally drawn on them, for they are built on the rock of documentation and not on the quicksands of view-point or mode.

Charles Hilary Jenkinson (1882-1961)

Jenkinson, Flower's immediate successor as Deputy Keeper, was the real founder of the British school of archival thinking in the same sense in which Heinrich von Sybel was the founder of the German school and Eugenio Casanova, of the Italian. None, in fact, had struggled so hard or so tenaciously as he to discover the basic principles underlying the amorphous and confusing medley of archival practices of his day and to build out of them an orderly and intelligent system for the future archivists to follow. That he succeeded in his mission so remarkably well is a measure of his greatness as an original and constructive archival thinker.

Jenkinson joined the Public Record Office as an Assistant Keeper in 1906. Having secured a first class Tripos of the Cambridge University and a good place in the first division of the Civil Service he spurned the glittering prospects which both the academic world and the administrative held out to him, and chose to identify himself whole-heartedly with the then little valued archivist's vocation. The Record Office with its vast resources in Latin documents offered him ample scope for turning his classical scholarship solely to historical purposes. Yet he overcame the temptation, addressing himself to purely archival tasks, such as arrangement and classification, listing and calendaring, and the study of archival practices and archive-history. Not that he had no flair for historical research. His scholarly sketches of Edward I and Philip the Fair (*English Historical Review*, 1936) and his equally learned studies on the first Parliament of Edward I (*ibid.*, 1910 and 1943) and William Cade, a financier of the twelfth century (*ibid.*, 1913), to say nothing of his many essays on aspects of medieval administration, would belie any such impression. But these are not the works which one has in view when thinking of his scholarly achievements. One rather is reminded of his monumental *Manual of Archive Administration*, his great and fascinating studies on old handwriting, particularly the

treatises he wrote on the English Court hand; and his numerous essays on a never-ending series of specialised topics like seals, autographs, medieval talleys, ancient bindings, physical make-up of records, punctuations, documentary forms and toponymy, in each of which he was both a pioneer and an acknowledged authority.

It has sometimes been laid at his door that he kept himself too much preoccupied with the mere *minutiae*. Nevertheless, but for these preoccupations he would not have discovered for us those subtle impalpabilities in archival behaviour without a firm grasp of which no understanding is possible of the basic principles of archive-keeping. The foundation of his interest in these principles goes back to his earliest days in office, which were mainly spent in the mere listing and arrangement of the Exchequer of Receipt records. It was this task which started him on the investigation of the entire history of the Receipt and its records, leading him to discover the original arrangement of the Rolls, and eventually enabling him to arrive at those first principles which form the basis of his classic *Manual* published in 1922. For England as well as the English speaking world the *Manual* has since its first appearance become the authoritative guide for archive-work, supplanting the earlier work by the Dutch archivists, Müller, Feith and Früin. Speaking of its influence on American archivists Oliver Wendel Holmes recently observed: "It inevitably became the Bible to which inexperienced directors and untrained staff-members turned for guidance". The same remark is largely applicable to archivists in many another land.

Among other 'inconsequences' which fascinated Jenkinson during his early years were the eccentricities of the documentary hand and the form of public record, subjects which have since become dignified with the titles of paleography and diplomatic, chiefly through his efforts. It was in a paper presented to the International Congress of Historians in 1913 that he first enunciated his own view of these apparent trivialities as the very key to administrative history. Not content merely with his writings on these subjects, which were considerable, he found also other means to popularise their study in universities and colleges. When, for instance, in 1911 he was appointed the Maitland Memorial Lecturer at the Cambridge University he utilised the opportunity to choose as his subject 'English Paleography and Diplomatic, 1066-1485.' He delivered the Maitland lectures till 1935 and again in 1938 and 1949. In 1913, he lectured on the same topics at the London School of Economics, in 1920 at the University College, London and from 1920 to 1925 at the King's College of the same University. The new disciplines received formal academic recognition with the formation, in 1925, of a Readership in Diplomatic

and Archives at the London University, which Jenkinson himself very appropriately held for about thirteen years. Further recognition followed in 1957 when he was invited by the Board of Studies of that University to deliver its special lectures on paleography for the year. Since then a Lectureship in Diplomatic has been established at the University of Oxford and a Readership at that of Durham.

Jenkinson's scholarly interest in ancient seals, to which we owe not only a number of learned papers, for example, his brilliant 'Study of English Seals' published in the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, 1937, but the very flowering of the science of sigillography in England, had its root in his early preoccupation with the apparently marginal problems of repairing and conserving seals in decay. That he was able to evolve a wholly satisfactory solution, since widely adopted, is a tribute as much to his scientific acumen as to his sound practical sense. But, what is more important, this initial success led him to attack the larger and more complex problem of archive-conservation in its totality, enabling him, during his own stewardship of the Repair Department (1922-38), to place the entire conservation work of his office for the first time on a scientific basis.

These activities were no more than an earnest of others he soon undertook in collaboration with some of his distinguished colleagues for the conservation of the whole range of records outside the custody of the P. R. O. The collaboration led to the formation, in 1932, of the British Records Association in the shaping of which Jenkinson took a most lively part, first, as its Joint Secretary and Chairman of its Record Preservation Section, and later, as a Vice-President. Among the positive achievements of the Association is to be reckoned the rapid emergence, through its stimulus, of a network of local repositories covering the entire land and drawing into its custody every variety of local records which would have otherwise been destroyed or dispersed. The new development brought to the forefront the consequential need for an ever increasing number of qualified archivists to take charge of the local archives, and Jenkinson responded to the challenge by inducing the University of London to establish a full-fledged course in Archive-Administration as a counterpart of its Librarianship course. It was also at his instance that a similar course was soon established at the Liverpool University and a course in technical training under the aegis of the London County Council. Very appropriately the inaugural lecture at the London University called 'The English Archivist : A New Profession' was delivered by Jenkinson himself. Thanks to him that profession was at last on its feet.

Jenkinson had even more ambitious projects in view. One of them was to establish by law a single Central authority exercising effective

control over every type of important archives, public, semi-public or private, not covered by the public records acts. This, however, proved controversial and made little progress. But, another favourite plan of his, viz., the compilation of a comprehensive register of all such records, was put into effect by the setting up, under the aegis of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, of a separate National Register organisation. Fittingly enough, Jenkinson became the Executive Commissioner and a director of this body, and his own scheme for archive-classification came to provide the basis of its principal operations. Simultaneously, he was able to organise, through the financial support of the Pilgrim Trust, a detailed survey of the British ecclesiastical records. Yet another development which owed a great deal to his stimulus related to the treatment of the rapidly mounting up accumulations of non-current and semi-current records for which neither the originating offices nor the P.R.O. had any room. Jenkinson's answer to the problem was to arrange for temporary shelters ('intermediate repositories') where these accumulations could be drastically reduced in bulk by a rigid process of selection and elimination before their final retirement to the Record Office. His ideas on the subject will be found lucidly summarised in his 'Twenty-five Years : Some Reminiscences of an English Archivist, 1923-48,' published in this journal in 1949, and also in his 'Archival Developments in England, 1925-50', which appeared in *Miscellanea Archivistica*, 1952. Though immediately affecting the domestic sphere of his own office the ideas came to have a far-reaching influence on archival thinking all over the world.

Great indeed as were Jenkinson's services in the field of archive-conservation his services to the student of history were no less significant. He announced it to be the aim of the archivist "to provide without prejudice or after-thought, for all who.....wish to know, the means of knowledge", and to this aim the major activities of his office were keyed under his aegis. It was through his initiative that facilities for research were materially enhanced by the extension of the hours of reading for the public, and all the available record-lists were placed on the open shelves despite protests from those who viewed archive-keeping as an esoteric system and feared that if this were done the public would know as much as the custodians did. It was again through his efforts that the photographic method of documentary reproduction was introduced to render infinitely easier the user's access to records. The exploitation of records was further facilitated by the speeding up of the publication programmes. To enlist closer collaboration of historians in this work he took steps to set up a Consultative Committee with representatives from all the universities in U.K., which was to meet annually and to consider all questions connected with the official

publishing programmes. Besides the calendars which Jenkinson himself edited for his office, for example, those of Charter Rolls and Chancery Inquisitions, he brought out and planned a plethora of volumes of documentary texts, in abridged as well as full transcripts, in collaboration with outside bodies like the Selden Society, the Walpole Society, the Jewish Historical Society, the Irish Manuscripts Commission, and the Surrey Records Society. Historical researches immensely profited from the improvements he brought about in the editing and calendaring methods. These new methods, of which his own volumes of edited texts provide illustrious examples, are lucidly analysed in the *Notes for Editing Documents* compiled by him for the British Records Association.

Jenkinson's services were officially recognised by his appointment as Deputy Keeper in 1947. Under his skippership which endured till 1954 the Public Record Office became not only a chief centre for research but the focal point of consultation on technical matters for institutions and individuals throughout the world. More formal recognition came with the conferment of a knighthood on him in 1949. Academic rewards were not slow to follow. The Aberdeen University awarded him the honorary degree of LL.D. Earlier the London University School of Archives had instituted a prize in his name jointly with that of Irene J. Churchill. Learned bodies and professional organisations vied with one another in heaping further honours on him. The Society of Archivists, London, the Surrey Archaeological Society, and the Surrey Record Society made him their President. The International Council on Archives, of which he was one of the makers, elected him likewise to its Vice-Presidency. Both the Indian Historical Records Commission and the Society of American Archivists appointed him an Honorary Member.

It is not possible in the limited space to assess adequately all Sir Hilary's activities and achievements, touching as they do a vast multiplicity of fields. But perhaps his greatest achievement was that he was able to kindle in the public mind a new conscience in respect to what he used to call 'the sanctity of evidence'. To secure this end he had to preach his favourite archival doctrines, for example, those relating to provenance and integrity of archival fonds, almost with the passion of a missionary. This sometimes exposed him to the charge of being a doctrinaire perfectionist only too prone to stretch his dogmas to the extreme point. Nevertheless, those who knew him intimately (and their name is legion) are aware how baseless this charge is and how free his mind was from any trace of dogmatism. As an end-piece to this somewhat inadequate tribute I can do no better than reproduce below from one of his unpublished letters his own views on the

pedantic use of dogma in the archival field:

"Archives which have known more than one master, in my view, form part of the Archives of the organisation which last held them in custody for actual administrative purposes—as a part of its office equipment. If Edward I removed from Scotland the Archives of some administrative body in order that its functions should be carried on without a break by a different body in London, then these Documents formed, from that time onwards, part of the Archives of the London body or its successors; and should have come down to us, and continue to be preserved in that connection, even though the original administrative change (and consequent removal of Documents) might be described as a 'violent one'. This does not, of course, apply to Documents frankly looted, or even perhaps to those captured by some legitimate act of war; though this raises certain delicate questions. In such cases there is precedent, and I think reason, for subsequent restitution; though personally I should hold that the question of prescription may arise if restitution is not claimed within reasonable time. But the great point is that neither national sentiment nor the alleged convenience of historians (which is probably a temporary one—for the predominant historical interest is constantly changing) should be allowed to effect a disruption of the organic structure which is part of the nature of Archives and part of their message to later generations. And this dogma has a peculiar force in the case of Archives which have not been completely and fully sorted and listed.

"Where one has a case of Archives which might have formed a single administrative unit (but which have actually come down to us as parts of more than one larger accumulation where the new unit which at some period took over administrative functions did not find it necessary for practical purposes to take over the older Archives) one is, I think, on a debatable ground. I can imagine easily circumstances in which it might be desirable to leave a situation which had been in existence for many years unchanged: an interchange of photographic reproductions giving both custodians a complete set of Archives. *The Archivist must not lay himself open to the charge of pushing the logic of his doctrine to unnecessary extremes, where there is no question of a new danger to the Archives.*"

The words have the familiar Jenkinsonian ring. A true philosopher of his profession he knew how to keep his philosophy free from any kind of doctrinaire rigidity. What he aimed at was the practical goal of conserving the sanctity of archives and not spectacular triumphs in the theoretical field. He once said: "The good Archivist is the most selfless devotee of Truth." He himself was undoubtedly the best example of such an archivist.

Solon Justus Buck (1884-1962)

While both Flower and Jenkinson were primarily archivists, Buck, who shared with Leland, Paltsits and Connor the distinction of having stimulated the growth of archives and archival thinking in the Western Hemisphere, was a historian whose enthusiasm for original sources led him to join the archivists' fold. Having obtained a Master's degree in history from the Wisconsin University in 1905, Buck started research on the Granger Movement which, on its completion, won for him the Ph.D. degree of Harvard in 1910. His thesis was later published as a volume of the *Harvard University Studies*. He taught history at the Indiana University from 1908 to 1910, and thereafter went to Illinois as an Associate in History. Here he undertook editorial and research work in respect to Illinois Historical Survey and contributed the first volume of *The Illinois Centennial History* under the title 'Illinois in 1818'. In 1914 Buck became an Assistant Professor at Minnesota, rising to a full Professorship seven years later. It was here while serving as Superintendent of the State Historical Society that he became for the first time directly involved in archival projects. He took initiative in promoting legislation in regard to the State Archives and lent his hand in the formation of the Minnesota War Records Commission, of which, quite appropriately, he became Chairman. From 1931 to 1933 Buck was Professor of History at Pittsburgh and also the Director of Western Pennsylvania Historical Society. About the same time he acted as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Materials for Research of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Service Research Council. He was also intimately connected with the American Historical Association, the body which was most active and most vocal in pressing the popular demand for a national archives repository. All these activities brought Buck into close contact with a wide variety of archival problems, and he had already considerable archival experience to his credit when in 1935, on the formation of the National Archives at Washington by an Act of the Congress, he was invited to join it as its Director of Research and Publication. Six years later he became the Archivist of the U.S.A. He held the charge till 1948.

It fell to Buck to pilot the National Archives through one of the most difficult periods in its history. Only a few months after his assuming the charge his country became involved in the Second World War, bringing about heavy cuts in the office budget and drastic reduction in the staff. The Archives at that date was still in its infancy. It was largely staffed by inexperienced and untrained personnel and was just feeling its way through an intricate maze of problems that masses

of Federal records, neglected for over a century and a half, had brought to the forefront. These problems, already enormous in dimension, assumed a more formidable shape with the outbreak of war, which stimulated the proliferation of records on a scale never experienced before in public life. Merely to hold the National Archives together would have, under the circumstances, been nothing short of a miracle. It was Buck's great achievement that he not only effected this miracle but infused a new enthusiasm into the Archives' activities, enabling it under his inspiring leadership to march from triumph to triumph.

The first task to which Buck addressed himself was to assemble together in the Archives' own repository all the non-current records of the Federal Government. The work had started under his predecessor, but it devolved on Buck to accelerate its tempo so that by the time he laid down the reins of office it had virtually been completed, swelling the volume of the Archives' holding almost to the double of what it had been in 1941. This concentration in a single place of the total recorded experience of the nation made access to it far easier for both the administrator and the historian than it ever had been. But this also brought in its train a crop of new problems—for example, those of arranging the records in a consultable order, and of providing them with keys and guides. Here Buck broke new ground by introducing the concept of 'record-group', which was henceforth to control the arrangement and description of records. The new term was defined as a unified body of records, set up in accordance with the principle of provenance and usually co-terminous with the total archival assets of a single autonomous record-creating agency. It was decided that every piece of document in the National Archives was to be physically integrated with one or another of the groups. Each group was further to be provided with a 'registration sheet' indicating its provenance, its history, its chronological range, and the scope and nature of its contents. The older practice of arranging and describing records by accessions was, in consequence, given up in favour of the more convenient and more rational method of conducting the same operations with the record-group as the controlling factor. Buck also found it desirable to discard the traditional idea of elaborate calendaring and descriptive listing, which could at best cover only a small fragment of the holding, and decided to switch on to the simpler and more economic operations like check-listing and compilation of tentative ('preliminary' as they came to be called) inventories, by which means he expected to furnish, in the shortest possible time, a more or less complete key to the whole range of records in his custody. Only after the preliminary tasks had been accomplished was any step to be taken towards more elaborate listing or calendaring.

A major war, a slender purse and a drastically reduced staff seriously impeded the carrying out of the programme as Buck had envisaged it. Even so, the progress made under him both in arrangement and description was remarkable, and it stands to his credit that within the short space of five years he was able to get arranged in 250 record-groups the whole range of records in his custody, all of them simultaneously being described and listed in brief in a publication issued by the Department under the title: *Your Government's Records in the National Archives*. Earlier, Buck had himself compiled a more comprehensive *Guide to the Material in the National Archives* (1940). This was now revised and brought up-to-date. Another major task which he accomplished was the compilation of *Handbook of Federal World War Agencies and their Records*, 1917-1921, a work which proved to be of great use to the public authorities during the Second World War. In addition, Buck planned a companion volume to this, covering the Federal agencies of World War II, which saw light after he had left. It is not possible in this limited space even to make brief reference to the numerous check-lists, preliminary inventories, reference information circulars, special lists, and cross sectional studies on special subjects which owed their origin to his inspiration and which helped to make the contents of the National Archives widely known to the public. Suffice it to say that, thanks chiefly to him, an archive service in the real sense of the term came into being, and was placed on a solid and scientific footing.

The problem which taxed Buck most acutely, as it perhaps did archivists in many another land, was that posed by the 'Gargantuan mountains of heterogenous records' which the Government agencies were turning out at a terrific speed and of which the National Archives, under law, was fated to become the residuary legatee. It was obvious that leadership was needed to induce the agencies to apply methods of economy to their record-making and record-keeping activities and to help them evolve a system of speedy elimination of useless materials. Buck promptly answered the challenge by himself providing this leadership. This was quite an unprecedented step in the sense that traditionally the field of current records was outside the scope of the mere custodian of archives. But Buck felt that as the central agency with chief responsibility for Federal records, and as the eventual victim or beneficiary of the record arrangement practices of all the Federal agencies, the National Archives would be remiss in its duty if it did not attack the problem at its source by assisting the agencies in establishing a system of control both on the production and the keeping of records. The National Archives commenced its campaign by providing information, guidance and encouragement. It made a

thorough study of the record problems of the different agencies. It went to the length of being evangelical in preaching the virtues of a streamlined filing system and even actually assisting in the management operations. Thus, from a passive role as the recipient of 'unwanted' records it emerged as a constructive force in helping to improve the use and administration of Government records.

As a necessary corollary, the National Archives took the lead in getting desirable changes made in record-legislation. The Federal Records Disposal Act, 1943, which owes its origin to Buck's initiative, made it possible for the entire Government to give up the piecemeal procedures of handling records for appraisal and switch on to wholesale methods more appropriate for dealing with masses of modern records. A 1945 amendment to the Act enabled the National Archives to prepare a set of general schedules showing in a broad way how the different types of records were to be treated for the purposes of final disposal—schedules which any agency could use for the appropriate record-types. Official recognition at the highest level of the value of the new measures adopted came in 1947 when President Truman issued an order making it obligatory on each agency to conduct record-administration virtually on the lines developed by Buck.

The phenomenal expansion in the archival activities of the Government at all levels brought into being an ever increasing need for trained archivists. Already in the National Archives provision had been made for what was then known as 'in-service' training, intended primarily for its own staff-members. At Buck's initiative this was reinforced by a regular series of seminars, periodically held on the principal archival problems, to which external candidates gradually came to obtain admittance. This informal system was provided with a firm and secure foundation when in collaboration with the National Archives the American University, Washington arranged to present a formal course of lectures on archive-administration.

Further, to promote the development of the new discipline Buck arranged for the publication of popular pamphlets, bulletins and information circulars dealing with aspects of archive-economy and archival practices in the leading European countries, and he himself compiled at great labour a select bibliography on the subject, the first of its kind to be published in the U.S.A. All these efforts bore fruit in transforming the National Archives into a veritable centre for disciplining and grooming the future members of the new profession of archive-keeping.

Buck's interest in his profession led him to extend his activities to fields far beyond the domestic sphere of his own institution. In 1938-39 he presented at the Columbia University, as Visiting Professor, a course

of lectures on archive-administration. On the formation, in 1939, of the Society of American Archivists with a view to providing the archivists of the country with a forum for exchange of opinions and experience, Buck placed at its disposal both his time and talent and the special knowledge he had acquired of sound archival principles. In recognition of his many contributions in the field he was elected President of the Society in 1945 and again in 1946. Buck was deeply interested in the development of record-keeping outside his own country and laid great store by international co-operation in the field. He took a lively part in the International Congress on Documentation, and served as Chairman of the U.S. delegation at its 14th session. He evinced equal interest in the activities of the International Congress of Historical Sciences. During World War II he helped to initiate a programme to protect records in war, thus providing a basis for future international co-operation in this behalf. In 1948, just on the eve of his resigning the office of Archivist of the U.S.A., Buck was named United States representative to the UNESCO-sponsored conference of experts in Paris, which resulted in the constitution of an International Council on Archives, which he had been most active in promoting, and it was in the fitness of things that he was immediately chosen the Council's Vice-President for the Western Hemisphere. His very distinguished services to the cause of archives came to be widely recognised abroad, and he was elected by the British Records Association as an Honorary Vice-President and by the Indian Historical Records Commission as an Honorary Member.

On his resignation Buck became Chief of the Division of Manuscripts and Incumbent of the Chair of American History in the Library of Congress, rising to Assistant Librarianship in 1951. On his retirement four years later he was made the Honorary Consultant of the same Library for research in American History. Between 1954 and 1955 he served also as Director of the Minnesota Historical Society, one of his early loves. But this change in profession could by no means weaken his interest in the science of archive-keeping, to which he continued to be steadfast in his loyalty till the end and to whose development he never ceased to contribute. In him, the archival profession thus found one of its staunchest supporters, who combined in a remarkable manner practical experience in archival work based on sound principles with an extraordinary administrative talent and a solid training as a historical scholar. He will always be remembered as the man who was in every sense the true maker, in its present shape, of the National Archives of his country and as one of the great leaders in the world of archives.

Surendranath Sen (1890-1962)

The central fact about Sen is not that he was a great historian but that he was a historian intensely archive-minded. In a rather arduous career full of toil, strain and struggle he made perhaps more than his share of contribution to the growth of historical literature, the development of historical pedagogy and the improvement of research methods in his subject, rising in the process to a position of eminence which was almost unique among his contemporaries. Yet Indian archives found in him their ablest, sincerest and most zealous champion at a time when they had sunk perhaps to their lowest depth and their need for such a champion was most urgent. When he entered the lists on their behalf archive-work signified no more than the mere keeping of inactive documents; by the time he retired record-repositories in India had started shaping as veritable centres of historical research and their custodians had been assured their rightful place in the academic world as honoured allies of historians.

Born in 1890 Sen embarked fairly early in his youth on that voyage in exploration of the past which led him on from discovery to discovery, winning for him in the course, one after another, the most coveted honours that the academic world could offer. Having taken a first in M. A. in History at the Calcutta University in 1915 he soon after obtained the Premchand Roychand Studentship and the Mouat Gold Medal. In 1922 he received from his University the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and three years later the Griffith Memorial Prize. Quest of the past took him to distant lands, enabling him between 1925 and 1927 to engage in extensive researches among the Portuguese Archives at Evora and Lisbon, French records in the Archives Nationales and other repositories in Paris, and English documents in the India Office, the Bodleian Library and the British Museum. Besides leading him to the B. Litt. degree of the Oxford University, these early peregrinations among some of the richest archival collections helped to kindle in him that archive-consciousness which never ceased to illumine all his subsequent scholarly enterprises.

Starting out as a teacher, Sen joined the History Department of his University in 1917, rising fifteen years later to its headship as Asutosh Professor of Medieval and Modern History. These long years were principally devoted to the organisation, on scientific lines, of a school of historical research under the aegis of the University, and before he left it in 1939, he had already gathered round himself an enthusiastic band of followers ready to carry on the tradition he had taken immense pains to build up. From the very first he laid a strong emphasis on the value of original sources and on the need for

making them available to the student in scholarly editions. In response to this need he himself brought out a number of documentary publications, to wit, a scholarly edition, in English, of the *Sabhasad Bakhr*, the famous Maratha chronicle of Shivaji's exploits and achievements, and a rich assortment of unpublished documents under the title *Foreign Biographies of Shivaji*, culled from a variety of sources, English, French, Portuguese and Dutch.

In his own researches Sen consistently maintained an unrelenting objectivity and an inclination to meticulous analysis of evidence that would have delighted a Ranke and a Delbrück, or even a Fustel de Coulanges. He was distrustful of all theories and for that matter all passing fads and fancies, and refused to believe that any formula of the present could be of use in recapturing the past. This analytical approach is best reflected in his *Administrative System of the Marathas*, a comprehensive study, à la Fustel de Coulanges, of the structure of the Maratha administration, embracing the whole course of Maratha history. Although focussing his attention on the formal aspects of that structure, he endeavoured to unfold its subtle interconnexions with other elements in Maratha life, social, economic and political. A still more rounded picture of Maratha history emerges from his next major work, *The Maratha Military System*, in which within the narrow framework of military affairs he successfully blended the social and political history of the period. As he grew in stature he came to view the historian's task more in terms of the reinterpretation of the past than of its objective description, and he achieved an almost harmonious balance between the two approaches, interpretative and analytical, in his masterly introduction to the Indian travels of Thevenot and Careri, of which he brought out an elaborately annotated edition.

Sen's concern for original sources led him, very early in his career, to attack the problem of public access to official archives which, at that date, were hardly within the reach of any but the privileged. His appointment as Honorary Adviser on records to the then Government of Bengal provided him with an opportunity to bring the difficulties of the scholar to official notice. He found an all-India forum for ventilating the historian's grievances when, in 1937, he became a Corresponding Member of the Indian Historical Records Commission. But nothing appreciable could be achieved till 1939 when, by a happy turn of events, he himself was selected Keeper (later Director) of the National Archives of India, then known as the Imperial Record Department. Scarcely was the new Keeper in his saddle when he launched out vigorously against the prevailing official policy, and before the year was out the portals of the Central Archives were thrown open to all genuine seekers of knowledge. This measure, further liberalised in

1947, and reinforced by similar measures in the States, had the same effect on historical research in India as the opening of the Vatican Archives (1881) and of the Public Record Office, London (1886) had on historical studies in Europe, enabling, for the first time, unrestricted quarrying among original sources and ushering in an era of active revision of past writings without a parallel in the country's history.

Sen was equally exercised by the problem of conservation, and was responsible for effecting a quick change-over from the traditional methods of repair and related operations in vogue at the Archives in his charge to up-to-date and scientific processes. This transformation was secured chiefly through the installation of a laminating hydraulic press which enabled large-scale repair of brittle and fragile documents, and of a vacuum fumigatorium which facilitated speedy disinfection of documents infested by insects and molds. The setting up of a microphotographic unit likewise made possible, as a further measure of security, systematic duplication of the most valuable collections in the Archives. Sen also struggled hard to introduce air-conditioning with a view to ensuring optimum conditions of conservation in the record rooms, but the programme had to be held up owing to financial stringency. But the measure which best reflects his vision and foresight was the establishment of a laboratory to conduct researches on problems relating to conservation, particularly under tropical conditions. The laboratory, the first of its kind in all Asia, soon justified itself by its success, and its advice came to be increasingly sought by all concerned with manuscript-preservation in the country.

To facilitate the use of the records in his custody Sen undertook a vast programme of indexing, which led to the publication, under his own editorial supervision, of two volumes of detailed indexes to the Land Revenue Records, 1830-59, and the preparation of materials for a third volume relating to the proceedings of the Select Committee and the Secret Department, 1756-80. Likewise, he sped up the calendaring of the Persian Correspondence, a series very much in request, and under his aegis were compiled no less than three volumes covering the years 1785-91. An innovation introduced by him was to furnish each volume he edited with an elaborate introduction and copious historical, philological and topographical notes. At the same time he embarked on a still more ambitious publication programme embracing the entire correspondence of the Fort William authorities in Bengal with the India House in London from 1748 to 1800. He took great pains in evolving and elaborating the principles which were to guide the editors of the series, and the volumes published in consequence came to establish an altogether new standard of textual editing for others in the field to follow.

Equally deserving of mention is another plan of his which envisaged the publication, in collaboration with the universities and other learned bodies in the country, of select documents in his custody written in the principal Indian languages. He set an example by himself editing the first two volumes in the series, one dealing with Bengali Correspondence, 1779-1829, and the other with Sanskrit Documents, 1778-1857. By taking this significant step Sen laid the foundation of that co-operation between archival institutions and academic bodies without which, in his view, no large scale archival undertaking could be thought of.

An institutional basis for the much-needed co-operation came to be provided by the Indian Historical Records Commission which, through Sen's efforts, underwent a thorough transformation, having been expanded from a virtually official body into an open association, widely representative of both academic and archival interests. An immediate outcome of this development was a concerted country-wide move for re-organising, on scientific lines, all public archives in the keeping of the then Provincial Governments. A parallel project, which took shape about the same time under the aegis of the Commission, was that of a survey, embracing the whole country, for taking an accurate census of all records in private custody, which bore fruit in the unearthing of many a valuable collection till then unknown or unnoticed. With the Commission's support Sen was able to formulate a still more ambitious programme aiming at the general development of archival institutions of every category in the country. Although the programme remained largely inoperative so far as it affected the 'Provincial' Archives, its chief effect in respect to the Central Archives was that the latter came to adopt a vigorous acquisition programme, making itself responsible for the ultimate custody of all non-current records of the Central Government then lying scattered among a vast multiplicity of repositories. As a necessary step towards that end Sen instituted a systematic enquiry into the nature, the range and the existing arrangement of the various holdings, and the mass of information which this enquiry brought to light paved the way for the evolution of a well-articulated system of management and disposal of the Central records. In pursuance of the new acquisition policy steps were also taken to obtain microfilm transcripts of documents not available in India with a view to filling in the gaps in the Central repository's own collection.

All these activities brought to the fore another crying need of the country—that of trained archival personnel. The first step which Sen took in response to the need was gradually to replace the staff of untrained amateurs in his own office at the time by a band of

qualified workers having a degree either in History or in Chemistry, whom he himself undertook to train up in the scientific treatment of records. He followed this up by securing for his staff much better scales of pay than had been their lot under any previous arrangement. The efforts he made in this behalf will be found vividly recorded in the *Memoranda* submitted by him to the First Pay Commission (1946), which may rightly be regarded as the Magna Carta of the archive-workers in the country. Yet another measure which he initiated to promote the growth of the new profession of archive-keeping was the setting up of a formal course of archival training at his office. The present journal, which owes its origin solely to his impetus, was likewise started primarily with the object of providing the new profession with a medium for self-expression, and it hardly requires stressing that since its very inception the journal has been playing a dynamic role in stimulating archival thinking in the country.

Most of these reforms were carried through while India was in the throes of a major war. But the end of the war hardly brought about any lull in Sen's activities, and he was soon forced to face a series of fresh and difficult problems. The first of these arose out of a decision taken by the Government of the day to weed out all records of the former Political Department, barring only those needed for future political transactions. The latter were to be handed over to the Government of U. K. immediately on the transfer of power. It was largely through Sen's efforts that the greater part of these archives could be saved for the nation. A more formidable challenge confronted him when, as a consequence of the political decision to partition India, the entire archival assets of the then Central Government came to be menaced by the imminent danger of a physical amputation. Again thanks to Sen, the menace could be averted and both the successor Governments could reach an amicable settlement, agreeing to respect the integrity of the archival fonds involved in the partition. Another object which Sen vigorously pursued about the same time was that of bringing the public archives in the States under a system of centralised control. Although this proved highly controversial, he succeeded in securing for archives a place in the union list of India's new constitution, and also in kindling in the public mind a genuine concern for archives.

Despite heavy professional commitments Sen found time to take active interest in the larger academic world beyond his immediate field of work. As in his early years, so throughout his entire career, he not only collaborated with the existing learned societies and periodicals but also became the inspirer of various new ones. The organisation to benefit most from his collaboration was the Indian History

Congress, of which he had been one of the principal begetters. He was the President of the Early Medieval Section of the Congress in 1938, and of the Modern Section in 1940, becoming the General President in 1944. He was intimately connected with the Indian Oriental Conference, and was a member of the Ganganath Jha Research Institute (Allahabad), the Bharata Itihasa Samshodhaka Mandala (Poona) and the Royal Historical Society (London). His interest, however, was not confined to history alone, but extended to sister disciplines like museology, anthropology and archaeology, and for several years he was a member of the Archaeological Advisory Board appointed by the Government of India. His concern for scientific studies led him to the membership of the Indian Association for Cultivation of Science and also of the Indian Science News Association. He was a regular contributor to learned periodicals on ornithology, on which he was an acknowledged authority. On the same subject he wrote a delightful book in Bengali which won him the warm approbation of the great poet, Tagore. Yet teaching, his early love, continued to be the object of his special interest, and even while holding the charge of the Central Archives he served the Delhi University as an Honorary Professor of History. His organising activities found a larger field when, in 1949, on his relinquishing the charge of the Archives, he was elected the Vice-Chancellor of that University. He served in that position till 1953, resigning that year on a question of principle.

Retirement did not put any curb on Sen's dynamic spirit, and despite failing health he brought out in quick succession two major historical works with which he crowned his life's achievements—one on the Chinese pilgrims in ancient India, developed out of the Sir William Meyer lectures which he delivered at the Madras University in 1954, and the other on the Indian 'Mutiny', written for the Government of India. In 1955 he was elected the Sheriff of Calcutta, a rare honour dearly prized by all distinguished sons of that city. Further recognition of his achievements came with his election the next year to the Presidency of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. Earlier in 1947 he had been awarded by the Delhi University the degree of D. Litt. (*Honoris Causa*), and the Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient had honoured him with its membership. In 1956 he was invited to participate in the Conference on Historical Writings on Asia organised by the School of Oriental and African Studies (London), and in 1957 by the Wisconsin University (U.S.A.) to deliver a course of lectures on Indian History as its Visiting Professor. What he himself regarded as the highest academic reward came to him in the form of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature which the Oxford University conferred on him in 1958.

A final paragraph which catches and holds for display the man who was Surendranath Sen is very difficult to attempt. For all his meticulous scholarship and intellectual discipline, he was a man who lived intensely and was richly endowed with a *joie de vivre* rarely to be found in a mere academician. Such personalities are not easy to impale with rigid formulae. What is left of him is his work, a mighty and manifold phenomenon which will always act as the profoundest stimulus both to the future archivist and researcher.

RECORD SURVEY AND PUBLICATION PROGRAMMES IN INDIA—NEED FOR REORIENTATION¹

P. N. KIRPAL

AFTER an interval of about six months we meet here once again to discuss our common problems, to compare notes and to exchange our thoughts and experiences embracing the different fields of archival activities in the country. The problems, which confront us, are as various as they are intricate, and to tackle them properly what we need perhaps more than anything else is some kind of periodical stock-taking. Before beginning our day's work, therefore, I would request your permission to pause a while to take stock of ourselves if only to find out where precisely we stand.

The field in which the Research and Publication Committee has perhaps been most active during the past eighteen years of its existence relates to the publication of records. As long ago as 1942 the Committee formulated for the Central Government's archives a very elaborate programme, which includes publication in full of the entire series of Fort William—India House Correspondence, 1748-1800, and of five additional volumes of select documents mostly relating to the 18th century. Under the first scheme the National Archives of India has brought out no less than seven² attractively produced, carefully edited and profusely illustrated volumes of historical material, while two more in the same series are in the press and expected to see light shortly. Under the second scheme have been published two equally well-produced volumes, one of which embodies the travel accounts of Thevenot and Careri, and the other diplomatic correspondence of Major Browne giving a vivid idea of the structure of politics at the Court of Shah Alam II. Yet another scheme projected by the Committee, which has begun to yield dividends, relates to the publication, made possible through collaboration between the National Archives and private agencies, of records in oriental languages in the former's custody. The items so far published include a volume of Bengali political letters, one of Sanskrit documents, a third embodying Telugu letters, and the fourth a selection of Hindi documents. Documents in Marathi and Persian are in the press. Under a third scheme have appeared two volumes of select documents, one containing a selection from the Orme manuscripts,

¹This is the inaugural speech made by Shri P. N. Kirpal, Educational Adviser to the Government of India and *ex-officio* Chairman of the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission, at the thirtieth meeting of the Committee held in New Delhi on 8 July 1960.

²One more volume has since been published.

the other containing Punjab Akhbars, 1839-41. Other volumes in the same series (Elphinstone Correspondence, 1804-8³; Ochterlony Papers, 1818-25; and News Letters, 1839-42) are in progress.

It is no less encouraging to see that the lead given by the Centre is being vigorously followed by other repositories in the country, several of which have started quite ambitious publication programmes of their own. Better progress might have been achieved but for printing and editorial difficulties and other unavoidable impediments. Even so, if the balance-sheet is drawn, the credit side, I dare say, will not be found to be very discouraging.

But there is another side to the picture. Important as these programmes are, they seem all keyed to the one end—making available to the 'scholar at a distance', *i.e.*, the scholar who is unable or unwilling to visit the archives, full texts of all the important series in the different repositories, or extensive selections from them. The object is no doubt laudable, but we have also to see how far this is capable of realisation in actual practice. We have first to think of the bulk of the material we have to deal with. The records in the National Archives itself cover 16 miles of shelf-space, and this represents only a small fraction of the Central Government's total holdings which are scattered among numerous offices all over India. If we add to these the state, the local, the institutional and the business archives, the total to be faced becomes almost fantastic. Can we, logically, say that we have any remote chance of success in making available to the distant scholar even a reasonable selection from this enormous mass of historical material? It may be important to recall here that the Public Record Office, London, after more than 60 years' work, has barely completed the publication of a small fraction of only one series in its custody, and has not even been able to touch other equally important collections. The Historical Manuscripts Commission, after 91 years of vigorous efforts, has been able to attack only a small proportion of family records. These examples should suffice to make us pause and think before we take up further ambitious or costly programmes of publication of records.

The problem of bulk leads us to that of selection and of fixing of priorities in relation to the tasks we have undertaken. Our programmes at present are for the most part limited to several well-known official series belonging to the 18th and early 19th centuries. Mostly valued by political historians, they have aroused little interest in any other class of researchers. But recent developments have brought to the forefront a new class of readers, particularly economic and social

³Since published.

historians, who want to work on the enormous and rapidly increasing mass of modern accruals, which are still outside our programmes. The question we have to ask ourselves therefore is, should we continue to cater, as before, for only a limited class of readers, or should we not rather try to modify our publication policy so as to meet the requirements of the largest possible number of record-users? If we accept the latter alternative, we have to think of other forms of publication than reproduction of the full text of an entire series of documents. The solution seems to be provided by descriptive lists. They are much easier to compile, take much shorter time to complete, and embody a more precise and a fuller account of the contents of the series to which they relate than an elaborately edited volume of selections from the same series. These lists will enable the record-user to find his way direct to his requirements without any waste of his time; and if he needs a full text, a copy can always be supplied to him on demand by the repository concerned. The latter service has been rendered infinitely easy and cheap by the recent advances in microfilming and photostatic techniques.

It is far from me to suggest that textual publications should be completely dropped. What I want particularly to stress is that all our programmes for such publications should be on a restricted basis. A newly discovered collection relating to a phase of history of which we have little or no knowledge, a series belonging to or reflecting a period for which few authorities exist, records which, once printed, would continue to be read for their intrinsic worth by a wide public and not merely as aids to research—these are the classes of documents which, in my opinion, are far more entitled to the privilege of full publication than, for instance, a relatively well-known series easily accessible to scholars. A case in point is provided by the records of the Dutch East India Company of which the National Archives has microfilmed copies for the period 1614-1721. These provide excellent materials for the economic history of a period for which we have practically no first-hand materials, and it will be amply rewarding to examine the unique collection for publishing suitable selections from it. Another item to which I would refer is the so-called Mutiny papers, built up of fragments from the archives of the rebel government in Delhi relating to 1857. This very interesting collection provides us with the rare opportunity of studying the history of the Delhi Rising from the viewpoint of those who actually participated in it. I need not multiply instances. All that I need to stress here is that if we want to make available the largest number of documents to the widest possible public in the shortest time conceivable, we should perhaps think more in terms of increased publication of descriptive lists and less in those of full

publication of texts. But in pointing this out, I am just echoing the following words of Lord Acton: "Archives are meant to be explored, and are not meant to be printed."

So much with regard to the publication enterprises of the Committee. The other field of the Committee's activities to which I ought to make a reference is that of privately owned record materials. From the outset the Committee very rightly decided that these materials, utterly uncared for as they were till then, needed to be surveyed, preserved and made available for research in the same way as the better-housed and better-arranged official records. As a necessary first step towards that end the Committee succeeded in setting up in the different states a number of *ad hoc* survey committees to help it in carrying out this great undertaking. The result of these efforts soon bore fruit in the organisation of voluntary search parties which have brought to light a mass of new materials in private custody, and have thus materially helped in their preservation. The *ad hoc* survey committees have more recently been replaced by full-fledged State Committees, set up and financed by the State Governments themselves, and it is reasonably hoped that with greater experience and more active co-operation from the public, these Committees will be able to conduct the proposed survey and exploration programmes more vigorously than has hitherto been possible.

While we can rightly look back with satisfaction on what we have done so far, it may pay also to remind ourselves of some of the obvious lacunae in our work. Our past surveys have bestowed plenty of attention on old writings such as chronicles and historical treatises, poetic and religious works, or even astrological and medical treatises, but very little on archival documents. The fact is that when we speak of archives, what we have usually in our mind are the ancient texts of conscious workmanship and, more rarely, formally drawn up documents like *farmans* and notifications of legal deeds. But seldom do we think of the informal and seemingly inconsequential writings which come into being through the normal activities of individuals, families or institutions. Yet it is these inconsequential documents which make history possible in a fuller measure than any dressed up document or pompously worded narrative or official report. Having been confided to paper in the course of a person's normal work, these writings have less chance of being insincere or garbled than, for instance, what one communicates through a carefully drawn up document meant for public consumption. What marvellous results can be obtained from these informal writings casually confided by our ancestors to the care of time, has been eloquently shown by Sir Louis Nattier in his masterly analysis of the 18th century British politics, which made us for the

first time aware of the very important role played by unconscious promptings, hidden feelings and prejudices and 'connexions' of economic interest in the shaping of great historical events. What Namier has achieved is nothing short of a revolution in historiography, and his new method is being increasingly used with remarkable results in interpreting some momentous episodes of English history. Our history still awaits this kind of approach, but if we must pierce the veil that separates us from the throbbing play of character and personality in the past, we must endeavour to adapt to our need the Namierian technique of reliance on inconsequential documents.

What seems to be our immediate need, therefore, is an all-out effort to bring to light every piece of informal documents that may still be found in the custody of private owners. Our efforts should embrace not only personal and family archives, but those of universities and learned institutions and, above all, of business firms. So far as the university records are concerned it is encouraging to note that the Inter-University Board has passed a resolution requiring all Indian universities to organise without further delay their own archival holdings, to arrange for their better upkeep, and to encourage their study and use by offer of suitable incentives. But we cannot be satisfied with the mere passing of a resolution. This needs to be followed up. May I request the representatives of universities, who are here, to interest themselves in promoting this task of great national importance?

To enable the evolution of a well-articulated system of country-wide record survey, the Central Government have recently started, purely as an experimental measure, a scheme for compiling a National Register of all forms of private archives. The Government have set up a Committee to advise on the work, and set apart a small annual sum of Rs. 42,000 to afford financial aid to such survey parties in the States as may co-operate in the proposed work. The Committee has no staff of its own, and any success it can hope to achieve will entirely depend on the degree of voluntary co-operation it will be able to enlist in different parts of India for the conduct of the survey operations. I have every hope that this co-operation will be readily forthcoming and that all my colleagues on this learned Committee will lend their active help in making a great success of the new project.)

Before I conclude, I would invite your attention to one other point. Our research activities have so long been limited for the most part to political history that we have been able to do very little with regard to other fields of study, such as economic, social, military, administrative or institutional history. Yet there is no dearth of material for the study of these subjects in any of our leading record offices. I have already referred to the 17th century Dutch records acquired in

microfilm by the National Archives, which provide excellent materials for economic history, but which still remain practically untapped. Little again has been done to make use of the official reports compiled during the late 18th and early 19th centuries on the economic and social conditions of the country, examples of which can still be found among our early records series like those of the Public, Political, Revenue and Judicial Departments. The Survey of India records, of which some extracts have recently been published by Colonel R. H. Phillimore, abound in rich materials both for economic and social history. The records of the Secret and Political Departments contain plenty of materials which can be utilised in the compilation of a history of diplomatic practice in the 18th and 19th centuries. One could go on adding to such examples. But those which have been cited will perhaps suffice to bring home to us the urgent necessity for instituting a careful revision of our existing research programmes and policies, and of directing a little more attention to fields of research other than those relating to political history.

ARCHIVES AND DOCUMENTATION IN MUSEUMS

GRACE MORLEY

MUSEUMS differ from other institutions of learning, which communicate knowledge or offer instruction, by the fact that they use the object itself, whether of science, history, archaeology or art, to convey its own essential message. Words, in the form of labels or guide lectures, are incidental, and serve the museum only as a supplement to what the object itself conveys and illustrates of facts, association, emotion or other matter. Yet no type of learned and educational institution depends more than the museum on appropriate use of documentation in great variety at every stage of its work. The records of organization and operation, of scientific and scholarly data on collections, the day to day papers of reference and of transmittal of objects from hand to hand and place to place, all form archives, kept in most cases for permanent reference, and they are basic to museum operation. This applies to all museums in general, whether of archaeology, arts, history, natural history or the sciences. However, for convenience and broader relevancy to the majority of museums in India, these aspects of museum operation will be discussed here in relation to museums having collections of archaeology, arts and anthropology.

For the museum, its documents of legal existence, like its charter or constitution, and by-laws, those of its history, its reports of a formal and informal kind, the formal correspondence of legal importance, concerning it and its collections, all represent an obvious body of archives in simple form. Their importance is obvious. They must be preserved carefully and arranged according to techniques of classification and storage that assure safety as well as easy and rapid accessibility. Such "archives" are normally housed in the business or administrative office of museums everywhere, usually in the charge of the senior administrative officer, or of the Secretary of the institution or of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, if it has such a Board. In this respect museums differ little from any other institution having a legal entity, and operated for public service.

But museum archives, in a broader sense, include much more than these basic legal documents, and must be much more elaborate. They result from the elaborate documentation required for recording, preserving, studying and presenting, for exhibition, for research and for education, museum collections, whatever their kind. They constitute permanently valuable information which must be preserved and classified for convenient use whether for legal, scholarly, conservation or educational purposes.

Possibly the best way of making understood these processes of assembling and using museum archives that must go on behind the scenes in all museums and that are indeed the necessary foundation on which a museum's public aspect of exhibitions must be based, is to describe in some detail how an object coming into a museum's collection is handled.

In museums of archaeology, anthropology and arts, objects are acquired by gift, by purchase or by collecting in the field. In the domains of archaeology and anthropology collecting in the field is especially important. It implies, in archaeology, seeking out material, of value in art and history terms, by discovery and by excavation, on sites of ancient settlements or abandoned temples, or in places where fragments of ancient monuments or antiquities of any kind have been adapted for contemporary construction or other use injurious to their preservation and unworthy of their importance as art objects.

Some museums carry on their own excavations, as does the Asutosh Museum of the University of Calcutta, for example. The excavation notes begin the documentation of the objects when they come into the museum in this case. But often museums depend on the Archaeological Services of their area to assist them in acquiring the objects that they need to complete, or to render more significant, their exhibitions and their study-collections. The National Museum, New Delhi, for example, has benefited by many objects passed on to it for safe keeping and exhibition by the Archaeological Survey of India. Almost all museums everywhere send their experts out to try to find material to supplement the archaeological pieces included in their collections. Purchases, sometimes gifts, represent in this case, the final phase of acquisition. In anthropology, the excursion into the field and the acquisition on the spot, almost invariably by purchase, or trading in some regions of the world, is the usual and only thoroughly scientific means of building collections. In both archaeology and anthropology a very complete documentation on the object, about the place and circumstances of its discovery and acquisition, all the possible data to be gathered about it—in short, a complete account of its past and present, based on observation, on association with other objects, on history or oral tradition, on present use, if pertinent, etc.—is the ideal requirement for the record of a museum object. Obviously, in the case of many objects, complete documentation is not possible. It must always be attempted, even if difficult, even if the object comes from a dealer or from another collection, for half the scientific value of the piece must be counted lost, if such data has not been secured and preserved in the museum's files for present and future study.

In the arts, gift and purchase are the commonest means of acquisition. As a result, complete documentation is often lacking, as far as scientific data goes. However, price and whatever can be ascertained of provenience, of previous collections in which it was, of opinion about it, must be recorded. In that case the scientific documentation must be built up as completely and accurately as scholarship and research permit, after the object has entered the museum collections. In the arts, scientific study and documentation very often follow acquisition, rather than precede it. In such a country as India, however, the field trip to locate wanted paintings or decorative arts objects, and to make sure that they are brought forward for purchase, often represents a first necessary step in preparing for acquisition. In such instances the obligation to document completely is quite as important as for archaeology and anthropology.

These primary records of the object, its provenience and all possible data about it, constitute an important part of museum's archives. They must be preserved carefully for checking by future scholars who may wish to go back as far as possible to original sources and who may not accept without examination the museum's own interpretations of these records. It is the museum's contribution to scholarship to gather carefully and to keep safely, and in a manner to make it readily accessible, this primary material.

These primary records are commonly kept in the Central Registration or Accession Office of a museum, with copies usually deposited also with the Curators or Keepers of the respective subjects. It is this Central Registration Office which takes up the procedure of internal documentation as soon as the object comes to the museum for inclusion in its collections. This documentation is thorough. Each object is given a number, and entered in a bound Register, with numbered pages attested by a senior officer. Always now, in approved museum practice, a separate number of its own is assigned to each piece in what is usually a serial system, giving the year of acquisition as the first number in the group, followed after a decimal by the order in which the object is entered. For example, the first object acquired in 1961 would bear the number 1961.1; a later piece, twenty-fifth in the order of its entry in the Register, 1961.25, and so on. In some museums, various sub-numbers or groups of numbers and letters, useful in indicating the collection, the department, the provenience, or some sub-heading convenient for classification, are added.

Each museum must decide what is required to meet its own needs in the case of its registration numbering system. Any system is good, provided it is consistent and makes allowance for any possible expansion of the collections and of the future requirements of the museum.

If it can be easily understood, and if in itself it reveals some data about the object, as the year in which it is acquired as cited above and used by many museums, this obviously is an advantage. Title, artist or maker, date, medium, material, dimension, school, period, provenience, donor or dealer, use, price, etc. are entered in this General Accession Register in brief form or as far as known, on the basis of information available at the time. Very often, after study, it may be found that first descriptions and attributions received from donor or seller are incorrect, incomplete or misleading. Necessary changes are later added, even to this Register, in very brief form, as a result of this later study, which takes place when the object is passed on to the Department in charge of this type of material.

The appropriate Department of the museum, when it takes physical custody of the object, enters it under its accession number, as described above, in the appropriate Classified Register. At this time of entry it is given preliminary study by those competent in the subject, the Keeper and his assistants normally. The relevant data, already entered in the General Accession Register, is inscribed in the Classified Register, but obvious errors and corrections of any kind necessary in the brief description are noted and corrected and these corrections are sent to the General Accession Office which takes note of them in its General Accession Register, with attestation by a competent officer. This exact correspondence and accurate cross reference of the General and the respective Classified Registers is a fundamental requirement of acceptable record keeping in a museum. There must be no loop-hole for confusion in the future, no possibility that any one may ever question whether the entry in one describes an object different from that in the other. Discrepancies therefore must be carefully explained and both must contain such factual descriptive data as to make identification of the object itself positive.

A detailed description, including notations on colour and materials as well as dimensions and any other pertinent data necessary for absolute identification are recorded in the Classified Register as the record of the Department. Sometimes the Department adds a sub-number, useful for its reference work, and usually it has a running serial number so that the total of objects in the Department is at once evident and yearly totals can be quickly found.

Ideally, every object of any importance should be photographed in a record print on entering into the museum collections. A copy remains with the General Accession Office and another one is affixed to the catalogue card, which is an important step in carrying on the documentation within the Department.

It is usually the product of fairly exhaustive study, however, and therefore may be delayed for some time. Meanwhile, at the same time as the entry in the Classified Register is made an index card with the same information is written. It bears the accession number prominently and an indication of storage or exhibition location. If necessary, it can be made in duplicate or more copies according to need, but even the single copy will provide immediately a simple and handy means of classification. As the entry under the individual serial number in the relevant Classified Register provides an absolute check on the items which a Department has in its charge, in the order of acquisition year by year, the catalogue card and card index systems provide means for logical classification and ready reference and for obtaining rapidly information on any item, as well as its location in storage or exhibition. These systems can be as elaborate as the material, and the use that the individual Department makes of it, require.

Index cards are usually arranged in several files organized in different ways. For example, there is always a Master Index in some form referred to here as the "catalogue cards" in which each card bears all possible information in the most complete possible form, and the small record photograph of the object. Depending on the material, it can be organized according to school, artist or maker, nationality, locality, material or any other logical and convenient system that will facilitate obtaining readily the pertinent information. It gives the location of the object, whether on exhibition or in storage. The "location" note usually is in pencil so that the notation may be easily changed as the object changes location. Often a copy of this card of the Master Index file is sent to the General Registration Office for convenient use there, for the General Accession Office is the first and easiest place to seek general information about the collections, just as the Curator or Keeper's Office is the place where detailed information is kept and scholarly research of a specialized kind is carried on. The Curator or Keeper's Office normally has one or more duplicate index files, in which each card may or may not bear as complete information as that in the Master file. These files are arranged on different plans from the Master file and thus serve as cross indices for greater convenience in reference.

Each object of any importance has, in addition, a separate folder in which everything concerning it is accumulated. Usually a photograph, or possibly several photographs, giving different views or details, is kept here, along with whatever material about it has been collected, whether the result of study on it made in the museum, or of the comment of visiting scholars. Data and reference in agreement or disagreement with the museum's own findings or opinions are kept

in it. Usually excerpts from books or articles in which the item has been described or discussed, and reference to publications in which it is illustrated or cited in any form, are added to this folder.

In short, an entire documentary and reference file on every conceivable subject associated with the object is built up. In addition to these records mentioned above, the report of the laboratory, recording the object's condition on a scientific basis, describing any treatment given, giving recommendation for future surveillance or treatment, is added to the file soon after the object has been acquired and examined. Periodic reports are added later as necessary. The laboratory also keeps its own scientific file on all objects it examines or treats. When it has been exhibited in or out of the museum this is also noted in a running record. Catalogues of exhibitions in which it has been included are likewise added to this folder.

These Registers, catalogue and index cards and the contents of the reference folder constitute the basic documentation of all objects of a museum's collections. They may be considered as the basic archives of the collections. They are permanent and continuous, growing steadily as knowledge of the objects in the collections increases and data recording it or commenting on it is added to them.

Of a somewhat different character is the series of documents developed when the objects leave a museum on loan. These comprise receipts, packing lists, check-lists, loan agreement forms of different kinds, insurance policies and insurance record forms, shipping and handling instructions, condition reports at the time of loan or shipment, to be verified and certified on receipt by the borrower, and rechecked and certified when it leaves his hands for return to the lender. In the case of a circulating or travelling exhibition, report forms on condition usually are sent to the lender by each place showing the borrowed objects; these are also sent to the next exhibitor for his information and checking on receipt of the exhibition in his turn.

This type of documentation does not usually go into permanent archives. It is used at the time when it is the basis for a concise and consolidated report on pertinent facts which goes into permanent reference file on the respective objects. These temporary records are in their entirety usually preserved only for whatever is the accepted legal period and then this documentation is destroyed or goes into dead storage. However, no matter how ephemeral these records are they must be kept just as carefully, completely and accurately as the permanent records of the collections. They are working documentations, so to say, the paper guardians of the objects during their travels away from home.

For the most part the "paper work" of museums is done behind the scenes, and the results in documentation are used by the staff or by scholars studying the collections. However, there is one form of documentation of great importance to the general public, to the visitors who come to museums to take pleasure in the exhibitions or to learn from them. This is the labelling which is provided for groups of objects or for individual objects on exhibition.

These labels can take many forms and they are composed according to the purposes of an exhibition or according to its type. For example, labelling might emphasize subject, chronology and history, or material and techniques. It might combine something of all three, and most general permanent exhibitions have labels of this type. Frequently an exhibition will have an introductory label providing a general explanation of the material, its background, pointing out its interest from various points of view, indicating a few outstanding examples included in it. Such a label provides a framework within which the lay visitor may approach the exhibition. Sections of the exhibition and sub-divisions of it may likewise have general labels, in their turn serving as more detailed introductions, to aid the visitor in understanding and appreciating the material. Individual objects or groups of objects also normally require labels, though it is well to remember that the object is the important thing and labels are supplementary. They are required for information, but they should be unobtrusive and should never interfere visually with the object.

These labels are, of course, based on the research files, the catalogue cards, and all the information about the object recorded in the permanent archives of the museum's collections. Normally copies of these labels go into the reference folder with a notation of date and name of exhibition for possible future reference.

The other documentary material which comes to public notice is the publication in various forms of the museum check-lists, handbooks, guides and catalogues of different kinds, as well as monographs inspired by museum collections, which are all too familiar to require description and discussion here. They too are based on the permanent archives of the collections and they in turn form part of the archives of the museum.

Thus if it is true that museums differ from most other kinds of educational, cultural and scholarly institutions in showing, studying and using, for communication to the layman, the object itself, they nevertheless, as can be seen here, "run" on paper and the written word. Their documents and archives are supplementary to collections and exhibitions but indispensable to them, and they are essential to

scholarship. Museum staff members must learn their value, their safe-keeping and use as thoroughly as they learn the more specialized museological techniques concerned with the physical handling of the objects. Moreover, the good museum expert must understand clearly that complete records, accurately and conscientiously kept, have a value far beyond their use for inventory or to forestall possible audit objections. They are the "history" of the object in the fullest sense, as well as its guardian, the indispensable instrument of research and of increasing knowledge based on the collections.

SEALS OF ANCIENT INDIA

BAHADUR CHAND CHHABRA

IN our essay on the *Diplomatic of Sanskrit Copper-Plate Grants*¹ we have had occasion to touch upon the subject of seals. All that we have done there is to notice a few regal seals, illustrating their use in authenticating and ratifying title-deeds of land-grants, engraved on sheets of copper. That was just a small sample.

1.—Sigillography or the Science of Study of Seals

Seals were, in fact, used in ancient India, as elsewhere in the world, very extensively for various purposes. In their material, shape, size and composition they present so vast a variety that their detailed study constitutes a separate branch of learning called *sigillography*, from Latin *sigillum*, meaning 'seal'. In India this science was known as *mudrā* or *mudrasāstra*, the word *mudrā* originally meaning 'seal' and subsequently meaning 'coin' as well.²

While the science of sigillography is pursued in other countries fairly extensively,³ in India it has received but scant attention. Seals of all ages and all descriptions have been discovered in India in their thousands. They have, however, been discussed by scholars more or less sporadically, as we shall see by and by. A comprehensive treatise on them remains a desideratum to this day. In the present paper, we propose merely to draw an outline, pointing to the immensity of the available material as also to its antiquity and variety. One can indeed write volumes on the subject, at once illuminating and fascinating.

Ordinarily the word "seal" is employed as a term to describe both the implement for making the impression, and the impression itself. In the present article we shall be employing two separate terms : "seal"

¹ Originally published in *The Indian Archives*, Vol. V (1951), pp. 1 ff., and re-issued as a separate pamphlet by the National Archives of India in 1961. It is illustrated with seven plates.

² In certain Buddhist texts, the term *mudrā*, which ordinarily denotes 'seal', is used most probably in the sense of sigillography, as it occurs in association with such branches of education as *lipi* (writing), *samkhyā* (arithmetic), *gaṇanā* (mathematics), *uddhāra* (credit), *nyāsa* (pawn), *nikshepa* (mortgage) and the like among the essential qualifications for a banker's son in particular. See, for instance, the *Divyāvadāna*, edited by E.B. Cowell and R.A. Neil, Cambridge, 1886, p. 3 *et passim*.

³ There is a very good essay on Seals in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1961 edition, Vol. 20, pp. 243 ff.), which discusses the seals of the United States as well as of Europe, China and Japan, and which I have consulted with profit.

and "sealing", the former indicating the implement or the matrix, and the latter referring to the impression thereof, made mostly on clay. For, ninety per cent of our finds, as we shall presently see, are clay sealings, baked or sun-dried.

2.—References in Literature

A common term for a seal in Sanskrit is, as already pointed out, *mudrā*, which also means 'a signet-ring', i.e., a finger-ring with a seal set in it, otherwise known as *aṅguliya*, *aṅguliya*, *aṅgulimudrā*, *aṅgulimudraka*, etc. Its use and popularity in ancient India are testified to by frequent references to it in literary works. In Vālmiki's *Rāmāyaṇa*, for instance, we learn how Rāma gave his personal signet-ring to Hanumant as a token of identification,⁴ and how the latter thereby did prove his identity to Sītā as a genuine messenger of Rāma.⁵ The terms used in the original are very significant indeed : *svanāmāṅkopaśobhita aṅguliya*, *abhijñāna*, *chihna*, *Rāmanāmāṅkita aṅguliya*, etc.

The most famous drama in Sanskrit literature, namely Kālidāsa's *Abhijñānaśākuntala*, is based on the signet-ring of the hero himself, king Dushyanta. He had given it to his beloved Śakuntalā who, as ill luck would have it, lost it and came to grief thereby. Its accidental recovery later on likewise plunged Dushyanta into sorrow.⁶ Kālidāsa employs *mudrā* as well as *aṅguliya* and *aṅguliya* for the signet-ring and speaks of the letters, spelling out the king's name Dushyanta, engraved on it.

Another Sanskrit drama, to wit, Viśākhadatta's *Mudrārākshasa*, has likewise a signet-ring for its pivotal theme. Herein Chāṇakya seals the fate of his arch-enemy, Rākshasa, with the signet-ring of the latter himself.⁷

⁴ Vālmiki-Rāmāyaṇa, *Kishkindhā-kāṇḍa*, *adhyāya* 44, verses 12-13. The particular edition of the *Rāmāyaṇa* consulted by me is that of the Madras Law Journal Press, 1931.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Sundara-Kāṇḍa*, *adhyāya* 36, verses 2-3.

⁶ Compare specially Dushyanta's utterance :

*paśchād imāṁ mudrāṁ tadaṅgulau niveśayatā mayā pratyabhīhitā
ekaikamatradivase divase madīyaṁ
nāmāksharam gaṇaya gachchhasi yāvadantam. |
tāvat priye madavarodhanideśavartī
netū janastava samīpam upaishyatīti ||*

(Act VI, Verse 12)

⁷ The story as to how Chāṇakya came into possession of Rākshasa's personal seal through one of his spies is narrated in the very first act of that drama. The havoc it wrought is evident from Rākshasa's soliloquy : *Lekhayaṁ na mameti nottaram idaṁ mudrā madīyā yataḥ, etc.* 'The answer that the writing is not mine would not do, because the seal is mine, etc.' (Act V, Verse 18.)

In the love escapades of Bimbisāra, king of Magadha, as related in Buddhist works, his personal seal again plays a prominent part. His paramour, Āmrāpālī of Vaiśālī, even gets the merchandise of certain merchants sealed with his signet so that they might be exempted from the octroi duty.⁸ This was to be their reward for taking her illegitimate son to his father, Bimbisāra. The son was made to carry around his neck the king's signet-ring, for recognition, which he had left with Āmrāpālī for that purpose. The child acquired the name Abhaya.

Later on, Bimbisāra had another love affair, this time with a banker's wife at his own capital, Rājagriha. This lady, too, received Bimbisāra's personal signet-ring which likewise came to be tied around the neck of her clandestine male issue, subsequently named Jīvaka, famous in Buddhist lore as a great physician and surgeon.⁹

A more appropriate use of royal seals was, however, in connection with official documents like land-grants, charters, agreements, contracts and so forth, as prescribed in Sanskrit law-books. The *Yājñavalkyasmṛiti*, for instance, contains the following instructions about a royal charter (*śāsana*) :

dattvā bhūmim nibandham vā kṛtvā lekhyam tu kārayet |
āgāmibhadraṇṇipatiparijñānāya pāṛthivaḥ ||
paṭe vā tāmrāpaṭṭe vā svamudroparichihnitam |
abhilekhyātmano vaṁśyān ātmānam cha mahīpatih ||
pratigraha-parimāṇam dānachchedopavarṇanam |
svastakālasampannam śāsanam kārayet sthiram¹⁰ ||

"The king, having given a gift of land or having consented to an arrangement, should cause a writ to be made for the information of future kings. The king should issue a permanent charter, either on cloth or on copper plate, which must bear on it an impression of his own seal, in which there must be mention of his father, grandfather, great-grandfather and so forth, as well as of his own name, in which the extent, boundaries, etc., of the land granted must be clearly defined, in which the consequences of any interference to or confiscation of the grant must be fully described, and, lastly, which must bear his sign-manual as well as the date and occasion of the gift."

The above, in short, is the description of a copper charter or

⁸ Compare: *sambahulāścha vaṇijāḥ paṇyam ādāya Rājagriham samprasthitāḥ. | tayā ta upalabdhā uktāścha anenāṅgulimudrakena bhāṇḍam mudrayitvā gachchhata | aśulkā gamishyatha |* etc., in the *Chīvaravastu*, *Gilgit Manuscripts*, Vol. III, Part 2, edited by N. Dutt, Srinagar-Kashmir, 1942, p. 22.

⁹ *ibid.*, p. 25: *tato rājñā aṅgulimudrakam viralikam cha pratyabhijñāya Jivakaḥ Kumārabhṛta iti samjñā samvṛittā.*

¹⁰ *Yājñavalkyasmṛiti*, with the *Mitāksharā* commentary by Vijñāneśvara, 4th edition, "Nirṇaya Sāgar" Press, Bombay, 1936, I, 318-20.

copper-plate grant, actual specimens of which have come to light in India in their hundreds, either by excavation or in private possession as heirlooms.

What is of particular interest to us in the passage cited above is the expression *svamudoparichihnitam* 'bearing, on it, an impression of his own seal.' The word *upari*, meaning 'on' or 'upon' in this compound is significant. In actual use, we find that the impression of the seal is either affixed at the top of the engraved plate, or, if the charter consists of more plates than one, it is attached to the metal ring by which the plates are held together.

Again, it is obvious, that royal seals used for such purposes were of more elaborate description than mere signet-rings. The way the commentator explains the above expression is worth noticing in this context : *svamudrayā garuḍavarāhādirūpayā, upari bahiḥ, chihnitam aṅkitam*, that is to say, 'with own seal, i.e., with a seal bearing the emblem of *garuḍa*-bird, boar or the like ; on, i.e., outside ; marked, i.e., impressed upon.' We shall presently see that *garuḍa* and *varāha* actually occur as devices on the seals of the Guptas and the Chālukyas respectively.

The most illuminating of the literary references is perhaps the one supplied by Bāṇa in his *Harshacharita*, in the opening passages of the seventh chapter. Emperor Harshavardhana is preparing for his victorious march. He is camping on the banks of the river Sarasvatī. Early in the morning, the Grāmākshapaṭalika (Village Record-Keeper) comes and hands over to the emperor a freshly manufactured golden seal with the device of a bull engraved on it (*vrishāṅkāṁ abhīnava-gaḥṭitām hātakamayīm mudrām*), saying : "Your Majesty many start the day by granting gifts of land and issuing their title-deeds ! " The emperor takes the seal, but it so happens that before he could press it on the very first lump of clay that is produced, it (the seal) drops from his hand and falls face downwards on the moist mud below, making a clear impression thereon of the lines of letters (*rājayo varṇānām*) of its legend. This incident is taken by those present as a bad omen, but is considered by the emperor himself as an auspicious portent, signifying that the whole earth is to be under his sway. He ends up the day by donating a hundred villages, each measuring a thousand *halas* (ploughs) in extent, stamping the title-deeds, of course, with the said Bull Seal.

The reference is important as it is borne out by historical facts and is substantially supported even by an archaeological find. Harshavardhana was a devotee of Śiva and on that account is known in his records by the significant title of *Paramamāheśvara*. The device of the Nandi-Bull on his seal is thus perfectly in accord with that fact. The

seal used for the purpose was obviously not a mere signet-ring, but a great royal seal, massive and heavy enough to make an impression on the wet earth by falling on it, as described above. The metallic oval seal of this emperor, with the device of a couchant bull on top, discovered at Sonapat,¹¹ weighing over a kilo and a half, illustrated below, answers the description very well indeed.

The description would have us believe that the seal was made of pure gold (*hātakamayī*). This may be an exaggeration. The metallic seals so far discovered in India have on analysis shown themselves to be composed of an alloy of various metals, including silver.

Bāṇa knew the use of silver in the manufacture of royal seals. In the concluding sentence of the *Harshacharita* itself, in a fanciful description, Bāṇa compares the full moon with a circular silver royal seal (*rājataśāsanamudrāniveśa*).

Another significant fact that emerges out of the foregoing description is that the use of clay for sealing purposes was in common use, and this is supported by the actual specimens of clay sealings discovered in their thousands.

It may be borne in mind that the use of seals was not confined to royalties alone. Common folk also employed them in similar transactions. An interesting illustration is provided by the *Manusmṛiti*, VIII, 188, where the term *samudra*, 'sealed', stands for an *upanidhi*, 'sealed deposit', as distinguished from *nikshepa*, a simple 'deposit'. In the case of the former, the depositary is not expected to have a count of the contents of the packet or bundle, while in the case of an ordinary deposit (*nikshepa*) he is well aware of them.

It is indeed not the intention to exhaust all the literary references. The one in the *Mahābhārata*, however, deserves to be mentioned, as it points to a different type of *mudrā*. Kṛishṇa, relating the siege of the city of Dvāravātī to Yudhishthira, says that the city was so well protected and well guarded that nobody without an identification token (*mudrā*) was allowed either to leave or to enter it—*na chāmudrō bhīniryāti na chāmudraḥ praveśyate*.¹² The reference is obviously to earthen-ware tokens or passports, impressed with a seal of proper authority, issued to the *bona fide* citizens to guard against the entry of undesirable characters into the city under war emergency.

¹¹Published by John Faithfull Fleet in his *Inscriptions of the Early Gupta Kings and Their Successors* (*Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, Vol. III), Calcutta, 1888, pp. 231 ff. with one plate.

¹²The *Mahābhārata*, Poona edition, *Āraṇyakaparvan*, Chapter 16, Verse 19.

3. References in Epigraphy

We have just referred to the devices of *garuḍa* and *varāha* as belonging to the Guptas and the Chālukyas respectively. It is interesting to know that there is specific mention of these *lāñchhanas*¹³ in some of their own records. In the famous Allahabad stone pillar inscription of the Gupta emperor Samudragupta, for instance, we have a clear allusion to his bestowing charters (*śāsanas*), bearing the impression of his *Garuḍa Seal*.¹⁴ As to the *varāha* of the Chālukyas, in many of their copper charters we are informed that they had obtained this excellent *lāñchhana* through the grace of Lord Nārāyaṇa, i.e., Viṣṇu who is well known to have one of his ten incarnations as Varāha or Boar.¹⁵ The most explicit instance of the use of a royal seal mentioned in an epigraph is perhaps the one occurring in the Tinnevely stone inscription of Māravarman 'Sundara-Pāṇḍya I. The victorious Pāṇḍya monarch is described therein to have graciously bestowed the vanquished Chola king's kingdom on the latter's son, 'giving him a royal writ (*tirumugam*) impressed with the fish'.¹⁶ It need hardly be pointed out that a pair of fish constitutes the emblem of the Pāṇḍyas.

4. Art of Making Seals

It is not possible to probe into the origin of the art of seal-cutting in India. The earliest specimens found so far are the seals of Harappan culture, and they exhibit the art in its perfection. Since these seals are placed in the 3rd millennium B. C., we may take it that seals came to be manufactured in India much earlier and that the art was

¹³It may be pointed out here that such *lāñchhanas* or heraldic devices are sometimes common to seals, banners, shields-of-arms, crests, etc. of royal houses in India from remote antiquity. On the subject of the origin of Indian Heraldry, see the late Rev. Fr. H. Heras' booklet in Spanish, entitled *Los Origenes de la Heraldica India*, Madrid, 1934. The author had been kind enough to furnish me with a summary of it in English.

¹⁴Fleet's *Inscriptions of the Early Gupta Kings*, etc., p. 8, text line 24:—*garutmadāṇ kasvabhukṭiśāsana*, etc. The word *garutmad* used here is a synonym of *garuḍa*. Fleet and some other scholars take the expression *garutmadāṇka* in the sense of 'Garuḍa tokens' (*ibid.*, p. 14), but I agree with Bühler in taking it for 'Garuḍa Seal' (*Indian Antiquary*, Vol. XLII, 1913, p. 178). The whole expression may thus be rendered as 'charters in respect of their respective territories, bearing the Garuḍa Seal impressions.'

¹⁵Cf. *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. XXVII, p. 45, text lines 3-4.

¹⁶*Ibid.*, Vol. XXII, p. 52. In foot-note 3, Mr. K. V. Subrahmanya Aiyer, the editor of the inscription, draws pointed attention by remarking: "It is worthy of note that the order of the king was impressed with the royal crest."

extensively practised some 5000 years ago. The Harappan seals are made mostly of steatite or a kind of soapstone. A careful examination thereof has shown the possible method of their manufacture : the seal-cutter used saw, burin and drill as his tools. The neatness and excellence of the figures and characters cut on those seals further testify to the great skill acquired by the worker through long training and practice.¹⁷

The standard set by these early artists was maintained through the subsequent periods, as is evidenced by the thousands of seals and sealings discovered all over the country. The artist later worked in other substances as well, besides stone and gems, as we shall see by and by.

There must have been a treatise or a chapter exclusively on the art of seal-cutting in ancient literature, but I have not yet come across any. Nor do we know any seal-cutter of ancient India by name.

5. Materials Used for Making Seals

Judging from the specimens so far discovered, the substances employed for manufacturing seals in India include stone of various kinds, gems, copper and other metals, bone, ivory and even clay. In connection with the *divya* (oath), some law-givers mention four types of *mudrikā* : gold, silver, copper and iron,¹⁸ though, it is not clear if such a ring (*mudrikā*) had a signet attached to it. Clay seals are baked, red or black.

6. Size and Shape

As regards the size and shape of the seals of ancient India, there is no end to the variety met with. In size they range from a button to a fairly big disc. And as for shape, all conceivable patterns are found. Among the Harappan seals alone, over half a dozen different varieties are noticed, such as cylindrical, square, rectangular, button-shaped, cubical, round and so forth.¹⁹ Among those of the later periods, we have oblong, triangular, oval, lozenge-shaped, shield-shaped, lotus-shaped and what not. All these different forms will be clear from the accompanying illustrations.

¹⁷ Sir John Marshall, *Mohenjodaro and the Indus Civilization*, Vol. II, pp. 337 ff; E. J. H. Mackay, *Further Excavations at Mohenjodaro*, Vol. I, pp. 346 ff.

¹⁸ Cf. Mitāksharā on *Yājñavalkyasmṛiti, Vyavahārādharma*, VII, 113.

¹⁹ Marshall, *op. cit.*, pp. 370-1; Mackay, *op. cit.*, p. 325. One of the terracotta seals found at Harappa is described as tetrahedron-shaped. See M. S. Vats, *Excavations at Harappa*, Vol. I, 1940, p. 27.

7. Devices and Legends

There is a considerable variety also of the matter engraved on the seals. Some have certain symbols only, in singles or in combinations, others have legends only, while still others have both symbols and legends. Some varieties of royal seals display regular shields-of-arms. The legends again range from single names to elaborate genealogical lists. Certain monastic seals contain the Buddhist creed *ye dharmā hetuprabhavā*, etc. Some have a religious motto like *dharmo rakshati rakshitah*.

8. Nature of Seals

It seems that the use of seals was very common in early days. Nearly every individual possessed some kind of seal or amulet in the form of seal, signet or intaglio. The royalties had their privy seals and great seals. Queens, princes, dignitaries, officials as well as courts and customs had their respective seals. Monasteries and religious schools, associations and guilds of merchants, corporations and groups, all had their own seals.

9. Purpose of Seals

As indicated above, seals were used, as they are now, for various purposes, to wit, as trade-marks, tokens of identity, vouchers, amulets, charms, votive tablets and pilgrimage tokens, besides the sealing of letters, parcels, packages, bundles, boxes and what not. Some of the sealings discovered contain string marks underneath, proving thereby that they had been used in parcelling.

10. Mode of Attachment

Impressions of seals were received mostly on wet clay, except in the case of copper charters. When the sealings were to be used only as tokens, the impressed clay pieces were usually baked by firing as earthen-ware toys and these became terracotta sealings. The spade of the archaeologist has laid bare thousands of such old terracotta sealings at various sites throughout India. Side by side, quantities of unbaked or sun-dried ones are also unearthed. This means that the baking process was optional.

Now, if the sealings were to be on documents or parcels, they were attached either directly on the surface of the article itself or by suspension. It is curious that many of the clay sealings with string markings, discovered at different places, are baked ones. It raises the question as to when, at what stage, they were baked. Naturally

they were not fired when they were attached to the packages, as that would damage the packages. Evidently the sealings were collected and not discarded after the packages had reached their destinations and opened by the consignees. In other words, the sealings were subjected to the firing process after they had served their purpose. This seems strange; for, nowadays one throws away the wrappings along with the sealings after opening the parcels, without caring to see whether the sealings are broken or left whole as they go into waste-paper basket. Obviously men in olden days had more respect for the used-up sealings, so much so that they not only kept them carefully, but also in many cases took the extra trouble of having them fired or baked for the benefit of posterity. Otherwise it is difficult to explain the incident of our having discovered so many terracotta sealings with string-markings or like impressions underneath.

Besides clay, lac must have been used for receiving impressions of seals, though hardly such an ancient sealing has been discovered. In fact, it is reasonable to assume that Indians were familiar, even in those remote days, with such resinous substances as lac and must have used it in making shellac or sealing-wax for the purpose of sealing. The Sanskrit word for lac is *jatu*. And there is an interesting reference to its use in connection with a *mudrā*, in the same story of king Bimbisāra as has been cited above. The exact words are *patralekhyam kṛtvā pēḍāyām prakshipya jatumudrātāpaṁ kṛtvā sthāpayata*, 'make a writ, put it into a box, seal it using the seal and the heated shellac and keep it.'²⁰ The expression *jatumudrātāpaṁ* is rather cryptic; yet it cannot mean anything else but 'using the seal on melted lac' in the given context.

In Bāṇa's description of Harshavardhana as noticed above, we have seen how clay was used for sealing purposes. In the life of the Chinese pilgrim, Hiuen-Tsiang, however, we are told that he had received some letters from the same king and that those letters were written on white cotton stuff and sealed 'with red wax'.²¹

The case is different when the impression of a seal is received on molten metal. Such sealings are found mostly attached to copper charters. When the charter consists of only one sheet the sealing is found on a lump of metal soldered on the surface, usually at the top, of the sheet. If the charter consists of more plates than one, then the plates are strung on one metal ring, sometimes on two metal rings, the ends of which are secured under a lump of metal, impressed with the seal. The process was done by a goldsmith (*suvarṇakāra*) or a

²⁰ *Chivaravastu*, p. 13.

²¹ *The Life of Hiuen-Tsiang*, edited by Samuel Beal, London, 1888, p. 190.

brazier (*kāmsyakāra*) whose name in some cases is found specially mentioned. The metal sealings discovered so far also exhibit a great variety in size, shape, and composition, as will be clear from the accompanying illustrations.

11. Actual Finds

A glance through the pages of the Annual Reports of the Archaeological Survey of India will show that the number of seals and sealings of all possible descriptions, discovered from various ancient sites all over the country, runs literally into thousands. The place of honour naturally goes to those found at the protohistoric sites of Harappa and Mohenjodaro, both now in West Pakistan. Of late, however, similar sites at Lothal in Gujarat, Rupar in Punjab and Kalibangan in Rajasthan, all within the Union of India, have yielded rich harvests of allied antiquities, including a goodly number of seals and sealings of the so-called Indus Valley Civilization, now more comprehensively, though tentatively, designated as Harappan Culture. These seals contain animal figures of exquisite beauty and charm, accompanied by short legends in a script which remains an enigma to this day. Scholars have offered different interpretations of the writings on these seals, but so far nobody has hit the nail on the head.

From the pierced bosses or knobs at the back of the Harappan seals it is clear that they were worn by their owners around their necks, presumably as amulets or religious charms (*yantras*), and were used as personal seals. Their full significance will be assessed only after their legends have been correctly deciphered. They constitute a class by themselves.

These seals and sealings as well as those found elsewhere are at present housed in various museums both in India and abroad. Many are found in private collections as well. The following are some of the museums in India that possess fairly large assortments: National Museum, New Delhi; Indian Museum, Calcutta; Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, Bombay; State Museums at Patna, Lucknow, Mathura and Madras; Bharat Kala Bhavan, Varanasi; Municipal Museum, Allahabad; and Asutosh Museum, Calcutta.

Stray finds apart, hoards of seals and sealings have been unearthed from certain ancient sites in the course of excavation or exploration. The following are some of the outstanding sites that have yielded such antiquities: Basārḥ (Vaiśālī);²² Bhītā;²³ Kasiā;²⁴ Saheth-Maheth

²² *Annual Report, Archaeological Survey of India*, 1903-04, pp. 101 ff; 1913-14, pp. 124 ff.

²³ *Ibid.*, 1911-12, pp. 47 ff.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 1905-06, pp. 83 ff; 1906-07, pp. 62 ff; 1910-11, pp. 71 ff; etc.

(Śrāvastī);²⁵ Śaṅkaram;²⁶ Nālandā;²⁷ Rājghāt;²⁸ and Sunset.²⁹

Sites like Bhītā are predominantly Brahmanical, while others like Kasiā are chiefly Buddhist.

The select specimens illustrated on the accompanying plates will convey some idea of the exact nature of the seals of ancient India.

It is needless to point out that a thorough study of this class of antiquities would enable us to understand an important and popular phase of our ancient culture, as also would materially help us in the reconstruction of our early history. It may, however, be observed that whatever has been presented in this essay is but an humble beginning. A corpus on the subject is what is actually needed and that is under preparation.

ILLUSTRATIONS

PLATE I

- 1-2 Mohenjodaro, impressions of steatite seals Nos. 11 and 38, *MIC*.
- 3-5 Kalibangan, three views of a steatite seal : impression, back side of seal, and seal respectively, *IAR*, 1960-61, Pl. XLVIII-A.
- 6-7 Kalibangan, two views of a steatite seal : seal, and back side of seal respectively.
- 8 Lothal, a steatite seal, *IAR*, 1956-57, Pl. XIV-C.
- 9-10 Amreli, two views of a lead seal : seal, and impression respectively, legend in Brāhmī : *Īśvarasya*.

PLATE II

- 11 Bhitari, a copper sealing of Kumāragupta, *JASB*, LVIII, p. 84.
- 12 Nalanda, a clay sealing of Kumāragupta, *NEM*, p. 65, Pl. VIII-d.]
- 13 Nalanda, a clay sealing, legend in Gupta Brāhmī : *Rājagrihe Chaturvidya*, *ibid.*, p. 49, Pl. V-g.
- 14 Nalanda, a clay sealing, legend in two lines in Gupta Brāhmī : (1) *Magadhabhuktau Kumārāmātya* (2) *adhikarāṇasya*, *ibid.*, p. 51, Pl. V-k.

PLATE III

- 15 Sonpat, a copper sealing of Harshavardhana, *CII*, III, p. 231, Pl. XXXII-B.

²⁵*Ibid.*, 1907-08, p. 108; 1910-11, pp. 19 ff.

²⁶*Ibid.*, 1907-08, pp. 169 ff.

²⁷*Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India*, No. 66—Nalanda and its Epigraphic Material, pp. 26 ff.

²⁸*Journal of the U.P. Historical Society*, Vol. XXI, 1948, p. 116.

²⁹*Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, for 1901, pp. 97 ff.

PLATE I



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PLATE II



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PLATE II—*contd.*

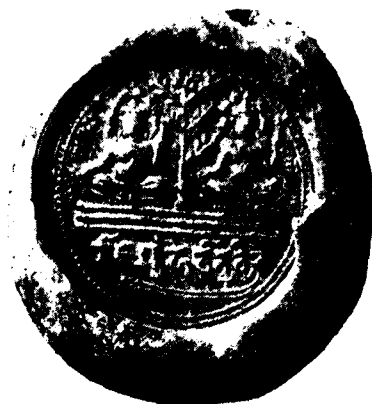


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PLATE III



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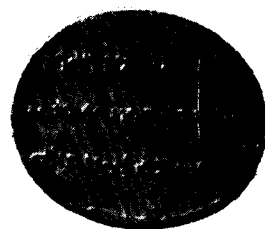
PLATE III—*contd.*



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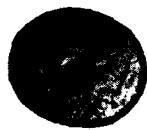
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PLATE IV



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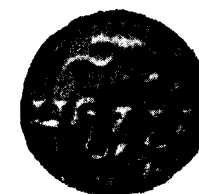
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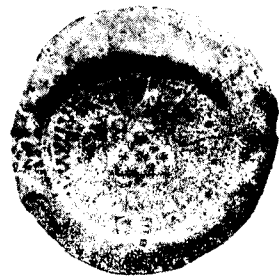
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PLATE VI



PLATE VI—*contd.*



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PLATE VII



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PLATE VII—contd.

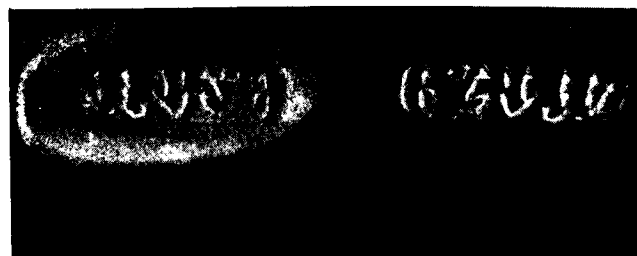


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PLATE VIII



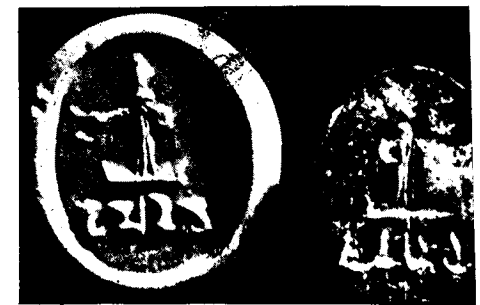
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PLATE VIII—*contd.*

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PLATE IX



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- 16 Rohtasgadh, impression of a rock-cut seal, legend in two lines in Gupta Brāhmī : (1) *Śrī-Mahāsāmanta* (2) *Śaśānkadevasya*, *ibid.*, p. 283, Pl. XLIII-B
- 17 Lahor, impression of a copper signet-ring seal, legend in two lines in Gupta Brāhmī : (1) *Mahārāja-Nāgabhaṭṭa* (2) *putra-Makeśvaranāga*, *ibid.*, p. 282, Pl. XLIII-A.
(The provenance of Nos. 18-27 is not known, but their description is found in *JRAS*, 1901, p. 97.)
- 18 A clay sealing : *Rudrasarma*.
- 19 A clay sealing : *Śrī-Sūryamitrasya*.
- 20 A clay sealing : *Harisarma*.
- 21 Impression of a bronze seal : *Śrī-Bhadrasya*.
- 22 A clay sealing : *Dharmasenasya*.
- 23 Impression of a bronze seal : *Śrī-Sapakula*.
- 24 Impression of a bronze seal : *Śrī-Sihasya*.
- 25 Impression of a lapis lazuli signet-ring seal : *Ripuśalya*.
- 26 Impression of a bronze seal : (1) *Dinaputrasya* (2) *Gopasya*.
- 27 Impression of a bronze seal : *Śrī-Bodhasya*.
(The provenance of Nos. 28-33 is Taxila-Peshawar region. Legends on them are in Kharoshthī, Greek and Brāhmī. Their description is found in *JRAS*, 1905, p. 783.)
- 28 Impression of a bronze seal : *Tirakasa Pakhalaye*.
- 29 Impression of a bronze signet-ring seal, triple (Kharoshthī, Greek and Brāhmī) legend :
Mitrisamaputrasa Baliāsa
Mitasamapatasa
Mitrasamaputrasa Baliāsa.
- 30 Impression of a seal, legend in two lines in Brāhmī : (1) *Buddha-trāta-putra* (2) *sya Sagharakshitasya*.
- 31 Impression of a cornelian signet-ring seal : *Gutasya*.
- 32 Impression of a bronze signet-ring seal : (1) *Aśvilaputrasa* (2) *Budhadevasa*.
- 33 Impression of a broken bronze signet-ring seal : *Sanigaputrasa Spalaverasa Kupha*.

PLATE IV

- 34-35 Bhīṭā, two views of a soap-stone seal : seal, and impression respectively, legend in Gupta Brāhmī : *Śaṁvidāsa*, *ARASI*, 1911-12, p. 48, Pl. XVII-7.
- 36-37 Bhīṭā, two views of an ivory seal : seal, and impression respectively, legend in Gupta Brāhmī : *Dharadāsasya Saṁddhiyaśaputrasya*, *ibid.*, Pl. XVII-3.
- 38-39 Bhīṭā, two views of an ivory seal : seal, and impression respectively, legend in Gupta Brāhmī : *Puśyavridhisya*, *ibid.*, Pl. XVII-6.
- 40 Bhīṭā signet-ring of bronze, bull couchant, legend in Gupta Brāhmī : *Rudrachadeva*.

- 41 Bhiṭā, a clay sealing, an error (impression in the negative), legend in Brāhmī : *Śahijitiye nigamaśa*, *ARASI*, 1911-12, p. 47, Pl. XVII-1.
- 42 Nālandā, a clay sealing, legend in two lines in Gupta Brāhmī : (1) *Nagarabhuktau Kumārāmātyādhi* (2) *karaṇasya*, *NEM*, p. 52, Pl. VI-b.
- 43 Bhiṭā, a clay sealing, circular, in field, pile of balls or dots with a post on each side, a wavy line below, and sun and crescent above. Legend around the margin in the characters of the 3rd or the 4th century A.D. giving the name of the king Gautamīputra Vṛishadhvaḥ.
- 44 Kasiā, a clay sealing, legend in two lines in Gupta Brāhmī : (1) *Mahāparinirvāṇe Chāturdiśo* (2) *bhikshusaṃghaḥ*, *ARASI*, 1905-06, p. 83.
- 45 Kasiā, a clay sealing, legend in Gupta Brāhmī : *Śrī-Makuṭabandhe saṃgha*, *ibid.*

PLATE V

- 46 Asīrghaḥ, a copper sealing, of Śarvavarman, *CII*, III, p. 219, Pl. XXX-A.

PLATE VI

- 47 Nālandā : Clay sealing, in the upper field Lion with Sun and Moon above, and Chakra and Śaṅkha in front; in the lower field legend in three lines in characters of the 7th century A.D., mentioning the name of a dignitary *Paśupatisirīha*; *EI*, XXI, 76.
- 48 Mallasārul, a copper sealing of Vijayasena, *EI*, XXIII, p. 155.
- 49 Masulipatam, a copper sealing of Ammarāja II, *ibid.*, XXIV, p. 268.

PLATE VII

- 50 Mallar, a copper sealing of Mahāśivagupta, *ibid.*, XXXIII, p. 113.
- 51-55 Bodh-Gaya (?), five views of a bronze seal of Yakshapālita, *INC*, Vol. II (1961), pp. 203-05 : obverse, reverse, side, impression and seal respectively.

PLATE VIII

- 56-57 Rājghāt, two views of a seal : seal, and impression respectively.
- 58-59 Do.
- 60-61 Do., impression, and seal respectively.
- 62-63 Do.
- 64-65 Do.
- 66-67 Do.
- 68-69 Do., seal, and impression respectively.
- 70 Do., a clay sealing.
(Nos. 56-70 are not yet published.)
- 71-73 Śaṅkaram, three clay sealings, *ARASI*, 1907-08, p. 169, Pls. XII-XL.

PLATE IX

- 74 Kudlur, a copper sealing of Mārasimha, *MASR*, 1921, p. 18.
- 75 Punnata, a copper sealing of Skandavarman, *ibid.*, 1936, p. 127.
- 76 Charala, a copper sealing of Virarājendradeva, *EI*, XXV, p. 264.
- 77 Madras, a copper sealing of Uttamachola, *ibid.*

ABBREVIATIONS

- ARASI* = Annual Report, Archaeological Survey of India.
- CII* = Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum.
- EI* = Epigraphia Indica.
- IAR* = Indian Archaeology, a Review.
- INC* = Indian Numismatic Chronicle.
- JASB* = Journal of Asiatic Society of Bengal.
- JRAS* = Journal of Royal Asiatic Society.
- MASR* = Mysore Archaeological Survey Report.
- MIC* = Mohenjodaro and the Indus Valley Civilization, by Sir John Marshall, in three volumes.
- NEM* = Nalanda and its Epigraphic Material (Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India, No. 66), by Hirananda Sastri.

PRESERVING THE TREASURES OF THE PAST ARCHIVES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

W. NÖLLE

A central system of archives, under which responsibility for the various branches of the collection at different levels is concentrated in one authority, prevails in some countries of Europe, but not in Germany. Germany has had neither National Archives nor a Public Record Office where the sources of information on national history—from its origin to the present time—are brought together to provide a continuous tradition. Germany does not even know the form of organised centralisation which characterizes the French archives. Thus, even in regard to their structure, the archives in Germany reflect the peculiar features of German history.

Historical Survey

In their first stage of development, all civilisations and nations knew but one type of archives, a type of archives which might be described as archives functioning as the arsenal of law. At that stage, the archives served the ruler as a treasury and an arsenal in which he collected the documentation of his most essential and vital financial, economic and political rights *vis-à-vis* those of foreign powers as well as of his own subjects. For this reason, those archives were of a strictly secret character. In the early part of the historical period, the archives had been kept in a sack, in a box or in a shrine, and, later, in proper "Secret Archives". In Germany, as in the rest of Europe, there was no other type of archives from the early Middle Ages till the turn of the eighteenth century which marked the end of the Holy Roman Empire. And what was the state of the archives at that time?

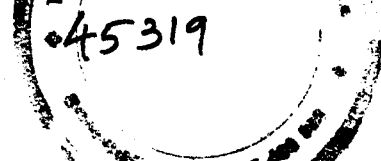
The well-known and continuous process of splitting up territories in conjunction with the wasting away of power at the top of the Reich, the disintegration and gradual dissolution of the unity of the Reich, all had this result: about the year 1790 there were several hundred archives of the original type (as characterized above), their sizes varying from a small shrine to a repository with several spacious rooms. They were manorial archives, town archives, archives of the numerous secular and ecclesiastical territories and a few "Reichsarchives" (State Archives), such as the archives of the supreme offices and the courts of the old Reich.

The second stage in the history of the archives had its origin in the French Revolution. This is true not only in so far as the French Revolution directly created the first modern archives administration in

Europe but rather because the French Revolution, followed by the Napoleonic era, together with the Industrial Revolution, encouraged the trend towards a gradual democratization as well as nationalization of general consciousness, social structure and public life. About the beginning of the Napoleonic era, both Napoleon, through his policy of expropriating ecclesiastical territories and of mediatizing the secular territories as well as the imperial towns, and the Congress of Vienna, through maintaining most of these and stipulating further changes, reduced the number of German territories as much as they enlarged and rounded off their extent. The archives of these modern territories took over the comprehensive archival holdings of the dissolved territories. This was the basis on which the archives began developing a new function. The treasury of law, that is, the spiritual arsenal serving the ruler and his government and administration, became the keeper and guardian of the historical sources of modern historiography; in addition, the administrative archives became historical archives. The characteristic of secrecy, which had till then been an essential feature of the archives, also gradually diminished and, in a corresponding measure, the characteristic of public utility increased. And these public records, as national sources of information, became more and more available for historical research. Secondly, there was a growing tendency towards artificially separating the whole of the archives into two groups—one consisting of records of legal significance and the other of records of historical relevance only. In principle, modern State archives as well as communal (town and district) archives still have the same dual function: 1. that of archives of the administration, or arsenals of law, and 2. that of historical archives or arsenals of history. In the first case the archives serve the practical demands and needs of government and in the second they serve the discovery of truth in historical research; in regard to one function they are a servant of the State and in the other a servant of science. A good example of the first function, namely, the function of the archives serving the law and administration as their arsenal, is provided by the *Bundesarchiv* (Federal Archives) at the present time.

The Central Archives

The question of establishing a central archives in Germany had been considered during the 19th century and the early years of the twentieth century. Up to 1914, in view of the fact that the Bismarck Reich had central functions only very rarely, that there were only a few central Reich offices and that these Reich offices had only limited responsibilities, the need for central archives was not felt as urgent. But the Federal States, which were autonomous to a high degree in



their cultural, financial and economic affairs, carried on their single State archives administrations without any change. And before 1918, all projects for founding a *Reichsarchiv* had failed. The enormous growth of the Reich's records, caused by the more or less total concentration of all forces in the military authorities and war production activity during the First World War, finally compelled the establishment of a *Reichsarchiv* in 1919. Its objects were : (1) to take over the non-current records of the Army and the Navy, (2) to take over from time to time non-current records of the Reich agencies, (3) to organise scientific research on the history of the Bismarck Reich, particularly that of the First World War, and (4) to serve as a reference service and supply material from its holdings for scientific purposes and to agencies and individuals. The duty of collecting materials was not added to the tasks of the new archival institution until a few years later on.

The staff of the *Reichsarchiv* was at first recruited primarily from among retired officers, the archives thus becoming a haven of rest for such officers as were interested in history. It was only in 1920 that a few archivists and historians entered this service; from then on their number gradually increased.

In Germany today the archives can be classified into six groups on the basis of their responsibilities and functions. They are : (1) the archives administrations of the eleven *Länder* (States), (2) town and district archives, (3) manorial and similar private archives, (4) business archives, (5) church archives, and (6) the Federal Archives (*Bundesarchiv*). Administration in the cultural field being completely decentralised, all the archives administrations in the eleven *Länder*, including West Berlin, and the Federal Archives administration are autonomous bodies without any organisational or administrative ties. On the one hand, the archives administration has complete control over its own archives, or its chief officer is, at the same time, director of the main archives of the State. On the other hand, the archives administration is placed under the head of the Government, the Ministry of Internal Affairs or Cultural Affairs. The union of the function of the head of the main archives with that of the head of the archives administration of the State has the great advantage that the head of the administration is always conscious of the important and urgent problems of the archives, and red tape is eliminated. And such personal union obtains in eight of the eleven States in Germany.

Tasks of the Federal Archives

The position of the Federal Archives should now be examined in detail. During the last war, a portion of the records in the archives

was destroyed by air-raids and another was lost by planned destruction before the collapse of Germany; a third part was lost by plunder and destruction after the end of the war, and a fourth was seized by the Western allies and carried to the U.S.A. and England. The central archives of the Reich and Prussia had been largely removed to the salt mines in Central Germany, and these were taken by the Soviet Union to Russia. Nearly all the records that constituted the archives last mentioned have been returned to the Soviet-Zone administration. The Central Archives of the Federal Republic of Germany was established in 1952 in Koblenz. The duties laid on this institution, the *Bundesarchiv*, as stated in the foundation charter were : (1) to keep and preserve as archives and evaluate scientifically all records produced by the Federal Government and its subordinate offices, when such records are no longer needed for administrative purposes and as far as they are worth keeping; (2) to take over archival materials from the former *Reichsarchiv* and the Prussian Secret State Archives as well as those of the former Reich agencies (State agencies) and the *Wehrmacht* (Armed Forces); (3) to take over the records of the zonal administrations of the period 1945-49; and (4) to take care of the records seized at the end of the war and after the war and now returned to the Federal Republic. The Federal Archives now has in its new buildings, opened in 1961, 22,000 linear feet of records, 150 collections of private papers, 25,000 maps, mostly those from the year 1900, and 4,500 placards, 13½ million feet of film, including a nearly complete set of news reels for the years 1938 to 1963, one million still pictures and 2,200 tapes and gramophone records.

There are two types of careers for archivists in the Federal Republic of Germany. Recruitment to what is called the "superior career" is made from among persons who have university qualifications in history or law and have attended an 18-month course at the Federal Archives School in Marburg. There is another cadre, the "middle career", which consists of "Archiv-Inspektoren" drawn from among persons who have passed the final examination of a high school and have undergone a special one-year course of training in Marburg. Munich has a school of archives of its own. The staff of the Federal Archives consists of 17 men of the first category and seven men and women of the second category; the latter group is supplemented by five persons who have been trained in the Federal Archives. While the academically trained staff is almost sufficient, the strength of the "middle career" staff needs to be at least doubled.

The Federal Archives has the dual character of an agency and a scientific institution. This is illustrated by the fact that the Director

of the Archives has been elected a member of the Commission for the History of Parliament and Political Parties in Germany at Bonn and also of the Institute for Contemporary Research at Munich.

Three Problems

There are three central problems confronting the Federal Archives : (1) The tendency of modern administration towards specialization and differentiation in the technical and economic fields must and will lead to the establishment of a number of branch organisations within a comprehensive Federal Archives administration. The starting point of this development can be said to be the foundation, in 1954, of the *Militärarchiv* within the frame of the Federal Archives.

(2) The production of masses of records, together with the steadily increasing speed of organisational changes in a modern bureaucracy, will compel the Federal Republic to build up a system of intermediate repositories or record centres. And proposals for setting up the first such record centre near Bonn are now under consideration.

(3) The scientific evaluation of the records transferred to the Federal Archives is, as expressly stated in the foundation charter, one of the tasks of the institution. It is an old archival tradition in Germany that the scientific evaluation of the sources kept in the archives is an essential part of the archivist's activity, and in the first ten years of the working of the Federal Archives ten publications have been issued.

In conclusion, a few words must be mentioned about the relationship that exists between the Federal Archives and the archives of the *Länder* (States). These institutions stand one behind the other, and are wholly independent. Co-operation and co-ordination between them is planned and achieved through conferences of the heads of archives administrations which are held at irregular intervals. They serve the interests, intentions and needs common to all the members. They embrace : (a) co-ordination of safety microfilming which is organised by the Federal Office for civil protection of the population, with the advice of the Federal Archives; (b) agreement on common standards for keeping and disposing of records; (c) settling the retention by the State Archives of the records of Federal agencies with only regional responsibilities; (d) common training at Marburg for the two careers for archivists; and (e) discussion and solution of archival questions of general interest with a view to guaranteeing a minimum degree of uniformity.

A SURVEY OF SOURCE MATERIALS IN SINGAPORE RELATING TO MODERN MALAYA

R. SUNTHARALINGAM

THIS paper is intended to provide researchers on modern Malayan history with some idea of the nature and location of historical source materials in Singapore. It does not, however, purport to take into consideration the sources other than English, though that means omission from discussion of an important section of historical records available in Singapore. Also no attempt is made to mention source materials which do not pertain to modern Malaya. In other words, nothing will be said of English materials relating to the pre-British period of Malayan history. The writer must admit that he has not worked extensively on the source materials mentioned in the course of this paper. As a matter of fact, it is not possible for a single investigator to compass all the materials available in Singapore, and what is said here is intended merely as an indication of the manner in which these historical materials may be used to illumine various aspects of modern Malayan history.

Source materials in Singapore are scattered either among the various libraries or among the chief Government departments. In the main, the historical records are preserved in the Archives Section of the National Library, while the University Library has a useful collection of records in microfilm which are not usually available in the National Library. These two libraries can be considered to be complementary to each other in so far as the University has made a conscious effort to obtain source materials not available in the National Library. But this process has been slow for a variety of reasons, and it may take quite some years before the University Library can fill up the gaps of the National Library. The various Government departments have their own private archives, and mention about them will only be made where they contain historical records not to be found in the National or University Library.

The earliest primary records extant on British Malaya date back to the 18th century and belong to the few decades preceding and following the founding of Penang in 1786. The objectives governing the British East India Company's intention to find a base in South-East Asia, and its attempts to do so are traced in the relevant volumes of the *Sumatra Factory Records*, of which an incomplete series is available in microfilm in the University Library. Volume XV of these records is of special significance, as it contains the bulk of the correspondence dealing with the Company's efforts at Aceh and Kedah in

1772-73. Needless to mention, the *Sumatra Factory Records* have a wider application than Sumatra or Malaya, and constitute an important source material for reconstructing the late 17th century and 18th century South-East Asian history.

The establishment of the East India Company in Penang in 1786 led to regular correspondence between this pioneer outpost and the Government of India. The early records are not extant in Singapore, especially for the years 1786-1805. This gap has been partially filled by the extraction of relevant Straits materials from the Company records available in England and India. The University Library, for instance, has in microfilm the Penang Consultations for the period 1786-95 extracted from the Bengal Public Consultations. Similar effort led to the acquisition of microfilm copies of Straits records for the period 1786-1859¹ from the National Archives of India. Fortunately, some of the early Penang correspondence has been reproduced in the *Journal of the Indian Archipelago*, and it throws further light on the early Penang history. By themselves, the above-mentioned sources present a coherent picture of early Penang.

The researcher, however, is more fortunate in dealing with the subsequent period of Malayan history. The National Library has in its possession an almost complete series of the *Straits Settlements Records* for the years 1805-67. For convenience, these records have been classified in the National Library as follows :

- A. Penang Consultations, Sept. 1808—June 1830. 70 vols.
- B. Penang. Letters to London, Sept. 1805—June 1830. 10 vols.
- C. Penang. Letters from London, Jan. 1810—Dec. 1829. 6 vols.
- D. Penang. Letters to India, March 1800—Dec. 1826. 11 vols.
- E. Penang. Letters from India, Dec. 1804—Dec. 1831. 4 vols.
- F. Letters from Native Rulers, Jan. 1817—1874. 7 vols.
- G. Letters to Native Rulers, Nov. 1817—Feb. 1872. 7 vols.
- H. Penang. Letters and Orders-in-Council : General Orders, Oct. 1817—May 1825. 14 vols.
- I. Penang. Miscellaneous Letters (Out), May 1806—Dec. 1830. 4 vols.
- J. Penang. Old Index to Records, Jan. 1806—1830. 18 vols.
- K. Penang. General Orders and Notices, Nov. 1805—April 1827. 5 vols. Vols. 6-18 contain minutes of Governor of Penang, abstracts of monthly accounts, Penang Resident Councillor's diary, reports of Commissioners of Mergui and Tavoy, and letters from

¹ Records relating to the Straits Settlements, extracted from the National Archives of India, are in 14 reels. Reels 2-5 contain the Original Consultations of Penang for the period 1786-1807.

- Bencoolen and Raffles, covering the period Jan. 1819—April 1830.
- L. Raffles. Letters to London, 1814 and Feb. 1822—March 1826. 2 vols.
Singapore. Letters to Bencoolen, July 1820—Nov. 1822. 7 vols.
Raffles. Letters from Singapore, Jan. 1823—June 1823. 3 vols.
Raffles. Letters to Singapore, Jan. 1823—Dec. 1823. 3 vols.
- M. Singapore. Letters from Bengal to the Resident, Nov. 1823—Dec. 1861. 12 vols.
- N. Singapore. Resident's Diary, Jan. 1827—July 1829. 6 vols.
- O. Malacca. Resident's Diary, Aug. 1826—Dec. 1828. 3 vols.
- P. S. S. Commissioner Young's Records, 1837-39. 5 vols.
- Q. Miscellaneous Correspondence of Singapore, viz., Resident's general orders, judicial and official regulations, P.W.D. estimates, revenue and expenditure details, suppression of piracy, and enclosures to Bengal, covering the period 1826—Dec. 1864. 11 vols.
- R. Governor's Letters to Bengal, May 1831—Jan. 1867. 46 vols.
- S. Governor's Letters from Bengal, Dec. 1830—1866. 35 vols.
- U. Governor: Letters to Resident Councillors, May 1831—Mar. 1867. 51 vols.
- V. Governor : Miscellaneous Letters (Out), Sept. 1824—Mar. 1867. 45 vols.
- W. Governor : Miscellaneous Letters (In), Nov. 1830—June 1866. 57 vols.
- X. Governor's Diary: General, Jan. 1852—Feb. 1867. 25 vols.
Narrative, 1855-58. 4 vols.
Foreign and Military, 1852-64. 13 vols.
Revenue, 1861-66. 2 vols.
Marine and Financial, 1854-67. 15 vols.
Judicial, 1862-64. 2 vols.
- Y. Government House : Guest Book, 1860-67. 2 vols.
Office Attendance Register, 1860-63. 1 vol.
- Z. Singapore. Letters from Governor, May 1827—Nov. 1863. 41 vols.

These manuscript records are bound in hard covers either on annual, biennial or triennial basis, though some of the volumes, especially for the early period, appear to be in a damaged and unusable condition. The hand-written records are at places illegible owing to the fading away of the letters, and make difficult reading at some other places. The National Library, in an attempt to preserve these invaluable records, have microfilmed the complete series. An index to the contents of these 580 odd volumes is available and it provides easy access to the materials.²

² The National Library is prepared to extend its microfilming facilities to make this index available to any institution interested in acquiring a copy thereof.

Of all the source materials on the Malayan history, the *Straits Settlements Records* have received the most extensive treatment at the hands of researchers.³ The bulk of these records relate to the administrative history of the Straits Settlements, while the rest are mostly devoted to political and diplomatic questions arising out of the Straits' relations with the neighbouring states of South-East Asia. The documents belonging to the latter category are especially interesting, as they may well be used in studying certain obscure aspects of the nineteenth century South-East Asian history.

The growth of a cosmopolitan Straits community in the entrepôts of Singapore, Penang and Malacca was one of the significant developments during the first half of the nineteenth century. Such a community, with its entire life geared to commerce and related activity, was extremely sensitive to trade fluctuations or even the slightest obstructions to its trade in any part of its commercial sphere. The period 1805-67 is notable in so far as the independent states of South-East Asia were fast sinking into political chaos which brought in its train the extension of European control. This development was viewed with apprehension in the Straits and occasioned much discussion and controversy, both at official and public levels. The *Straits Settlements Records* contain these discussions and thus provide materials throwing light on the history of the various neighbouring states. For instance, the years 1815-19 saw an open civil war in Aceh, and almost every event which took place in Aceh during that period is mentioned in these records. Similarly, the Dutch expansion in Sumatra in the 1860's could be traced therein. It was usual practice of the Straits officials to maintain correspondence with neighbouring states, and this correspondence is available in the series, Governor : Letters to and from Native Rulers. On occasions when Straits authorities wanted information on local developments it was common practice to send a Straits official to investigate and report. However, these reports are not found in the *Straits Settlements Records*, as they were sent as enclosures to Bengal or London. Special mention needs to be made of the *Straits Settlements Records* Series K. 16 : 'Penang: Mergui and Tavoy. Report by Commissioners, 1826' (2 vols.). This provides an excellent source material for the study of Burmese society and its political institutions (especially of the two provinces of Mergui and Tavoy) at the commencement of the British rule in 1826.

The limitations of the *Straits Settlements Records* are apparent to every researcher. The reliability of these records is open to question, and *bona fide* acceptance of what is expressed in the documents

³ L. A. Mills in his *British Malaya, 1824-1867* has made a comprehensive study of these records.

may lead to obvious pitfalls. The Straits authorities tended to assume a partisan attitude in their relations with the neighbouring states, and this coloured their despatches. For instance, during the civil war in Aceh (1815-19) the Straits officials deemed the actions of Sultan Jauhar Al Alam against British vessels as "acts of piracy", while in reality the Sultan was only trying to re-impose his authority over recalcitrant chiefs by preventing foreign vessels from visiting their ports. Similarly, in their attitude towards the Dutch, the Straits officials were prejudiced, and many of the reports submitted to the higher authorities were based on hearsay and rumours. Unfortunately, there is little means of verifying what is said in these documents, and the contemporary newspapers, the only other available source in English, seem to suffer even more from this "Dutch-phobia".

The *Straits Settlements Records*, however, will be hardly adequate for a complete study of the Malayan history until 1867. Their main weakness lies in the incomplete nature of documents on the diplomatic questions which permeated all relations between the British and the Dutch during the first seven decades of the nineteenth century. The University Library has acquired, through the co-operation of the libraries in London, much of the documentary materials available on the Anglo-Dutch disputes in the Malay Archipelago. The *Dutch Records 'A'* contain detailed information about the Dutch activities in South Asia from the inception of the V.O.C. Of special interest to a student of Malayan history are the Anglo-Dutch negotiations leading to the Treaty of 1824, in which Singapore figured prominently. Information on some of these negotiations is available in volumes 30 and 31 of the *Dutch Records 'A'*.

The Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1824, by its vague and undefined clauses, tended to revive Anglo-Dutch rivalry in South-East Asia. Many of the disputes and controversies between these two powers are of little significance to a student of Malayan history, but in some of these disputes the Straits authorities and merchants were involved. The Sumatran dispute, which highlighted Anglo-Dutch relations in the 1860's, caused much apprehension in the Straits, and the pressure of local interests was sufficient to bring about a new treaty between the two powers in 1871. The Straits authorities provided the necessary data for the negotiations in Europe, and copies of their correspondence are available in the *Straits Settlements Records*. But the negotiations, which took place in Europe, are available only in microfilm in Series F. O. 37 in the University Library.

Similarly not all correspondence bearing on Anglo-Siamese rela-

tions is found in the *Straits Settlements Records*. The publication of *Burney Papers* (5 vols.) and *Crawford Papers* has thrown much light on the missions of the two envoys to the court of Siam. Available in microfilm are the documents relating to Brooke's mission to Siam (1850) and Bowring's mission (1855). Also available in the University Library are collections of manuscripts relating to Kedah, 1838-57, some of which are duplicates of those found in the *Straits Settlements Records*.

In 1952 the Colonial Secretariat in Singapore transferred to the National Library the official correspondence between the Governor of the Straits Settlements and the Colonial Office. The official despatches for the period 1867-1949 are grouped under the following categories :

- (a) Governor's Despatches to Secretary of State (Open), 1867-1949. 133 volumes.
- (b) Governor's Despatches to Secretary of State (Secret and Confidential), 1858-1931. 46 volumes.
- (c) Secretary of State's Despatches to Governor (Open), 1867-1946. 295 volumes.
- (d) Secretary of State's Despatches to Governor (Secret and Confidential), 1858-1931. 94 volumes.

The early despatches are handwritten, while the later ones are in print and bound in hard covers which in some cases need renovation. These despatches are unindexed, except in few cases, although the Register of Correspondence records every document that had been transmitted.

The contents of these documents are largely similar to those found in the *Straits Settlements Records*. The Open Despatches comprise correspondence relating to various aspects of local administration, while the Secret and Confidential Despatches refer to diplomatic and political events. The enclosures of the Governor are not available in Singapore, while the minutes of the Colonial Office experts on Malayan questions can only be found in London. Also lacking in these despatches is the correspondence between the Colonial Office and the other policy-making departments, viz., Foreign Office, War Office, Admiralty, etc. The University Library has, however, microfilmed the correspondence between the Colonial Office and the Foreign Office pertaining to Malaya for the years 1903-09.

Some of the documents found in the above despatches have appeared in the *Command Papers*. The bulk of the correspondence covered by these papers relates to the affairs of the Malay States which came under British control between 1874 and 1898. The papers

contain instructions of the Secretary of State and the Governor to the Residents of the Protected States, and questions such as slavery are extensively discussed therein.⁴ Of special interest is the *Perak Enquiry Papers, 1876-77*,⁵ which contains the proceedings conducted on the Birch murder.

It is difficult to assess the contents of the source materials of post-1910 period owing to the operation of archival regulations with respect to official records. This should not, however, deter researchers from using available printed sources as basic source materials of their research, and it could be pointed out that such studies have proved useful.⁶ By far the most important source material for the post-1910 era are the published government reports of the various commissions and public departments. These reports, classified in the National Library as *K. Series*, total about 160 in all. They contain a mass of information on almost every aspect of Malayan history, viz., political, economic, social, judicial, educational, medical, marine, military, commercial, etc. Most of these reports are based on first-hand investigation, usually by a committee of specialists, and the documentary and statistical evidence they contain can be taken to be very reliable. Among the interesting reports in this series is the *Report of the Commission on Trade of the Colony of the Straits Settlements, 1933-1934*, in 4 volumes. Undoubtedly, these reports provide the main source materials for the study of the twentieth century economic and social history of Malaya.

The *Annual Reports* of the Straits Settlements and the Malay States as well as those of the subordinate departments provide reliable statistical information on the various government activities. The reports of the Straits Settlements are available in irregular numbers in the National Library,⁷ and the same can be said of those of the different

⁴The microfilm copy of the *Command Papers* is entitled "Correspondence relating to the affairs of certain native states of the Malay Peninsula [1872-1895]". C. 445, 1111, 1320, 1505, 1510, 1512, and 1709 cover correspondence relating to the Larut War. C. 2410, 3095, 3285, 3425, 3429, 4192, 4627, 4958, 5353, 5366, 5884, 6222, 6576, 6858, 7220, 7546, 7877 and 8257 include correspondence on questions of slavery, instructions to Residents of Protected Malay States, and Annual Reports. C. 4627 contains the Treaty between the Sultan of Johore and Great Britain (1886). C. 5352 is the Treaty between the Sultan of Pahang and Britain (1888).

⁵The *Perak Enquiry Papers, 1876-1877* runs into three volumes and is available in the National Library.

⁶J. N. Parmer's *Colonial Labour Policy and Administration* (New York, 1960) comes readily to mind. The author appears to have consulted official records not accessible under the existing archival regulations.

⁷Reports for the years 1861-64, 1874, 1884 and 1886-1940 only are available.

Malay States. The University Library possesses microfilm copies of a number of these reports though not of all. A search in the various archives of the States or the government departments is very likely to lead to the acquisition of the missing odd numbers.⁸

Establishment of the Legislative Council in the Straits Settlements in 1867, and then of the Federal Council in the Federated Malay States in 1909 saw the regular publication of their proceedings. The National Library has acquired almost a complete set of these proceedings which are bound in yearly volumes and are in a good condition. An index has been prepared of the *Straits Settlements Legislative Council Proceedings* for the years 1883-93 and 1896-1913, while an index to the *Federal Council Proceedings* has been compiled for the period 1909-29. These proceedings contain the debates of the councils, and are thus invaluable to every student of Malayan history. A study of the discussions that took place within these council chambers will reveal the state of public opinion in the country, especially in times of important political and economic changes. The State Council Minutes have only been incompletely acquired by the University Library, as the original minutes are found in the State Archives in Malaya. The extension of microfilming facilities has enabled the University to make available to researchers the *Selangor Council Minutes* for the years 1877-1935. As for the *Perak Council Minutes*, they are still in the process of being traced.

Students of the economic history of Malaya will find a mass of material enabling a detailed study of the various sectors of the country's economy. The *Straits Settlements Records* contain only trade summaries of the three entrepôts, and their reliability is somewhat doubtful. The earliest reliable and comprehensive trade statistics of the Straits Settlements are found in the Tabular Statements of the shipping and commerce of Penang, Singapore and Malacca.⁹ The University Library has in microfilm the statements of the commerce of Singapore

⁸An inquiry into the departmental archives in Singapore revealed the existence of useful collections, some of which are not found in the National or University Library. For instance, the Singapore Municipality Archives contains *Blue Books* for the periods 1880-1911, 1913-29 and 1931-36. The Straits Settlements *Annual Reports* and *Legislative Council Proceedings* covering a large number of years are also available there.

⁹*S. S. Commerce and Shipping: Tabular Statements of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca* is available for the years 1844/45-1849/50 and 1852/53-1855/56. It contains complete trade statements for the three settlements, submitted by their respective Resident-Councillors. The Governor of the Straits Settlements forwarded these statements to Bengal with a covering report on the general features of the Straits trade.

for the years 1823/24-1843/44,¹⁰ which had been compiled from the *Straits Settlements Records*. After 1870, the Straits Government began the regular publication of the *Blue Book* which provides comprehensive statistics on trade, population, etc. of the Straits Settlements. The National Library has a complete series of the *Blue Book* for the period 1870-1946. In the twentieth century, statistical materials have become more voluminous, and details are available on almost every industry of the country. For instance, the publication of the *Malaya Rubber Statistics Handbook* has provided the researcher with valuable statistical details of the country's dominant plantation industry.

A comparatively untouched source is the records of the municipal bodies of Malaya. The Municipal Records of Singapore prior to 1880 are mostly missing, but some Minutes of the Meetings of the Municipal Commissioners of Singapore pertaining to the period prior to 1875 are available in the Municipal Office. Some of the gaps prior to 1880 can be filled by reference to the *Singapore Free Press*, which for sometime was the official organ of Government publications and notifications. It published all the Municipal proceedings, draft acts, and statements of Municipal accounts of revenue and expenditure. This, however, ceased in 1858 and the *Government Gazette* became the official organ of the Government. The Minutes of the Meetings of the Municipal Commissioners are almost complete from 1880. The published *Reports of the Singapore Municipal Administration* are available in complete numbers for the years 1895-1939. The records of the Singapore Improvement Trust are available for the entire period 1927-41, although the records of the period prior to 1927 are scanty and ill-kept. While all the *Annual Reports of the Singapore Improvement Trust* published between 1948 and 1960 are available in the National Library, the reports relating to Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Malacca are to be found in scattered numbers. An investigation into these Municipal archives may well open avenues for the study of local administration which is as yet an unexplored field in Malayan history.

No study of source materials is complete without considering the various newspapers of Malaya. The earliest newspaper published was

¹⁰G. P. Holloway, *The Tabular Statements of the Commerce of Singapore during the years 1823/24 to 1839/40 inclusive showing the nature and extent of the trade carried on with each country and state*. Compiled from official documents. (Singapore, 1842). *The Tabular Statements of the Commerce and Shipping of Singapore during the years 1840-41, 1841-42, 1842-43 and 1843-44*. Compiled from official documents. (Singapore, 1845). The microfilm entitled "Imports and Exports Statements and figures from different ports under the Government during the years 1823-65" provides statistical details of the trade of Penang and Malacca during the period.

the *Pinang Gazette*, and the University Library has microfilmed its issues for the years 1805-27, while the National Library has incomplete sets from 1838.¹¹ The *Singapore Free Press*, which commenced publication in 1835, is available in irregular numbers in the National Library.¹² Some of the missing sets are found in the Times House, though these are in a very damaged condition. The *Straits Times*, first published in 1845, is more complete, although a few numbers thereof are missing.¹³ Newspapers provide the best indication of public attitude towards many historical issues, and the Transfer Agitation in the Straits Settlements, to give an instance, is extensively discussed in all the above newspapers. However, in using these newspapers a good deal of caution has to be exercised, especially in questions of controversial nature. On economic matters the Straits newspapers provide much useful information and comments which throw light on the state of trade and commerce in the country. Unfortunately the researcher will have to plough through volumes and volumes of newspapers in order to collect the details of interest to him, and this difficulty can be overcome if an attempt is made to have these newspapers indexed.

Publications of the various mercantile firms and other business bodies constitute an important source in so far as they reflect the views of the leading commercial and industrial bodies on economic questions. The earliest publication available is the *Report of the Chamber of Commerce, Singapore and Penang* (1887). Reports of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce are available from 1889 onwards. A supplementary source to these publications is the directives and calendars which were published by the local press. The *Singapore Almanack and Directory* is available in the National Library from 1846. It contains useful information on the business establishments in the Straits. For instance, it is possible to study, on the basis of these directories, the growth of Singapore business agency houses which have played such a notable role in the economy of the country. In the twentieth

¹¹ The National Library has in its possession the *Pinang Gazette* for the years 1838, 1839, 1879, 1882 and 1887-1941. Microfilm copies of the paper for the years 1844, 1847, 1849-53 and 1863 are also available.

¹² Issues of the *Singapore Free Press* for the years 1837, 1840-41, 1846, 1849, 1851-60, 1862-66, 1874-75, 1877-93, 1898-1905, 1907-41, and 1946 onwards are available to the researcher in the National Library. The Times House has some of the missing numbers, viz., 1835-36, 1839, 1842-43, 1847-48, 1850, and 1861. The condition of these copies is generally poor.

¹³ The early volumes of the *Straits Times* especially for the years 1845, 1847-48, 1865-66, 1868-77, 1879-83 and 1885-86 are missing in the National Library. The Times House has copies for the years 1861-62, 1872, 1874-77, 1880 and 1883, but these are in a very poor state of preservation.

century, the growth of the rubber industry saw the formation of various associations of the planters, growers, etc. These associations had regular publications and with the minutes of their meetings and other papers they provide a mass of information on the various aspects of the industry. The *Annual Report of the Planters Association of Malaya* is available in the National Library in irregular numbers belonging to the period 1910-26. It is unfortunate that Singapore does not have many of those publications which may throw some light on the organization of the industry, especially from the metropolitan side.

The above does not by any means exhaust available source materials in Singapore. No attempt has been made to carry out a survey of private family collections and records of the various corporate and business bodies there. In 1949, the Colonial Office attempted to get information on these private and semi-private archives in Singapore, but the results were generally disappointing. The time is opportune now to renew the enquiry and bring to light materials of interest to the students of the history of Malaya.

A survey of source materials in Singapore only serves to indicate their fragmentary nature, partially caused by the Japanese occupation of Singapore (1942-45) and partially by the neglect displayed by the past governments. There is a great need for centralization of all the historical sources, preferably at a place not only affording adequate accommodation but also providing other archival facilities. This will naturally necessitate a wholesale transfer of the departmental archives, which, besides helping the researcher, can also enable easy evaluation of all available materials in Singapore. On the basis of this assessment it will be possible to obtain the missing records. Also an attempt can be made to index especially the official records and newspapers. The creation of the National Archives may well prove a first step in this direction.

THE TRAINING OF ARCHIVISTS IN GERMANY

DIETMAR ROTHERMUND

THE numerous state archives of Germany contain a wealth of source materials for the history of medieval and modern Europe. Due to the decentralized development of Germany the major sources are not concentrated at any one place. The former Prussian archives are in Potsdam and Merseburg in East Germany, while the most important state archives, which contain the majority of medieval documents and the sources for the history of the Reformation, are in West Germany. The state archives at Marburg in Hesse and Munich in Bavaria are the leading archives of this type. The Federal Archives at Koblenz on the Rhine contains mainly those documents of the former German State which were captured by the Allied Forces after World War II and repatriated in recent years, particularly the records of the German Foreign Office which are open to research scholars up to 1945. The Federal Archives has also collected a great number of private papers of important politicians, generals and intellectual leaders of the 20th century.

All these archives need highly qualified personnel. German archivists are civil servants except for those who serve in private or church archives. However, even those archivists who serve in private archives can participate in the training courses which are held for all German archives at the Archives School which is attached to the State Archives at Marburg. The director of the State Archives at Marburg is also the director of the school. There is a board of advisers, which consists of the representatives of the different states of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Archives School was established at Marburg after World War II because the previous training centre for archivists in Berlin-Dahlem had been destroyed during the war. However, the new Archives School at Marburg has preserved the tradition of thoroughness and high standards for which the centre in Berlin was known.

The career of a German archivist follows in general the outlines of the careers of other German civil servants. There are two civil service careers: the higher civil service for which only candidates with a completed university education are recruited, and the so-called medium civil service for which candidates can apply after having passed their 'Abitur' examination (which is roughly equivalent to the Intermediate or even B.A.). In the archives the members of the higher services have the designation of Archive Counsellor and the members of the medium service are called Archive Inspectors. The Archive

Counsellors are usually heads of departments. Many of them are scholars in their own right, and they often have several published works and editions of documents to their credit. Some of the best German historians have been members of this service. The members of this service are free to devote a major part of their time to research problems. They are relieved of the routine part of their administrative duties by the Archive Inspectors who combine a fairly thorough knowledge of archival procedure with an equally sound knowledge of such administrative skills as the keeping of accounts. They are also in charge of the registration and classification of 18th and 19th century documents which do not pose any problem of palaeography, etc.

The Archives School at Marburg provides separate training courses for both these services. The candidate for the higher service is admitted to the school after having taken a Ph.D. degree in history. The study of history at German universities is mainly conducted in the three seminars of ancient, medieval and modern history. Each seminar has a fairly large reference library in which all the important source publications are placed at the disposal of the student. The student is at liberty to attend whatever lectures and seminars he likes, but generally he is expected to participate at least in one pro-seminar, one middle seminar and one advanced seminar in each of the three sections. In addition there are special tutorials in which the professor and the students read and discuss selected texts and documents. The future archivist will naturally concentrate on the seminars in medieval and modern history, and attend lectures and tutorials on medieval Latin texts and palaeography.

In the seminars the student prepares reports and papers on topics which he himself may select or which the professor has recommended to him. Usually every student will get an opportunity to present his paper to the members of the seminar in order to benefit from the discussion and from the critical remarks of the professor. This intensive work in the seminars is considered to be much more important than the lectures. Most professors conduct also a special discussion group for the students who are doing their doctorate with them. The German academic system is thus primarily geared to the education of research scholars, and the future archivist can get a good grounding in most of the subjects which are of importance to him already in the course of his studies at the university, if he chooses his courses wisely. But, not all universities are equally suitable for this purpose because only very few universities have at one and the same time a good medieval historian, a leading palaeographic expert, a specialist in medieval Latin, etc. on their staff. However, in Germany many students change

their university once or twice in the course of their studies, and their professors encourage them to do so. In this way they are able to study with the best men in their fields. Since most of the leading state archives are located in university towns, the change-over from one university to another also enables the future archivist to get a first-hand impression of different archives. There are no specific requirements as to the course of studies and fields of specialisation of the future archivist, but he is expected to know Latin, French and Middle-High German well, and is also supposed to be familiar with the history of art and the fundamentals of law and administrative history.

In addition to the Ph.D. degree the candidate should pass the first state examination which entitles him to join the secondary education service of his state, if he wants to serve in a state archives. The state examination for the education service consists of a written and an oral examination in two or three subjects which are taught in secondary schools. Since the major subject of the future archivist will always be history, he may choose the following combinations for this state examination : history and Latin, history and German, history and French. Both the education service and the archival service are part of the higher civil service. However, while the candidates for the education service have to undergo two years of pedagogical training, the future archivist joins the Archives School. The pay scales, increments, promotions and terms of service are more or less the same in both these services.

The candidate applies to a state government for admission to the archival service, and he has to complete six months of practical training in the respective state archives before he is deputed by the state government to the Archives School at Marburg. During the period of his training the candidate is paid a stipend by his state government. At the school the candidate participates in a 1½-year theoretical course in which he is taught all those subjects which are important for his future work in the archives and of which he may not have learnt much during the lectures at the university. Since this is a post-doctoral course, the instruction has to be of a high standard. The teaching staff consists mostly of the heads of the departments of the State Archives at Marburg, several professors of Marburg University and a good many visiting lecturers including archivists and directors of archives of many European countries. The following subjects are taught in this course : history of archives, structure of depositories in German archives, administrative and constitutional history, history of law, history of the German states and territories, forms and types of documents and records, development of script,

palaeography, numismatics, identification of seals and heraldic designs, chronology and genealogy, history of art and of monuments, German philology, especially Middle-High German, and the geographical distribution of German dialects.

During their first, introductory month at the Archives School the candidates attend lectures on library science and receive some practical training in the restoration and lamination of documents, micro-filming, and classification and cataloguing of documents. Then begins the first semester, and the candidates have to attend twenty lectures or seminars per week. Four of these are devoted to the organization of archives, the keeping of files and records in the different government offices, and the various forms and types of records. There is also a lecture on the different German state archives, with special reference to the history of the German states. Medieval documents, palaeography, chronology and related subjects, medieval Latin and German are taught at the rate of one hour per week for each of these fields. Modern records, history of administration, history of art, and history of law are each allotted two hours per week. Furthermore, the first semester includes a course on the Marburg Archives, and in this way the candidates get to know the extensive holdings of this archives.

The semesters at the Archives School follow the same time schedule as the semesters at the university, but the vacation period of the university (two months in spring and three months in autumn) is also utilized for course work at the Archives School. During the first vacation period there is a short course which is mainly centered around the organization of archives, analysis of old maps, and palaeography of the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. The number of lectures is reduced from twenty to fourteen in these vacation periods, and the candidates are given more practical training in the cataloguing of documents, etc. The second semester and the subsequent course during the vacation period as well as the third semester follow the same schedule as the first one ; only French is added with one hour per week in the second and third semesters.

The curriculum includes a number of excursions. The candidates visit several institutes of the Marburg University. They also look into the files of the local government offices. The longer excursions take them to the state capital where they visit one or two ministries. Sometimes they also visit a federal ministry at Bonn. The candidates have to prepare extensive reports about their observations, particularly with regard to modern filing methods adopted by the ministries. In order to get an idea of the latest administrative techniques the candidates usually have a look at the Hollerith punch-card machines of the nearby railway headquarters at Kassel.

At the end of this course the candidate takes an examination which is the equivalent of the so-called second state examination of the other government services. The Board of Examiners consists of the director and the staff of the Archives School and an additional member appointed by the Minister of Education of Hesse, the state in which the school is located. The candidate must first pass a written examination. He has to transcribe and edit one Latin and one German document, and two documents of the modern period—one in French and one in German. For each of these four documents he is given a period of five hours. After passing the written examination he is admitted to the oral examination which is conducted by at least two members of the Board of Examiners. In the course of this oral examination the candidate is asked questions related to the different subjects taught at the Archives School. This examination lasts for about five hours. If the candidate fails in the examination, he may be examined once more after one year. Finally the candidate receives a certificate and is entitled to bear the designation "Archive Assessor". He then joins the staff of an archives, and as soon as a vacancy in the permanent civil service positions occurs he is appointed Archive Counsellor.

The candidates for the medium level service also apply to their respective state governments and complete one year of practical administrative training with different departments of the government, and then they are deputed to the Archives School. At the school they first take a one-year theoretical course which consists of similar subjects as those taught in the courses for the higher service. However, the emphasis is more on documents of the modern period. But Latin and French are not neglected either. Classification and registration of documents as well as techniques of preservation and photography are also taught in this course.

After the theoretical course the future Archive Inspectors have to complete another year of practical training. They usually spend this year in the archives of their own state. During this year the candidates do library work, help in the research room, and learn how to edit texts and read proofs.

Due to the fact that the theoretical part and the practical part of the training are held at different places the candidates have to appear for two different examinations. After their theoretical training they must pass a written and an oral examination at the Archives School. The written examination consists of transcription and translation of German, Latin and French records. The examination held after the completion of the practical training consists of the classification and

registration of a certain number of files and the writing of a report or the compilation of some information on the basis of certain records selected by the examiner. The certificates of the theoretical and the practical training may be combined into a 'Diploma' which is issued by the Archives School.

The Archives School can also arrange for a complete three years course for Archive Inspectors at Marburg. In this case the first year of administrative training can be done in local government departments of Hesse, and the last year of practical training can be completed in the State Archives at Marburg. This arrangement should prove to be particularly useful for candidates who intend to serve later on in private or church archives.

The difference between the careers of the higher and the medium level services is reflected also in the different age levels of the candidates. The German student takes his 'Abitur' examination after nine years of secondary school on the average at the age of nineteen years. The candidate for the medium level service can therefore complete his training with the 'Diploma' examination at the age of 22 unless he has served in the army in which case he would be about 23 or 24. The candidate for the higher civil service would study at the university for at least four years, but usually five years after his 'Abitur', before taking a state examination, and he would probably need another year or two in order to obtain a Ph.D. degree. On the average he would be 25 or 26 years when he gets his Ph.D. degree, or about 27 if he had to serve in the army. By the time he finishes his course at the Archives School he would be about 28 years of age. His salary as an "Assessor" would amount to about Rs. 950. He may have to wait for another five or six years before he gets a permanent civil service appointment as "Counsellor" with a salary of about Rs. 1,200.

The Archives School at Marburg has so far completed five courses each for the higher service and the medium service after the War. Attempts have been made to widen the scope of the courses offered and to include more lectures of visiting professors and archivists from other countries so as to provide the young German archivists with a world-wide view of their field of work. At the same time much attention has been paid to the instruction in improved methods of classification and preservation of documents and the knowledge of materials like paper and parchment with which the archivists have to work.

The number of candidates in each course is naturally very limited and, therefore, it is possible to give the young archivists a very intensive training. In the first six months of practical training the candidate for the higher service has to work under the direct supervision of the

director of archives in the state to which he has been assigned. The director sees to it that this candidate proves worthy of the archives that sends him to the Archives School, and the staff at Marburg also devotes personal attention to the ten or twelve members of each course. The large and well-organized State Archives at Marburg and the quiet university town which has almost the best and the largest libraries in Germany, have proved Marburg to be an ideal location for the Archives School.

The Archives School at Marburg is, however, not the only one in Germany. The great Bavarian State Archives in Munich maintains a separate school of its own. The Bavarian State Archives has very large holdings of papal documents and documents of the medieval emperors. It also, therefore, provides an excellent training ground for future archivists.

The co-ordination of archival training and archival policies is achieved through the German Archives Convention and the Association of German Archivists. The latter publishes a periodical *Der Archivar*. The Bavarian State Archives also continues to publish the old *Archivalische Zeitschrift*.

Among the professors of history at German universities there are quite a few who have begun their career in the archival service. This is particularly so in the field of medieval history. These professors owe a good deal of their methodological training to the Archives School and their subsequent work in a state archives. For this reason archival training plays an important role in German academic life, and there are very close connections between the archives and the departments of history. At some universities the members of the staff of the local state archives also teach a few courses at the university, particularly seminars on source materials, courses in palaeography and other related subjects. In this way the archival training starts already in the university and the student of history gets a first hand impression of the role and importance of archives. Many professors of history have also made it a standard practice to take the students of their pro-seminar (introductory course in methodology, etc.) on a tour through the local state archives at the very beginning of their historical studies. The co-operation between universities and archives is an essential feature of German academic life, and it is also the basis of archival training.

PRESERVATION AND REPAIR OF PALM LEAF MANUSCRIPTS

RANBIR KISHORE

PALM leaves were used in India for writing on quite a large scale in the past. Collections of palm leaf manuscripts belonging to the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. are available in various libraries and manuscripts repositories in the country. In one of the oldest *Jñānabhāṇḍars* in the fort at Jaisalmer there is a manuscript "Pañchamī Kahā", which was written in 1109 Vikrama Samvat corresponding to 1052 A.D. The Pattan Manuscripts Bhandar in Gujarat possesses a manuscript entitled "Nisītha Chūrṇi" which bears the date 1157 Vikrama Samvat corresponding to 1100 A.D. There is hardly any doubt that palm leaves were being used for writing long before the advent of paper in India. The earliest examples of writings on this material seem to belong to the 4th century A.D.—the most important being some fragments from Kashghar, in the Godfrey Collection,—or to the 6th century A.D., including the famous manuscript, written in the Gupta script, preserved in the monastery at Horiuzi in Japan. Another early specimen belonging to the 7th century A.D. written in the later Gupta script is reported to be available in Nepal.

The leaves of only two varieties of palm, viz., *śrītāla* (*corypha umbracaulifera*) and *tāla* (*borassus flabillifer*), known in the South as *karimpana* and *thalivola* respectively, seem to have been used for writing. The *tāla* now grows all over India, while the *śrītāla* grows mostly in South India, specially in Malabar.* The *śrītāla* leaf is thin, crisp and beautiful, while the *tāla* leaf is thick and coarse. Before use, the leaves, it appears, were given a special treatment for adapting their surface for writing. Gingili oil seems to have normally been used for smoothening the surface. The *tāla* leaf being thick and non-absorbent, a steel stylus was often used for incising characters on it, and the writings were then brightened up by rubbing them with lamp black or true indigo. The *śrītāla* leaf, however, could be used just like paper, and the writing on it was in carbonaceous ink. In certain cases the ink used appears to be impervious to water.

*Hoernle who examined a large number of palm leaf manuscripts observes that *talipat* palm (*corypha umbracaulifera*) or *śrītāla* as it is popularly known, was the only palm the leaves of which were used throughout India, whereas the use of leaves of the *palmyra* palm (*borassus flabillifer*), popularly known as *tāla*, began at a comparatively late period. *Palmyra* palm was brought to India from Africa, whereas the original home of *talipat* palm is uncertain. According to some scholars it is indigenous to South India and grows widely in Ceylon and on the Malabar Coast. David Diringer, *The Hand-Produced Book*.

The size of the palm leaves used for writing varies from 10×3.5 to 90×3.5 cm. The manuscripts were usually placed between two wooden planks of a slightly larger size and then wrapped in cloth covers (*bastas*) coloured red or yellow. In many cases the leaves had central holes in them through which a cord was passed for keeping them in position and the loose ends of the cord were passed through similar central holes in the plank covers and then tied round the planks. In certain cases *pandri*, a kind of aromatic grass, and *ghorbachch*, a medicinal herb (*acorus calamus*) were placed in the *bastas* as a deterrent against insects.

High temperature and low humidity are among the worst enemies of palm leaf manuscripts. Persistent neglect of these factors has been responsible in the past for the decay of many collections and the total disappearance of not a few. Wide variations in temperature and moisture tend to embrittle manuscripts, and when these variations are extreme the leaves of manuscripts tend to disintegrate and often get lumped together into solid blocks, defying all attempts at restoration.

Equally harmful from the point of view of preservation are unscientific methods of packing and storing. The widely prevalent practice of tying up a manuscript with strings, for instance, often results in damaging the edges of its leaves. Equally risky is the custom, to which we have already referred, of keeping the leaves of a manuscript in position by passing a cord through the holes in them. The leaves in such cases often tend to crack in all directions starting from those very holes. Experience has shown that palm leaves are best preserved when stored loose in boxes. The resultant loss in flexibility, it has been observed, is more than counterbalanced by the survival of such leaves in an entirely unimpaired state.

Yet another formidable enemy of palm leaf manuscripts is *gastral-lus indicus*, the so-called book-worms, which take delight in making perforations all over the leaves. Their ravages are most pronouncedly in evidence among the collections which do not happen to be protected by any of the disinfectants commonly in use, to which a reference has already been made. The insects have almost a free run of such collections.

The conditions suited for the safe storage of palm leaf manuscripts are similar to those required for paper manuscripts, *i.e.*, temperature in the range of $22-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($72-77^{\circ}\text{F}$) and relative humidity 45-55 per cent. Maintenance of such optimum conditions is possible only by means of mechanical air-conditioning devices. Where air-conditioning is beyond the means of an owner provision will have to be made for ensuring circulation of fresh air in every part of the manuscripts repository.

When packed in *bastas* palm leaves tend to get damaged along the edges. As *bastas* facilitate comparatively free air-circulation within, the leaves thus packed receive protection not only against damp and dirt but also against the acidic contents of the environmental gases. They are also able partially to retain their flexibility. The ideal arrangement is to place the leaves in cardboard boxes capacious enough to accommodate the former without bringing their edges into friction with the inner walls of the latter. The best way to eliminate all risks of damage to which the edges of a leaf become liable while being handled is to inlay it, *i.e.*, to encase it in a frame pulp board or hand made paper of the requisite size and thickness. What is required for the inlaying of each single leaf is just two sheets of the enframing material each having an area large enough to accommodate the leaf leaving a margin of 3.5 to 5 cm. all round. The outline of the leaf is first demarcated on each of the sheets. Within the space enclosed by this outline another rectangular figure is then marked out, smaller in area than the former, leaving a space of approximately 2 to 3 mm. between the two. The portion demarcated by the inner figure on each sheet is thereafter sliced off converting each into a frame. After these frames have been placed in juxtaposition, the leaf to be treated is inserted between them, the ends being finally sealed either with starch or with the binder's paste.

The leaves which have already become brittle through loss of moisture require to be reinforced before they can be inlaid or put in storage boxes. The best reinforcing material for a palm leaf is chiffon or silk gauze which is pasted on the former with an adhesive containing dextrine and starch in the proportion of 1:1. The process consists in covering one side of the leaf to be treated with a piece of chiffon slightly larger in size and then applying to the latter a thin coating of the paste. With the drying up of the paste the reinforcing material gets firmly fixed to the leaf. The same treatment is thereafter given to the reverse side as well. After the leaf has been reinforced on both sides, the protruding edges of chiffon are trimmed off leaving a margin of 5 to 8 mm. all round. Use of tissue paper with the same paste provides satisfactory reinforcement only in cases where the leaves to be treated are thin and the writing is in carbonaceous ink. Chiffon is a much better reinforcing medium for manuscripts written with a stylus. It ensures better legibility. A slightly different procedure needs to be followed in repairing manuscripts written in a water soluble ink. A piece of chiffon is first spread on a table and covered with a thin layer of paste. The leaf to be treated is thereafter placed on it and pressed lightly. After the paste has dried up the process is repeated with the reverse side of the leaf.

Another way of protecting water soluble ink is to give the leaf a methacrylate varnish before repair. This chemical is available in the market in a 40 per cent solution under the trade name Bedacryl. Before use this requires to be further diluted in benzene or acetone with a view to obtaining a 5-10 p.c. solution. If applied lightly with a brush on the soluble carbonaceous writing, this solution will prevent the latter from getting smudged even when in contact with water.

A palm leaf with water soluble writing can also be reinforced, without any risk of the writing getting smeared, by the so-called hand lamination process which consists in providing the leaf with a coating of chiffon and fixing cellulose acetate foil to it by means of acetone. A piece of chiffon slightly larger in size than the leaf to be treated is first spread on a table provided with a glass top. A cellulose acetate foil of the same measurement is then spread over the piece, above which is then placed the leaf to be reinforced. The top of the leaf is then covered in turn with another layer of cellulose acetate foil and chiffon (both being of the same size as that taken earlier), all the layers thus forming a sandwich. A cotton swab dipped in acetone is thereafter gently rubbed over the chiffon piece on the top. The acetone has the effect of softening the cellulose acetate foil underneath, which, after it has dried up, permanently fixes the chiffon to the leaf. The treatment is thereafter repeated on the reverse of the sandwich. The protruding edges of the chiffon are then trimmed so as to leave a margin of 5 to 8 mm. all round.

Whenever there is any risk of the legibility of a palm leaf manuscript getting impaired in the course of repair, the following method may safely be adopted.

A requisite quantity of polyvinyl acetate is to be first diluted in benzene so as to form 5 to 10 per cent solution. This solution is then to be applied with a brush on a leaf which has already been encased in a frame of hand-made paper (the process has been described earlier). A piece of cellulose acetate foil larger in size than the frame should be simultaneously treated with the above solution. After the solvent has evaporated the foil is to be gently pressed on the encased leaf. The sandwich thus formed is to be pressed with a cold or slightly hot iron to secure the bonding of the encased leaf with the acetate foil. The reverse side of the palm leaf is also to be treated in the like manner. This process has the advantage of inlaying the leaf during reinforcement, but it requires considerable experience to master it. It should therefore be entrusted to skilled menders only.

Where the lamp black or other material used to brighten engraved writings has been rubbed off in the course of handling, thus impairing the legibility of the manuscript, it is possible to repair the loss by

re-inking. The process consists in rubbing powdered graphite or lamp black with the help of a cotton swab over the engraved incisions. The excess graphite or lamp black left over on the surface after the incisions have been filled in, is swept off with a soft cotton cloth. To brighten up the writings further glycerine or di-ethylglycol may be rubbed over the leaves. The use of glycerine or di-ethylglycol makes the leaves flexible. Before any manuscript is given this treatment or steps are taken to reinforce them it is necessary that they should be cleaned particularly when they are found to be covered with dust or any other foreign matter. A wash in a mixture of glycerine and alcohol (1:1) has been found to be a very satisfactory method of cleaning. For palm leaves containing water-soluble writing an acetone or benzene wash is recommended. Leaves which have got lumped together into solid masses can best be separated by giving them a bath of hot paraffin liquid (70-80° C). The individual layers can be detached from each other with the help of a flat end metallic or bone spatula. The separated leaves require to be cleaned again to free them from excess paraffin. Sheets which get lumped together owing to the effects of damp or any other reason, similarly require to be separated from each other before any treatment could be given them. Since palm leaves tend to become fragile as soon as they dry, exceptional caution is needed in handling them when they undergo the above treatment.

Finally palm leaves require to be protected adequately against possible ravages of insect pests. *Gastrallus indicus* (book-worm) is, as we have seen, a habitual infester of palm leaf under tropical conditions. *Pandri* or *ghorbachch*, which used to be placed in *bastas* in the past, has in many cases kept the collection of palm leaves immune from insects. Efficacy of medicinal herbs and grasses is due to the active ingredients which are mostly volatile and their insect-repellent properties are lost in storage. Naphthalene, camphor, etc., which have better insect-repellent properties, are very effective in keeping the injurious pests away, and these chemicals are recommended for being placed among the manuscripts. Fumigation of infested palm leaf manuscripts is, however, necessary for eliminating active infestation. Use of paradichlorobenzene in an air-tight steel vault has been found the most effective method of fumigation. In experiments conducted in the National Archives of India it has been observed that fumigation of palm leaves is best achieved with paradichlorobenzene at 65 per cent relative humidity. Humidity can be maintained at this level by keeping saturated solution of sodium chromate or magnesium acetate along with the fumigant in the bottom of the fumigation

vault. Use of a mixture of carbon tetrachloride and ethylene dichloride (1:1) has also been found satisfactory for fumigation of palm leaves. However, since the fumes emitted by this liquid mixture are heavy, the fumigant is placed on the top shelf of the fumigation vault. In some cases carbonaceous inks or those of similar nature show a slight tendency to smudge or smear when these chemicals are applied. Writings in such inks may therefore be fumigated only after they have been protected in the manner explained before.

Though the measures described in the preceding paragraphs are expected to ensure the restoration and reinforcement of palm leaf manuscripts as also their safe storage, extreme care in handling is necessary for preserving them well.

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NEWS NOTES

INDIA

National Archives of India

Among the principal acquisitions during 1961 and 1962 were the records of the Reforms Office (1919-48) and of the Home (Political) Department (1917-45), strip maps received from the Ministry of External Affairs, and plane table survey sheets belonging to the Department of Survey of India.

The Department's collection of private archives was further enriched by the acquisition of another instalment of Dr. N. B. Khare's personal correspondence with some prominent Indian leaders, and some private papers of Dadabhai Naoroji and Badrud-Din Tyabji, former Presidents of the Indian National Congress.

The campaign for acquiring old papers and rare manuscripts in oriental languages in private custody continued apace. On the recommendation of the Historical Documents Purchase Committee the Department acquired several manuscripts and documents, noteworthy among them being "Tawarikh-i-Farkhunda" dealing with the history of Hyderabad, a *farman* of Emperor Humayun dated 5 *Shaban* 946 A. H. (16 December 1539) and the Inayat Jang Collection comprising 1,35,931 documents containing information on the administrative and socio-economic history of the Deccan during the 17th and 18th centuries.

In pursuance of the policy of acquiring microfilm copies of records of Indian interest available in foreign repositories the Department received from the Algemeen Rijksarchief, The Hague, 156 rolls of records of the Dutch East India Company covering the period 1759-94 and throwing light on the social and economic conditions in India during that period. Also acquired under the programme were 46 rolls of microfilm of private papers of Lord Dufferin spanning the period of his viceroyalty in India (1884-88) and providing useful information about his administration. Other acquisitions in microfilm include the private correspondence of Lord Mayo and private papers of Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, received from the Cambridge University; Minto papers acquired from the National Library of Scotland; and papers of Sir Henry Fowler obtained from the Commonwealth Relations Office, London.

Additions to the Departmental Library comprised, besides a large number of periodicals, over 1,500 books some of them being very rare editions of the 18th and early 19th century publications. Several books dealing with the history of India and other Asian countries were received from the U. S. A. under the Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme.

Besides attending to its normal duties of checking and arranging records, the Department continued the work of preparing reference aids

and made substantial progress in listing the various groups of records, handlisting the Persian Correspondence available among the Foreign Department records, cataloguing the seals found among the Original Persian Letters Received, indexing the maps in its custody and compiling Index to Foreign Department Records, Vol. II (1781-83). The work of compiling a press-list of the Secret Department Proceedings, which was suspended several years ago after the publication of its first volume covering the years 1763-75, was resumed and the Proceedings of the period 1776-80 were press-listed.

Under the programme of microfilming old and important records in the National Archives volumes of the series 'Report on Native Newspapers' relating to Bengal (1863-1915), Punjab (1864-98, 1901-11), U. P. (1899, 1912, 1914-17), Madras (1872-1936) and Bombay (1868-1927) were microfilmed.

The microfilming of rare manuscripts and documents in the libraries and other repositories in the country continued. More than 500 such manuscripts belonging to the Raza Library, Rampur were microfilmed during the two years under review.

Apart from repairing and rehabilitating records in its own custody the Department, as usual, rendered technical service and advice to a number of outside institutions and individuals on problems connected with the preservation and repair of archives.

Of the three Research Fellows working in the Department under the Research Fellowship Scheme one completed his research in April 1961, while the fellowships of the remaining two were extended for one year and thereafter for a further period of six months to enable them to complete their work.

Under the Scheme for Training in Archive-Keeping, nine trainees successfully completed the One-Year Diploma Course in August 1961 and six trainees in August 1962. While according sanction for the continuance of the Scheme for the year 1962-63 the Government of India reduced the number of stipends of the value of Rs. 150/- per mensem each from four to two, and increased the number of State nominees receiving the allowance of Rs. 75/- each from six to eight. The new session commenced in September 1962 with four State nominees on the roll.

The publications brought out during the period under report include *Fort William-India House Correspondence*, Vol. IV (Home Department, 1764-66; Hony. Editor : late Professor C. S. Srinivasachari), *Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings*, Vol. XXXVI, pts. I-II, *The Indian Archives*, Vol. XII, Nos. 1-2 (January-December 1958), *Report of the Committee on Archival Legislation*, and the brochure *Diplomatic of Sanskrit Copper-Plate Grants*. Progress was made in the printing of *Fort William-India House Correspondence*, Vol. XV (Secret Department, 1782-86; Hony. Editors : Professor C. H. Philips and Dr. B. B. Misra), *The Indian Archives*, Vol. XIII (January 1959—December 1960), and *Selections from*

Educational Records, Vol. II (dealing with the growth of Universities in India, 1860-87). While under Scheme III-A relating to the publication of records in oriental languages the printing of the volume of *Persian Akhbars* (being published in collaboration with the University of Delhi) made some progress, under Scheme III-B the volume of *Elphinstone Correspondence*, 1804-08, was brought out in collaboration with the University of Nagpur; and the editing and publication of the *News Letters* (1839-42) and the *Ochterlony Papers* (1818-25) were entrusted to the Universities of Punjab and Calcutta respectively.

Indian Historical Records Commission

The Commission held its thirty-sixth session in the Panjab University campus at Chandigarh on 25-26 February 1961 under the chairmanship of Dr. K. L. Shrimali, Union Minister for Education and *ex-officio* President of the Commission. The session was attended by a large number of scholars, historians and archivists from all over India, including representatives of the Central and State Governments, Universities and learned institutions.

The proceedings started with the welcome address of Dr. A. C. Joshi, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Panjab and Chairman of the Reception Committee. In the course of his address Dr. Joshi appreciated the Commission's action in associating with its working the representatives of Universities and other learned bodies and observed, "While the Government doubtless are the largest custodians of records and documents, the record offices are by no means their sole repositories. In fact, it appears to me that the universities and non-governmental institutions may, with the passage of time, play an increasingly important role in collecting and conserving records and documents which lie unnoticed and uncared for in private custody. Over and above this, it appears necessary that in the changed context of times, there should be a close interaction between the record offices and the universities. It is obvious that record offices and archives are not only intended to preserve old and valuable records but also to foster the spirit of research and become centres of historical investigation. The interpretation of the records is just as important as their preservation. It is, therefore, necessary to forge new links between the State Archives and the University Departments of History so that the work of interpreting or reinterpreting India's past can be carried on in the best tradition of historical scholarship".

In his presidential address Dr. Shrimali reviewed the activities of the National Archives of India. Referring to the task of the present day historians he said, "Today when the country is being torn by narrow regionalism, fanaticism and linguistic rivalries, historians can render valuable service by responding creatively to the present crisis in our political life. History has considerable impact on our thought and action, provided the historians are sensitive to the needs of the present and interpret the

past in an intelligent manner. While it is the duty of the historian to interpret the past as truly and as faithfully as he can, he must also remember that his writings are of consequence not to him alone but concern the whole of society inasmuch as they affect the moral sense of his generation. The historian, therefore, cannot remain completely impervious to the needs of the present. We are at present engaged in the gigantic task of social reconstruction. In order that each one of us may be able to play his due role, it is essential that we acquire a deeper understanding of the existing conditions by tracing their origin to the causes which have produced them. We shall thus have a better understanding of the social issues and problems of our times. All the problems which agitate our minds today—language, caste, regionalism—have their origin in the past, and in order to find rational solutions for them we have to develop historical consciousness among our people”.

The afternoon of 25 February was devoted to the reading of the research papers contributed by the members of the Commission and other distinguished historians and scholars attending the session.

At the members' meeting held on 26 February with Dr. Shrimali in the chair a number of resolutions were discussed and passed, important among them being those relating to legislation on archives, use of standard quality of paper and ink by the record-creating agencies in India, preparation of descriptive lists of microfilms obtained by the National Archives of India from the U. S. A., transfer of records relating to Gujarat from the erstwhile Bombay State, and financial grants to research institutions in India.

The thirty-seventh session of the Indian Historical Records Commission scheduled to be held at Poona in December 1962 was postponed in view of the national emergency.

Research and Publication Committee

The thirty-first meeting of the Research and Publication Committee was held at the premises of the Panjab University on 28 February 1961 under the chairmanship of Shri P. N. Kirpal, Educational Adviser to the Government of India and *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee. Among the important resolutions passed at the meeting was that by which the Committee recommended that the University of Delhi be approached to provide accommodation in its hostels to persons who come to conduct research in the National Archives of India. It was further recommended that provision should be made by the University under its plan for Second University Campus for hostel accommodation for such persons. Another recommendation of the Committee was that arrangements should be made by the National Archives of India to acquire for its library all important books on history in various regional languages and that an advisory committee should be set up to advise the Director of Archives in selecting such books. The Committee also recommended that the representatives

of the Ministry of Education, the University Grants Commission and the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs should meet together and draw up a co-ordinated plan for release of adequate foreign exchange to the National Archives of India for acquiring microfilms of records of Indian interest available in foreign countries, which constitute valuable source materials of Indian history.

National Committee of Archivists

The fourteenth meeting of the National Committee of Archivists was held at the National Archives of India, New Delhi, on 21 April 1962. The meeting was presided over by Shri K. D. Bhargava, Director of Archives, Government of India. The Committee discussed among other matters the constitution of the proposed Indian Archival Council, recruitment and training of archivists, deputation of staff of State Record Offices to major archival repositories in India and abroad for training purposes, centralisation of non-current records of the State Governments and procurement of imported goods for purposes of preservation of records. Reviewing the publication programmes of the State Record Offices the Committee recommended that each State Archives should publish a general guide to the records in its custody.

The fifteenth meeting of the National Committee of Archivists was held at Srinagar on 28 and 29 September 1962 with Shri K. D. Bhargava, Director of Archives, in the chair. Among the recommendations made by the Committee at this meeting were those relating to the formulation of development plans by the State Governments in regard to their archives for the remaining period of the Third Five-Year Plan, sending of archivists abroad for training, opening of a few repositories at selected places under the control of the National Archives of India for housing the fast accumulating records of the subordinate agencies of the Government of India, located in various parts of the country, and setting up of an Archival Council with the composition and functions as suggested by the Archival Legislation Committee.

Committee on Archival Legislation

The Committee on Archival Legislation which had been constituted in August 1959 to advise the Government of India on the desirability or otherwise of framing a law applicable to the archives in India, to enquire into the working of National and State Archives and to suggest ways and means for improving their administration, concluded its work in 1960 and prepared its report which was submitted to the Government of India in the beginning of the following year. The report was also circulated to all the State Governments, Union territories, Ministries of the Government of India, statutory bodies and members of the Indian Historical Records Commission to elicit their views on the recommendations contained in it. The comments received are being considered by the Government of India.

The Committee's report is quite comprehensive and deals with almost every vital problem affecting the creation, administration and use of archives. The main recommendations made therein are summarised hereunder.

Legislation :

(1) It is essential to have a single law applicable to both the Union and the State Archives.

(2) As an interim and urgent measure there should be enacted separate Central and State laws governing respectively archives in the Union and in each of the States, the Central law being enacted by the Parliament and the State laws by the appropriate State Legislatures.

(3) The Central law should specify the different classes of public records and make Government responsible not only for their care, management, disposal and preservation but for facilitating their use by the public. It should ensure that no records earlier than 1860 are destroyed. It should further provide for records being thrown open to the public in general after they become 40 years old. The law should define the powers and responsibilities of the Director of Archives in respect of public records, invest him with the legal custody of all records in his charge and authorise him to do whatever may be necessary or expedient for maintaining or improving the utility of the National Archives.

(4) The State laws should be framed as far as possible on the model of the Central law keeping in view the varying circumstances of the individual States concerned.

(5) An advisory body to be called the Indian Archival Council should be constituted by Presidential order to advise both the Union and the State Governments on all matters connected with the management, administration, preservation and public use of records and to co-ordinate the archival activities of the public offices in the country. It should have 15 members representing each of the 15 States and 10 additional members to be nominated by the Central Government, including the Director of Archives, Government of India. The Minister in charge of the Archives should be the Chairman and the Director of Archives the Secretary. Members should be appointed by the President for a term of five years. The Council should have a Standing Committee of seven members selected from among the members of the Council. After the Council has been constituted it will be necessary to terminate the Indian Historical Records Commission and all its adjuncts.

(6) Steps should be taken to amend the Constitution by making suitable entry in the Concurrent List to enable the framing of a single law that would take care of both the Union and the State Archives and make possible the setting up of a statutory council.

Special points relating to the Union Archives :

(1) Special thought should be given to the problems in management, accommodation and preservation created by the present rapid growth in the volume of records, and all-out effort be made to ensure that public records of value are not swamped by ever-growing mass of trivial material.

(2) A careful study should be made of the relation between the overgrowth and the existing documentation and disposal practices, and these practices should be so improved as to make possible repair and easy separation of important papers from trivial and the periodical elimination of the latter.

(3) The filing practice of each department should be so adopted as to ensure that the contents of a file are adequately described by its title; that no file is used to house papers on a subject other than it was originally intended to deal with; that files dealing with policy decisions are not cluttered with papers relating to the particular application of those decisions; and that on no account matters of mere routine are allowed entry into a regular file of any category whatever. Special attention should be devoted in this connection to the implications of sections 85-86, 90 and 106 of the *Manual of Office Procedure*.

(4) It should be made obligatory on public offices to keep their records arranged in the original order of their creation, and to refrain from disturbing that order on any account whatever and from dividing records on the ground of any organisational or jurisdictional change, any redistribution of functions or on any other ground.

(5) Public offices should subject their records to a 'first review' not later than five years after they have passed out of active use and destroy those which need not be retained further for their own departmental purposes. This review should be conducted exclusively by departmental officers appointed for the purpose. All files surviving the review should be subjected to a 'second review' when they reach their 25th year. In this review a representative of the National Archives of India should be associated with the departmental officers entrusted with the task and papers deemed unworthy of further retention disposed of by destruction or any other method. No records of a date earlier than 1860 should be destroyed on any account whatever. Records surviving the first review should, until they reach their 25th year, be housed in intermediate repositories to be set up for the purpose; and those surviving the second review should be transferred immediately to the National Archives of India. All central records ripe for retirement should be housed in the National Archives premises irrespective of their present location and no zonal repositories should be built outside New Delhi to house non-current records of such central agencies as may be located in other places.

Public access to records :

(1) All records, including those marked confidential, which are 40

years old, should generally be thrown open to the public. After the open period there should be limited access period (extending say up to 10 years), records relating to which should be accessible to qualified users. Records beyond this limit should be open to researchers only with the permission of the appropriate Ministry.

(2) Records made accessible to the public should not be subjected to any kind of censorship or any other restrictions as regards their use.

National Archives of India :

(1) Apart from Central Government's records the National Archives of India should acquire only such private archives as throw light on important phases of modern Indian history or which may help to fill in gaps in the existing holdings of the Department. The acquisition programme should also include transcripts of records and documents bearing on modern Indian history that may be available in foreign repositories, public as well as private.

(2) The present indexing programme should be discontinued and be replaced by descriptive listing. The latter operation should be limited to important collections and series.

(3) The existing practice of publishing full texts or calendars of entire record series or selections from them should be discontinued as soon as the programmes in hand have been completed, and the privilege of full publication should be extended only to such special collections as may relate to a phase of history of which there is at present little or no knowledge, or may reflect a period for which few authorities exist, or to documents which once printed would continue to be read for their intrinsic worth by a wide public and not merely by a limited class of readers. The publication of *The Indian Archives* should continue.

(4) The Research Fellowship Scheme should be taken out of the hands of the National Archives and entrusted to Universities or historical research institutes.

(5) The Department should consist of the following Divisions : (a) Records Administration; (b) Research and Reference; (c) Liaison and Record Management; (d) Publication; (e) Preservation; and (f) General Administration. Each Division should be placed in charge of an Assistant Director, except Liaison and Record Management Division which should be under a Deputy Director. There should be a system of regular transfer of officers from one Division to another.

(6) Recruitment should be started at the level of Archivist (or the lowest supervisory post in the Department), all higher posts being filled by promotion when suitable candidates are available in the Department. All appointees should be selected by the Union Public Service Commission on the basis of a written test, after which they should undergo training in the National Archives.

Special points relating to State Archives :

(1) It should be urged on the States to reorganise their archives on the same lines as indicated in respect of the Union Archives, with such modifications as the varying local conditions may justify. Very high priority should be given to the task of developing State Archives and of setting up properly equipped repositories for housing them conformably to scientific standards.

(2) Co-ordination of archival activities in the States should be secured through a system of uniform laws providing for all State Archives, through the proposed Indian Archival Council and through a system of grants-in-aid to be given to States needing help for developing their own archives.

(3) No special treatment should be accorded to the records of the defunct princely States. They should be treated as integral part of the archives of the States in which they have merged. The records of the defunct Bhopal State which were taken over by the Central Government should be restored to the Madhya Pradesh Government.

(4) The State laws should make provision for public access to the State Archives which should be governed by the same rules as specified in respect of the Union Archives.

Private archives :

(1) It is not practicable to bring private archives of any category within a system of effective public control either by declaring them by law to be of national importance or by any other means. The task of their preservation and maintenance is best left to private initiative which may, where necessary, be reinforced by aid either from the Centre or from the States in which they are located. Universities, learned institutions, libraries and historical societies should be encouraged to acquire and arrange for preservation of collections worthy of permanent preservation. Public repositories and archival institutions should acquire by gift, loan or purchase only such collections as may be of unique importance.

(2) A survey and registration of private archives should be undertaken on the basis of co-operation between the Union and the State Governments, and the processing of the work should be entrusted to the Indian Archival Council which is to take charge of the National Register of Records.

(3) The Antiquities (Export Control) Act of 1947 should be suitably amended to prevent migration and unauthorised export of private archives.

National Register Committee

The third meeting of the National Register Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1960 to advise on the successful implementation of the scheme of National Register of Records was held in August

1961. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Archival Legislation regarding private archives. It also recommended the appointment of some staff at the Centre for looking after the work of compiling the National Register of Records and suggested that the work might be confined at the initial stage to a region comprising three or four States and that it should be gradually extended to other regions as more and more experience in the field was gained. Reviewing the progress of work done by the participating State Governments the Committee recommended that the Central Government should raise substantially its grants-in-aid to the participating States. Pending its decision on the report of the Committee on Archival Legislation the Government of India has postponed action on the above recommendations of the National Register Committee.

Andhra Pradesh

The Central Record Office (now State Archives), Hyderabad received during 1961 a large number of files of the Board of Revenue and the Endowments Department of the erstwhile Government of Hyderabad, a few Kannada documents relating to the Aneundi State, and some electoral rolls and gazettes. The Office undertook the work of collecting data for a guide to the records in its custody and made satisfactory progress therein. When completed it will contain information on the administrative history of the Hyderabad State, growth of archival organisation, categories of records in the Archives, research facilities available, etc.

The Central Committee of the Regional Historical Records Survey Committee at its meeting held in December 1961 recommended that the six Regional Committees formed in December 1959 should be abolished and the Central Committee strengthened and empowered to constitute Regional Sub-Committees, co-opting local members as and when necessary. The State Government accepted the recommendation and reconstituted the Regional Historical Records Survey Committee in October 1962 for a term of two years. The Committee as reconstituted consists of 13 members and has Shri P. V. G. Raju, Minister for Education as its President and the Director of State Archives as its *ex-officio* Secretary. It has been authorised to set up *ad hoc* Regional Sub-Committees for survey when required.

Assam

The Assam Secretariat Record Office continued to receive records from the different Departments of the Secretariat, and the number ran up to 12,442 in 1961 and 8,914 in 1962. These were, as usual, checked, sorted out, made into bundles and arranged. The Secretariat Library, which is a part of the Secretariat Record Office, accessioned 615 books during the two years under review.

During the same period the Office completed the work of compiling Amalgamated Indexes to Government Proceedings for 1953 and 1954. Also further progress was made by it in indexing the pre-1874 records of the Secretariat.

Bihar

A branch office of the State Central Records Office has been opened in the Secretariat Annexe and records of some of the departments have been shifted there in order to make space available in the main office for centralising district records.

The Office accessioned during 1961 and 1962 the Secretariat records of 1957 and 1958 besides some earlier records of a few departments, several volumes of English records belonging to the Champaran Collectorate, and a number of electoral rolls, gazettes and historical books. Work on the compilation of consolidated index of the Political Department records for the years 1812-37 was continued. Some revenue records of the Bhagalpur Collectorate and English records of the Bhagalpur Commissioner's Office were examined in connection with the scheme of preparing a hand-book of Bhagalpur revenue records. The Office published *Some Farmans, Sanads and Parwanas (1578-1802)* and sent to the press a volume of "Select Documents on Mahatma Gandhi's Movement in Champaran, 1917-18" and "Catalogue of Patna Commissioner's English Records, 1812-54" covering the correspondence of the Collectors of Bihar with the Board of Revenue, Board of Commissioners, etc.

The Bihar Regional Records Survey Committee was reconstituted in October 1961 for a period of three years. The new Committee held its first meeting on 2 December 1961 and discussed ways and means of expediting the work relating to the National Register of Private Records.

The Committee made an effort to salvage private archives and succeeded in obtaining as a gift from the Raja of Tillothu and the Baboo of Nokha their valuable family papers comprising *farmans*, *nishans*, *parwanas*, *sanads*, etc. Two of the members of the Committee visited Bettiah and examined the records preserved in the Raj Archives there. They came across a number of important documents noteworthy among them being a collection of letters throwing light on the exploitation of the country's economic resources by European traders and their missions and providing significant details on the oppressions practised by the indigo planters on the helpless peasantry in Champaran District.

Himachal Pradesh

The Regional Records Survey Committee for Himachal Pradesh constituted in August 1960 held its first meeting on 5 May 1961 under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh Administration. It was decided to seek the help of Deputy Commissioners, Block Development Officers, District Public Relations Officers and Tehsildars in locating

and securing valuable documents, manuscripts, paintings, etc. In September 1961 the Committee was enlarged from five to eight members.

Jammu and Kashmir

During 1961 and 1962 more than 12,000 files were transferred to the archives repositories at Jammu and Srinagar by various Government Offices in the State. The preparation of indexes to various series of records was continued and a few index volumes were published during the period under review. The Department took up the work of selecting documents from among the Persian records of the period 1724-1899 with a view to publishing them. The State Government has finally framed the Historical Research Rules of the Department by which all pre-1925 records have been thrown open for research work. On the analogy of Bombay and the Punjab the State Department of Archaeology and Museums has been placed under the administrative control of the Director of Archives. As part of the development programme under the Third Five-Year Plan a new and modern Museum building is under construction at Srinagar.

The Regional Records Survey Committee located a number of valuable paintings and rare manuscripts in Persian, Arabic, Sanskrit and Hindi dealing with history, religion, philosophy, poetry, etc., and gave necessary advice to their owners in regard to their proper preservation. It advised the State Government on the purchase of some important documents and manuscripts offered by private owners for sale.

Kerala

The four main record repositories of the State include in their holdings the records of the erstwhile princely States of Travancore and Cochin as well as of the Malabar region. The State Archives undertook the preparation of a comprehensive list of the non-current records housed in these repositories and made satisfactory progress during the two years under report. The State Government constituted in December 1961 an Archives Advisory Committee with the Chief Minister as its Chairman. On the recommendation of this committee the State Government ordered in August 1962 the establishment of the Kerala State Archives on the pattern analogous to that of the National Archives of India. It was also decided that the State Archives should be attached to the General Secretariat (Education Department) with the Education Secretary as the *ex-officio* Director of Archives.

At the meeting of the Regional Records Survey Committee for Kerala held in January 1961 the scheme for the compilation of the National Register of Records was discussed. As recommended by the Committee, the State Government issued instructions to its various departments and offices to render all facilities to the Committee for examining the manuscripts in their custody. The Government also issued orders that all old newspapers, gazettes, books, etc. available at the various institutions should not be destroyed or auctioned without consulting the Survey Committee.

At the request of the Regional Records Survey Committee the work relating to the collection of data for compiling the National Register of Records has now been transferred to the State Archives. A separate committee with the Education Secretary as Chairman has been constituted and the work is being pursued under its direction. The staff of the State Archives visited a number of private institutions and ancient families in the State in this connection and traced out some valuable archives of historical importance.

Madhya Pradesh

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has strengthened the State Regional Records Survey Committee by appointing Shri I. S. Parishar, Shri Sawai Raja Rudra Pratap Singhji and Dr. R. P. Pandey as its co-opted members. The Committee surveyed at Sagar several collections covering the period 1857-1935. These include some papers relating to the Mutiny at Sagar in 1857. Records relating to the Freedom Movement in the erstwhile Vindhya Pradesh lying with the Principal, T. R. S. College, Rewa were surveyed and taken to Bhopal. The Committee further acquired certain records belonging to the Peshwa Durbar which include genealogies of important personages, letters of private persons (1713-1836) and correspondence between the Peshwa Durbar and the rulers of Malwa, Sagar and Chhatisgarh (1700-1820). All these papers have been deposited for better preservation in the Regional Office of the National Archives of India, Bhopal.

Madras

The main accessions of the Madras Record Office during the period under review consist of the Secretariat records relating to 1957-58, the records of the Board of Revenue (L.R. and Sett.) for 1949-50, the Irrigation Development Board's Proceedings for 1950, the records of the Board of Revenue (C.T.) for 1939-49, 1951 and 1957 in the Press Series and for 1940-46 and 1950 in the Miscellaneous Series and of the Court of Wards for 1949 and 1950. The publications of the Office include the *Madurai District Gazetteer*, *Public Despatches from England (1752-53)*, *Catalogue of Books (1890-1900) registered under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867*, and *Compendium on Irrigation Bills and the Need for an Irrigation Act*. While the printing of the South Arcot District Gazetteer made steady progress the Coimbatore District Gazetteer was made ready for the Press and compilation of the Kanyakumari District Gazetteer taken in hand.

The State Government reconstituted the Regional Committee for Survey of Historical Records, Madras for a period of three years from 23 January 1962. The reconstituted Committee consists of 19 members including representatives of learned institutions and universities and Government nominees. Dr. K. Kanakasabapathy Pillay, Professor of Indian History, University of Madras has been appointed as the Convener of the Committee.

The Committee surveyed the districts of Madura, Ramnad, Trichy and South Arcot with a view to unearthing, scrutinising and listing historical manuscripts for the National Register of Records. In Madura District the papers available in the palace of the Zamindar of Idaiyacottai, consisting of 73 bundles of palm-leaf manuscripts and 27 bundles of paper records and dealing with the day-to-day administration of villages under the *zamin-dari*, were scrutinised and listed. 50 bundles of palm-leaf manuscripts at the Tamil Sangam, Madura were found to be of purely literary interest. In Ramnad District the Committee acquired from the Zamindar of Sivaganga four printed volumes of documents relating to the various disputes adjudicated in the Madras High Court. They contain useful information on the origin and growth of Sivaganga and her chequered history. In Trichinopoly papers in the custody of the Zamindar of Udayarpalayam and Sri Ranganathaswamy Devasthanam were examined and listed. The documents belonging to the former are copies of Government proceedings in the Public and Revenue Departments, which reveal how the British after 1798 were gradually but surely extending their control over the poligars south of Trichinopoly and depriving the zamindars of their power and patronage. Sri Ranganathaswamy Devasthanam's collection consists of a bound volume containing correspondence between the Trustees and the Legislative Council, the Board of Revenue, and other departments consequent on a certain petition submitted by the Trustees. The papers are interesting inasmuch as they throw light on the early history of the Devasthanam.

1,500 bundles of palm-leaf manuscripts in Tamil and Sanskrit belonging to the Annamalai University were scrutinised. They are mostly *puranas*.

The Committee acquired from the Zamindar of Singampatti nine original documents referring to the origin, development and general administration of certain *zamindaris* in the districts of Ramnad, Madura and Tirunelveli.

Maharashtra

The Secretariat Record Office at Bombay continued to accession the non-current records of the State Government. Besides a number of files, gazettes and other publications it acquired photocopies of some eighteenth century Persian chronicles bearing on the Maratha history, copies of several *sanads* relating to certain grants by the Satara Chattrapati, and a few documents in Modi script and *farmans* in Persian of historical importance. The Office also continued the cataloguing of the Commercial Department Diaries (1786-1820). "Revival of the Maratha Power, 1761-72", one of the volumes in the new series of *Selections from Peshwa Daftar*, was sent to the Press and preparation of another volume dealing with Panipat affairs was taken in hand. In pursuance of its decision to publish periodically a Bulletin comprising basic documents knowledge whereof is a pre-requisite to the writing of authentic history, the Record Office published during the

period under review the first issue of *Maharashtra Archives*. It contains: (i) The Journal of James Anderson, (ii) The Legend of Nana Saheb Peshwa, and (iii) A Fragment of Pandurang Mahipat Belsare's Autobiography, 1857.

The Alienation Office, Poona has undertaken the work of cataloguing the Medi documents and indexing the records in its custody. During 1961-62 it catalogued about 30 *rumals* containing nearly 36,000 documents.

The Kolhapur Record Office acquired 170 documents from Shri Ambajirao Desai of Nipani and 4 documents from Shri M. G. Gulavani of Panhala. Among the latter there is a copy of an old Modi *farman* belonging to 1475 A.D.

The Standing Committee of the State Board for Historical Records and Ancient Monuments, Maharashtra met in Bombay on 21 July 1961 and 21 November 1961 and the General Body of the Board on 27 February 1962. Dr. Y. K. Deshpande and Shri S. G. Chatte, co-opted members of the Board, during their tour of Nagpur Division in June 1961 came across twelve *sanads* in the possession of the Grama Joshi at Brahmapuri. One of these *sanads* is issued by Nikant Shah, the Gond King of Chanda and the rest by Tuljopant, a principal officer of Raghoji I by whom he seems to have been empowered to collect revenue of his share in the Gond Kingdom of Deogarh and to issue *sanads* on his behalf. All these eleven *sanads* bear the seal of Tuljopant. The Board acquired through its Assistant Secretary an old manuscript in Marathi entitled "Siddhant Chidambari" which is a philosophical work by Vaidya Nath of Tanjore.

Orissa

The accessions of the State Archives during 1961-62 comprise 258 volumes of records received from the Cuttack Collectorate. Besides checking, classifying and arranging these records, several bundles of records of the Balasore Collectorate were catalogued. Under its publication programme the State Archives brought out *Guide to Orissa Records*, Vol. III, dealing with the Judicial records of 1817-18 relating to the Paik Rebellion. The survey of records in connection with the compilation of the National Register of Records was continued. Nearly 400 documents located in private custody in Cuttack and Puri Districts were listed and out of these 126 documents were acquired for the State Regional Records Survey Committee.

Panjab

The nomenclature of the State Record Office has been changed to Panjab State Archives and the administrative control of the Office transferred from the Director of Public Instruction to the Secretary to Government, Education Department. Present premises of the Office—Motibagh Estate, Patiala—have been sold and the Government proposes to construct a suitable building for the State Archives at Chandigarh.

The State Archives has launched a phased programme of filling up the gaps in its holdings by obtaining from the National Archives of India, New Delhi, microfilm copies of relevant records from 1800 A.D. onwards. By the end of 1962 microfilm copies of records up to the year 1852 were acquired. The other acquisitions of the State Archives include microfilm copies of *Bahies* written in a local dialect known as Bhatakshri. The original *Bahies* are in the possession of the Bhattas of the former Jind State and are believed to be of great philological and historical interest. The State Archives also acquired for its Reference Library, besides 12 historical documents, over 1600 old and rare books dealing with the history of northern India in general and the Panjab in particular. Also one painting was added to the collection in the historical museum attached to the Reference Library.

The work of preparing reference media was continued and in addition to the listing of records an index was prepared of Dharmat records of the erstwhile Patiala State. A handlist of Hindi, Panjabi and Persian manuscripts was also prepared.

The State Government has constituted a Regional Records Survey Committee consisting of a Chairman and six members with the Director of Archives as Secretary. The Committee is to survey historical material available with private individuals and institutions for the compilation of the National Register of Records.

Rajasthan

Since the setting up of the Directorate of Archives at Bikaner in 1960 the 20 district repositories placed under its control have been functioning more or less as appraising and weeding agencies. During the period under review considerable progress was made by them in examining their holdings which comprise the records created by the erstwhile princely states of Rajasthan. As soon as the work of weeding of worthless papers is over the records fit for permanent retention will be transferred to the State Archives at Bikaner and district repositories wound up.

In order to facilitate systematic transfer of non-current files of the various departments and offices and proper preservation of semi-current records, the State Government has under its consideration a scheme for the setting up of intermediary repositories at a number of places in Rajasthan.

The State Archives undertook the work of preparing descriptive lists of *farmans*, *nishans*, *manshurs*, etc. issued by the Mughal Court to the rulers of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sirohi and Bikaner. Descriptive lists of other records in Persian such as *sanads*, reports of vakils and *akhbarat* were prepared.

In 1960 the State Government decided to bring out a comprehensive and authentic but condensed history of Rajasthan and entrusted the work to the Directorate of Archives which was to do it with the assistance of an Advisory Board and a Board of Editors set up for the purpose. During

the period under review first volume covering the history of the period from the earliest times to the year 1200 was made ready for the Press.

The Government of Rajasthan appointed in November 1961 a Regional Survey Committee with headquarters at Jodhpur and five Zonal Survey Committees with headquarters at Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Kotah and Jaipur for the survey of historical documents, manuscripts, paintings and art objects in private custody in the State. The Regional Survey Committee consists of eleven members including the Honorary Director, Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur who is the Chairman of the Committee and the Director of Archives, Government of Rajasthan, Bikaner who is the Convener. Each of the Zonal Survey Committees consists of five members of whom the Collector of the District concerned is the Chairman and the Superintendent or Curator of the Government Museum in the District is the Convener.

The first meeting of the Regional Survey Committee was held at Bikaner on 21 April 1962. As a result of its efforts the Committee has acquired from private agencies nearly 17,500 manuscripts bearing on history, literature, religion, medicine, astrology, music, mathematics, etc. With a view to housing and preserving these manuscripts the State Government has set up a Manuscripts Library at Bikaner which functions as a branch of the Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute. The Committee has also acquired several printed works including journals.

At the request of the Committee the Maharaja of Bikaner has thrown open for research purposes the historical documents in his custody as also the holdings of his famous Anup Sanskrit Library. All these materials have been housed in the research institute Karni Sodh Pratishthan recently set up by the Maharaja at Bikaner.

Tripura

The Tripura Regional Records Survey Committee was reconstituted in March 1962. The new Committee consists of nine members including Shri G. N. Chatterji, Director of Education, Tripura Administration, who is the President and Dr. H. L. Chatterjee, Head of the History Department, M.B.B. College, Agartala, who is the Secretary.

Uttar Pradesh

A new site for the State Archives has been purchased and the plans for the building are being prepared. Further it has been decided to expand the State Archives by opening a Regional Archives Office at Allahabad for maintaining records of regional importance. Arrangements are under way for renting a building for the purpose.

The State Archives commenced the preparation of inventories of all the records in its custody and made good progress therein. Progress was also made in accessioning the records and manuscripts in oriental languages.

A grant-in-aid of Rs. 3,000 provided by the Government of India enabled the commencement of the work of collecting necessary data for the National Register of Records. The Field Assistant appointed for the purpose of salvaging and listing the records in private custody visited several places and prepared lists of 594 manuscripts and 29 documents owned by private individuals.

The U.P. Regional Records Survey Committee was reconstituted in June 1961. The new Committee consists of a total number of 15 members out of whom six are the members of the Indian Historical Records Commission residing in the State and the remaining nine members are the nominees of the State Government. Dr. B. P. Saxena, Professor of History, University of Allahabad is its Chairman, the Keeper of Archives, State Archives, U.P. its Secretary and the Assistant Keeper of Archives its Assistant Secretary. For assisting the Regional Records Survey Committee in examining manuscripts and assessing their importance and value a Purchase Committee consisting of seven members has been formed as its adjunct.

The Purchase Committee held its first meeting at Allahabad in July 1961 and evaluated 368 manuscripts, 42 documents and 14 rare publications. The Regional Records Survey Committee which met during the same month approved the purchase of 167 manuscripts and 31 documents for Rs. 3,484. The interesting manuscripts purchased include "Bhavanandi", "Prayāga Mahātmya", Ashtavakratīkā, "Durghatakāvya" and "Iyotir-vidabharana" in Sanskrit; "Manjari" in Hindi; "Zuhur-i-Kutbi", "Bhagwat Purana" and "Majmoo-ul-Lughat" in Persian; and "Ramacharitmanas" in Urdu.

West Bengal

The Government of West Bengal has acquired a new building near the Presidency College, Calcutta for housing its pre-1900 records. The records of the Revenue and Judicial Departments of the period up to 1858 were shifted from the Writers' Buildings to this building by the end of 1961. The State Archives acquired 53 rare historical books from the Midnapur Collectorate Library. Consolidated Index to the Proceedings of the Agriculture and Industries Department is in progress and the years for which the index slips were prepared were 1917-28.

INTERNATIONAL

International Round Table on Archives

The Sixth International Round Table on Archives organised by International Council on Archives was held in Warsaw, Poland from 16 to 20 May 1961. The main discussion revolved round the subject of 'Archives in International Life.' The subject was divided into following three parts:

archives and international law, public and international law with regard to archives; international collaboration in the field of archives; and archives and international organisations. The chief recommendations of the conference were that in order to improve the functioning of the archival institutions in the under-developed and newly independent countries, all possible technical assistance should be provided by the International Council on Archives. This help would be possible with the UNESCO's co-operation by setting up a permanent and adequate secretariat, which can, in particular, disseminate technical documentation (bulletins, translations of articles, hand-books, etc.) for the archives of the under-developed countries. Other important recommendations included setting up of a special committee to study problems connected with the microfilming of complete holdings and complete series of documents at the request of foreign institutions, holding of exhibitions of archives abroad and setting up of a commission to study practical questions of international law with regard to archives, specially in view of the territorial changes of states.

Stressing the importance of archives as a valuable asset for each nation and each nation's right to hold its own archives, the conference expressed the view that an appeal should be made to archival institutions in all countries and to archivists throughout the world to take all possible steps to restore to their rightful owners holdings and archival documents removed during the Second World War.

The Seventh Round Table on Archives was held in Madrid from 28 to 31 May 1962. The main theme for discussion was 'The concept of archives and the boundaries of archival activities'. It was recommended that in view of the absence of sound archive and library traditions in the new countries, the International Council on Archives should propose to the International Federation of Library Associations that a joint working party be set up under UNESCO auspices in this connection.

Another recommendation was that owing to the importance of preserving, for future historical research, the audio-visual type of documentation provided by television, regulations should be enacted providing that the recorded material of national television systems should be transmitted to the archives, within a specified period and for selecting the material to be transmitted to public or private institutions, advice should be had from the professional archivists.

FID Annual Conference

The twenty-sixth conference of the International Federation for Documentation (FID) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 22 to 31 July 1960. Dr. Alexander King (U.K.) consented to act as FID's President for one more year. As a part of its deliberations the subjects discussed at the conference were : current bibliographies, union catalogues, language problems, scientific information classification, professional training of documentalists, development and diffusion of scientific and technical information in Latin America, problems of publication of scientific and technical docu-

ments in Latin America, and standardization in the domain of documentation. The conference decided to appoint an *ad hoc* committee to study the proposal for the establishment of an international reference centre for translations.

The twenty-seventh conference which took place in London from 6 to 16 September 1961 brought together over 500 representatives from nearly forty countries. While in the first week various FID committees met to discuss and plan their work, the second week was devoted to a series of lectures on 'information at work' delivered by eminent documentalists.

International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property

The Centre established in Rome as the result of an agreement between the Italian Government and UNESCO began functioning on 21 March 1961. Dr. Harold J. Plenderleith, formerly Director of Research at the British Museum Laboratory, has been appointed Director of the Centre.

The Centre proposes to collect, study and diffuse documentation concerned with the scientific and technical problems involved in the conservation and restoration of cultural property; to publish works providing up-to-date information on matters of common concern in its field; to co-ordinate, stimulate and sponsor research on problems concerned with conservation and restoration; to advise and make recommendations on general or special matters concerning the conservation or restoration of cultural property; and to contribute to the training of research students and technicians.

The collection and methodical classification of a comprehensive documentation for study and diffusion constitute one of the major tasks of the Centre. A system of classification has been devised, based partly on an analytical arrangement and partly on a complementary drafting of 'excerpts', which would make it possible to collect quickly all information related to a given subject.

International Commission for Bibliography of the Vatican Archives

The International Commission for Bibliography of the Vatican Archives is preparing a general bibliographical card index of documents in the Vatican Archives, relating to the history of every nation, published or quoted in innumerable publications in every country. It has been decided to reproduce the index by offset process and make it available to libraries, archives and other centres of historical research. For the time being, the index will cover publications issued up to the end of 1960.

UNITED KINGDOM

Public Record Office

During 1960-61, 11,050 foot-run of records selected for permanent preservation were received by the Public Record Office from the various

ministries, embassies and consulates. Transfers from the Works Ministry included a large number of historical maps and plans. The Public Record Office also received from the Cabinet Office the first papers recommended by the Grigg Committee. The total foot-run of the records in the custody of the Public Record Office by 1961 was approximately 250,000 of which about two-fifths was at Ashridge.

Notable papers received as gifts or deposits include a collection of Sir Hilary Jenkinson's papers relating to archival matters, and a large number of Tellers' Bills of dates varying from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century from the Phillippa Collection.

Volumes of texts and calendars published during the period were: *Curia Regis Rolls*, Volume XIII (1227-30); *Calendar of Liberate Rolls*, Volume IV (1251-60); *Calendar of State Papers: Domestic, James II*, Volume I (1685); *Calendar of Treasury Books*, Volume XXV, Part II (1711) and Volume XXXI, Part I (1717); *Calendar of Papal Registers*, Volume XIV (1484-92); *Calendar of Patent Rolls, Elizabeth I*, Volume III (1563-66); *Acts of the Privy Council*, Volume XLV (1629-30); and *Calendar of Fine Rolls*, Volume XXI (1471-85).

Pursuing its programme of preparing lists and other means of reference the Office made available in the search rooms lists of several classes of records.

Thirty-six Departments made use of the intermediate repositories (Hayes and Yeading) for the storage of records where the foot-run occupied at the end of 1961 was about 600,000. Satisfactory progress is reported in the work of reviewing records and in offering guidance to the government departments and other organisations, subject to the Act of 1958, on the selection of material for permanent preservation on the lines recommended by the Grigg Committee on Departmental Records. The committee for the treatment of 'particular instance papers' has sanctioned the destruction of papers covering some 75,000 foot-run space. 8,200 tons of records were sent for destruction in 1960, and about the same quantity in 1961.

A 'quick copy' machine which gives adequate if not permanent reproductions is now available for use.

Advisory Council on Public Records

The Advisory Council on Public Records met several times during 1960-61. It paid special attention to such matters as conditions in the public search rooms, access to records, admission to readers, and the publication policy of the Department. In view of the rapid increase in the number of readers using the three search rooms, the Council has called for giving high priority to the project of constructing new buildings on the Chancery Lane site where facilities for not less than 250 readers could be provided.

The Council observed that except for certain categories of records, the disclosure of whose contents was likely to cause embarrassment or distress to living persons or their next of kin, or, might constitute a breach of

confidence, no other records should be withheld from public inspection for more than 50 years. The Council hoped that consequent upon the publication of the revised *Guide to the Public Records*, compilation of 'sectional guides' on the lines of the scheme proposed in 1949 could also be undertaken. With a view to economising on costs of printing by making greater use of modern methods of reproduction by way of microfilm and microcard and to bring about a change in emphasis in future publications so as to comprehend material of the period after 1800, the Council undertook a review of the publication policy of the Department and appointed a Committee of specialist historians drawn from the Universities to advise them. It recommended that in the preparation of Search Room Lists and Indexes a clear distinction could be made between (i) straightforward lists which could be suitably issued in microfilm or on microcards and (ii) Indexes and Lists which included an index to their contents, which should be published in a book form on the model of the *List of Port Books*. Issuing of the *Colonial Office List* in microfilm or on microcard, re-issue of the *List and Index of Ancient Correspondence: the List of Sheriffs* in book form, and microfilming of the corrected search room copy were the other suggestions made by the Committee. Preparation of guides to the records of the Foreign Office since 1782, the Treasury, and the Ministry of Education on the pattern of the new series of 'sectional guides' to the public records was also recommended by the Committee. Regarding the printing of Texts and Calendars which pertain exclusively to the period before 1800, the Committee felt that they should not cease arbitrarily, but should continue in every case to a suitable terminal date.

British Records Association

The 1961 annual conference of the British Records Association was held under the shadow of the death of its several distinguished members: most deeply felt was the passing away of Sir Hilary Jenkinson whose services to the British archives in particular and the profession of archives in general were unique. Others whose death was mourned were late Deputy Keeper Sir Cyril Flower, and Dr. Irene Churchill who, along with Sir Jenkinson, was a Co-founder Secretary of the Association.

The Lord Mayor Sir Frederick Hoare while welcoming the members of the Association paid a glowing tribute to the work of the Records Preservation Section which under the hitherto able stewardship of Sir Hilary had been responsible for rescuing over half a million documents.

The Chairman of the conference, Sir Robert Somerville while opening the first session initiated discussion on "The Public Record Office—Needs of the Next Decade." The subject was discussed by two eminent historians—Professor G. O. Sayles and Professor M. W. Beresford. Professor Sayles regretted the discontinuance of Record Commissions which had done fine work in the field of record publications. He, however, felt comforted by the thought that the Public Record Office and some private bodies had shown a good deal of enterprise in resuming this work. He stressed the

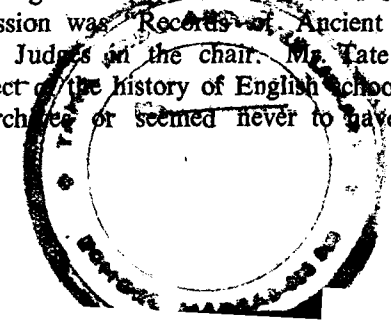
fact that medieval history remained the foundation for understanding British history and however important and urgent the task of sorting, arranging, and cataloguing of the records might be, it would be a pity if the work of publication was not pursued *pari passu* and if the tradition of scholar archivist should disappear. Records of the medieval parliament were not yet published and according to him this was an obvious gap in publications which came out after the Record Commissions. A corollary to any scheme for publishing the records of parliament was a new edition of the early statutes to replace Volume I of the *Statutes of the Register*. Prof. Sayles urged the necessity of doing the work on historical and not on civil service principles. He also thought that the programme of publication of the Memoranda Rolls which contained a vast store of historical material, along with the publication of a Calendar of Ancient Correspondence in chronological order and of the late R. L. Atkinson's work on dating the Ancient Petitions, should be given priority. Recognition of the distinct functions of archivist and editor of texts and consequent provision for both, and pricing of the publications at very popular rates were the other important points made by Prof. Sayles.

Professor Beresford referred to the need for extension of the seating accommodation, the mechanisation of production, increase of the academic staff and continuation of the publication programme at the P.R.O. He suggested the extension of the educational functions of the Office through the provision of formulary books at the Museum or liaison with other bodies like the Institute of Historical Research.

The Association finally passed the resolution that the British Records Association should investigate the facilities afforded to the public for using the public records, both by direct examination and through the media of publication and photography and give its report.

The twenty-ninth annual general meeting of the Records Preservation Section was held on 30 November 1961 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Maurice Bond. In his opening speech, Mr. Bond spoke of the great loss suffered by the Records Preservation Section in the death of Sir Hilary Jenkinson, its founder and Chairman for fourteen years. In the business meeting of the section, Miss Murray emphasised the need for the retention and care of records emanating from the Councils of Social Service and Rural Community Councils operating in town and county areas. These bodies carried on a variety of activities, cultural and practical. Dr. Hull and Mrs. Varley referred to the problem of bulk with regard to these records. The Chairman, winding up the discussion, said that though the archivists were seized with the problems of bulk records, weeding of records, review and 'limbo' storage etc., still, as suggested by Dr. Hull, a proportion of them were well worth preserving if the right selection could be made.

The next subject for discussion was "Records of Ancient Endowed Schools" with Professor A. V. Judges in the chair. Mr. Tate first drew attention to the scandalous neglect of the history of English schools. Many schools had either lost their archives or seemed never to have had any



substantial mass of archives in their care. He then listed the sources which might relate to the history of schools. Mr. Blakiston described at length what an endowed school like Eton had in the way of records. In the discussion that followed, several suggestions were made for tapping various kinds of records for the history of education. In connection with this session on the Records of Ancient Endowed Schools, the Archives Departments of the Corporation of London and of the Guildhall Library put on exhibition a small but rich selection of records of schools. Another exhibition entitled 'Justices of the Peace, 1361-1961', was arranged by the Public Record Office to celebrate the sixth centenary of the Justices.

Historical Manuscripts Commission

Recent inspections carried out by the Historical Manuscripts Commission have led to deposit of the papers of the First Earl Kitchener and of Field-Marshal Sir George White with the Public Record Office. Kitchener Papers have been properly listed and grouped under suitable headings and as far as possible kept in chronological order. Fortunately the papers relating to the period 1902-9, the period during which Kitchener was the Commander-in-Chief in India, are preserved in better connected series of correspondence, though the quantity of letters is not as great as might have been expected. There is also a sizeable correspondence of Lord Roberts, Lord Curzon, Lord Esher, the Mintos, Sir Edward Stedman and Sir George Clarke, and a folder concerning "Dual Control", put together by Sir George Arthur, Kitchener's biographer.

Field-Marshal Sir George White's army service which began at the time of the Crimean War and ended in 1912, was spent mainly in India and Burma. His papers include reports on many aspects of army affairs in India during a formative period of British rule—a time that included the Mutiny, the second Afghan War and the conquest and settlement of Upper Burma. At the time of the dispute between Lord Curzon and the then Commander-in-Chief Lord Kitchener on the administration of the army in India, Sir George White served as a member of the committee appointed in England and was consulted by both. His papers relating to this episode are therefore of very great interest.

Anglo-American Conference of Historians

The 1960 annual Anglo-American Conference of Historians took place from 7 to 9 July at the Institute of Historical Research, London. After the reception by the Vice-Chancellor of London University there was the general meeting addressed by Miss C. V. Wedgwood on "The English and their Civil War". The closing general meeting was on "The Problems of Western Technological Superiority during the Middle Ages" addressed by Professor L. T. White. In section meetings were read papers on medieval and modern European history, medieval and modern British history, American history and international relations.

At the general meeting of the 1961 annual Anglo-American Conference of Historians, Professor T. W. Copeland read a paper with the title "On Conciliation with America". The closing general meeting was addressed by Professor E. F. Jacob on "Founders and foundations in the Later Middle Ages". At the section meetings ten papers on aspects of medieval and modern history, including one paper on American and one on African history, were read.

The seventh plenary Anglo-American conference was held from 9 to 14 July 1962. At a general meeting, Professor C. Bridenbaugh, President of the American Historical Association, spoke on "English scholars and American history". Two further general meetings later in the week were addressed respectively by Professor M. C. Knowles on "The purpose and scope of academic history" and by Professor V. H. Galbraith on "Who wrote Asser's *Life of Alfred*?" Eighteen other papers on a variety of subjects were read during the conference.

A comprehensive *Bibliography of Historical Works issued in the United Kingdom, 1957-60*, was published at the beginning of the Conference held in 1962.

The customary exhibition of historical works published during the year in the United Kingdom was held on all the occasions.

School of Oriental and African Studies

During the session 1961-62, the School published the first fascicle of Sir Ralph Turner's *Comparative Dictionary of the Indo-Aryan Languages*. The entire work will be covered in about ten fascicles of eighty pages each, with an extensive index. Publication of the four volumes in the series *Historical Writing on the Peoples of Asia* was completed with the publication of the final volume, *Historians of the Middle East* (ed. B. Lewis and P. M. Holt) during the session.

The School has inaugurated a new series of *Studies on Modern Asia and Africa*, consisting of works in the fields of economics, politics, law, anthropology, sociology, and modern history. Two volumes entitled *Politics and Society in India* (ed. C. H. Philips) and *Changing Law in Developing Countries* (ed. J. N. D. Anderson) have already been accepted for inclusion in the series.

The School is carrying out a survey of manuscripts on South Asia available in the United Kingdom. It will cover the entire Indian sub-continent, Afghanistan, Tibet and South-East Asia. The manuscripts, including private and family documents and papers, government archives, including trade organisations, etc. will be listed and annotated. When the survey is completed, the material will be classified by subjects, indexed and published.

Among the other notable publications of the School, mention may be made of the *Gāndhārī Dharmapada*, *Kurdish Dialect Studies*, *African*

Language Studies, Bantu Sentence Structure, Rabindranath Tagore, and Patterns of Universities in Non-European Societies.

Local Archives Legislation

The Bill to amend the law relating to the functions of local authorities with respect to records in written or other forms is under the consideration of the British Parliament and when passed will be known as the Local Government (Records) Act, 1962. Under its terms, local authorities will be given comprehensive powers not only to preserve the records under their control, but also to prepare and publish indexes, guides, calendars and other summaries of the records, to hold exhibitions and lectures, and to acquire by gift, deposit or purchase other records of general or local interest.

Business Archives

A joint committee of the British Records Association and the Business Archives Council was set up in 1959 for suggesting the measures to be taken to provide for the proper care and preservation of the records of business houses. The Committee submitted its report, proposing a three-fold programme of: (1) approach to senior executives (actual and potential) in industry and commerce; (2) training of the staff in business houses entrusted with the care and management of files and records; and (3) instruction for local and other archivists in the nature of business archives. In the light of these proposals training of the staff in business houses was started in June 1962 at Belsted House, near Ipswich, in association with the Suffolk County Education Committee. The principal subjects dealt with were the creation of business records and their control while current; selection and disposal; and the technical aspects of care and access. The lectures were followed by discussion which provided an opportunity to the lecturers and the trainees for exchange of ideas and experiences. Encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by the students and learning much from their arguments and criticisms, the organisers are revising the syllabus to suit the common needs and will hold more such courses in other parts of the country.

India Office Library

The collection of the papers of Fifth Marquess of Lansdowne, Viceroy and Governor General of India (1888-94), in sixty-four volumes has been made available for consultation in the India Office Library. Notable acquisitions of interest to India include the collections of Sir William Foster, Halifax, Pethick-Lawrence, Reading, Templewood and Willingdon, besides several letters of Warren Hastings, Sir Philip Francis, General Sir John Clavering, Colonel George Monson, Richard John Leyden, Lord Dalhousie Nana Sahib, Chicheley Plowden, Brig. Genl. Thomas Durand Baker, Charles Grant, Sir John Macpherson and others. These letters, addressed to their friends and relatives in England, refer to the contemporary events in India. The Library has microfilmed Rickett Papers, letters and papers of

Rev. R. Hudson, Robert Palk, Lord Dufferin and Major General Hutchinson from the manuscripts available with their families.

Bodleian Library, Oxford

The Bodleian Library has acquired the very well preserved letter books of Sir Charles Trevelyan, comprising 1500 letters relating to India and covering the period 1859-65. Nearly half of these letters are addressed to Sir Charles Wood, Secretary of State for India in the nature of semi-confidential correspondence which supplements the picture presented in official despatches. The letters give Trevelyan's views on a variety of subjects such as police establishment, army retrenchment, land reform, internal conditions, banking institutions and practices, public finance, local governments and education in India.

British Museum

The Trustees of the Museum have launched a programme to produce by means of photo-offset lithography a complete edition of British Museum Catalogue in some 300 volumes. The first eight volumes of the new catalogue from DF to England appeared in October 1960, and the present production rate of eight volumes every two months will be maintained until Z is completed in 1967. Then the first fifty-one volumes, A-DED will be brought into line with the others.

FRANCE

Ninth and Tenth Annual Congresses of French Archivists

The ninth annual congress was held in Paris-Beauvais on 14-17 June 1961 under the chairmanship of the new Director General of Archives, M. André Chamson. In his presidential address after stressing the need to provide more shelving space to house all records that need to be preserved, he opined that the archives should not only be the places for conservation of records but they should also be centres of research. To give a practical shape to this idea, he intended to create a new organization which could be called 'institute' or 'centre for research', which would specialise and proffer guidance in the matter of resources available in various repositories. In order to centralise records dispersed in French colonies, it was necessary to consider the possibility of opening a special repository in Aix-en-Provence where they would attempt to assemble all the archives concerning the colonial history during the Second Empire. In course of time he expected this archives to become a seat of colonial studies affiliated to the University of Aix-Marseille. The morning sessions of 15-16 June were reserved for discussion of subjects like archives of the Sécurité Sociale, classification of archives of the communes, collaboration between departmental archives and regional centres of pedagogic documentation, etc.

In the beautiful city of Nîmes took place, on 4-6 June 1962, the 10th national congress of French archivists with several foreign archivists participating. M. André Chamson in his inaugural address paid tribute to the spirit of international amity existing among archivists. Reviewing the progress made in French archives, he said that a new depot had been built at Archives Nationales and a 'pre-research' centre which would facilitate the work of scholars had been opened. He then referred to "inter-ministerial city of archives" near Paris which they were thinking of opening. It would in some points resemble American Pentagon with the administrative building in the centre, and all around like spokes of a wheel would be the intermediary depots or 'limbos' of each ministry. This system would assure the liaison between 'interministerial city' and the ministries on the one hand and between the 'city' and the Archives Nationales on the other. Finally, M. Chamson spoke of the new audio-visual archives centre which was expected to be created shortly.

For the first morning session the subject selected was "Notarial Archives" and for the second "Modern Ecclesiastical Archives". In both the discussions the members evinced great interest.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

National Archives and Records Service

The General Services Administration took over the administration of Army's Field Records Centre, at Kansas City, where the records of field commands operating in the continental United States and overseas between 1939 and 1952 are deposited. The records of World War II service commands, etc. are included in these records.

Following the organizational changes carried out in the recent years, three new divisions named World War II Records Division, Technical Records Division, and Social and Economic Records Division have been established at the National Archives and the scope of activities of the other three divisions, viz., The War Records Division, the Central Services Division and the General Records Division, has been suitably revised.

Among the numerous new accessions, mention may be made of the records of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its predecessors, 1884-1939; records of the Supreme Court; and records of the U.S.S.R. Section of the Office of the Eastern European Affairs, State Department, 1917-41, relating to internal economic and political developments in the Soviet Union and Soviet relations with the United States and other countries. Other notable accessions made by the National Archives include records of two international bodies: the Far Eastern Commission, 1945-51, and the Allied Council for Japan, 1946-52; early records of the District of Columbia, 1800-78; records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, 1917-59; certain records of the Office of Land Utilization; case files, 1836-1900, from the Patent Office relating to determination of priority when two or more inventors claimed the same invention; and almost half a million photo-

graphs made or acquired by the Navy Photographic Centre, relating to the Navy chiefly during 1920-45. Among sound recordings received were Voice of America programmes entitled "Horizons in Science," 1960-61; network broadcasts of the series "Eyewitness to History," 1960, and of the series "The National Purpose," 1960, including broadcasts of the Democratic and Republican conventions and speeches of Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy 1960-61.

Record holding of the National Archives as on 30 June 1960 showed a total volume of 24,450,300 ft. of U.S. Government records. Of this, offices of agencies held 13,253,900 ft., centres of agencies, 4,520,800 ft., Federal Records Centres, 5,763,700 ft., and the National Archives, 911,900 ft.

In order to bring up to date the *Guide to Captured German Documents* published in 1952 a *Supplement* embodying German documents both on paper and on microfilm, prepared by Gerhard L. Weinberg of the American Historical Association has been issued. The National Archives also published several additional guides to microfilmed German records, viz., No. 10, *Records of the Reich Ministry of Armaments and War Production*; No. 11, *Fragmentary Records of Miscellaneous Reich Ministries and Offices*; No. 12, *Records of Headquarters of the German Army High Command (Part I)*; No. 13, *Records of the Reich Air Ministry*; No. 14, *Records of the German Field Commands, Armies (Part I)*; No. 15, *Records of Former German and Japanese Embassies, 1890-1945*; No. 16, *Records of the Deutsches Ausland Institute, Stuttgart (Part I), Records on Resettlement*; No. 17, *Records of Headquarters, German Armed Forces High Command (Part II)*; Nos. 18-19, *Records of Headquarters, German Armed Forces High Command (Parts III-IV)*; No. 20, *Records of the National Socialist German Labour Party (Part II)*; No. 21, *Records of the Deutsches Ausland Institute, Stuttgart (Part II), the General Records*; No. 22, *Records of the Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda*; No. 23, *Records of Private Austrian, Dutch, and German Enterprises, 1917-46*; No. 24, *Records of Headquarters of the German Air Forces High Command*; No. 25, *German Air Force Records: Luftgankommandos, Flak, Deutsche Luftwaffenmission in Rumanien*; No. 26, *Records of Reich Office for Soil Exploration*; No. 27, *Miscellaneous SS Records Einwandererzentralstelle, Waffen-SS, and SS-Oberabschnitte*; No. 28, *Records of the Reich Ministry of the Occupied Eastern Territories, 1941-45*; No. 29, *Records of Headquarters, German Army High Command (Part II)*. Of particular interest to India are the National Archives publications: *Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations between the United States and India, 1910-29* (1 roll); *India and Other States, 1910-29* (1 roll); and *Records of the Department of State Relating to Internal Affairs of India, 1910-29* (26 rolls).

Federal Register Division.—Publication of the eighth and final volume entitled *Dwight D. Eisenhower*, covering the year 1960 completed the publication of series of volumes relating to the Eisenhower Administration undertaken under the scheme of publishing *Public Papers of the*

Presidents of the United States. The next series relates to the period 1946-52 covering the Presidency of Harry S. Truman.

National Historical Publications Commission

A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States containing description of the manuscript holdings of more than 1300 depositories, both large and small, and based on published and unpublished guides, inventories and lists was published in 1961 by the Yale University Press. The publication was hailed as an important reference tool which will be of immense benefit both to researchers as well as administrators.

Another significant item initiated by the Commission is the publication of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* in 40 volumes over a period of fifteen years. The scheme is sponsored by the American Philosophical Society and the Yale University and supported by the grant made by *Life* magazine.

The Commission has also recommended to the National Civil War Centennial Commission and State Commissions to promote the programme of extensive publication of historical documents including the papers of both civil and military leaders and other papers which are important for an understanding of the Civil War period.

First volume of *The Papers of John C. Calhoun* covering the period 1801-17 has been published by the Commission. The papers of Henry Clay are to be published in ten volumes of which the first volume, sub-titled *The Rising Statesman* (1794-1814), has been published.

Library of Congress

The Library's recent accessions include, among others, letters and other papers pertaining to John Bassett Moore's public career (1886-1947); papers of Associate Justice Harold H. Burton; of Wilbur J. Carr documenting his 47 years of service in the State Department (1892-1939); and of Henry Prather Fletcher relating to his service as diplomatic representative of the U.S. in Chile, Mexico, Belgium and Italy. Other notable acquisitions of the Library are the personal papers of Senator Theodore F. Green (1937-60), of the distinguished American biologist Jacques Loeb, papers of the Wadsworth family representing four generations and of Joseph Edward Davies (1876-1958) relating to his work as U.S. Ambassador to U.S.S.R. and Belgium, Special Envoy of President Roosevelt, Special Adviser to President Truman, etc.

Additions to the manuscript collection of the Naval Historical Foundation include papers of Rear Admiral John L. Callan (1886-1958) renowned for his training and organization of navy-air personnel stationed in France, England and Italy during World War I; and those of Captain Washington Irving Chambers (1856-1934) throwing light on the development of aviation.

The Library received from the National American Woman Suffrage Association a large number of papers on suffrage movement, which constitute the largest segment of the Library's "Suffrages Archives".

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

The Library has received a very large number of papers from important persons who were connected with the policies of the U.S. Government under the Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Among the more important recent manuscript acquisitions are papers of: James Roosevelt, son of Franklin D. Roosevelt, most of them for the years 1937-38 when he was Administrative Assistant to his father; late Louis B. Wehle, lifelong friend of Roosevelt and personal adviser on important public issues, covering practically his entire life, 1880-1958; late Lowell Mellett for the years 1939-44 when he was Director of the Office of Government Reports and Administrative Assistant to the President; and late John Ihlder, Executive Director of the National Capital Housing Authority from 1934 to 1952.

Harry S. Truman Library

The Library has launched an active programme to acquire personal papers of associates of President Harry S. Truman, such as former Cabinet Members and officials. The response has been very encouraging as the Library has received assurances from 44 associates. It has received first instalment of the papers of John D. Clark, former member of the Council of Economic Advisers and of Stephen J. Spingarn, former Special Assistant and Administrative Assistant to the President and Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission. The Library has received from the School of Communications of the University of Washington 20 sound recording tapes of Truman speeches and historic events involving him, and newspaper clippings and World War II aerial photographs.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

The Eisenhower Presidential Library at Abilene, Kansas, built through contributions made by numerous friends and admirers of General Eisenhower on the land donated by the Kansas State was formally dedicated and presented to the Federal Government on 1 May 1962 at a ceremony which marked the hundredth anniversary of the birth of General Eisenhower's mother. The Library will be under the direction of the Administrator of General Services.

In the past two years the Library has been further enriched with the papers which include 2,000 file drawers of papers accumulated at the White House during the Eisenhower Administration and most of the papers of the President gifted by the General to the United States along with scores of gifts received by him during his goodwill tour of December 1959 as President of the U.S.A.

PAKISTAN

National Bibliography of Pakistan

The Pakistan Bibliographical Working Group, with financial assistance from the UNESCO, is compiling a retrospective national bibliography for the

years 1947 to 1961. It will include all publications in any language published or reprinted in Pakistan during the period, with the exception of musical scores, maps, periodicals and newspapers. It is expected to be published in 1963.

The retrospective bibliography will later be kept up to date by the regular publication of the current national bibliography.

Pakistan Historical Society

The first international conference of the Pakistan Historical Society was held at Dacca, East Pakistan in February 1962. Representatives from India, Thailand, Malaya, Lebanon, U.S.A., Canada, France, Italy, Spain, U.S.S.R. and China attended the conference. The need for paying increased attention to Islamic history was emphasized by Mr. Fazlur Rahman, President of the Society, at the opening session of the conference. Emphasis was also laid on the history of Hind-Pakistan. Two papers, viz., "Historical Scholarship in New China" and "Historical Heritage of Chinese Muslims", presented by the Chinese delegates, were marked by their Marxist overtones. These provoked vigorous discussion and criticism, especially from Islamic scholars who prefer that history should be written from the viewpoint of the Koran. Other papers concerned Islam before the *hijra*, the religious policy of Aurangzeb, Ibn Khaldun's social and political philosophy, Akbar's religion, Sayyid Mahdi and his movement, and Arakan rule in Chittagong.

PRESERVATION AND PHOTODUPLICATION

Relitex Apparatus

The Relitex Apparatus, manufactured by the French firm Establishments Multitex, helps to solve the problem of assembling and binding documents simply and cheaply. The process is based on the action of infra-red rays on a special substance, with the result that the sheets are literally welded together. Using this method, documents of different sizes (up to 50 x 60 cm.) can be assembled irrespective of the quality of paper up to a thickness of 8-18 cm., depending on the size of the apparatus.

Humidity Guide Cards

The Technical Committee of the Society of Archivists has designed, for use in record repositories, Humidity Guide Cards which show at a glance the % RH of the atmosphere in such repositories. They consist of a coloured indicator strip, mounted on a card, and can be hung in odd corners of muniment rooms where it is difficult to test humidity with the usual instruments. The bars upon the indicator strip change colour successively from blue to pink, as the humidity rises.

The Manufacture of Durable Paper

The Virginia State Library, Richmond, U.S.A. has published a book entitled *The Manufacture and Testing of Durable Book Papers* which contains a report on investigations into the durability of paper carried out for well over a period of three years with the aid of grants from the Council on Library Resources, Inc., Washington. In contrast to the most modern papers having a life expectancy of about fifty years, the report gives specifications which would produce a paper lasting for more than four hundred years. If manufactured commercially, the paper could come within the medium price range.

Photocopying Machine

The Société Lumière, Paris is marketing the new Exacop Lumière machine for document reproduction. This machine combines the processes of developing and printing. Negatives and positives can be obtained with the same type of paper. Further, all colours can be reproduced.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Last Days of the British Raj by Leonard Mosley (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, 1961; pp. 10 + 263; price 25s.)

The transfer of power in India in 1947 is one of the great events of the century. The departure of the British was obviously a signal occasion in the history of India; but the way in which they departed and the consequences have obviously influenced not merely the history of India but the development of the Commonwealth and events in other parts of Asia and Africa. It would not, indeed, be too much to say that in its world-wide effects it has a parallel only in the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Though this transfer of power took place only sixteen years ago, the events are no longer red-hot. Contemporaneity is more a matter of mood than of time; and as much of the emotion aroused by the achievement of independence in the context of partition has died, it is possible to examine and assess the problems and solutions of 1946 and 1947 with detachment and freedom from bias. However, for lack of full and free access to the records in both Britain and India, no professional historian can hope as yet to do justice to it.

What in fact one can have are only interim studies, and Mr. Mosley's book is one such effort. It is successful in the sense that it conveys vividly the atmosphere of the time. The tempo and the tragedy come through. But in many ways the book is an exasperating one. Mr. Mosley tries to be just. He accepts, for example, that most British officials in India tended to be pro-Muslim. He is impressed with the personality of Gandhi and gives credit to the contribution of Mr. V. P. Menon. On the other hand, he cannot conceal his personal prejudices. He is sharply critical of Lord Mountbatten and does not hesitate even to attribute selfish and personal motives to him. He is unfair to Patel and Mr. Nehru.

Another weakness of the book is that Mr. Mosley, though he writes a racy style, is unfamiliar with the scene and the men he is writing about. It is, for example, astonishing that throughout the book (except in one place), the name of Jawaharlal Nehru is spelt wrongly.

But the chief flaw in this book is that Mr. Mosley has no sense at all of the nature and priority of historical evidence. There is no precise referencing. Conversations are reported directly as if either they were tape-recorded or Mr. Mosley was present—neither of which is, of course, true. Gossip, first hand oral testimony, imaginary reconstruction and extracts from Government of India records are all jumbled together as if they have the same value.

In short, reading Mr. Mosley's book has the same effect as being present at a film show from which one returns with a feeling for the period but no certain knowledge of the facts.

S. GOPAL.

The Foreign Policy of Warren Hastings by Ram Prakash (Vishveshvaranand Vedic Research Institute, Hoshiarpur, 1960; pp. x + 72; price Rs. 5.00).

With the present slender monograph the Vedic Research Institute makes a debut in a new line of research—research in the Indo-British period. One wishes it had kept to its original line and not entered a field for which it is neither equipped with proper sources for the period, nor has scholars who could handle them. The present monograph, as the author Shri Ram Prakash claims, is an attempt to 'give the foreign policy of Warren Hastings in an impartial manner'. The attempt has not succeeded nor is there impartiality in the study. All the inequities perpetrated by Warren Hastings are justified on the ground that he was motivated in his actions by patriotic sentiment. One can understand this attitude in a die-hard Tory, but not in an Indian. Hastings' treatment of Shah Alam, the Vizier of Oudh, the Begums and Chait Singh of Benares, to say the least, was shabby by all evidence. Even Browne, Hastings' agent in Delhi, testifies to the importance attached to the name of the Emperor throughout India, but not Shri Ram Prakash.

The Anglo Maratha War provoked by the Government of Bombay and later supported by Hastings, according to the Supreme Council, was 'impolitic, dangerous, unauthorized and unjust', but the author sees in this nothing but Hastings' clever genius and aggressive designs in depriving Indians of their independent existence. The conclusion is obviously wrong for even Anglo-Indian historians say that the treaty of Salbye restored the *status quo ante bellum*.

The book neither brings to light new sources nor does it contain a new interpretation of facts. It is an ill written schoolboy's essay marked by innumerable mistakes of English. Mostyn, the British envoy at Poona, appears here as Motsyn, Nana Phadnis becomes Nana Phandis, Moroba as Maraba and Chhatrapati as Chhatarpati. Shri Ram Prakash would be well-advised to study really all the sources he indicates in his bibliography before rushing into print. May we tell him that there is no such item as 'Publications of the Peshwa after Poona'?

V. G. DIGHI

Studies in the Economic and Social Development of Modern India, 1848-56 by M. N. Das (Firma K. L. Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta, 1959; pp. xxv + 449; price Rs. 25.00).

When Lord Dalhousie landed at Calcutta, on 12 January 1848, to assume the high office of the Governor-General of India, he was only thirty-six, but the young proconsul was in feeble health. On his departure, after eight years of incessant activity, he was a 'worn out crippled old man'. He had virtually killed himself in the great task of governing the Indian Empire. The eight years of his administration were a significant period in Indian history as during those years was virtually laid the foundation

of Modern India. What Dalhousie lacked in physical health he amply made up by mental vigour, hard work and dynamic statesmanship. A talented and forceful person, he embodied in himself the progressive spirit of his age. He had immense faith in the superiority of Western civilization and showed no respect for Indian ideas and institutions. His administration was a period of rapid change in India.

Lord Dalhousie achieved three things during his Indian career. By the conquest of the Punjab and Lower Burma he extended the frontiers of the Company's dominion in the North-West and in the East. He also consolidated the Empire by annexation of several intervening Indian states and thus helped in laying the foundation of a 'United India'. The Governor-General was an implacable foe of the Princes and lost no opportunity of acquiring their territories. His annexations changed the political map of India with incredible speed and thoroughness, a task which military campaigns could hardly perform in such a short time. The most permanent achievement of Dalhousie was, however, in the field of economic and social development. His far-reaching schemes of railways, electric telegraph, postal system and public works inaugurated the economic change from traditional agricultural India to an industrial society. These innovations also played an important role in the unification of the country. The formulation of a new educational policy and the encouragement given to vernacular education and female education also contributed to the development of Modern India.

The brilliant successes achieved by Lord Dalhousie in regard to territorial expansion have naturally overshadowed his equally, if not more, significant achievements in development of the country placed under his paternalistic care. It is, therefore, not surprising that historians of his administration, like William Lee-Warner, have not set out adequately in their studies the latter aspect of his work; they have mainly concentrated their attention on foreign and political affairs of the period. Dr. M. N. Das's work is the first detailed study of Dalhousie's economic and social policies and of the significance of the socio-economic measures of his regime. Originally submitted for London University Ph. D. degree, it admirably succeeds in filling a serious lacuna in our knowledge of the history of Modern India. The dissertation is designed, to use the author's words, "to trace the circumstances under which some of the main economic and social developments took place during 1848-56 and the role which Dalhousie played ..." Dr. Das has utilized all the original sources available in U.K., including the mass of Dalhousie papers at the Scottish Record Office, Edinburgh, and the voluminous official and private correspondence in the India Office Library, London. With the aid of all this invaluable material the author has thrown fresh light on the beginning and completion of various reform measures of Dalhousie's administration.

It may, however, be kept in view that all the economic and social measures of the proconsul did not have their origin during the eight years of his Indian career. Many of his innovations were merely accelerations in

changes already under way. Dr. Das's study helps the reader to apportion credit for those reforms between Dalhousie and those who were at the helm of affairs before him and also in defining in precise terms the important role he played in many of those developments. A perusal of this scholarly work leaves an impression that his forceful character, his vigour and drive decisively helped in the consummation of various economic measures. The idea of the Indian railway was originally suggested as early as 1841, but it was left to Dalhousie to overcome what many in authority considered as insurmountable difficulties and to initiate the ambitious project of binding the old and new territories in iron bands. His scheme of Indian railways, spelt out in detail in his famous minute of 20 April 1853, was the most comprehensive that had ever been prepared; it remained the basis of the whole railway system of India for a long time to come. Dalhousie's was a decisive role in bestowing the benefits of railway transport on India and so was his share in the introduction of the electric telegraph. But for his active support and encouragement the scheme of William O' Shaughnessy might not have taken a practical shape. The chapter on the subject of electric telegraph provides a lucid account of the beginnings and early development of this useful service in India. The account of the reform of the postal system has also been prepared carefully and it shows how Lord Dalhousie, through personal exertions, succeeded in reforming the postal communications and gave to the country the benefits of a uniform half anna postage.

The other valuable parts of the work of Dr. Das are the chapters on the introduction of vernacular education and female education. These constitute a very useful contribution to the study of educational development of India in the nineteenth century. The author has furnished a clear exposition of the process in the formulation of the Government's educational policy as embodied in the Education Despatch of 19 July 1854 and the relative contributions of Dalhousie and Sir Charles Wood in this connection. The recognition that was the Governor-General's due in promoting the cause of education in India was unjustly denied to him and Charles Wood was given all the credit for the Despatch which bears his name. The author's account helps to correct this serious error. Dalhousie not merely set up the machinery for the educational system in India, but also took an active share in framing the educational policy of the Government of India. His active interest in female education is no better illustrated than in his decision on Bethune's death in 1851 to undertake to support personally the Female School established by his friend and colleague. The chapter is one of great human interest in the annals of Dalhousie's administration.

Among the other social reforms of Dalhousie described in the book are the measures to abolish female infanticide in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab and the *Meriah*, system of human sacrifices among the hill tribes of Orissa. In both those measures considerable success was achieved.

Although these socio-economic changes were either introduced by

Dalhousie or carried out speedily because of his genuine interest in reform and development, the author has not lost sight of the various other factors which generally helped to effect the reforms. In the introductory chapter he has drawn attention to three significant factors which were relevant to the development of British India. These were the influence of scientific movements in Europe, the long standing concern over the subject of education and the English humanitarian movement in India. To these one may add the awakening in India and the desire for reform which emanated from the Western impact on Indian society. Among the other contributory factors which helped in the promotion of these changes were the comparative peace of the time and the financial prosperity which followed it.

The beneficent activities of Dalhousie's administration were of far-reaching consequences and their role in unifying and modernizing India can hardly be exaggerated. These were conducive to the development of a changed economy, a new social outlook and finally the concept of national unity. The railway, telegraph and post broke the isolation of different parts of India and helped to develop closer contacts among people of different regions. These were, of course, the developments which perhaps the author of the reforms could not clearly visualize in advance; but these innovations were at the same time the permanent legacy of Dalhousie to India.

Dr. Das's *Studies in the Economic and Social Development of Modern India* is a valuable contribution and he deserves the gratitude of students of Indian history for providing them with a lucid account of the important economic and social changes in the mid-nineteenth century, some of which are of relevance to India of today. The author quotes copiously from the original records, perhaps to give authenticity to his account. This could have been avoided to make the book more readable.

The bibliography is quite detailed and will prove useful to those who may like to go into further details of any aspect of the subject of the book.

V. C. JOSHI

Writings and Speeches of Mahatma Gandhi relating to Bihar ed. by Dr. K. K. Datta (Government of Bihar, Patna, 1960; pp. 341; price Rs. 12.00).

Dr. Datta has brought together a number of speeches and documents concerning Mahatma Gandhi's activities in Bihar. That Biharis should have felt that Gandhiji was close to them is a great tribute to the Mahatma who had no regional loyalties and indeed embodied in his own person the unity of the nationalist movement.

The book covers the period 1917-1947. In 1917, Gandhiji went to Champaran to champion the cause of the ryots against the indigo planters; this was his real debut in Indian politics. Early in 1947, Gandhiji was engaged in restoring communal harmony in Bihar and other provinces which had been engulfed by communal bitterness and bloodshed. This was

the last supreme effort for which Gandhiji was to sacrifice his life. The speeches in this book would be of interest to those who want to study Gandhiji's life and activities in detail.

B. R. NANDA

The Sapru Correspondence—A Check-List (First Series) compiled by A. K. Ohdedar (Calcutta, 1961; pp. 394).

The claim of private papers to be judged on parity with the official documentation as twin handmaid to the impartial interpretation and writing of history seems indisputable. It is in this *genre* that the collection of Sapru Correspondence, now housed in the National Library, Calcutta, is to be considered.

A jurist by profession, a liberal by creed and a constitutionalist to the core, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru dominated the Indian political scene for well over four decades. In his natural role as a negotiator and conciliator between the Indian National Congress and the British Government, it was inevitable that he should come in close contact and have correspondence with the leading luminaries of all hues and views of the time. It is thus that has come to posterity, now made accessible for the first time by the generous loan by the Sapru sons, this unique collection of his private papers which reflects the life-time record of this learned leader's devotion to the cause of his country and reveals a broad panorama of Indian history in turmoil and transition.

Recognising the need to make this rich source material promptly available for research, the National Library has launched on a laudatory programme of publishing in instalments a check-list of the papers as they get ready for use after passing through the mill of rehabilitation, collation and arrangement. The present volume (first in the series) refers to about 5,000 letters and miscellaneous papers. Arranged alphabetically according to the correspondents' names with prefixes *To* and *From vis-à-vis* Sapru, the check-list gives a brief indication of the contents of each document as well. In the absence of any original systematic numbering or classification order—private papers by their very nature accumulate haphazardly—the arrangement evolved by the compiler seems to be practical and adequate. Thus a requisition slip bearing the magical symbol G. 43 would bring forth Gandhiji's letter of 20 July 1942 in which "he is agreeable to Pakistan on certain conditions", or N. 26 would mean an invitation from Nehru to Sapru dated 22 April 1936, "to join the union for the protection of civil liberties in all departments of national activity on non-party and non-sectarian lines".

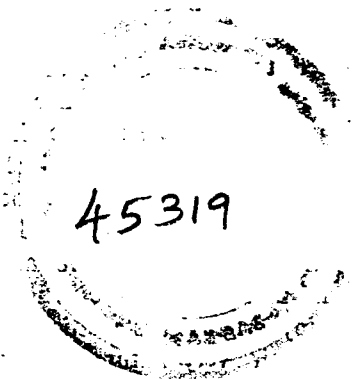
The check-list is followed by a useful index to correspondents and further followed by not a very useful subject index and name references.

A better lay-out, use of internationally recognised abbreviations and proper use of the print area could have reduced the size of the list to nearly half. The contents could have been edited and made more informative and

intelligible. The press has as usual lived up to its reputation of indifferent printing and altogether poor workmanship.

Finally it is difficult to agree with the statement in the preface that private papers are "more appropriately located in national libraries than in national archives which are primarily concerned with historical documents relating to political and constitutional matters". All the world over the trend is to make national archives the nucleus of all research be it in political, social or economic sphere. While one does not dispute the interim custody and ultimate ownership of Sapru collection, the present reviewer feels that it could equally and justifiably be with the National Archives of India which is already housing private papers of several other national leaders. And do not these Sapru papers deal predominantly with 'political and constitutional' events of the times?

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DHAN KESWANI



INDIAN RECORDS SERIES

FORT WILLIAM—INDIA HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE

Vol. VI, 1770-1772

EDITED BY

BISHESHWAR PRASAD, D. Litt.

Size: Super Royal Octavo

Pages lxii + 519 and 12 illustrations

Price Rs. 20.00

Published by the National Archives of India in 1960 this volume is sixth in the *Fort William—India House Correspondence* Series. It includes the relevant records of the Public Department and the Select and Secret Committees, and covers the years 1770-72, virtually the period of Cartier's governorship of Bengal and the early days of Warren Hastings' administration. The correspondence contained in the volume affords an insight into the changing pattern of the British policy in India involving transition from a commercial to an imperial role. It reveals the drawbacks of Cartier's administration and the attempts made by Warren Hastings to lay the foundation of the structure of Anglo-Indian administration as it emerged in later years.

The volume includes a scholarly introduction in which the Editor has critically reviewed the salient points emerging from the letters, and elucidated their historical background. The value of the publication is further enhanced by the illustrations, notes and index contained in it.

Copies obtainable from :

The Manager of Publications, Government of India, Civil Lines, Delhi.

INDIAN RECORDS SERIES

FORT WILLIAM—INDIA HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE

Vol. IV, 1764-66

EDITED BY

PROFESSOR C. S. SRINIVASACHARI

Size : Super Royal Octavo

Pages xxxvi + 536 and 9 illustrations

Price Rs. 17.00

This volume, published in 1962, contains the relevant records of the late Public Department. It includes correspondence between the Board at Fort William and the Court of Directors in London during the years 1764-66 which mainly cover the second administration of Clive. The circumstances which lead to Clive's reappointment as Governor of Bengal and the extent to which he accomplished the objects he had undertaken to perform are clearly reflected in the correspondence. The volume furnishes significant information relating to some of the most striking events in the history of the British empire in India and provides faithful pictures of the greater England that came to birth in the second half of the 18th century.

Like other volumes in the series published so far the present volume contains an informative introduction, useful notes and an adequate index.

Copies obtainable from :

The Manager of Publications, Government of India, Civil Lines, Delhi.

CALENDAR OF PERSIAN
CORRESPONDENCE

Vol. X, 1792-93

EDITED BY

K. D. BHARGAVA, M.A.

Size : Super Royal Octavo

Pages xxx + 419 + xxix

Price Rs. 20.00

This volume, published by the National Archives of India, New Delhi, is number X in the series entitled *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*. It embodies English summaries of 2,002 Persian letters that passed between the Governor General, Residents and other agents of the East India Company on the one hand, and the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II and other Indian rulers, chiefs and notables on the other during the period 1792-93. It thus covers the last two eventful years of the administration of Lord Cornwallis which, among other events, witnessed termination of the Third Anglo-Mysore War, reduction of some of the Rajput States by Mahadji Sindia and subordination of the Rajas of Travancore and Tanjore and also of the Nawab of Arcot.

The correspondence contained in the volume unfolds one of the most dramatic and interesting chapters of British Indian history and vividly reveals that the Indian scene at the time was dominated by political unrest, economic exploitation and social disorder. In the south, though war with Tipu Sultan had ended with the treaty of Seringapatam, bickerings on the interpretation of its terms continued. Tipu was friendly to the English, but the controversy over Kurnool marred his relations with the Nizam. In order to make up for the deficiency caused in the Company's finances due to the war with Tipu, the English assumed the administration of the Carnatic, much against the wishes of Nawab Muhammad Ali Walajah.

In northern India, the decrepit Mughal Empire was in its last throes, the political scene being dominated by Mahadji Sindia.

The correspondence also affords evidence that the East India Company tried to maintain cordial relations with neighbouring states and foreign countries, noteworthy among them being Pegu, Nepal, Bhutan, Assam, Afghanistan, Muscat and Trengganu.

Apart from acquiring political predominance in India the East India Company continued to establish its trade and commerce. Pepper was obtained from Travancore and exported from the port of Anjengo. Ready-made indigo was purchased for the Company's investment. Trade in saltpetre was brisk. Salt was manufactured at Arcot and Jalamuta. Commodities like rice, pepper and sugar were exported to Muscat, etc.

The correspondence also affords interesting glimpses of some of the social customs prevalent during the period. It reveals that the Nawabs and Rajas led lazy, luxurious and incontinent lives and had large establishments of servants. We further learn that harmonious relations existed between the Hindus and the Muslims, who held responsible positions under the Indian rulers and chiefs.

The volume contains an informative introduction besides notes, bibliography and index which considerably add to the value of the publication.

Copies obtainable from :

The Manager of Publications, Government of India, Civil Lines, Delhi.

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